

Souvenir of
IONIA
MICHIGAN

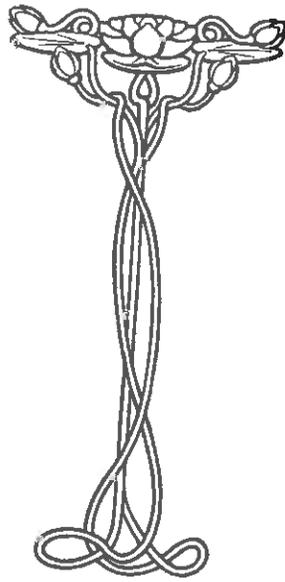


CHAS. J. SEELY, *Publisher.*

1907

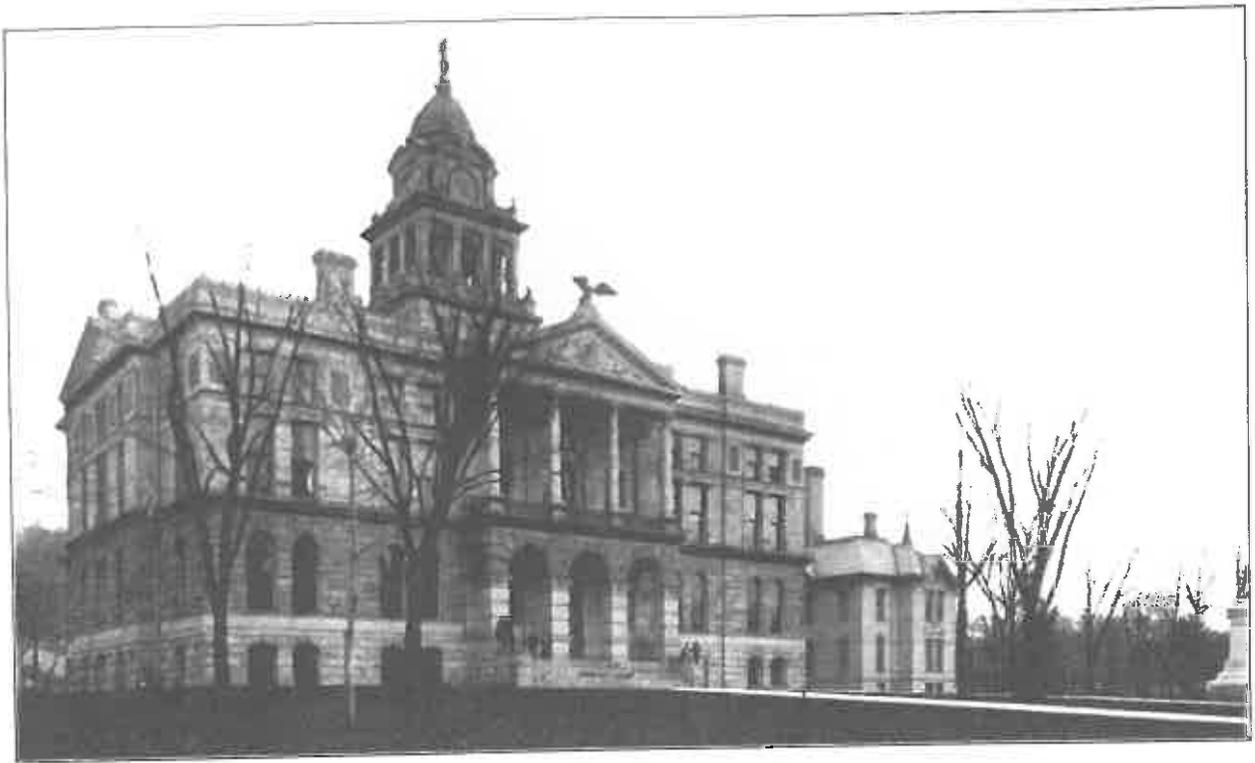
...Souvenir...

City of Ionia, Michigan



1907

CHARLES J. SEELY, Publisher
BELDING, MICHIGAN



Ionia County Court House. Ionia, Mich.

City of Ionia, Michigan

Ionia is a city of from 6,000 to 7,000 people, located in the central portion of Ionia county, on the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee division of the Grand Trunk Railway System, and on the Lansing, Ionia & Big Rapids division of the Pere Marquette Railway, 125 miles northwest of Detroit, 36 northwest of Lansing and 33 east of Grand Rapids.

Ionia city is the county seat of Ionia county, and situated in the midst of one of the finest farming sections of the state. The spirit of progress which is pushing this city to the front is best shown by the large number of manufacturing establishments located here, the handsome business blocks and elegant residences which stand as monuments to the thrift and enterprise of her business men.

With the two great railway systems mentioned above, whose branches reach every section of the state, Ionia has superior inducements to offer desirable manufacturing establishments. In this age of spirited competition, shipping facilities play a very important part in determining the cost of placing any

article upon the market, and with these two great railway systems competing for the business, Ionia manufacturers are assured of receiving any and all accommodations possible in the transportation of raw materials and the finished products.

Prior to 1833 this immediate section of the state had not been penetrated except by an occasional trapper, hunter or some missionary with an Indian guide bound for the north. With these exceptions, nature held full sway; bears, wolves, deer and other smaller wild animals were abundant, and the Grand River, unobstructed by dams, wended its way through the valley and on to Lake Michigan.

Though a little less than three-fourths of a century has passed since the first white settler located in this region, it has been converted from a dense wilderness into a cultivated and productive country, affording all the conveniences and comforts of advanced civilization. The spring of 1833 witnessed the arrival of Samuel Dexter and his associates, Erastus Yeomans, Oliver Arnold, Darius Winsor, Edward and Joel Guild,

Dr. W. B. Lincoln, who sought homes in the Grand River valley. It is asserted, and doubtless is a fact, that the Grand River (which then and for many years after was considered a navigable stream) was the inducement which led the members of Judge Dexter's party of colonists to fix their homes so far away from settlements already established. Be that as it may, it is certain that quite a number of other settlers followed the course of the "Dexter trail" and located in this county later in the same year.

Following the settlement of the Dexter colony, in May, 1833, came Henry V. Libhart to the southeast corner of what is now Ionia township, the Cornells to Easton, John E. Morrison to Berlin, and Philo Bogue and John Milne to Portland, all of whom became settlers within the county before the close of the year 1833. Among those who came in 1834 were Franklin Chubb and Nathan Benjamin, who located in what is now Lyons township; George W. Case, Horace Case and the Connor brothers in Easton; John McKelvey and Gadd Bunnell in Ionia township.



Public Library Building.



MAYOR JOHN F. BIBLE.



East Main Street, Ionia, Mich.

In the year 1835 the population of the county was still further increased by the settlement of Alouzo Sessions and brother, Job, in Berlin township; Chancellor Barringer, in Dunby; and Selah Arms, the first settler in Orange. The great influx of immigrants from New York to Michigan in 1836 and the establishment of a United States Land Office in the village of Ionia were causes which greatly increased the number of inhabitants over the entire county, and in fact in this section of the state.

Early in 1833 the Indian traders and their employes, then the only white people residing in the county, inaugurated measures looking toward the establishment of a county seat, they sending a petition to Governor Porter, in March of that year, asking that commissioners be appointed for that purpose. Before any action was taken, Samuel Dexter and his associates ar-

rived and settled permanently on and near the present site of the city of

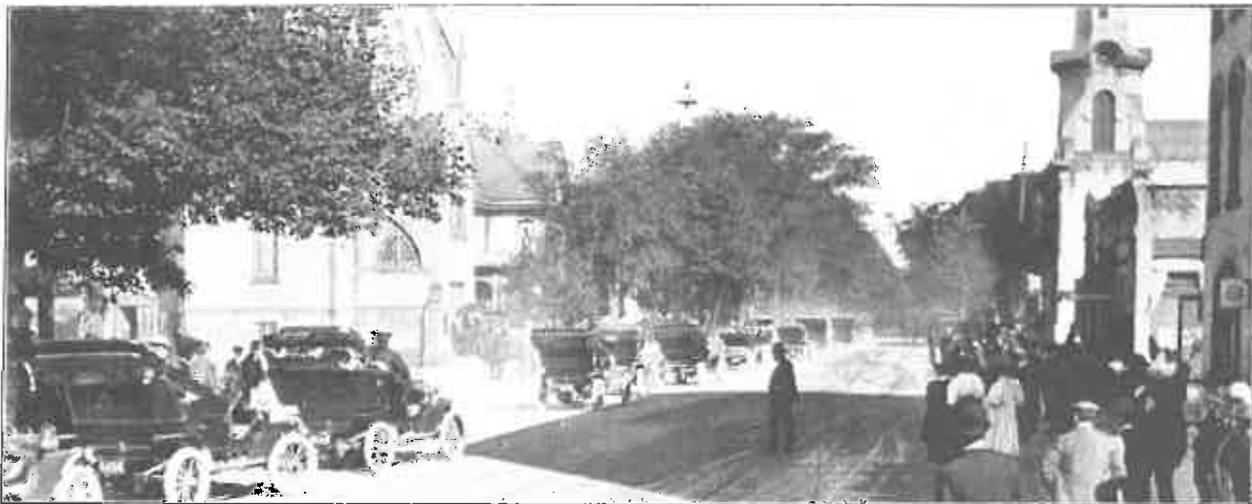


Fred Cook, City Clerk.

Ionia. The county seat question at once became uppermost in their minds,

and in July of the same year they also forwarded a petition to Governor Porter, asking that commissioners be appointed to determine upon a place suitable for the erection of a court house and other county buildings. Unfortunately the new county of Ionia possessed two localities deemed advantageous for the establishment of a county seat, according to the location of the settler. One party was composed of the original settlers of Ionia city and that vicinity, while their opponents were their neighbors up the river at Lyons, assisted by the early residents of the township of Portland. As a consequence there were two opposing parties, each striving for mastery.

In September of 1833, Governor Porter appointed a commission to locate the county seat, they visiting this city in the latter part of October. After due deliberation the commissioners



An Automobile Parade at Ionia.

made choice of lands owned by Samuel Dexter, situated in the north half of section 19, township 7 north, range 6 west, that being the present site of the county buildings.

The news of their determination and proceedings was soon noised abroad, and remonstrances were forwarded to the Governor by those opposing the selection of that location. Governor Porter died July 6, 1834, without having confirmed by proclamation the finding of this commission; neither did he order a revision of their work by the appointment of another commission. Hon. Stevens T. Mason then became Governor, and the fight was renewed before him. However, soon after assuming the duties of the office he became involved in a warm dispute with the authorities of the state of Ohio regarding the boundary line between these two states. His excellency devoted nearly his entire time to this controversy, and matters pertaining to the Ionia county seat struggle were considered too insignificant for attention at that time.



Fourth Ward School Building.

However, the inhabitants of this locality became restive under the long delay, and the non-appearance of a pro-

clamation confirming the report of the commissioners. Then petitions were again circulated and forwarded to the



Ionia High School Building.



Court House Park in Winter, from Christ's Church.

Governor, which seem to have settled the matter. Although there seems to be no record of the precise date of the proclamation confirming the report of the commission, it is certain that it was issued during the latter part of 1835 or early in 1836, and the seat of justice in Ionia county still remains where it was first located in the fall of 1833.

During the winter of 1836-7, petitions were circulated, numerous signed, and forwarded to the state legislature, then in session, asking that the county of Ionia be duly organized. These petitions were promptly and favorably acted upon, the bill creating this county being signed by the Governor, March 18, 1837. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the first election for the selection of county officers was held on the "second Monday of April, 1837," and resulted as follows:

Associate Judge—Isaac Thompson.
Judge of Probate—William D. Moore.

Sheriff—Elhanan W. Curtis.
County Clerk—Asa Bunnell.
County Treasurer—John E. Morrison.
Register of Deeds—Adam L. Roof.
County Surveyor—Buel H. Mann.
Coroners—Philo Bogue and Thaddeus O. Warner.

People of this generation, reared among the conveniences of the twentieth century, know absolutely nothing of the hardships and pleasures attendant upon pioneer life. The attractiveness of our beautiful farms and picturesque landscapes, dotted here and there with neat and substantial residences and modern farm buildings, present a very pleasing picture as well as a strong contrast to the humble log cabin of the "thirties," whose walls sheltered a few articles of rude furniture, while the stumps in the doorwards were the repositories for the cross-cut saw, the beetle and the ax. Many of the men who were very largely

instrumental in the development of this immediate locality were born beneath these humble roofs, their infantile cries being hushed by a mother's soft lullaby as she rocked them to sleep in a cradle improvised from a basswood sugar trough.

The early settlers coming into the new country found themselves subject to the pressing demands of nature. Away from civilization, yet they must live. After the first meager stock of supplies was exhausted, they were obliged to go out after more, the nearest reliable points then being Pontiac and Grand Haven, several days' journey distant and through dense forests and over roads almost impassable for travel, even on foot. From these points must come all provisions, flour, etc., as well as all mail. How great is the contrast between the conditions of the "thirties" and 1907, when the farmer can sit in his comfortable home and



Approach to Highland Cemetery.

telephone the merchant, miller or doctor for the necessities of the occasion, and while waiting their delivery read his daily paper, delivered at his door by the carriers of the rural free delivery service? The younger people, who knew none of the privations of pioneer life, cannot fully appreciate the conveniences and comforts of the modern homes and times.

Samuel Dexter was known as the father of the city of Ionia, and his name has long been honored from the fact that he and a band of sturdy associates plucked from the wilderness a cluster of happy homes and created what has since grown to be a handsome and prosperous city. Mr. Dexter is regarded as Ionia's founder, not because he made the first settlement upon its site, but because he conceived and matured the project that led to the settlement. When he made his home here he was but one of a colony, yet the recognized leader, whose members reached this spot on the same day.

Mr. Dexter lived in Herkimer county, New York, and on behalf of himself and friends made a journey to Michigan in the fall of 1832, for the purpose of selecting lands upon which to make a settlement. It is said that he fancied lands near where the village of Lyons now stands, and would have selected a tract in that locality, only that he found that prospectors had been before him and that the lands he wished had already been entered at the land office, although not then actually settled upon. So he pushed on to the west until he reached the present site of the city of Ionia, when he came to the conclusion that this was the section that he wished. Having reached that conclusion, he hastened to the nearest land office, then located at White Pigeon, where he entered this land and then returned to his home in New York. The winter

was devoted by Mr. Dexter and his associates to preparing for their journey to Michigan, the start being made April 25th, 1833, and 33 days later the journey ended upon the banks of Grand River, where the present city of Ionia stands.

The first frame house built in the city of Ionia was that of Dr. Lincoln, erected in 1834.

The first white child born was Eugene, son of Darius Winsor, whose birth occurred August 12, 1833.

The first death in the new settlement was also in the family of Darius Winsor, being their six-year-old daughter, in the fall of 1833.

The first wedding in the settlement was that of Dr. W. B. Lincoln to Anthony P., daughter of Oliver Arnold, the marriage taking place on Sunday, July 5, 1835, Squire Dexter performing the ceremony.

The first store in the city of Ionia was established by Lloyd & TenEyck, in the fall of 1836, when they rented Samuel Dexter's barn, which they occupied until they could put up a store building, which was simply a hastily constructed block house, located at about the corner of Main and Third streets.

There was no tavern in the village until early in 1838, although there were a number of boarding houses before that, the old log cabin known as the "Union House" being opened by Ezekiel Welch early in the spring of that year. The frame for the structure afterward called the Eagle Tavern was, however, raised in July, 1837, but the enterprise was left uncompleted until 1843, when Abel Avery bought and finished it, opening with a flourish of trumpets and christening it the "Grand River Eagle." This hotel was erected on the corner now occupied by the Hotel Bailey.



Soldiers' Monument, Court House Park.

The first school in the new settlement was opened by Dr. Lincoln in the winter of 1834-5, his office being used as a schoolroom. After Dr. Lincoln's effort, the cause of education was taken in hand by Mason Hearsey, who opened the first public school in the fall of 1835.

The first newspaper published in the city of Ionia was in the fall of 1843, being established by Ira W. Robinson, who called it the Ionia Journal. It was a five-column folio, each page being 12x16 inches in size. Mr. Robinson continued the publication of the Journal some three or four years, when, in consequence of becoming involved in busi-



Scene on Grand River at Ionia.



East Main Street, near Court House.

ness relations not altogether pleasant, he abandoned the plant and departed for fields unknown.

In December, 1848, E. R. Powell, of Howell, Mich., came to Ionia and purchased the material formerly used in the publication of the Journal, and established the Ionia Gazette, the initial number being issued on the first Tuesday of January, 1849. Mr. Powell continued the publication of the Gazette until August, 1867, when he sold to the publishers of the Sentinel, removing to Stanton, and there establishing the Montcalm Herald.

The Ionia Sentinel was established in 1866 by John C. Taylor and Thomas G. Stevenson, and from the day of its first publication down to the present time has enjoyed a wide circulation and a prominent position among the Republican papers of this section and the state. The daily edition was established in the winter of 1879-80.

The Ionia Standard was established at Saranac in 1870, and in 1872 removed to the county seat. It has from the day of its birth been recognized as the leading Democratic paper in this section.

The first railroad to enter either the city or county of Ionia was what is now known as the D. G. H. & M. division of the Grand Trunk system. That section of this road between Detroit and Pontiac was commenced as early as 1834, but it was not until 1838

that even that section was operated. Then the rails were of wood, the cars of a most inferior class, and propelled by horse-power. By degrees this road was improved, developed, extended and consolidated with other projects until it reached this city in the fall of 1857, and in November, 1858, being completed through to Grand Haven.

What is now known as the Grand Ledge, Ionia & Big Rapids division of the Pere Marquette system was completed between this city and Lansing in December, 1869, and at that time known as the Lansing & Ionia railroad. It afterward became a part of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, and by degrees was extended to Greenville, Howard City and Big Rapids, finally reaching the latter city in 1880.

The village of Ionia was incorporated under the general laws of Michigan by the board of supervisors, October 13, 1857. The villagers never took kindly to this charter, as they believed that its provisions were not what was needed. At the time of the incorporation, in 1857, A. F. Bell was chosen village president; A. B. Clark, village clerk; Francis B. Miner, village marshal. So little interest was taken in the progress of municipal affairs that the village records were shortly lost or cast aside as worthless. In this condition of public sentiment the municipal organization soon collapsed, and the village

resumed its normal position as a part of the township.

After maintaining an inactive existence until 1865, the village was reincorporated by legislative act, approved February 17, 1865. By some mischance, the village records under this incorporation, from 1865 to 1870, have been lost, and there is a second break in the official records.

In 1872 Ionia had grown to such proportions that there was talk of adopting a city form of government, and during the winter of '72-3 this topic was very generally discussed, finally resulting in petitions being presented to the state legislature, then in session, asking city incorporation. The act incorporating Ionia as a city was passed by the legislature and approved by the Governor, March 21, 1873. The first election in the new city of Ionia was held April 7, 1873, and resulted in the election of the following gentlemen as the first corps of city officials:

Mayor—Frederick Hall.

City Clerk—Hiram A. Chapman.

Treasurer—Joseph L. Hudson.

Collector—Charles W. Stone.

Justices of the Peace—John M. Stacy, Sylvester Taylor, William B. Thomas, Henry Mitchell.

Constables—Daniel P. Chapman, Henry Ramlow, Andrew J. Welch, Oscar Dean.



Pere Marquette Railway Bridge across Grand River at Ionia.

Aldermen.

First Ward—G. F. D. Wilson, A. B. Morse.

Second Ward—George H. McMullen, John H. Tubbs.

Third Ward—Osmund Tower, John L. Taylor.

Fourth Ward—F. H. Hutchinson, William W. Mitchell.

Supervisors—Mason Hearsay, Chauncey Waterbury.

In the 34 years since Ionia became a city, great advancement has been made in the way of municipal improvements, and the feeling is that the city has in a general way been well governed; the expenditure of public money has been carefully and consistently looked after, to the end that the city has received as good value as possible for all moneys paid for public necessities and improvements. Following are the present corps of city officers:

Mayor—John F. Pilla.

Clerk—Fred Cook.

Treasurer—John Miller.

Attorney—Alfred R. Locke.

Water Commissioner—Charles Girard.

Aldermen.

First Ward—Geo. C. Batson, Fred R. Cain.

Second Ward—John C. Taylor, John Waidelich.

Third Ward—Arthur J. Ashdown, Louis Speekin, Jr.

Fourth Ward—William E. Snyder, R. A. Redemsky.

Board of Public Works.

Michael F. Vizard, Henry Witzel, Henry Gable.

Board of Education.

J. J. Fowle, J. C. Taylor, V. H. Smith, O. S. Wright, Jas. Vosper, F. A. Stiven.

Library Commission.

Mrs. O. S. Tower, Fred Cutler, Jr., Miss Ella Hutchins, Elvert M. Davis, Mrs. Levi Marshall.

Cemetery Commission.

L. H. Conton, C. O. Thompson, J. L. Taylor.



Pere Marquette Depot at Ionia.

In municipal improvements the city of Ionia is fully up with other cities of her size, and to a considerable number of them sets an example of what may be accomplished by thrift, enterprise and plenty of public spirit.

The public schools of the city are unexcelled in any place of equal size in the state of Michigan, and this excellent educational system has won much praise from the outside world.

The city has a very complete water system for domestic purposes and fire protection. A strong and thoroughly equipped fire department furnishes excellent protection, and makes insurance rates as low as can be found in any city of like size in Michigan.

Main street has been paved with brick for a distance of over one mile. The city has gas and electric light companies engaged in the business of public and commercial lighting. The Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies each reach Ionia, while the Citizens' and Michigan Bell telephone companies maintain exchanges here. Ionia is also reached by the National, Ameri-

can and United States express companies.

One thing which seems destined to do much in promoting the future growth of the city of Ionia is the Ionia Board of Trade, an organization of her business men banded together for the purpose of promoting the interests of the city along all legitimate lines. Its membership now embraces nearly all of the live and hustling business men of the city, and the association is carrying out a system of hustling which must prove of substantial benefit. The officers of the association are:

President—George E. Nichols.

First Vice-President—E. F. Gallagher.

Second Vice-President—Bert Lampkin.

Secretary—Laurence W. Smith.

Treasurer—A. J. Hemingway.

Directors—J. F. Bible, H. B. Webber, W. B. Heath, H. R. Wagar, John Thwaites, K. R. Smith, Chas. A. Ireland, G. F. Phelps, Fred Cutler, Jr., J. P. Fields, A. L. Stevenson, C. B. Wardel.



Pere Marquette Railway Shops at Ionia.

Michigan Reformatory.

At the legislative session of 1875 an appropriation was made for the State House of Correction, and in 1877 the first prisoners were received by transfer from Jackson to assist in the work of building, which was nearly completed in 1880 at a cost of about \$250,000. The first Board of Control was: Hampton Rich, of Ionia; Westbrook Divine, of Belding, and Thomas F. Moore, of Adrian.

The Wardens have been as follows:

John J. Grafton, June 26, 1877, to July 1, 1881.

Maj. E. C. Watkins, July 1, 1881, to Feb. 1, 1883.

David R. Waters, Feb. 1, 1883, to Feb. 2, 1885.

Maj. E. C. Watkins, Feb. 2, 1885, to Feb. 2, 1891.

Eugene Parsell, Feb. 2, 1891, to May 1, 1894.

Otis Fuller, May 1, 1894, to present time.

Members of the Board of Control since 1881 have been as follows:

A. H. Piper, Detroit, 1881.

J. T. Escott, Big Rapids, 1881.

Geo. W. Buckingham, Flint, 1881.

John Heffron, Detroit, 1883.

M. S. Crosby, Grand Rapids, 1885.

Hampton Rich, Ionia, 1883.

Jerome Cronl, Detroit, 1887.

Milo D. Campbell, Coldwater, 1891.

Edw. Duffv, Ann Arbor, 1891.

F. F. Palms, Detroit, 1891.

O. M. Barnes, Lansing, 1891.

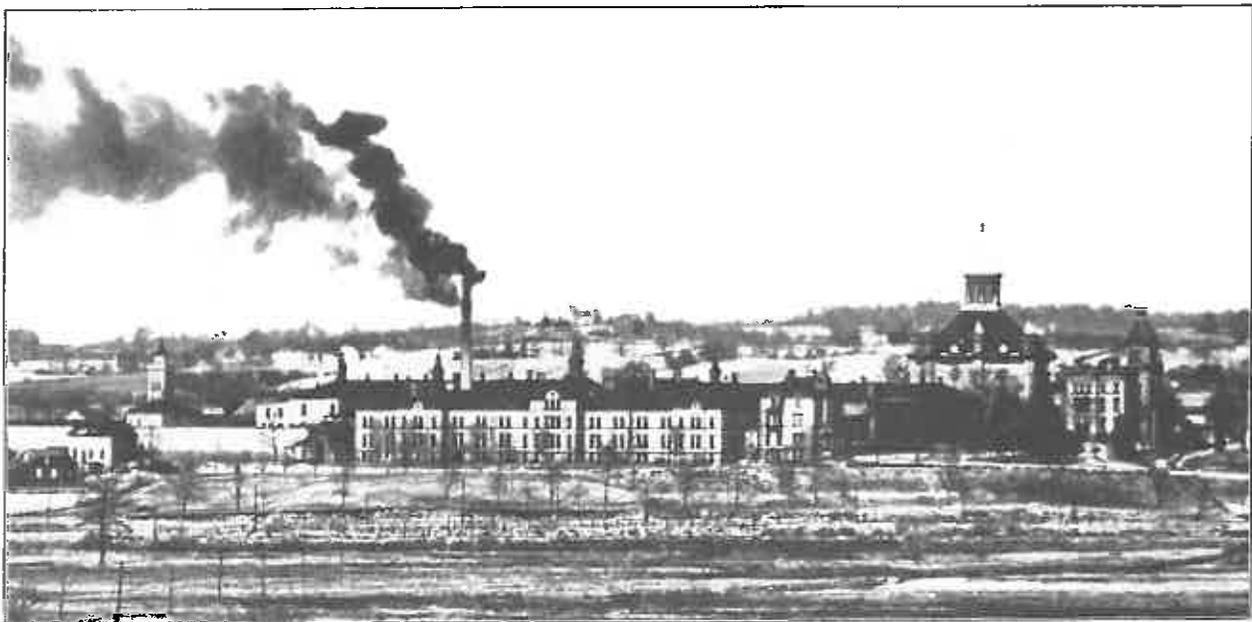
N. B. Hayes, Muir, 1893.

Jas. Hurst, Wyandotte, 1893.

Lonis Kanitz, Muskegon, 1893.

J. H. Bishop, Wyandotte, 1897.

C. C. Vaughan, St. Johns, 1899.



Michigan Reformatory.



Front View of Michigan Reformatory.

Amos Musselman, Grand Rapids, 1899.

Alfred Locke, Ionia, 1901.

Joseph Weinhold, Jackson, 1903.

Amos Musselman, of Grand Rapids, is now serving his ninth year, and Alfred R. Locke, of Ionia, on his seventh year, both having been reappointed for second terms of six years.

L. P. Essick, Chief Engineer, has been longest in the service of the State, having been appointed in 1878. He has served continually in that capacity with the exception of two years, from 1883 to 1885.

On April 22, 1901, the name of the State House of Correction and Reformatory was changed to Michigan Reformatory, and on July 1, 1906, the value of its property had increased to \$128,000 according to the official appraisalment.

The prison has 624 separate cells, and at the end of the last fiscal year the population was 542. The average number of prisoners during the present year will be about 550. The Reformatory is intended for first offenders of all ages above 15 years. It has a good night school for the education of the illiterate, a fine library of 2,500 volumes

for the use of prisoners, and three religious services each week. It aims to combine sane business methods with reformatory efforts.

During the past twelve years the cost to the State has been reduced from \$78,000 per year to less than \$18,000 per year, and many fine improvements of a permanent character have been added. It is nearer self-sustaining than any other reformatory in America.

The present official staff is as follows:

State Board of Control.

Hon. Fred M. Warner, Governor, ex-officio.



View of Michigan Reformatory and Yards from Hill

Hon. Amos S. Musselman, Grand Rapids; term expires Feb. 15, 1911.

Officers.

Otis Fuller, Warden.
J. R. Walker, Deputy Warden.
F. E. Ward, Clerk.
H. A. Haynes, M. D., Physician.
Rev. Cyrus Mendenhall, Chaplain.
L. P. Essick, Engineer.
Geo. Dysinger, Teacher.
H. S. Hall, Steward.
J. Q. Cressy, Hallmaster.

OTIS FULLER.

Otis Fuller was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., in 1853, and in 1857 his parents removed to a farm near Mason, Ingham Co., Michigan, where he was educated in the common schools and the Fuller Academy. He began teaching school at the age of 19, and at the age of 21 was elected township superintendent, having in charge the Vevay and Mason city schools. He was at once chosen secretary of the county association of superintendents and for two years had charge of the preparation of examination questions for all of the teachers of Ingham county.

In 1876 he purchased the Ingham County News at Mason, and in 1881 purchased the St. Johns Republican, which he published until 1889. The five following years he was in the U. S. Internal Revenue service, and May 1, 1894, was appointed warden of the Michigan Reformatory, which position he has held ever since.

He has been both secretary and president of the National Wardens' Association, and has been longer in continual service in one prison than any other warden in America with one exception. He has been a leader in advocating productive industrial work in prisons, in connection with reformatory work along educational lines, and results are shown in the fact that all of the other State Reformatories in the United States are costing the taxpayers from two and a half to sixteen times as much as the Michigan Reformatory.

Since 1891, the little time that could



Otis Fuller, Warden.

Hon. Alfred R. Locke, President, Ionia; term expires Feb. 15, 1913.

Hon. Joseph Weinhold, Jackson; term expires Feb. 15, 1909.



Amos Musselman.



A. R. Locke.

be spared from his official duties has been employed in dealing in timber lands in Mississippi, Arkansas, California, Oregon and Washington.



Joseph Weinhold.



View of State Asylum from Reformatory Hill.

STATE ASYLUM,

IONIA, MICHIGAN.



Superintendent's Residence.

This is one of the two State institutions which has done much to bring the name of the little city of Ionia very prominently before the people of Michigan, and because of the successful management of the same has been one of the factors which has contributed toward the favorable impression of this city generally held by citizens of this State.

This institution was first opened in September, 1885, the "North side buildings," shown in the accompanying engraving, then comprising the entire asylum buildings. The original title of the institution was "Michigan Asylum for Criminal Insane." As this was objectionable, for the reason that all confined in the institution are not criminals, by legislative enactment the name was changed to "State Asylum."

The class of patients admitted to this institution are the convict insane from all penal institutions of the State; dangerous insane from all asylums of the State; and those charged with crime but acquitted on the grounds of

insanity, and sent direct from the courts.

In 1889 an appropriation was se-

cured from the Legislature which permitted of the purchase of a 200-acre farm, on which the main, or "south



Building No. 1, Business Office.



Asylum Buildings on North Side of Grand River.

side" buildings are now located. Other appropriations for increasing the capacity have been obtained in 1891, 1895 and 1901, while a bill is before the present session of the Legislature asking for another appropriation, which will permit of still another increase, and the abandonment of the north side buildings. The granting of this appropriation would permit of the care of an increased number of patients (the institution being now overcrowded), and the removal of the patients now cared for in the north side buildings, these being three miles distant from the main asylum buildings, and entailing much extra care and expense in looking after the inmates.

The first patients were received in this asylum September 7, 1885, and the total for its first year of existence was 63. Since that time there has been a steady increase, until today the institution is caring for an average of about 350 patients. Of these, about 100 are confined in the buildings on the north side.

It is a noteworthy fact that this is one of the most successful asylums within the United States, which is indeed a remarkable record when the class of patients they have to handle is considered. Insane criminals, at the outset, will be conceded to be an unde-

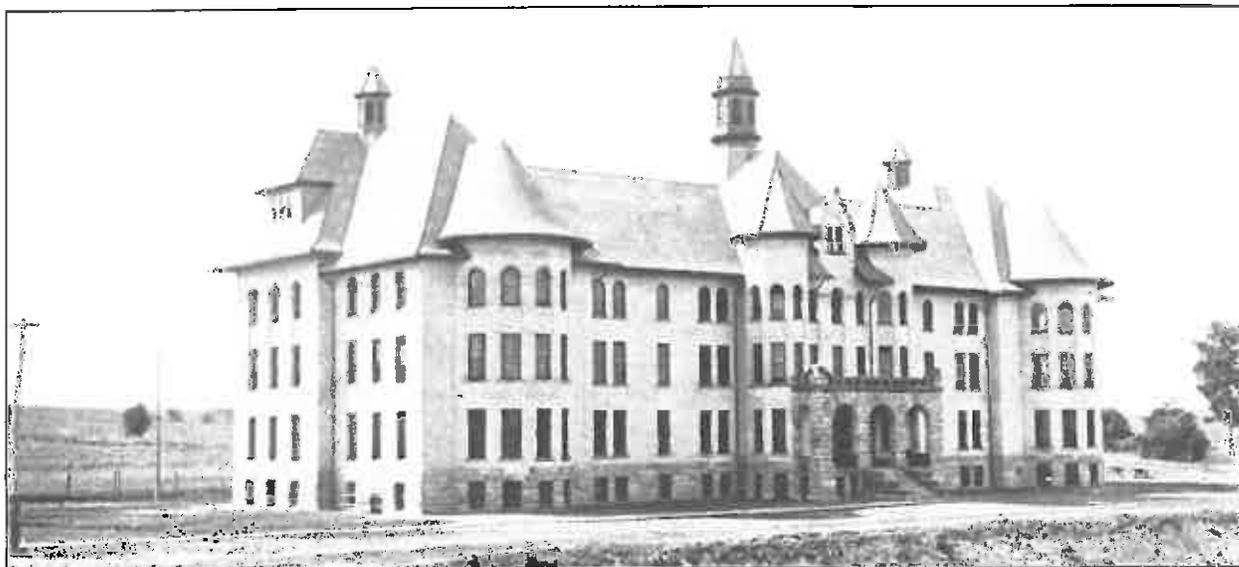


Building No. 3 — Matteson Building

sirable class to select as patients, and then when one comes to remember that added to these we have here the dangerous insane from all of the other asylums of the State, it will readily be seen why it is remarkable if this institution can even hold its own among the other asylums of the country. However, it has not only done so, but today is conceded to be among the best in the entire country.

This institution is under the direct supervision and management of Dr. O.

R. Long, medical superintendent, and it is to his abilities and good judgment that a very large measure of its success must be attributed, he having held this position from the first opening of the institution down to the present time. However, behind Dr. Long stands a board of trustees whose close attention to their duties has contributed toward its success. Dr. Long is also very ably assisted in the discharge of his duties by his assistant, Dr. W. F. Maxwell.



Building No. 4. for Patients Only.

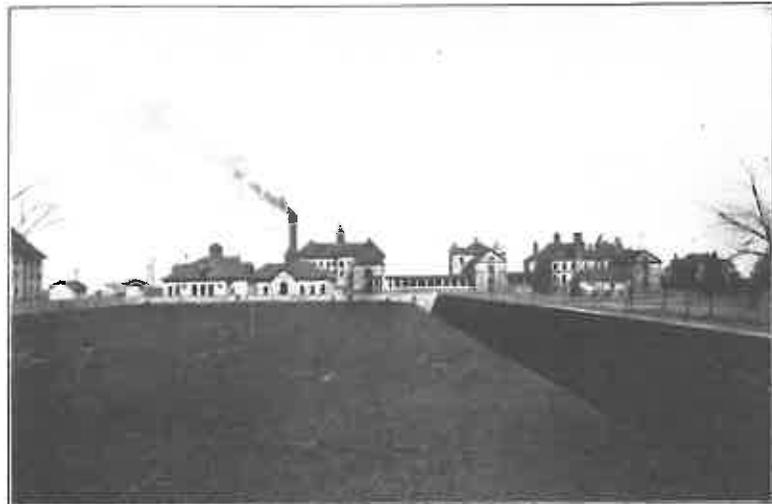


Building No. 2, for Patients Only.

The present board of trustees consists of Hon. J. W. Belknap, of Greenville; F. A. Washburn, of Belding, and E. M. Hopkins, of Detroit. The following persons have been members of the board of trustees at some period during the 22 years this institution has been in existence:

- A. H. Piper, Detroit.
- John Heffron, Detroit.
- Geo. W. Stevenson, St. Johns.
- Hampton Rich, Ionia.
- Moreau S. Crosby, Grand Rapids.
- Jerome Croul, Detroit.
- D. O. Watson, Coopersville.
- Milo D. Campbell, Coldwater.
- Orlando M. Barnes, Lansing.
- Francis F. Palms, Detroit.
- Edward Duffy, Ann Arbor.
- C. C. Vaughn, St. Johns.

- Edwy C. Reid, Allegan.
- A. B. Darrab, St. Louis.



Airing Court and Rear View of Asylum Buildings.



General View of Asylum Buildings from North Side.

W. H. Mattison, Ionia.
J. H. Lancashire, Alma.

DR. OSCAR R. LONG.

Oscar R. Long was born at Williamsport, Pa., August 16, 1850, and received his elementary education in the public schools and Dickinson Seminary, in that city. In 1871 and 1872 he attended the medical department of the Michigan University, at Ann Arbor, and in 1873 entered the Detroit Homeopathic College, graduating from there in the year following. After his graduation he was appointed professor of anatomy and continued with this insti-



Dr. O. R. Long, Medical Supt.



F. A. Washburn.

tution in that capacity until the spring of 1874, when he came to Ionia and began the practice of his profession.

In the eleven years which he followed as a general practitioner, he was successful, and when the State Asylum was located here he received the appointment of medical superintendent. That he has been successful in this position is shown by the fact that he has now been in charge of this institution for 22 years.

During his connection with this institution Dr. Long has established a reputation as an expert in the line of mental diseases, and is frequently called to give expert testimony in the courts when attempting to settle the sanity of some person. He has also for some time delivered lectures at the University of Michigan upon mental diseases, and this University, in 1898, conferred upon him an honorary degree of medicine—this being the second instance of like nature in the history of that institution.

As a resident of this city, Dr. Long is highly esteemed, and has always shown his interest in anything which would help toward the advancement of the interests of the city. He has been an active official of several of the banking institutions of the city, and interested in a number of other business enterprises.

Dr. Long was married in February, 1874, to Miss Anna M. Freeman, of Detroit.



J. W. Belknap.



E. M. Hopkins.



In the Hills Near Ionia.

IONIA STANDARD.

The Ionia Standard, with daily and weekly editions, is published by the Standard Publishing Co., of which Robert Baerd is president and J. C. Taylor secretary and treasurer.

The weekly edition was established in 1868, while the daily edition was



Robert Baerd.

first published in 1891, both being Democratic in politics and having gained a very enviable position among the Democratic papers of the State. By reason of a liberal advertising patronage, the daily has been enlarged from time to time, while both editions at all times keep full pace with the spirit of progress of the present age, and are well recognized factors in the upbuilding of this city.

The Standard Publishing Co. also has a well-equipped plant for general commercial printing.

ROBERT BAERD.

Robert Baerd, president of the company, was born at Terre Haute, Ind. April 27, 1857, remaining there until 18 years of age, when he came to Grand Rapids, Mich., as a journeyman printer. In 1881 he came to Ionia, and in May, 1883, purchased an interest in the

Standard, having been one of its active publishers from that time.

Mr. Baerd has always been prominently identified with the prosperity of Ionia, and has served the city as Mayor, Alderman, City Treasurer and City Clerk. He is a staunch Democrat, and has served his party as secretary of their county committee.

J. C. TAYLOR.

J. C. Taylor was born in Portage county, Ohio, in 1840, coming to Ionia county in 1855, and to Ionia city in 1856. His first insight into the mysteries of newspaper making was on the Ionia Gazette, under E. R. Powell, where his training was broken by the stress of the Civil War, he enlisting in the 21st Mich. Inf. in August, 1862, and serving to the close of the war, taking part in the campaigns in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia; in the "March to the Sea," and in the grand review at Washington. He commenced his service as first sergeant and came out as captain of the same company.

One year after the close of the war, in company with a comrade of the same regiment, T. G. Stevenson, he published the first issue of the Ionia Sentinel, with which he was connected as associate editor and proprietor for 15 years. He



J. C. Taylor.

subsequently published papers in Pentwater, Mich., Doland, Dak., and Decatur, Ala.

Mr. Taylor was out of the newspaper business while serving as clerk of the Michigan Reformatory and State Asylum, a period of about four years. He returned to newspaper work in this city by the purchase of the Daily Express, which he published for about two years in company with O. C. Wright, under the title of the Evening Press, and which was consolidated with the Standard in 1891.



Residence of J. C. Taylor.

THE IONIA SENTINEL.

This paper was first established in 1866 by T. G. Stevenson and J. C. Taylor. In February, 1879, Gen. J. H. Kidd purchased a one-third interest, and the daily edition was established, the first issue being dated Dec. 6, 1879. In 1881 J. C. Taylor sold his interest to his partners, who conducted the business until 1887, when Gen. Kidd purchased the interest of Mr. Stevenson and became sole owner of this property.

From its first issue in 1866 the Sentinel has been recognized as one of the leading Republican papers of this section of Michigan, but during the 20 years which it has been under the ownership of Gen. Kidd it has most firmly established itself as the leading paper of the county, being today recognized not only as a power in the political

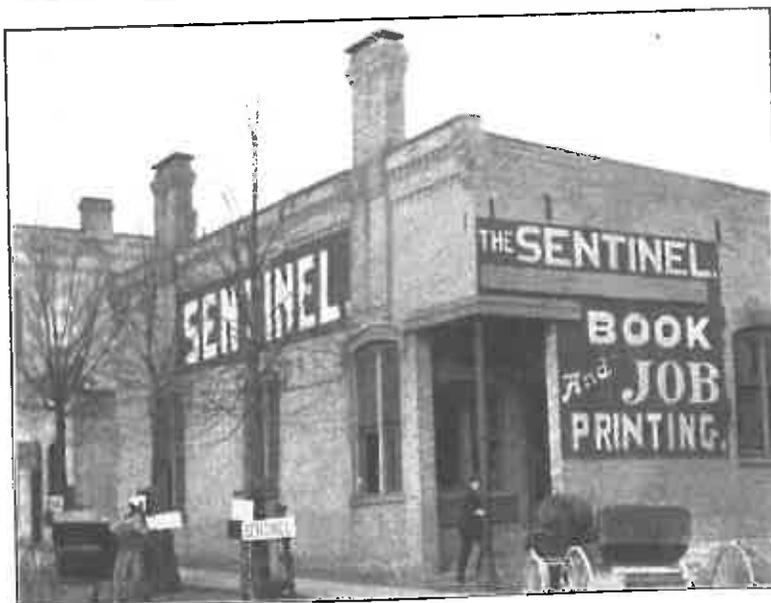
field, but as one of the best advertising mediums in Western Michigan.

The equipment of this office is among the most complete in any of the smaller

cities of the State, and during the past three years has been entirely renewed, the old material and machinery being replaced with new and up-to-date



The Sentinel Composing and Press Room.



The Sentinel Building.

presses, type, and appliances for turning out a modern newspaper and the best class of commercial printing.

The Sentinel staff is made up as follows: Gen. J. H. Kidd, editor and publisher; Harry E. Spencer, associate editor and business manager; Frederick Kidd, circulation manager and associate editor; Frank T. Stevenson, foreman; O. C. Wright and Frank Fairchild, job printers; Chas. Gierman, make-up; Bert Underwood, pressman; Herbert Parr, press-feeder; W. B. VanVleet, Lena Simmons and Lillian Childs, compositors.

GENERAL J. H. KIDD.

Gen. J. H. Kidd, editor and publisher, has been connected with this paper since February, 1879. Since 1887 he has been sole proprietor. Before acquiring this interest he had done considerable writing for newspapers, contributing a series of articles on the money question to the Ionia Standard in 1878, during the famous "Sound Money" campaign, when Zach. Chandler was the leader of the Republican party in this State. These articles attracted the attention of Judge Wm. H. Woolworth, then chairman of the Republican county committee, who urged Mr. Kidd to take the stump in the pending campaign, which he did, making speeches in nearly every hall and school-house in Ionia county.

During the years 1860-61 the regular correspondent of the Detroit Free Press at Michigan University, Ann Arbor, was Jas. H. Goodsell, afterward a member of the staff of the Chicago Times, and subsequently one of the founders and editors of the New York Graphic. When Goodsell had more than he could handle alone, he often called to his aid his friend, young Mr. Kidd, who in that way gained some valuable experience as a newspaper correspondent. Acquiring a liking for this line of work, he was seriously considering making that his

vocation for life, when the Civil War broke out, and he enlisted. In fact, before leaving Ann Arbor for the war, he had an offer of a position on the Free Press, at what was then considered a very good salary. It can be seen, there-



Gen. J. H. Kidd.

fore, that it was the most natural thing in the world that he should finally come back to his first love, and go into the newspaper business.

Mr. Kidd thinks that his forte as a newspaper man, if he has any, is editorial writing. But publishing a newspaper is becoming more and more a

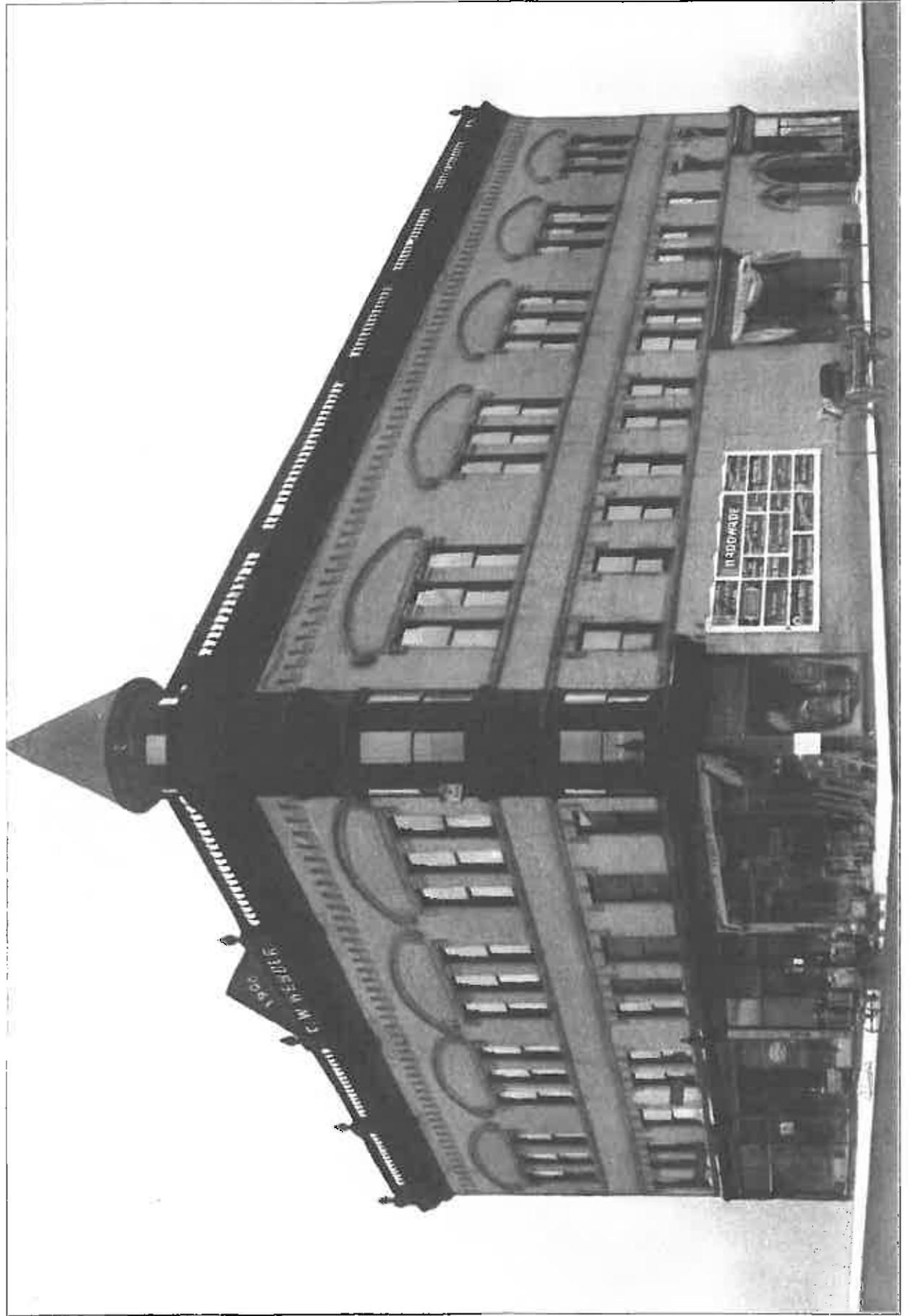
purely business proposition, so that he has found it necessary to devote his efforts for the most part to making the property pay a profit on the investment, and contribute to the support of himself and family, not always an easy task. He has, however, done a large amount of editorial writing, and in addition to that has done other literary work, some of which has received very favorable notice from competent critics—notably a series of papers on the civil war period, which he is preparing to publish in book form, under the title of "Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman; With the Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War." It is expected that this book will be out the latter part of the present year, and a favorable reception is already bespoken.

Gen. Kidd has also delivered a number of addresses which have been published and highly commended. Among these are the "Michigan Cavalry Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign," "Michigan at Andersonville," and "Memorial Address," given at Port Huron on Decoration Day, 1899, and at the Grant memorial services in Ionia. He has read many papers before the various press associations of the State, the military order of the Loyal Legion, the Michigan Cavalry Brigade association, and the society of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry Volunteers.



Residence of Gen. J. H. Kidd.

THE NEW WEBBER BLOCK



THE NEW WEBBER BLOCK

HON. GEO. W. WEBBER.

In presenting to the outside world a history of the city of Ionia, it would not be complete without paying just tribute to the late George W. Webber, who probably had as much to do with the business development of this city as any other one man, and although he passed away Jan. 15, 1900, still a number of this city's most substantial enterprises and business blocks stand as a monument to the thrift, enterprise and good judgment of that gentleman. His life was an example of an honorable record, and a successful business career was the result of careful executive ability and good judgment, which placed him in the front rank of Ionia's honorable citizens and prominently identified him with its growth and prosperity.

Hon. George W. Webber was born at Newbury, Vt., Nov. 25, 1825, and was educated in the common schools of that neighborhood and the academy at Alfred, N. Y. At 20 years of age he engaged in business as a lumber dealer and general merchant. In 1852 Mr. Webber came to Michigan, locating in Manistee county, where he engaged in lumbering. In 1858 he came to Ionia county, locating at Lyons, where for five years he engaged in mercantile



The Late Geo. W. Webber.

business with his brother, S. W. Webber. He then came to Ionia and associated himself with Henry J. Wilson. During this time Mr. Webber continued his lumbering business, being a member of the firm of Hall & Webber, who conducted extensive operations on the Muskegon River. Later the firm became Webber Bros., who continued the operations until the pine was exhausted. The firm also conducted a mill in this city for a considerable number of years, and were at the same time extensively interested in farming, owning a number of the best farms in the county.

In 1870 George W. Webber engaged in a private banking enterprise at Muir, with his brother, S. W. Webber, disposing of his interest four years later. Then followed the organization

of the Second National Bank of this city, of which he was one of the stockholders, and of which he was vice-president the first year, and then elected president, a position he held up to the time of his death. This bank became generally known as Webber Bros.' bank.

As a citizen, Mr. Webber was always public-spirited, never failing to respond liberally to any project that tended toward promoting the interests of the city, and to his efforts is the present prosperity of Ionia very largely due. He contributed largely toward the upbuilding of the city by the erection of a number of its more prominent business blocks, and today three of Ionia's most impressive business buildings stand as monuments to his spirit of enterprise and progress.

In November, 1880, Mr. Webber was elected to Congress from the Fifth district of Michigan, and served with much

distinction and honor. He was at other times honored by election to local offices, having served the city two terms as Mayor, during which he aided in many ways in advancing its interests. Among the many improvements made under his guiding hand were the building of the high-water road and the foundation for the water works. The first iron bridge across Grand River was built during his administration.

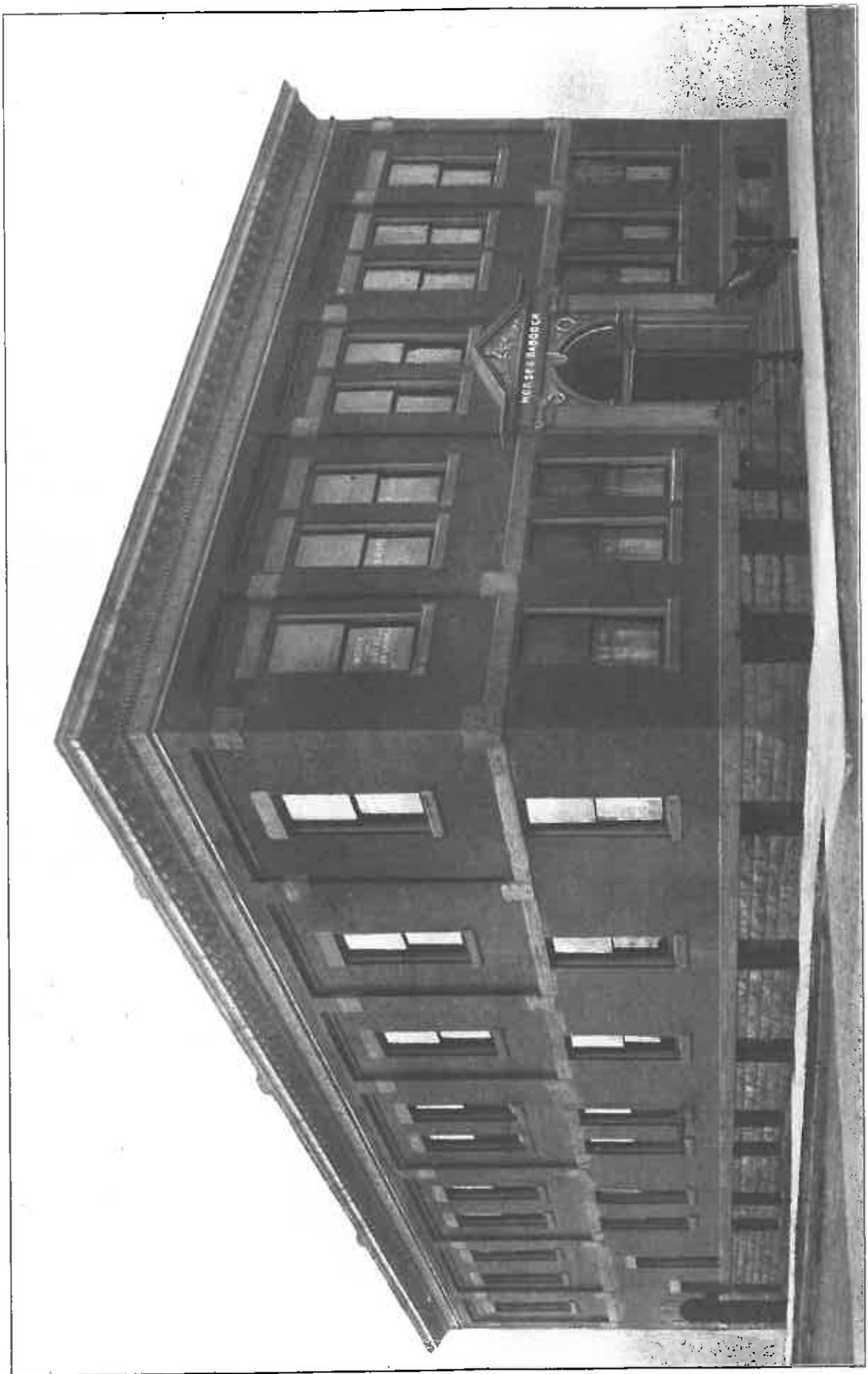
Mr. Webber was married July 18, 1850, to Miss Antoinette C. Abbey, of Ulster county, N. Y., who died April 11, 1890. He was again married, Nov. 1, 1890, to Miss E. Gertrude Brown, of Boston, who died April 24, 1892. October 11, 1893, he was again married, to Miss Ella M. Harris, of New York, the estimable lady who, with two sons, George W. and Maxwell H., survive him, and whose home in this city is shown in the accompanying engraving.



The Webber Block.



Residence of the Late Geo. W. Webber.



THE MORSE & BABCOCK BUILDING.

JUDGE ALLEN B. MORSE.

Judge Allen B. Morse is one of the oldest residents of this county, having been born in Otisco township, January 7, 1839. He was the third white child and the first white boy born in that township. Mr. Morse is a direct descendant of old Puritan stock, tracing his ancestry back to Samuel Morse, who came from England. His father, John L. Morse, came to Michigan in 1830, from Courtland county, New York, first locating in Oakland county, and afterward removing to Otisco township, this county. The elder Morse was a member of the Michigan Legislature of 1846-47, and Judge of Probate for Ionia county for 11 years.

Allen B. Morse was educated in the district schools near his father's farm, and when the gold excitement broke out (in 1849) his father left for California, leaving the farm and six children all under the care of the mother. Allen, being the oldest, it devolved upon him to do all he could toward the maintenance of the family. He taught school, worked the farm, and helped the neighbors, and did everything that would serve to bring money toward the family treasury.

In the fall of 1859 he was given his first good suit of clothes and sent to the Agricultural College at Lansing where he remained two years, paying his board by working on the farm at nine cents per hour. He then taught school one winter, and was a law student at the breaking out of the Civil War, in which he enlisted July 30, 1861, as a private in Co. B, 16th Michigan Infantry. For meritorious conduct he was commissioned first lieutenant in the 21st Michigan, became adjutant of said regiment, and served as assistant Adjutant General on the staff of Col. Frank T. Sherman, commanding a brigade in Sheridan's division. He lost his left arm at Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863, and was mustered out of service September 16, 1864.

Returning to Ionia, he commenced reading law in the office of W. P. Wells, of this city, and was admitted to the bar by Judge Louis S. Lowell, February 28, 1865. Mr. Wells then took him into partnership, that law firm continuing until 1880, when the firm became Morse,

Wilson & Trowbridge, this continuing until Judge Morse took his seat upon the bench of the Supreme Court of Michigan, in October, 1885.



Judge Allen B. Morse.

In 1892 Judge Morse resigned his place on the Supreme bench to become the Democratic candidate for Governor. He was defeated by Hon. John T. Rich, but as a reward for his party

loyalty was appointed United States Consul at Glasgow, Scotland, by President Cleveland.

After serving in this capacity four years, Judge Morse returned to Ionia and resumed the practice of law, and has since been recognized as one of the leading attorneys of Western Michigan. At the present time he is the senior member of the law firm of Morse & Lock.

In the fall of 1906 Judge Morse was the Democratic nominee for member of the Michigan Legislature from this county, being defeated by Hon. J. Clyde Watt, although running several hundred votes ahead of his ticket.

Judge Morse was Prosecuting Attorney of Ionia county two terms, and State Senator from Ionia and Montcalm counties in 1875.

Mr. Morse was first married in 1874 to Miss Frances Marion Van Allen, who died in 1884. He was again married in 1888, to Miss Anna Babcock, of Ionia.

Judge Morse is a member of St. Vincent Lodge, F. & A. M., of Glasgow, Scotland, where he was raised while serving as United States Consul in that city.



Residence of Judge Allen B. Morse.

THOS. A. CARTEN.

The business of which the large stores of Thos. A. Carten is the direct successor was established March 17, 1888, in the building now occupied by the Economy Store. At that time Mr. Carten formed a copartnership with C. W. Stone, and for four years the business was conducted at this point under the name of Stone & Carten.

In 1892 this partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Carten leased the store



Thos. A. Carten.

now occupied by Winchell & Stone, and engaged in business for himself. At the outset his stock consisted of dry goods alone, but two years later he added a line of ladies' cloaks.

In 1896 Mr. Carten leased the Hall store, the east one of the three fronting on Main street, now occupied by Mr. Carten, and moved his stock there, at that time adding a line of carpets to the stock already carried.

In 1898 he purchased from W. C. Snell what was known as the Titus store, that being the middle one of his three on Main street. In 1900 he purchased the west store from E. T. Ycomans. With each of these additions to his floor space he largely increased the stock.

One year ago he purchased the land lying directly north of these three stores, and fronting on Third street, commencing the erection of a building in the fall, the same being completed in February, 1907.

With the addition of this room, Mr. Carten was given more floor space than is used by any other mercantile establishment in this section of Michigan. His three Main street stores have a frontage of 75 feet, while that on Third street has a front of 66 feet, the two being joined in the form of an L. The second floors of all of these stores are also utilized, and from the engravings herewith presented it will readily be seen that the assertion made above is correct.

With this later addition of space, Mr. Carten has completely changed his business, making his the most complete



Employees of Thos. A. Carten, with Six Absent.



Carpet Department, Second Floor.



Dry Goods Department.

department store in Western Michigan. Not only has he greatly enlarged his line of dry goods, ladies' suits and cloaks, carpets and upholstery, but he has added a gents' clothing department, wall paper, millinery, bazaar, house furnishings and hardware sundries, lunch room, candy department and soda-water fountain.

The store of Mr. Carten's is not only the largest, but one of the best lighted, and possessing the best sanitary conditions of any establishment of its kind in this section.

Mr. Carten's success in Ionia is has been phenomenal, and is largely due to



Fred Cutler, Jr.

the fact that his goods and prices are always right, and that he is a liberal user of printers' ink and believes in letting the people know what he has for sale. In the management of this business he is ably assisted by Fred Cutler, Jr., the 45 employes shown in the accompanying engraving, and six who were absent when the picture was taken.

Thomas A. Carten was born at Arkona, Ont., Oct. 6, 1860, coming to Michigan with his parents when 13 years of age, they locating in Cannon township, Kent county. Here he remained until 1877, when he came to Ionia and entered the store of Jas. Tower as a clerk, and later for Kelsey Brothers. In 1878 he entered the dry goods store of Stone Bros., clerking for them until 1883, when he resigned to accept a position in the store of Marshall Field & Co., of Chicago, remaining with them three years. In 1886 he engaged with Jas. H. Walker as buyer, retaining that position until he came to Ionia to enter into partnership with C. W. Stone.

Mr. Carten has always been one of Ionia's most progressive citizens, and has served the city six years as alderman. He was also deputy oil inspector under the administration of Governor Winans, in 1893-94.

Mr. Carten was married May 3, 1893, to Miss Hattie McDonald, of Lyons, Mich.



Bazaar, House Furnishings and Hardware Sundries. Second Floor.



Ladies' Ready-Made Department.



Millinery Department.

THE HOTEL BAILEY.

Ionia's location and railroad connections make it one of the best hotel cities of its size in the State, and few hotels are better known than the Hotel Bailey. The corner on which this building now stands has been used for hotel purposes for 65 years past, and many historic events have taken place upon this spot, while within these buildings many of the most prominent men



S. C. L. Brown, Proprietor.

of the past half century have found entertainment.

S. C. L. Brown purchased the lease and became proprietor of this house May 1, 1901, conducting the same until November 1, 1903, when he sold to Peterland & Nibolink, who managed the house to May 1, 1904. After a vacation of six months, Mr. Brown returned to Ionia, purchased the interest of Messrs. Peterland and Nibolink, secured a new five-year lease, and again became proprietor.

The general traveling public will fully agree with the writer when he says that Mr. Brown has made an unqualified success of this house, and few hotel men in Michigan can claim as large a circle of warm personal friends. That he should naturally turn to this line of business is not at all strange when it is known that he comes from a family of hotel men. His father, V. K. Brown, is at the present time proprietor of a hotel at Greensburg, Ind., and during the past 25 years has conducted hotels at Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, Owosso, Ionia and Pontiac. Mr. Brown's paternal grandfather was in the hotel business for 35 years, while his maternal grandfather owned and operated one hotel for 20 years.

Mr. Brown is one of those genial, whole-souled gentlemen with whom the traveler delights to come in contact, and his uniform courtesy to all guests of his house and close attention to all reasonable wants make this one of the pleasant spots in the line of travel.

However, not all of the credit for his success must be claimed by him alone. In the conduct of this hotel he is very ably assisted by his wife, and Mrs. Brown probably has done fully as much as her husband toward making this one

of the best, most popular and homelike hotels of the State.

The dining room is large, light and airy, the tables are always replete with all of the delicacies of the season, and the hungry traveler finds set before him a meal that is up-to-date in every respect, while everything in and about the house is that neat and clean that the most skeptical could find no fault.

In the management of the house, Mr. Brown is very ably assisted by J. Fred Armstrong, clerk, a young man who has made many warm friends among the traveling public by his courtesy and careful consideration of their wants.

Spencer C. L. Brown, proprietor of the Hotel Bailey, was born on a farm in Lenawee county, Mich., Feb. 11, 1871, and during his early life lived at Morenci, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and Alliance, Ohio, where his father was

engaged in the hotel business. He then spent six or seven years in the West, after which he came back to Morenci, Mich., and entered the Normal school at Fayette, Ohio, where he remained one year.

In 1897 Mr. Brown purchased the Davis House at Sheridan, Mich., engaging in the hotel business on his own account, and conducting that hotel for the next two years. Selling out, he went to Owosso and clerked for his father, in the National House, one year later purchasing the same. He remained in Owosso another year as proprietor of the National, when he came to Ionia, purchasing the lease of the Hotel Bailey from his father, who had been conducting the house, becoming proprietor May 1, 1901.

Mr. Brown was married, June 5, 1894, to Miss Edith E. McClure, of Canandaigua, Mich.



Interior View of the Office, Hotel Bailey.



Interior View of the Dining Room, Hotel Bailey.



View of the Dam at Lyons, Mich., Belonging to the Ionia Water Power Electric Co.

IONIA WATER POWER ELECTRIC CO.

Electric lighting in Ionia dates from 1888, this company being organized in March of that year, and commencing business that fall. The original stockholders of the company were H. E. Wager, L. B. Townsend, J. E. Just, of this city, and C. J. Rumsey, of Muir. The original officers of the company were L. B. Townsend, president, and J. E. Just, secretary and treasurer.

Originally the business was conducted from a steam plant, located on Third street, where the gas works now stand. In 1898 the company purchased flowage rights near Lyons, and constructed a dam across Grand River, and in the spring of 1899 abandoned the steam plant and commenced supplying electricity from the water power plant mentioned above. In 1904 the dam and

power house were reconstructed and enlarged, being equipped with all modern and up-to-date appliances for commercial lighting. The engravings herewith shown present the plant as it now exists.

Since 1895 the affairs of this company have been in the hands of H. E. Wager as president, and O. S. Wood as secretary and treasurer, with offices in the Wager Block, fronting Second street.



Two Sectional Views of Dam and Power House.



This company is today equipped for furnishing electric power and lighting according to modern methods, and few cities of the size of Ionia can boast as good service at as moderate figures.

JONATHAN HALE & SONS.

This is one of the institutions which is doing much toward promoting the growth of the city of Ionia, contributing very largely toward the maintaining of the reputation of this city as a market for farmers' produce, they paying from two to five cents above the corresponding Detroit market for grain during a considerable portion of the year, and making this city one of the best markets in this section of the State.

The business of which this firm is the successor was first started by Jonathan Hale, at Rochester, Mich., in 1860, he establishing a flouring mill at that place at that time. In 1864 the firm became Hale Bros., and in December, 1865, their plant was entirely destroyed by fire, after which they removed to Lyons, Mich., purchasing the mill at that place in April, 1866.

The firm of Hale Bros. operated this plant until February, 1896, when Elmer B. and Lewis H. Hale purchased the interest of their uncle, John Hale, and the firm became Jonathan Hale & Sons. In 1897 they established a branch at Stanton, Mich., with a feed mill and

elevator in charge of O. D. Vandebogert. In 1901 they built the elevator and feed mill in this city, shown in the accompanying engraving, and which is in charge of L. H. Hale.

The flour mill of this firm, shown herewith, is located at Lyons and has a capacity of 175 barrels of flour, 100 tons

of feed and 50 barrels of buckwheat flour per day, and is operated by water power. The feed mills at Ionia and Stanton each have a capacity of 50 tons of feed per day.

About one-half of the flour produced at the Lyons mill finds sale in the local markets, the remainder being sold in the Eastern and Southern States, the brands manufactured by this firm being as well known in that section as at home. The firm also deals extensively in all kinds of grains.



Flouring Mill of Jonathan Hale & Sons, Lyons, Mich.



Elevator of Jonathan Hale & Sons, Ionia, Mich.

R. L. REDEMSKY.

R. L. Redemsky conducts the most extensive coal and wood business within the city of Ionia, the office and yards being located on Mill street, opposite the Pere Marquette railway shops.

This business was established by Harper Brothers, and conducted by them for a number of years, being purchased by R. L. Redemsky & Son in the early spring of 1905. In December last, R. L. Redemsky purchased the interest of his son, since which time he has conducted the business alone.

While Mr. Redemsky does a very extensive coal and wood business, he also pays much attention to other lines, carrying a very complete line of coke, tile, cement, lime and salt, and by fair dealing and a close attention to the wants of his customers, has succeeded in very largely increasing the business since it came under his control. In order to promptly meet the demands of his patrons, it is necessary for him to employ four teams and ten men, which is far more than is ordinarily employed by



R. L. Redemsky.

dealers in this line in cities of the size of Ionia.

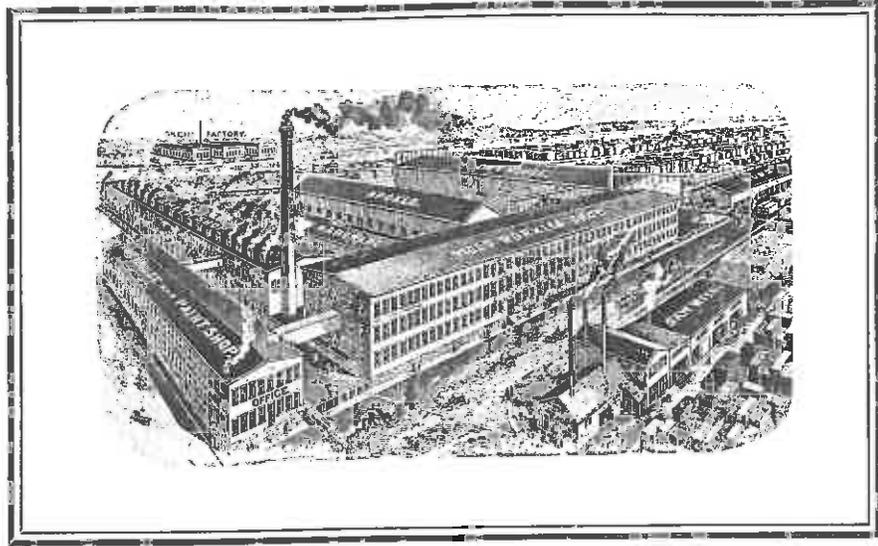
R. L. Redemsky was born in Germany, August 12, 1858, where he received his education, and later learned the painters' trade. In 1877 he came to America, locating at Rochester, N. Y., where he remained for four years, then coming to Ionia.

For over twenty years after his locating in this city, Mr. Redemsky followed his trade, becoming a contracting painter and employing a considerable number of men. This line he gave up upon the purchase of Harper Bros.' coal and wood yard, in January, 1905.

In 1894 Mr. Redemsky was elected city marshal, and served this city in that capacity until 1901. Mr. Redemsky has always been a firm believer in the future of Ionia, and has contributed his share toward its progress by the erection of a considerable number of dwelling houses.



Coal and Wood Yard of R. L. Redemsky.



IONIA WAGON COMPANY.

This institution is the largest wagon factory in the State of Michigan, and has been marvelously successful under its present management. Here are made the famous BIBLE and CAPITAL wagons, which are sold not only in every section of the United States, but also exported to nearly all of the



C. J. Rumsey, President.

foreign countries. At present this concern is more than 3,000 wagons behind its orders and its trade and reputation is so thoroughly established that traveling representatives are not necessary, and at this time the mail orders from its various established agencies throughout the world average approximately 100 wagons per day, this being

the busy season, or the season when orders are placed more liberally. However, the factory is run every working day in the year.

Mr. C. J. Rumsey, of Muir, Mich., is the president. Mr. Rumsey is a man of large means and wide experience, and he takes the greatest pride in the success of this company. He stood by it in panic days, when the prospects seemed anything but flattering. While he lives at Muir, he spends a part of each day at the factory, and although he has other interests, the Ionia Wagon Company appears to be the pride of his heart.

Mr. John Greenop, of Orleans, Mich., is the vice-president. He is likewise a man of considerable means, and while he does not devote any time to its affairs, he is frequently seen at the factory, and, like Mr. Rumsey, he takes great pride in this growing institution.

Mayor John F. Bible is the general manager, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Bible is a thorough and practical wagon man, having grown up in the wagon business. Mr. Bible came to Michigan some 15 years ago from Owensboro, Kentucky, where he was identified with one of the leading wagon factories in the South.

Mr. Bible has been elected Mayor of the city of Ionia three times and is prominent in both State and National politics, but he says his one ambition

is to make the Ionia Wagon Company one of the largest and strongest wagon concerns in the United States, and it appears that his ambition will be realized while he is yet in the prime of life.

The Ionia Wagon Company is a very close corporation, being practically owned by its officers, Messrs. Bible, Rumsey and Greenop.



John F. Bible, General Manager.

K. R. SMITH.

Few men in Western Michigan are better known than "Kim" Smith, Ionia's genial postmaster, and few indeed are they who can boast of a larger circle of personal friends. Mr. Smith is not alone Ionia's postmaster, but for many years has been identified as one of Ionia's most progressive citizens, and one who never failed to get in line and boost when there was an opportunity to advance the interests of the little city which is his home.

Kimbal R. Smith was born on a farm in Orleans township, this county, Nov. 27, 1849, where he lived until 9 years of age, when his parents moved to this city. Here he lived and grew to manhood, receiving his education in the city schools, and being essentially an Ionia product.

His first business venture was in 1873, when he purchased the interest of his brother, M. L. Smith, in the book and stationery store of Smith & Lowe, later purchasing the interest of his partner. This is the store now conducted under the firm name of Smith & Smith, the firm being composed of Mr. Smith and sons, and managed by K. R. Smith, Jr. In the 34 years since Mr. Smith engaged in this business it has continuously remained in his charge, and today is one of the prosperous business concerns of the city, and in addition to the book and stationery business, also embraces a very large and complete line of wall papers.

In 1892 Mr. Smith also engaged in the wool and grain business, which has been continued to the present time, his elevator and storehouse, at the intersection of Third street and the Pere Marquette railway tracks, being one of the best known places in the city to the farmers of this section.

Mr. Smith is a staunch Republican, and for many years has been very act-



K. R. Smith.

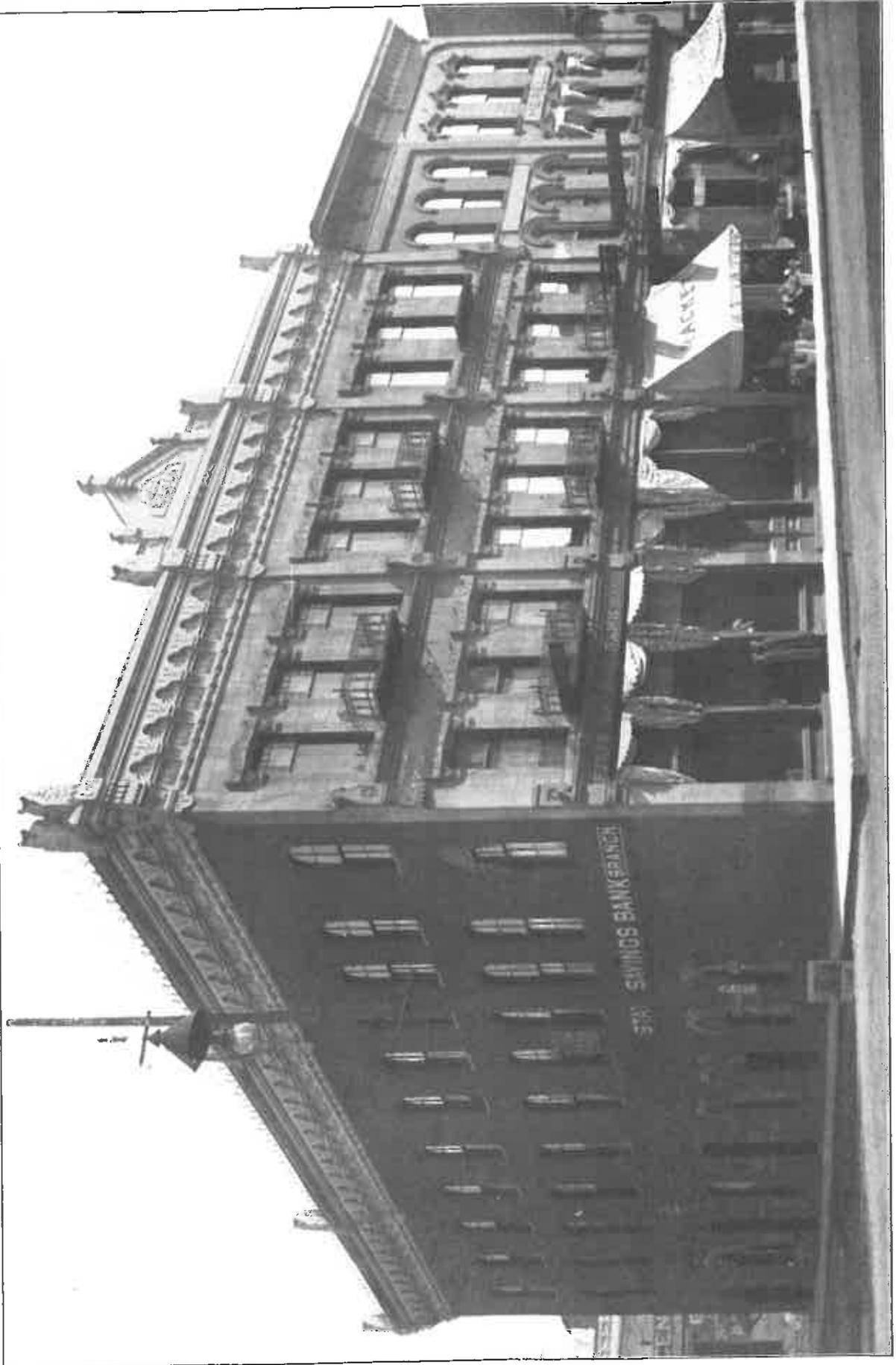
ive in Michigan politics, in that time having attained a very enviable position among the party leaders of the

State. Locally Mr. Smith has served his party as a member of the county committee for quite a number of years, being secretary of the committee from 1891 to 1898. In the spring of 1898 he was appointed postmaster of this city by President McKinley, being reappointed by President Roosevelt in 1902 and 1906, and is at the present time serving his third term. So well has Mr. Smith discharged the duties of this position that there was no opposition to his reappointment on either occasion.

Mr. Smith was married in November of 1872 to Miss Mary J. Welch, daughter of the late Hon. John B. Welch, of Ionia township. They have four sons, K. R. Smith, Jr., G. Morgan Smith, Vernon H. Smith and Delos G. Smith. Their home, shown in the accompanying engraving, is one of the most beautiful in this city.



Residence of K. R. Smith.



The Wagar Block.

H. R. Wagar

H. R. Wagar was born in Summit county, Ohio, June 4, 1835. At 12 years of age he started work as a farm hand, later going into a woolen mill until he was 18, and earning at no time more than \$4 per month and his board. At 18 he became a spinner and received \$26 per month, boarding himself.

When 21 years old he came to Michigan, working in a factory at Battle Creek one year, then going to Jackson to learn the clothing business.

In 1857 he came to Lyons, Mich., where he clerked in a store and studied medicine for two years, and eventually got his first start in life. He purchased a stock of merchandise invoicing at \$3,700, giving his notes for six, eighteen and twenty-four months, without security, having no money or property of any description. He paid these notes as they matured and established an excellent credit.

Mr. Wagar was married in 1859 to Miss Ophelia E. Libhart, and seven children were born to them, three of whom are living. One, Fred L. Wagar, is in the real estate business in Washington, D. C.; Ernest E. is manager of the Southern Hotel at Mobile, Ala-

bama, and the only daughter, Nellie, is now Mrs. Walter Peterson, of Detroit.



H. R. Wagar.

In 1860 Mr. Wagar sold out his business at Lyons and removed to Muir, where he again engaged in the mercantile business. In 1870 he embarked in

lumbering, being extensively and actively interested in many of the larger lumbering operations in this section, and still being interested in timber lands in Alabama, Washington, Wisconsin and Arkansas.

Mr. Wagar has been an active resident of this city since 1879, and has at all times manifested much interest in its growth and prosperity. He has been connected with many of the business ventures of the city, at times having been a stockholder in the County Savings Bank, Michigan Clothing Co. and the Ionia Water Power Electric Co., being president of the latter company at the present time. As a citizen Mr. Wagar has always been very public spirited, being at all times ready to assist and encourage any enterprise which tended toward its growth and prosperity, and, in fact, has devoted much time and money in the effort to promote the interests of Ionia.

Mr. Wagar has served the city as mayor, and it was very largely due to his efforts that during his administration the first paving was done in this city.

Mr. Wagar attributes much of his success in life to his wife, and their Ionia residence is one of the most beautiful to be found in this city.



Residence of H. R. Wagar.

The National Bank of Ionia.

The banking institution of which this bank is the direct successor was established Jan. 14, 1873, as the Second National Bank of Ionia, with Hon. Geo. W. Webber as president; W. C. Page, vice-president, and Virgil VanVleck, cashier. For years the business prospered, but during that time many of the original stockholders died, and when, in 1889, their charter was about to expire, it was decided to go into voluntary liquidation, the capital then being \$50,000, with a surplus and undivided profits of \$10,000. In fact, for some years prior this had been a close corporation, and its stockholders preferred this to taking in outsiders in a reorganization, and the business was sold to Webber Bros. (Hon. Geo. W. and A. J. Webber), the officers at that time being: President, Hon. Geo. W. Webber; vice-president, A. J. Webber; cashier, H. B. Webber.

Webber Bros. conducted the business as a private bank until April 20, 1901, when the present organization was effected, with H. B. Webber as president; W. H. Mattison and A. B. Morse as vice-presidents, and C. D. Ranson as cashier. The present officers are:

President—H. B. Webber.
Vice-President—W. H. Mattison.
Cashier—M. M. McGeary.
Teller—J. H. Smith.



Interior of The National Bank of Ionia.

Directors—M. J. Allen, Thos. A. Car-
ten, B. F. Hall, W. G. Longe, W. H.
Mattison, H. E. Powell and H. B. Web-
ber.

This is the only National bank in the
county, and consequently the only one
under government supervision, it being
periodically visited by United States

bank examiners. The capital is \$50,000,
surplus \$10,000, and undivided profits
\$2,500, a showing which will convince
the most skeptical of its stability and
trustworthiness. They also have an ex-
tensively patronized savings depart-
ment, in which they pay interest of
three per cent, compounded semian-
nually.

H. B. Webber, president of this bank,
is, in point of service, the oldest active
banker in the county of Ionia, and as
the affairs of this institution have been
handled from the very start in a man-
ner to gain and hold the confidence of
the people, it is to be expected that to-
day we should find it on a very solid
footing.

A bank to be of great value to a
community, must be conducted in a con-
servative manner, so as to have the un-
bounded confidence of the people in its
stability, and the officers of the bank
must be men worthy of that confidence.
It must throw around itself every safe-
guard possible, yet be up-to-date in all
of its business methods, in order that
manufacturers, business men and people
generally may obtain full accommoda-
tions necessary in the conduct of busi-
ness transactions. Such an institution
the National Bank of Ionia has proven
itself to be.



Building of The National Bank of Ionia.

Webber Hardware Company.

This business was established in 1882 by Webber, Morse & Co., then being located at 223 West Main street in a



Hon. H. E. Powell, President.

building which at that time stood where the present "New Webber Block" now stands. The firm at that time consisted of Hon. Geo. W. Webber, Chas. S. Morse and Abraham Ryerson, and continued in business for five years.

In 1887 the business was purchased by H. B. Webber, who presided over its destinies for the next ten years, when his brother, C. H. Webber, purchased a one-half interest, the style of the firm then being changed to H. B. Webber & Co., which firm was in existence 12 years.

In January of 1898 the block in which their store was located was destroyed by fire and the stock very badly damaged. The remnants of their stock were removed to the building a few doors east, and now occupied by the United States Express Co., where it was replenished and where the firm did business while the new block was in course of construction. Upon the completion of this block, in October of the same year, they removed to their present lo-

cation, where the business has since been carried on.

In January, 1905, the business was incorporated under the style of The Webber Hardware Company, the present owners of this large and prosperous business. The officers of this corporation are:

President—H. E. Powell.

Vice-President—J. L. Fowle.

Manager—Fred T. Wortman.

Sec. and Treas.—H. B. Webber.

The Webber Hardware Co. carries one of the most complete lines of staple and shelf hardware, stoves, ranges, paints, oils and hardware sundries to be found in any city of equal size with Ionia in the State of Michigan. The business, from its start a quarter of a century ago, has been conducted in a manner to win the confidence of the people of this section, who have come to understand that anything purchased at this store will be found just as represented, while prices have been maintained at a point which makes it an object for them to deal here. The result is seen in the building up of one of

Ionia's largest and most profitable mercantile establishments.

The interior view of their store here-



J. L. Fowle, Vice-President.

with shown will convince all strangers that theirs is the largest stock to be found in this county, and shows a modern and well-arranged store, with every convenience for handling the trade.



Interior of Store of Webber Hardware Company.

IONIA GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO.

This company was first organized in 1882, a 20-year franchise being obtained from the city at that time, and a plant erected at the foot of Depot street with a capacity of 50,000 cubic feet per day. The business prospered from its inception, and in 1902 it was found necessary to build a new and modern plant, as the business had outgrown their facilities.

In that year, the present plant, shown in the accompanying engraving, was erected, with a capacity of 125,000 cubic feet per day, and with modern and up-to-date buildings of sufficient size that the present capacity may be doubled without the erection of other buildings.

The machinery installed in the new plant, and now in use, is of the very latest pattern, and the service given the people of this city is of the very best, a fact that is shown by the consumption of gas, it being admitted that more gas is used in the city of Ionia than in any other city of its size within the State.

Under the terms of its charter the company was allowed to charge \$2.50 per thousand feet for gas, but entirely of their own free will the price has been reduced by the company from time to time until today they are selling at \$1.25.

The company maintains up-town offices and salesroom, in which will be found a complete stock of all modern appliances for lighting and heating with gas, and which are furnished the consumer at the lowest prices.

The officers of the company are:
President—H. B. Webber.
Vice-President and Manager—E. F. Gallagher.
Secretary and Treasurer—C. D. Ransom.



H. B. Webber, President



E. F. Gallagher, Vice-President and Mgr.



Interior View of Salesroom and Office.



Works of the Ionia Gas Light and Coke Co.

M. W. of A. Uniformed Foresters

The Modern Woodmen of America number nearly nine hundred thousand members in select territory of the United States. Its head officers are: Hon. A. R. Talbot, Head Consul; Major C. W. Hayes, Head Clerk. Its Board of Directors are: R. R. Smith, Hon.

Though acting with the minority party, he has been elected to county judicial positions three times, and served as City Attorney for several years. The demands upon his time rendered it impossible to properly continue the mobilization of the Woodmen Foresters and follow the courts at the same time, and on May 1, 1904, the General withdrew from the practice of the law, since that date giving his entire time to the instruction and advancement of the Uniformed Foresters.

General Mitchell was married some twelve years since to Miss Jessie L. Clark, daughter of Judge Clark, of Brighton, Mich., and they have one son, who is already a member of a local cadet company. Mrs. Mitchell is a Supreme Auditor of the Royal Neighbors of America.

The accompanying illustrations show the main office and the inner office at the Foresters' National Headquarters at Ionia. The document and stock rooms are not shown.



Maj. Gen. John H. Mitchell,
Commanding M. W. A. Foresters.

C. J. Byrns, E. E. Murphy, G. W. Riley and A. N. Bort. F. O. Van Galder is the editor of the society's official organ.

In its semi-military department there are sixty-five thousand Uniformed Foresters under command of Major General John H. Mitchell, with headquarters at Ionia, Michigan. General Mitchell had seventeen years' service in the National Guard, during which he advanced from private to Colonel, was chief of staff to Governor Winans, and was Assistant Inspector General of the State under Governor Rich. A few months after the mobilization of the Uniformed Foresters was first attempted, and upon the death of General Reese, General Mitchell was appointed commander, and under such command the Foresters have become one of the leading semi-military organizations of the United States, securing high encomiums for discipline and organization from regular army officers who have been on duty with the Foresters. Their battalions and teams are of the best in the world in exhibition drills. One is now touring Europe for the third year, drawing crowded houses at military centers. By attracting young men the Foresters materially aided in reducing the average age of the society membership, thereby saving its members in assessments nearly three millions of dollars.

General Mitchell was for many years engaged in the practice of the law, and enjoyed a most lucrative and satisfactory practice in Western Michigan courts, being especially successful in criminal law and insurance cases.



M. W. A. Foresters' Headquarters -- Main Office.

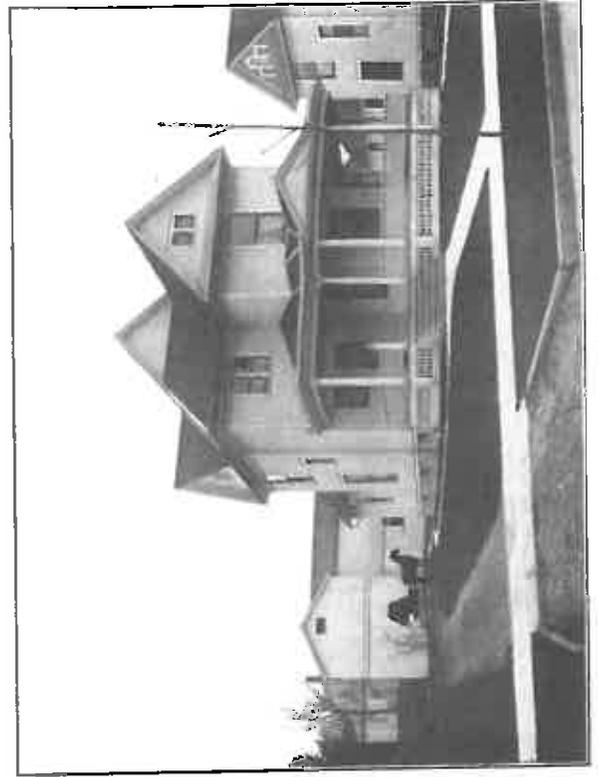


M. W. A. Foresters' Headquarters--Inner Office.

GROUP OF IONIA RESIDENCES.



Residence of H. B. Webber.



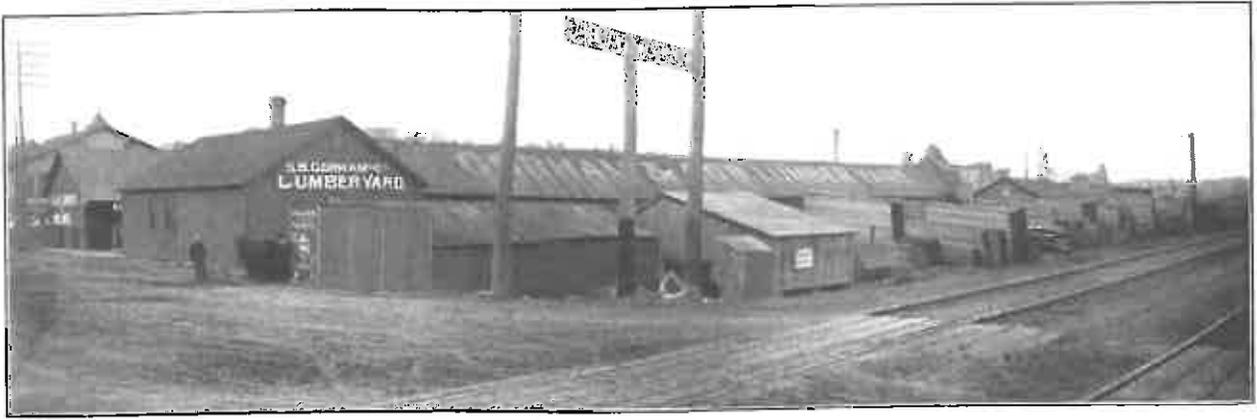
Residence of Levi Marshal.



Residence of E. F. Gallagher.



Residence of J. M. Marshal.



View of the Lumber Yard of S. B. Gorham & Co.

S. B. GORHAM & CO.

This firm conducts one of the largest retail lumber yards to be found in Ionia county, as one glance at the accompanying engravings will show. The business was established in 1885 by Bert Babcock, and one year later sold to S. B. Gorham, being conducted by him until August, 1894, when the style of the firm was changed to S. B. Gorham & Co., Levi Marshal being admitted as a partner at that time. For nine years prior to his becoming a member of the firm, Mr. Marshal had been in the employ of Mr. Gorham. In 1905 John M. Marshal became a partner in this business.

From 1894 to the present time the business has been conducted by this firm, and in that time they have succeeded in very largely increasing the volume of business transacted. As mentioned above, theirs is today one of the largest and best stocked yards to be found within the county, their complete line embracing lumber, lath, shingles, interior finish, sash, doors, flooring, casing and mouldings, prepared roofing, plaster board, wall plaster, cement and ridge roll, and many other of the smaller articles usually found in such establishments and required in the

construction of the modern business buildings and dwellings.

In the years that this business has been in operation this firm has succeeded in very firmly establishing themselves with the people of this city and vicinity, and today few of the contractors or persons building think of purchasing their materials before consulting with this firm.

S. B. Gorham is now a resident of the city of Detroit, Levi Marshal and John M. Marshal being the resident members of the firm and looking after the business here.



Between the Sheds at the Lumber Yard of S. B. Gorham & Co.



Two Views of Prairie Creek Dam.



Wm. Mansfield.

PRAIRIE CREEK MILLS.

These mills were erected in 1865 by Blanchard & Beattie, but since 1870 have been conducted by Wm. Mansfield and some member of the Hoag family, at the present time being owned by William Mansfield and Isaac P. Hoag, and conducted under the firm name of Mansfield & Hoag.

These mills have a daily capacity of 100 barrels of flour, 15 tons of feed and 20 barrels of buckwheat flour, and a storage capacity for 15,000 bushels of wheat. They are located adjacent to the Grand Trunk Railway, in the eastern portion of the city, and have as fine a water power as will be found with any mill in this section.

City office, 214 West Main street.



Isaac P. Hoag.



IONIA CITY LAUNDRY,

W. C. SNELL, Proprietor.

Watson C. Snell was born on a farm in the township of Easton, this county,



W. C. Snell.

June 3, 1858, receiving his education in the district schools of that township. As a young man he engaged in farming on the old homestead in Easton.

In 1885 Mr. Snell removed to Western Dakota, where he was engaged in farming for the next three years, but coming to the conclusion that Michigan was good enough for him, he sold out and came to Albion, Mich., where he was engaged in the grocery business for one year.

In 1889 he came back and lived on the old farm in Easton for one year, returning to Albion, remaining until 1893, then returning to this city, where he has since resided. Upon taking up his residence in this city, he established a harness store on Third street, which he conducted about one year, then selling out and going into the grocery business at 440 West Main street, where he remained for three years.

From that time until the fall of 1906, or in fact up to the present time, he has been engaged in dealing in real estate. In the fall of 1906 he purchased the

Ionia City Steam Laundry, since which time he has conducted the same, very largely adding to the patronage and placing it among the best laundries in this section of the State.

Mr. Snell has never been very active in political affairs, yet has served the

city four years as alderman from the second ward, and three years a member of the board of public works.

Mr. Snell's residence at 642 West Main street is one of the beauty spots of the city, as is shown by the accompanying engraving.



Interior Ionia City Steam Laundry.



Residence of W. C. Snell.

Charles A. Ireland.

While Chas. A. Ireland has been a resident of the city of Ionia but little over three years, he has in that time so firmly identified himself with the progress and prosperity of the city that today he is regarded as one of Ionia's most enterprising business men. The business now conducted by Mr. Ireland was established in 1879 by Nathan Ken-



Charles A. Ireland.

yon and conducted by him until March, 1904, when it was purchased by Toan & Ireland. In November of the same year Mr. Ireland purchased his partner's interest, and has since conducted the business alone.

This business embraces one of the largest and best assorted stocks of hardware, stoves, paints, oils, hardware sundries, and in fact everything usually to be found in an up-to-date hardware store. Mr. Ireland believes in building upon a solid foundation, and that the foundation for business success is found through giving satisfaction to all patrons. Thus it has always been his endeavor not to see how cheap

any article could be sold, but rather he has devoted his attention to giving his patrons the best possible values for every dollar expended with him. That these methods are appreciated by the people of Ionia and vicinity is shown by the constantly increasing trade which he enjoys.

Mr. Ireland's progressive business spirit was early recognized by his fellow business men of Ionia, and he is today serving as president of the Business Men's Protective Association and director of the Ionia Board of Trade, two organizations of the business men designed to promote the interests of the city.

Charles A. Ireland was born at Sublette, Ill., Nov. 6, 1868, receiving his education in the schools of that locality and later taking a literary and commercial course in the college at Dixon, Ill. When 18 years of age his parents moved to Ashton, Ill., he remaining

with them until November, 1890, when he came to Belding, Mich., entering the store of his brother, the late T. Frank Ireland. Here he remained until the spring of 1891, when he returned to Ashton, Ill., and purchased an interest in a hardware store, the firm being Brewer & Ireland.

In the spring of 1894 Mr. Ireland sold his interest in this business and again located in Belding, being connected with the hardware store of his brother until he came to Ionia to enter into business.

Mr. Ireland has been very prominent in Masonic circles of Western Michigan, having served as Master of Belding Lodge, F. & A. M., for two years, and being at the present time master of Ionia Lodge, F. & A. M. He has also held numerous other offices in the Masonic bodies.

Mr. Ireland was married, Nov. 28, 1900, to Miss Agnes R. Spencer, of Belding.



Interior View of Hardware Store of Chas. A. Ireland.

C. B. Wardle.

C. B. Wardle conducts the most extensive insurance, real estate and loan business to be found in this section of Michigan. This business was established in 1877, and for 22 years has been located in the present offices, in the Wagar block.

This is the oldest insurance agency in the city of Ionia, and at the present time Mr. Wardle represents 20 companies, covering almost all conceivable lines of insurance risks—fire, life, liability, accident, steam boiler, plate glass, burglary, and in addition Mr.



Clarence B. Wardle.

Wardle is general agent for a surety bonding company. In these varied branches of the insurance business Mr. Wardle represents many of the oldest and best companies now doing business in this State, and carries risks which run into very large figures.

The real estate branch of the business is also of considerable proportions, and in addition to the usual real estate transactions, Mr. Wardle makes a specialty of purchasing residences and selling them on contract. In the years which he has conducted this office, this gentleman has been connected with

many of the larger real estate deals in this section of Michigan.

In the real estate loan department he also has a very extensive business, his loans at the present time amounting to about one-quarter of a million dollars.

Clarence B. Wardle was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1855, living in that city and on Long Island until 22 years of age, and receiving his education there. In 1877 he came to this city and established himself in the insurance and real estate business, later taking a course in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and graduating from the law department with the class of 1879. Although Mr. Wardle is a member of the Ionia county bar, he has not been in the active practice of law for many years, giving his attention to his real estate and insurance business.

During his residence in this city, Mr. Wardle has at all times shown himself interested in the upbuilding of Ionia, and has at various times been connected with very many of her manufacturing institutions. He was a director and secretary and treasurer of the Ionia Wagon Co. before the reorganization; he was also one of the first directors of the Michigan Clothing Co., a position which he still holds. He was also vice-president of the Ionia Pottery Co. and a director and trustee of the Ionia Furniture Co.

Mr. Wardle has served the county three terms as circuit court commissioner, and is at the present time one of the directors of the Ionia Board of Trade.

Mr. Wardle was married, Oct. 3, 1888, to Miss Gertrude Townsend, daughter of the late L. B. Townsend, of this city. Their home, at 320 LaFayette street, is shown in the accompanying engraving.



Residence of C. B. Wardle.

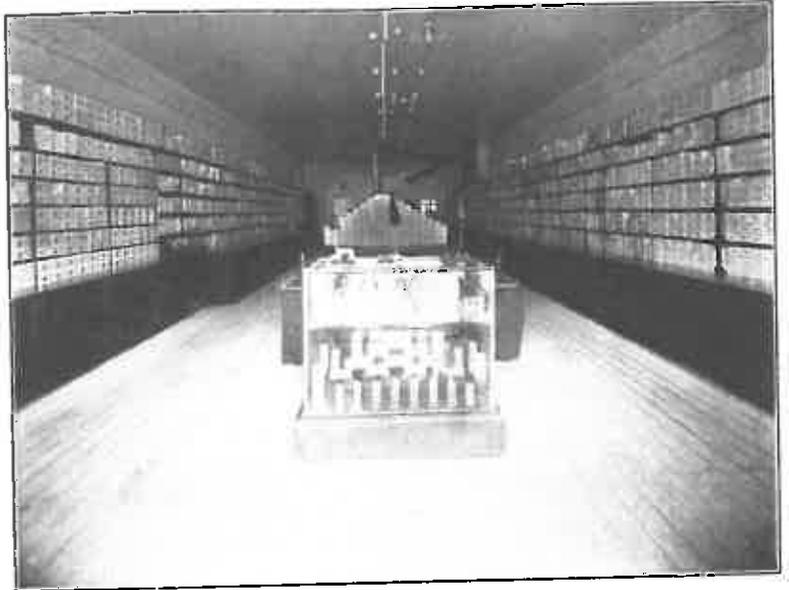
JOHN C. BEATTIE.

The shoe store conducted by John C. Beattie was purchased by him in 1898, and during the past nine years has been conducted by him at the same location—323 West Main street. Mr. Beattie is a practical shoe man, having served years in the shoe factories of this country, and learning all the details in the manufacture of shoes, thus enabling him to quickly and correctly judge of the quality of goods offered him.

Since engaging in this line of business Mr. Beattie has endeavored to give his customers the benefit of the knowledge thus acquired by him, and all of his goods are made to order, he purchasing no job-lots or special offerings at the hands of the manufacturers. It has at all times been his aim to secure fit, quality and style, and at the same time get a shoe which he could guarantee to his customers. How well he has succeeded in these efforts is best shown by the manner in which his trade has increased year after year.

John C. Beattie was born in Antrim county, Ireland, December 25, 1860, coming to this country with his father when 12 years of age, they locating at Joliet, Ill., at that time. Before leav-

ing Ireland, Mr. Beattie had commenced to learn the shoe manufacturers' trade, and after two years' residence at Joliet, went to Chicago and eight years, and going to Jackson when the firm secured the contract in the prison at that place. After three years' residence at Jackson, he went to Jef-



Interior of Store of J. C. Beattie.

entered the factory of C. H. Fargo & Co., remaining with that firm for 13 years. When Fargo & Co., in 1878, secured the prison contract in this city, he came here as enter, remaining here

person City, Mo., entering the employ of Giesecke Bros. & Co., as superintendent of the custom department, and remaining with them nine years, or until 1898, when he returned to Ionia and engaged in business for himself, as noted above.

During his residence in this city, Mr. Beattie has always manifested an active interest in its welfare, and has served the city as City Treasurer for two terms, and Alderman for two years. He is an active Republican, and has served as a member of their county committee.

Mr. Beattie was married, Nov. 20, 1882, to Miss Edith Allured, of this city, and to them eight children have been born. George, the oldest, died in September, 1904, being buried on his 21st birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Beattie and family are shown in the accompanying engraving. The names of the children follow, according to age: Robert S., Lenora N., Grace, Edith, John J., Alice and Nancy.



Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Beattie and Family.

ALDERMAN A. J. ASHDOWN.

Arthur J. Ashdown was born at Gravesend, England, Oct. 6, 1860, going to Canada with his parents when 13 years of age, they locating in Toronto, Ont., where the family resided until the winter of 1885. At Toronto the senior Mr. Ashdown was engaged in the manufacture of willow and rattan goods—willow and rattan then being used in place of the reed now in use.

Arthur J. Ashdown here learned the business of manufacturing this class of goods, not only paying close attention to their manufacture in every detail, but also looking after the selling department, thus learning the business from one end to the other.

In 1885 Mr. Ashdown, Sr., sold out his business to Jas. Hay & Co., Woodstock, Ont., who engaged Arthur J. Ashdown as designer.

After working in that capacity for two years, his employers sent him to Hoboken, N. J., to start a branch factory for the manufacture of reed goods,

which he operated successfully for four years, when he resigned to engage in



A. J. Ashdown.

business on his own account, this time at Elizabeth, N. J.

In 1901 Mr. A. J. Ashdown associated himself with others in organizing the

Phoenix Reed Co. at Detroit, which was one year later moved to Ypsilanti, the style being changed to the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Co., they conducting the business there until 1903, when they came to this city.

Mr. Ashdown is connected with various business enterprises, being secretary and treasurer of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Co. and the Marvel Manufacturing Co., both of this city, and also secretary and treasurer of the Acme Reed Furniture Co., the factory of which is located at Jackson, Mich.

Since his first becoming a citizen of Ionia he has manifested a hearty interest in the growth and welfare of the city. In the spring of 1906 he was elected alderman from the third ward, and his service on the council is highly commended by the best citizens of the city.

Mr. Ashdown was married in 1881 to Miss Milcah M. Thwaites, of Toronto, Ont.



Residence of A. J. Ashdown.

WM. WING.

Wm. Wing was born in Canada, May 6, 1850, on a farm in Waterloo county, where he received his education and lived with his parents until 20 years of age. In 1870 he went to Waterloo to learn the harnessmaker's trade, re-



Wm. Wing.

maining there until 1872, when he came to this city and where he worked at his trade for the next three years.

In 1875 he started a harness store for himself in the Hackett block, where he remained for a number of years. In 1886 he purchased the building now occupied by him, and in which will be found one of the most complete stocks of harness, trunks, valises, robes and whips to be found in this section. That Mr. Wing has made a success of this business is shown by the large and constantly increasing patronage which he is receiving from the people of this city and the adjoining country. Mr.



Interior of the Armitage Studio.

Wing is one of those gentlemen who believes that he can best gain and retain the patronage of the people by giving them complete satisfaction in all that they buy from him—a rule which certainly has gained for him a very large circle of friends.

Mr. Wing was married in 1876 to Miss Carrie Gundrum, of this city.

THE ARMITAGE STUDIO.

Edward D. Armitage was born at Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 2, 1860, where he lived until nine years of age, when his parents moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., where Mr. Armitage received his education in the schools of that city.

When 19 years of age Mr. Armitage entered the cigar factory of his father as bookkeeper, and one year later, upon the death of his father, closed up the business and entered the employ of

the Michigan Central Railway Co., at Grand Rapids. Three years later he resigned to accept a position in the general offices of the Western Michigan R. R., then located at Grand Rapids. When this line was consolidated with the Pere Marquette Railway he removed to Detroit, entering the offices there, but later going to Cincinnati, when the Pere Marquette and C. H. & D. were consolidated.

Mr. Armitage remained in Cincinnati until July, 1905, when he resigned and went to Effingham, Ill., where he entered the College of Photography, graduating one year later. In April, 1906, he came to Ionia and purchased what was then known as the Nix Studio, which he has since conducted.

A very large portion of the pictures shown in this book were taken by Mr. Armitage, and a glance through its



Residence of Wm. Wing.



Edward D. Armitage.

pages will be all that is necessary to convince the reader as to the quality of his work.

Mr. Armitage was married July 15, 1885, to Miss Lillian Chapman, of Grand Rapids.

The First Baptist Church of Ionia.

The First Baptist church of Ionia was organized on the twenty-fourth day of June, A. D. 1834, with six constituent members, viz.: Samuel Dexter and wife,



Rev. E. E. Branch.



Interior of the First Baptist Church of Ionia.

Alfred Cornell and wife, and Erastus Yeomans and wife, and these families are all represented in the present membership. The first member received by

letter was Benjamin G. Barber, and the first member by baptism was Dr. Wm. B. Lincoln, who was elected the first clerk. This society, in the early forties,

erected the first house of worship in the place, on the site where Dr. Defendorf's house now stands. The present church building was erected in 1870-71, at a cost of \$20,000; and of the present membership of 271, twenty-eight were members at that time.

During the more than seventy years, fifteen pastors have ministered to the spiritual interests of the church, the present pastor, Rev. E. E. Branch, having been called to the work March 1st, 1905.

During the past year, most important and permanent improvements have been made, at a cost of nearly \$2,000, in addition to the payment of a mortgage of \$700, leaving the society out of debt. The lower rooms are being used by students and business men for gymnasium work under the supervision of the pastor, and a class of young ladies meet once a week under the direction of an instructor.

Reading room and a shower bath will be added in the near future.

The Sunday school and B. Y. P. U. are doing good work, while the ladies are active in missionary and Aid Society interests. Applied Christianity is the motto that governs all the work of this church.

Rev. E. E. Branch has been in the ministry sixteen years, being located at Kalamazoo five years before locating here.



The First Baptist Church of Ionia.

FRANK D. M. DAVIS.

Judge F. D. M. Davis was born at Buffalo, N. Y., April 9, 1852, coming to Michigan in 1861, where he worked upon farms in this vicinity and attended school for a number of years. Then he began teaching school, and for a number of years alternated teaching and attending school.

When 21 years of age he entered the law office of Marble & Webster and began the study of law, being admitted to the bar in August, 1874. In March, 1875, he opened an office at Saranac and began the practice of his profes-



Judge F. D. M. Davis.

sion, remaining there until 1881. In the fall of 1880 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, removing to the city of Ionia in January, 1881, to assume the duties of that office. He was re-elected in the fall of 1882, and upon the completion of that term of office, practiced his profession in this city until 1888, when he was again elected Prosecuting Attorney, being re-elected in 1890.

In April, 1892, he was elected Mayor of this city, and in the spring of 1893



Residence of Judge F. D. M. Davis.



Residence of Judge Montgomery Webster.

he was chosen Circuit Judge, discharging the duties of that position with such universal satisfaction that he was re-elected in 1899 and again in 1905 without opposition.

Mr. Davis was married, October 7, 1874, to Miss Ellen A. Strong, of Easton township. They have two children: Elvert M., of the law firm of Scully & Davis, this city, and Miss Elva R., at home.



MONTGOMERY WEBSTER.

Montgomery Webster was born in Ionia, September 13, 1876, and received his education in the schools of this city, graduating from the high school in 1895, after which he took a three years' course in the literary department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In 1899 he taught mathematics and history in the Central school of this city, and the following year entered the office of his father, the late Judge W. O.

Webster, and began the study of law.

When Wm. O. Webster was elected Judge of Probate, his son went to the Probate Office as Probate Register, remaining there until 1904, when he returned to Ann Arbor, completed his literary course and entered the law de-



Judge Montgomery Webster.

partment of the University, remaining there until the death of his father, Dec. 2, 1904.

His connection with the probate office was recognized as particularly fitting him to take up the work of his father, and he was appointed Judge of Probate by Gov. Bliss to hold until an election should be had. In the fall of 1906 he was nominated by the Republicans to fill the vacancy in that office, and the fact that his work during the preceding two years had been eminently satisfactory to the people of the county was demonstrated very forcibly by the fact that he led the Republican ticket, receiving a majority of 1,341.

Judge Webster has been secretary and president of the Gridley Club, is an elder in the Presbyterian church, and is connected with several of the fraternal and business interests of the county.

HARRY J. HOLBROOK.

Harry J. Holbrook was born at Hubbardston, Mich., March 29, 1874, and received his education in the schools of that village. At 16 years of age he entered his father's store, at Hubbardston, remaining there until 1893, which year he spent as clerk in a drug store at St. Johns.

In the fall of 1894 he returned to Hubbardston and opened a drug store, which he conducted for two years, then selling out and going to Maple Rapids, where he conducted a feed store.

In the fall of 1897 he returned to Hubbardston and entered the store of

Republicans of that section before coming to Ionia. Here he has lost none of his political prestige, and in the campaign just closed he looked after the interests of Hon. G. J. Diekema in Ionia county, contributing quite largely to the splendid showing made by that gentleman in his race for a seat in Congress.

Mr. Holbrook was married September 8, 1906, to Miss Theo. Zank, of this city.

DWIGHT C. SHELDON.

Dwight C. Sheldon was born at Grand Haven, Mich., March 9, 1873, and

Nichols. Here he remained for five months, when he removed to Belding, where he opened an office for the practice of law. At Belding he was more than ordinarily successful, establishing a business which is seldom found under like conditions, and being city attorney for seven years.

Since locating in this county Mr. Sheldon has taken an active interest in political matters. He is a staunch Republican, and has served as president and secretary of the Gridley club, president of the Young Men's Republican club of Belding. When Frank Burbanks resigned the office of prosecuting attorney, in December, 1906, Mr.



H. J. Holbrook,
County Clerk.



D. C. Sheldon,
Prosecuting Attorney.

W. W. Townsend, remaining there for five years.

In the fall of 1902 he received the Republican nomination for County Clerk, being elected by a handsome majority. Jan. 1, 1903, he assumed the duties of that office, and his administration of county affairs, as connected with the office of County Clerk, has been of such eminent satisfaction that he has since been twice re-elected—in the fall of 1904 and 1906, and at the present time is serving his third term in that capacity.

While residing at Hubbardston, Mr. Holbrook served several terms as Village and Township Clerk, and had long been regarded as one of the prominent

received his elementary education in the schools of that city. After leaving the city schools he entered the office of the Challenge Refrigerator Co., of which his father was president, as bookkeeper, remaining there until he reached the age of 20 years.

Then he spent one year at the Michigan Agricultural College, going from there to the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, where he entered the literary department. After completing his studies in this department he entered the law department, graduating in June of 1898.

After leaving the Michigan University, Mr. Sheldon came to Ionia, entering the law offices of G. E. & M. A.

Sheldon was appointed to that position, having received the endorsement of fully three-fourths of the active Republicans of the county.

On assuming the duties of this position, Mr. Sheldon became a resident of the city of Ionia. Although it is but four months since he assumed to discharge the duties of this office, his prompt and careful methods have already won the approbation of the taxpayers of the county, and his painstaking preparation of his cases for court trial is bound to place him among the leading attorneys of Western Michigan.

Mr. Sheldon was married January 14, 1893, to Miss Dora Chase, of Otisco.

THOS. SPARKS.

Thomas Sparks was born in England, June 19, 1847, and received his education in that country, coming to America in 1872. He at first located in Kent county, this State, where he purchased a farm, and on which he lived for the first ten years of his residence in the United States.

In 1882 he sold his Kent county farm and purchased one in Campbell township, this county, where he lived until January, 1901, when he removed to this city to accept the appointment as Dep-

but he also inspired the confidence of the people of the county as well, with the result that he was nominated for County Treasurer by the Republicans in the fall of 1906, and elected by the second largest majority on the ticket.

While residing in Kent county, Mr. Sparks served for a number of years as Justice of the Peace, and after taking up his residence in this county was four times elected Supervisor of Campbell township.

Mr. Sparks was married January 1, 1873, to Miss Lucinda G. Knickerbocker, of Campbell township.

secretary and treasurer of the Miller Casket Co., after which he opened a book and stationery store, which he conducted until January 1st of the present year.

Mr. Wilder served the city of Belding for twelve years as Supervisor from the third ward, and was twice elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He also served that city for several years as city Auditor, his work in both positions always being performed in a manner which gave entire satisfaction to the people of that city.

In the fall of 1906 he received the



Thos. Sparks,
County Treasurer.



Wm. A. Wilder,
Register of Deeds.

uty County Treasurer under E. F. Cool.

So well did he discharge the duties of this position that when Capt. E. M. Allen, of Portland, was elected County Treasurer, in the fall of 1902, he was retained in the position of deputy by him, and during the four years which Capt. Allen held that position, Mr. Sparks was, as a matter of fact, the County Treasurer, Capt. Allen's business interests demanding his time, and his confidence in Mr. Sparks permitting him to leave the affairs of the office almost entirely in his hands.

Not only was Capt. Allen satisfied with the manner in which Mr. Sparks looked after the finances of the county,

WM. A. WILDER.

William A. Wilder was born at Sublette, Illinois, Jan. 8, 1856, and received his education in the schools of that city, and after graduating from the high school, spent one year in attendance upon the Illinois State Normal School.

Returning to his home, he entered the store of his father, and upon attaining his majority, was admitted as a partner in the firm, they conducting a general mercantile business for the next twelve years.

In 1889 he came to Michigan, locating at Belding, where for five years he was

Republican nomination for Register of Deeds, being elected at the November election with a majority which gave evidence of the popularity which he had attained with the voters of the county.

January 1, 1907, he assumed the duties of Register of Deeds, and the manner in which he is discharging the duties of that office leaves little doubt of his re-election for a second term.

Mr. Wilder was married July 31, 1879, to Miss Jessie A. Dexter, of Sublette, Ill.

Sheriff E. F. Cilley.

Elmer F. Cilley was born on a farm in Boston township, Ionia county, Michigan, September 4th, 1861, and resided



Elmer F. Cilley, Sheriff.

upon the same farm until he came to this city to take up the duties of Sheriff of Ionia county.

Mr. Cilley received his education in the schools of Boston township, and upon the death of his father he purchased the interest of the other heirs, devoting his attention to farming the old homestead. For the past twenty years he has devoted a large amount of time and attention to the raising of registered Rambouillet sheep, and that

he has made a success of this branch of farming is shown by the fact that at the Michigan State Fair in the fall of 1906 he won two gold cups, eight silver medals, and the grand championship for this breed of sheep.

Mr. Cilley was president of the Boston Sheep and Stock association for twenty years. He has also served the township eight years on the board of review, and twice declined the Republican nomination for supervisor.

In the fall of 1906 Mr. Cilley received the Republican nomination for Sheriff, being elected by a substantial majority, and assuming the duties of that office on the 1st of January last, since which time he has discharged the duties of that position with entire satisfaction to the people of the county.

Mr. Cilley was married Dec. 23, 1881, to Miss Lotta Powell, of Berlin township, this county.

Harvey H. Lowrey.

Harvey H. Lowrey was born on a farm in the township of Berlin, August 14, 1878, and received his elementary education in the district schools of that township, afterward attending the high school in the village of Saranac. Later he attended five or six terms at the

Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, and the Central Michigan Normal School at Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. Lowrey began teaching when 17 years of age, and taught continuously for ten years, his attendance upon the



Harvey H. Lowrey.

Ferris Institute and Normal being during the summer vacations.

As a teacher, Mr. Lowrey had more than ordinary success, and for three years served as assistant to the principal of the Saranac schools, then going to Pewamo, where he remained as principal of the schools for the next two years. During his career he has taught in all grades, from the smaller district schools to the village high schools.

Upon the death of M. F. Scott, in February, 1905, Mr. Lowrey was appointed County Commissioner of Schools, being one of eight candidates for that position, and in the two and one-half years which have since elapsed he has proved himself one of the most efficient Commissioners that it has ever been the good fortune of this county to possess. That this assertion is correct, is shown by the fact that at the April election, just passed, he was re-elected to this position without opposition. Mr. Lowrey is a Republican, and was nominated upon that ticket, while the Democrats made several attempts to find a candidate to make the run against him, but finally decided to leave that place upon their ticket blank.

Mr. Lowrey was married August 10, 1899, to Miss Evelyn G. Curtis, of Berlin township.



Ionia County Jail, Ionia, Mich.

R. A. HAWLEY.

Royal A. Hawley was born on a farm in the township of Keene, this county, March 21, 1857, being a son of the late Willard Hawley, whose death occurred while serving this county as a member of the Legislature of 1901.

R. A. Hawley received his education in the district schools of Keene, later taking a four-year course in the Ionia schools, graduating from the high school in June, 1876. He then taught school for a time and in 1878 entered the literary department of the University of Michigan. In the fall of 1879 he came to Ionia and began the



Residence of R. A. Hawley.



Royal A. Hawley.

In May, 1881, Mr. Hawley went to Saranac, opening an office there, where he practiced law until May, 1890, when he removed to this city. In 1892 Mr. Hawley was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and re-elected in 1894, both times being nominated by the Republicans, and his re-election being with a majority of 1800.

Mr. Hawley has been very successful in the practice of law. His connection with the defense in the celebrated Grand Rapids water cases, and the manner in which he handled them, has placed him in the very front ranks of the attorneys of the State.

Mr. Hawley was married, Nov. 7, 1881, to Miss Bernice A. Crumb, of Saranac.

study of law in the office of the late W. O. Webster, being admitted to the bar in the fall of 1880. The same fall he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner upon the Republican ticket.

J. FRED ARMSTRONG.

J. Fred Armstrong was born in Canada, Sept. 18, 1881, coming to Detroit, Mich., when 17 years of age. He at once commenced work in the hotels of that city, and has gradually mastered all of the details in the management of a popular hostelry. Before coming to Ionia he was connected in various capacities with the Cadillac and Russell, at Detroit; the Iroquois, at Buffalo, and the Hollenden, at Cleveland.



J. Fred Armstrong.

When Peterline & Nibolink purchased the Hotel Bailey, in this city, in December, 1903, he came here as clerk, being retained by S. C. L. Brown when he purchased the house from those gentlemen and again became proprietor. In the three and one-half years that he has occupied that position, Mr. Armstrong has not only won the entire confidence of his employer, but has gained a friendship among the traveling public seldom gained by any man behind the hotel desk.



Residence on West Washington Street owned by R. A. Hawley.

GEORGE E. NICHOLS.

George E. Nichols was born on a farm in Oneida township, Eaton county, Michigan, August 8, 1861, receiving his education in the district schools and a private academy at Grand Ledge.

In 1880 he commenced the study of law in the office of A. A. Ellis, of this city, being admitted to the bar in April, 1883. He then opened an office at Grand Ledge, remaining there one and one-half years, when he returned



Geo. E. Nichols.

to this city as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, under A. A. Ellis. In 1886 he entered into a partnership with Judge F. D. M. Davis, which partnership continued for seven years. Then he formed a partnership with A. A. Ellis and F. C. Miller, under the firm name of Ellis, Nichols & Miller, one year later withdrawing to engage in business with his brother under the firm name of Geo. E. & M. A. Nichols. This firm continued until May, 1905, when M. A. Nichols removed to Grand Rapids. In May, 1906, he formed a partnership with D. C. Sheldon, the firm name being Nichols & Sheldon, which partnership still exists, they being recognized as one of the leading law firms of this section of Michigan.

Mr. Nichols is a staunch Republican, and from 1898 to 1902 was chairman of the Republican county committee. In 1900 he was elected to the State Senate upon the Republican ticket, and served with honor to himself and the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

Mr. Nichols is active in anything that

will promote the interest of Ionia, his zeal being recognized in his selection as president of the Ionia Board of Trade.

Mr. Nichols was married, October 10, 1888, to Miss Harriet Kennedy, of this city.

JOHN NICHOL.

John Nichol was born in Ireland, May 27, 1847, and came to this country when 18 years of age, locating in Philadelphia, where he learned the trade of house and sign painter, following that vocation there until 1872. In that year he purchased a farm in Danby township, this county, and took his residence thereon. For the next twelve years Mr. Nichol farmed it, but being elected county drain commissioner in 1884, he sold his farm and took up his residence in this city.

For four years he served this county as drain commissioner, being re-elected in 1886, during that time taking up the study of law, which he completed after the expiration of his term of office, being admitted to the bar in 1892, passing his examination in the Supreme Court, and immediately opening offices in the Webber block for the practice of his profession.

Mr. Nichol's present offices are located in Suit J, Morse & Babcock build-

ing, and are among the most pleasant to be found in this city.

Mr. Nichol has for some years been very prominent in Masonic circles, serving Ionia Lodge No. 36, F. & A. M., as W. M. in 1899-1900. Since 1898 he has held the position of Thrice Illustrious Master of Ionia Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masters, and is at the present time High Priest of Ionia Chapter, R. A. M., having served in that capacity since 1902. He is also serving his



John Nichol.

third term as Eminent Commander of Ionia Commandery, K. T. Mr. Nichol is also a member of the Grand Council of S. M. of Michigan, a 32d degree Mason and a Shriner.

Mr. Nichol was married in February of 1871 to Miss Mary L. Creaser, of Philadelphia.



Residence of Geo. E. Nichols.

ALFRED R. LOCKE.

Alfred R. Locke was born in the township of Easton, Ionia county, Aug. 28, 1868. When four years of age his parents moved to a farm 1 1/4 miles south of Belding. His father, Wilbur H. Locke, was born in Ronald, Ionia county, in 1841, and his mother in Orleans county, N. Y., and came to Ionia county in 1865.

Alfred R. Locke was brought up on a farm. He graduated from the Bel-



Alfred R. Locke.

ding high school in 1886, and from the Michigan Agricultural College in 1891. He began the study of law in 1891, and was clerk of the Law Library at Lansing during Governor Winans' administration. In June, 1893, he was appointed Deputy United States Consul at Glasgow, Scotland, by Judge Allen B. Morse, then United States Consul. He began the active practice of law at Belding in 1895, and in 1898 formed a law partnership with Judge Allen B. Morse at Ionia, where he has since been in active practice of his profession.



Residence of A. R. Locke.



Residence of Edwin A. Murphy.

In February, 1901, he was appointed a member of the Board of Control of the Michigan Reformatory by Governor Bliss, and in 1907 was reappointed by Governor Warner. He was a candidate for prosecuting attorney upon the Democratic ticket in 1902, but was defeated by a small majority. He has held the office of city attorney of Ionia for three terms.

In 1891 he was married to Ona B. Morse, a daughter of Joseph D. and Emily Morse, of Otisco.

EDWIN A. MURPHY.

Edwin A. Murphy was born at Lyons, Mich., April 27, 1861, and attended the district schools until 1880, when he commenced teaching. This vocation he followed, being engaged in the district schools of this county, for six years, then taking a course in the

Ypsilanti State Normal and Michigan Agricultural College, after which he engaged as principal of the Pewamo schools and later going to Muir, where he officiated in the same capacity.

In 1891 he was elected county school



Edwin A. Murphy.

commissioner, holding that office for four years, in the meantime taking up the study of law, and being admitted to the bar in 1893. In the fall of 1894 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating from there in June, 1895. He immediately came to Ionia and became a member of the law firm of Locke, Murphy & Locke. This partnership continued until 1899, since which time he has continued the practice of his profession alone, his present offices being in the Graft block.

From 1900 to 1902 Mr. Murphy officiated as Deputy Great Commander of the Maccabees, doing efficient work. In 1904 he was elected circuit court commissioner on the Republican ticket, and again in 1906.

Mr. Murphy was married, August 25, 1896, to Miss Grace E. Hawley, of Keene township, this county.

SCULLY & DAVIS.

This law firm was established January 1, 1904, and is today one of the leading legal firms of this section of Michigan, they having modern offices in the New Webber Block, this city.

Hon. Jas. Scully was born at Oscoda, Mich., Jan. 13, 1862, came to Ionia in 1889 and entered the law office of A. A. Ellis. Was admitted to the bar in 1890, then became a member of the law



Hon. James Scully.

firm of Chaddock & Scully, which continued to 1904, when the present firm was organized. Mr. Scully was two years mayor of this city, and served this county two terms in the State Legislature.

Elvert M. Davis was born in Saranac, Mich., Oct. 21, 1875, coming to this city with his parents in 1879, when his father, Judge F. D. M. Davis, was elected prosecuting attorney. Mr.



Elvert M. Davis.

Davis graduated from the Detroit College of Law in 1899, when he returned to this city and entered the office of A. A. Ellis, remaining there until the present copartnership was formed.

Robb & Reed.

This firm consists of Herbert H. Robb and Burton L. Reed, two of Ionia's young and hustling business men, who started in business at this stand in September of 1902.

From the very outset these gentle-

men have been greeted with success,

their trade constantly increasing, and their stock being increased to meet the demands, until today they have one of the largest and best assorted stocks of staple and fancy groceries to be found in any store in this section of the State. One thing which has contributed very largely toward the success which they have won is the prompt service given customers, they using two delivery wagons, and making a constant en-



Herbert H. Robb.



Burton L. Reed.

men have been greeted with success, their trade constantly increasing, and their stock being increased to meet the demands, until today they have one of the largest and best assorted stocks of staple and fancy groceries to be found

deavor to get the goods to the customer when wanted, and as wanted.

Their store is located at 337 West Main street, one of the best locations in the city, and a glance at the accompanying engraving will show that it is well stocked and well kept.



Interior of Store of Robb & Reed.

DR. F. LINDLAY HOAG.

Dr. F. Lindlay Hoag was born at Homer, Courtland county, N. Y. (Homeville, the home of David Harum), September 2, 1857, receiving his elementary education in the local schools and the Courtland State Normal.

When 21 years of age he succeeded Judge Alton B. Parker (Democratic



Dr. F. Lindlay Hoag.

Presidential candidate in 1904) as principal of the union schools at Accord, N. Y., which position he filled for three years. While teaching, he took up the study of medicine, later going to the Chicago Homeopathic College, graduating in 1884, and returning to Courtland to practice for four years. In 1888 he went to New York, spending two years in a special study of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and graduating from the Ophthalmic College and Hospital in 1889, then serving one year as clinical assistant in that institution.

In 1891 he located in Grand Rapids, Mich., making a specialty of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and where he re-

mained until 1904, when he came to Ionia. In Grand Rapids he was on the staff of the U. B. A. Hospital, and lectured to the nurses in that institution and at the Soldiers' Home. Since locating in Ionia he has done a general practice, although giving special attention to the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Hoag is a member of the American Medical Association and of the State and county societies. He is also a Mason, Elk and Pythian.

Dr. Hoag was married, April 17, 1903, to Mrs. Helen J. Phillips, of Grand Rapids.

F. A. CHAPMAN.

Frederick A. Chapman was born in England, Oct. 16, 1878, and when four years old came with his parents to Toronto, Ont., where he lived until 1892.



Residence of F. A. Chapman.

At that time he took up his residence in Detroit, entering the employ of the Pioneer Reed Co., then under the management of John Thwaites, now of this city. Later, when Mr. Thwaites accepted the management of the Wolverine Reed Furniture Co., Mr. Chapman also entered their employ. When this latter concern moved to Ypsilanti and changed its name to the Ypsilanti Reed



Frederick A. Chapman.

Furniture Co., Mr. Chapman took up his residence in Ypsilanti. In 1903, when the firm came to this city, Mr. Chapman came here as superintendent of their operations.

Mr. Chapman commenced with this firm as a small boy and by steps has climbed to the position of superintendent, at the same time having become a stockholder and director of the company. He is also interested as stockholder and director in the Aeme Reed Furniture Co., of Jackson, Mich.

Mr. Chapman was married, July 10, 1900, to Miss Thecla Denk, of Detroit, and the accompanying engraving shows their Ionia home.



Residence of Dr. F. Lindlay Hoag

Alex. T. Montgomery

Mr. Montgomery conducts the livery and sale stable shown in the accompanying engraving, the business having been first established by Mr. Montgomery in 1883. From the start the business grew and prospered, and in 1895 Mr. Montgomery erected the fine building herewith shown. The business had prior to that time been conducted in a building standing on the same ground.

By a careful attention to the details of his business, Mr. Montgomery has succeeded in building up a very profitable patronage, and probably has during the past 25 years purchased and shipped more horses than any other one man in this county. While he has given much attention to the purchasing of horses for outside customers, he has not neglected the details of his livery business, and today has the largest business in that line in this city. Mr. Montgomery is awake and ready for business at all times, endeavoring to serve his patrons in a first-class manner and at reasonable prices. He realizes that the public appreciate good conveniences, well-kept and well-groomed horses, and turnouts which present a general neat and tidy appearance, and it ever has been his endeavor to give

his customers what they want in that line.

Alexander T. Montgomery was born on a farm near Corunna, Mich., September 12, 1853, coming to Ionia county with his parents in 1857, when they located in North Plains township, later



Alex. T. Montgomery.

moving to Lyons township. As a young man Mr. Montgomery engaged in farming, and for a number of years spent his winters in the lumber woods.

In 1883 Mr. Montgomery came to this

city and started a livery and sale stable, in a building then standing where his present barn does, and has conducted this business continuously from that time to the present day.

Mr. Montgomery is an active Republican in politics, and in 1888 was appointed deputy sheriff, serving in that capacity for four years and then being nominated by his party for sheriff. He was elected to that position in 1892, and so well did he discharge the duties of that position that he was re-elected in 1894, thus serving in that capacity for four years.

In January of 1905 Mr. Montgomery was appointed deputy warden of the Michigan Reformatory, holding that position until the fall of 1906, when he resigned to give closer attention to his business affairs. Mr. Montgomery has also served this city as alderman from the Third ward.

Mr. Montgomery was married, May 24, 1883, to Miss Marietta Collister, of Pewamo, who died Oct. 2, 1892. Two daughters, Etta L. and Eva L., were born to this marriage.

Mr. Montgomery was again married, July 12, 1898, to Miss Almerene Osborn, of Eaton Rapids, then a teacher in the Ionia high school. To them three children have been born: Katherine, Alex, Jr., and John O. Montgomery.



Livery and Sale Stable of Alex. T. Montgomery.

DR. E. F. BECKWITH.

Dr. E. F. Beckwith comes from a family of medical men. His father and father's brothers, as well as many other relatives, have all been physicians.

He was born at Marietta, Ohio, May 18, 1857. His parents moved to Zanesville, Ohio, while he was still a small boy, and later to Columbus, Ohio, where as a young man of twenty-three years of age he married Miss



Dr. E. F. Beckwith.

Kate N. Burr, the daughter of Colonel Raymond Burr, ex-Quartermaster General of Ohio during the Civil War.

He was educated in the public schools of Zanesville, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Farmers College, at College Hill, and Starling Medical College, at Columbus, Ohio, graduating in June of 1885.

Dr. Beckwith practiced at Urbana, Ohio, for a few months, and then, coming to Michigan, located at Muir, where he remained until March of 1887, when he was appointed physician and surgeon to the Michigan Reformatory and

moved to Ionia, holding this position in State service until 1900, with the exception of three years during a change of political administration. He at the same time was also carrying on a general practice of medicine and surgery in this city.

A few years ago Dr. Beckwith pur-

chased the fine A. G. Bedford home on Union street, just at the top of Union Hill, where he now resides with his family. His offices are the center suite in the New Webber Block.

Dr. Beckwith is a member of the medical societies and the Masonic fraternity.



Interior of the New York Racket Store.

New York Racket Store.

This store is located in the Wagar block, north side of West Main street, and was established October 1, 1906, and although one of the younger of Ionia's

mercantile establishments, has already firmly established itself with the people of this city and vicinity.

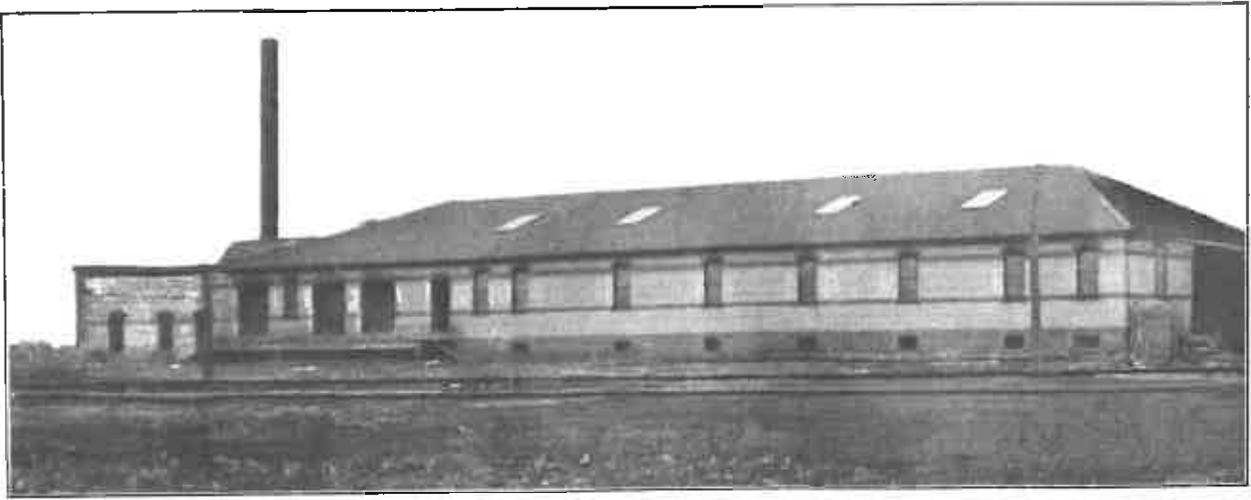
This store is conducted by Frank and Fred Allen, under the firm name of Allen Bros., and their line embraces gents' furnishings, underwear, shoes, dry goods, carpenter tools, and a very complete line of bazaar goods.

As noted above, these gentlemen located in this city Oct. 1 last, and since that time have been engaged in convincing the people that they were here to stay and desirous of making as many friends as possible. It has at all times been their endeavor to give the customer complete satisfaction in every article purchased, both as to quality and price, and that they have met with success along these lines is shown by their constantly increasing business.

The accompanying engraving shows the interior of their store, and will convince the most skeptical that theirs is a very full line in that branch of merchandise which they seek to cover, while a visit to the store will be equally as convincing as to the desirability of making purchases of them.



Residence of Dr. E. F. Beckwith.

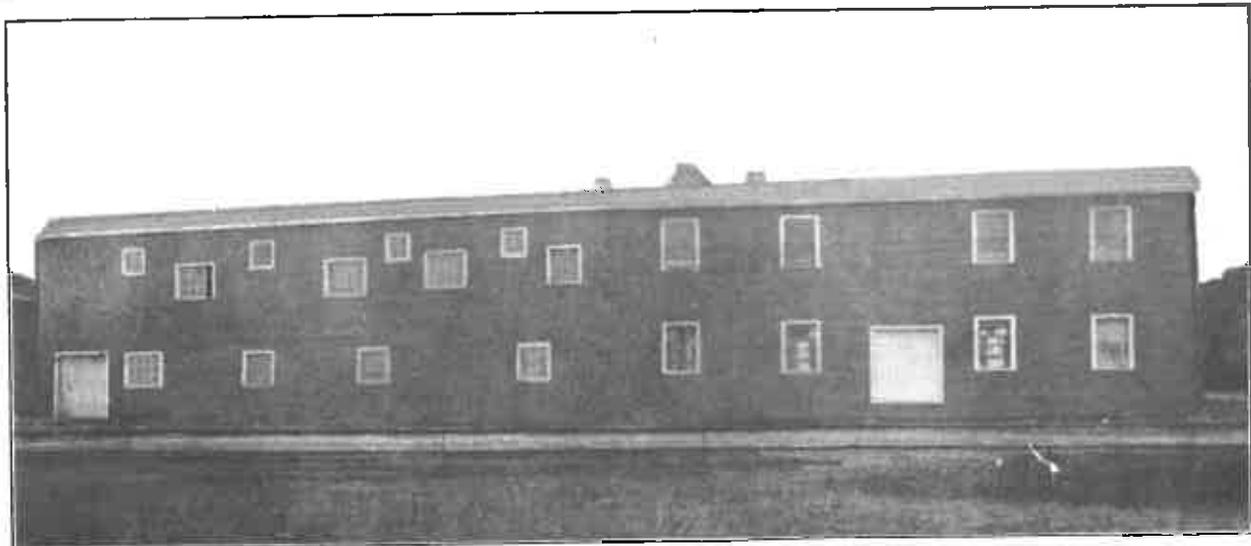


Factory No. 1 of the Marvel Manufacturing Co.

Marvel Manufacturing Co.

The Marvel Manufacturing Co., a Michigan corporation, organized for the purpose of manufacturing washing machines, is the very youngest of Ionia's factories. The authorized capital stock of the company is \$50,000.00, and they manufacture a very high-grade line of washing machines. This company originally started in the manufacture of the Dilley Queen washer, but this machine is now sold entirely by the mail order system. The general line of the firm comprises four rotary machines, two machines constructed on the rubbing principle, and one cylinder machine, named as follows: Ionia, Dixie, Marvel, Ypsilanti, Little Giant, Oriole and World. These machines are all manufactured under patents owned by the company, and combine all the latest ideas in washing machines. The newest machine is the one named World and is truly a marvelous machine. It is a cylinder washer, the clothes being placed in a cylinder, which revolves in alternate directions without changing the motion of drive wheel. This machine is so constructed that it may be run by power, and the company have met with great success in its sale.

The officers of the company are as follows: John Thwaites, president and general manager; F. W. Green, vice-president; A. J. Ashdown, secretary and treasurer.



Factory No. 2 of the Marvel Manufacturing Co.

Board of Trade and Stock Exchange.

This institution is located at rooms 3 and 4 of the Wagar block, where they handle all kinds of investments in stocks, bonds, grains and provisions, and is under the direct management of



James R. Maynard, Manager.

James R. Maynard, a gentleman with 25 years' experience in this line of business.

This institution has now been a fixture in Ionia for three years, and under the management of Mr. Maynard affords the same opportunities to those who wish to make financial investments that can be obtained in the larger cities.

This exchange is governed on the theory that "the man who, by the investment of his capital, develops a great mine, is a public benefactor, and is entitled to be so regarded by his countrymen."

It is the aim of Mr. Maynard at all times, and he takes pleasure in guiding the investments made by the general public through channels whereby fair and remunerative returns may be had on funds intrusted to his care.

In the past two years this exchange has handled stocks and bonds to the amount of over two millions of dollars, and while Mr. Maynard does not claim to know exactly what the public markets of the world are going to maintain, he has proven to the customers of this exchange that by following his

guidance there are good profits to be realized on conservative investments.

The private wire system of this exchange, thus giving patrons the prices of the different commodities every second during market hours, enables investors to keep in touch with the situation and watch their investments without delay.

This exchange buys and sells stocks for investors, and acts as agent for their patrons, charging a reasonable commission for the performance of these duties. The commissions are the same, from a financial standpoint, whether the investments prove good or bad, consequently it is the aim of the management to handle nothing but gilt-edged securities, and try and place their patrons in a position to realize good returns upon all investments made, to the end that the volume of business done by them may be increased.

This exchange is in a position to purchase stocks and bonds at all times that will return anywhere from 2 to 30 per cent per annum. Full information upon any listed stocks will be furnished free upon application either by telephone

or telegraph, or upon a personal call at the exchange during business hours.

Taking all these points into consideration, it is contended that this exchange is furnishing Ionia and vicinity



Stanley Nead, Assistant Manager.

with the best that is to be had, and the patronage of those who may wish to secure good, sound investments is solicited.



Interior View of Ionia Board of Trade and Stock Exchange.

Dr. W. E. Ogden.

Dr. W. E. Ogden was born at Kalamo, Eaton county, Mich., in 1866, and received his elementary education in the local schools, later taking a literary course at Olivet College.

A few years later he entered the Sag-



Dr. W. E. Ogden.

inaw Valley Medical College, at Saginaw, from which he graduated in 1899, then locating at Lyons, Mich., where he practiced his profession for the next four years, and building up a very good business.

In 1903 he took up his residence in

this city, opening offices in the New Webber block, and since that time has been very successful, building up a large and very lucrative practice.

In 1904 Dr. Ogden was elected county physician by the Board of Supervisors, since which time he has discharged the duties of that position to the entire satisfaction of the people of the county, as is evidenced by the fact that he has since been twice re-elected.

Dr. W. E. Ogden's residence, at 301 Harter street, is shown in the accompanying engraving.

T. J. BANDFIELD.

Thomas J. Bandfield, successor to Geo. H. Allured in the furniture and undertaking business, was born in Somerset, England, in 1844, where he learned the trade of a cabinet-maker in the good old English way, working in London for several years before coming to the United States in 1870, then locating at

Portland, this county, where for over 35 years he has conducted the leading furniture and undertaking business, and by fair dealing and strict attention to the details of his business, has gained a fair degree of success, numbering among his most steadfast friends the customers of his early business life.



T. J. Bandfield.

While attending to his Ionia business, his Portland interests are looked after by his son, Arthur W., who has been his father's assistant for several years.

Mr. Bandfield was married in 1874 to Annis M. White, of Marshall, Mich. They have four children: Edna J., Harold G., Arthur W. and Edith L. Bandfield. The two oldest, Edna and Harold, are graduates of the University of Michigan, while the youngest, Edith L., enters this fall in the literary department.



Residence of Dr. W. E. Ogden, 301 Harter Street.



Bert Wilson.

John H. Hamilton.

John H. Hamilton was born on a farm near Avon, N. Y., June 11, 1845, receiving his education in the local schools and in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, at Lima, N. Y.

When 21 years of age, Mr. Hamilton came with his parents to Michigan, they locating on a farm in Ronald township, this county, where he lived for the next three years. He was married, September 19, 1867, to Miss Marcia Welch, daughter of the late Hon. John B. Welch, of Ionia township. They have one son, Harry H., now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, where he is engaged in the management of a clothing manufactory.

In 1869 Mr. Hamilton purchased the fine farm in Ronald township now owned by him, and upon which he lived until 15 years ago, when he took up his residence in this city. Mr. Hamilton continues to operate this farm, together with several others which he purchased later.

Before leaving the farm, Mr. Hamilton had engaged in buying wool, which business he has continued on a very extensive scale down to the present time, for the past 25 years having been regarded as one of the most extensive dealers in this line in the State of Michigan. Mr. Hamilton purchases from local dealers, and his operations



John H. Hamilton.

cover a very large portion of the State, and few men have gained a wider acquaintance and a more enviable reputation for fair and honorable dealing.

Delbert L. Vincent.

The greenhouse business at present conducted by D. L. Vincent was established by H. G. Thornton, and conducted by him for a number of years, being purchased by Vincent Bros. in July, 1902. This firm continued the business until November, 1903, when D. L. Vincent purchased the interest of his brother, since which time he has conducted the business alone.

Mr. Vincent was born at Gaines, Mich., Oct. 15, 1874, his parents moving to Elsie, Mich., while he was still an infant, coming to Ionia in 1890. Upon coming to this city, Mr. Vincent

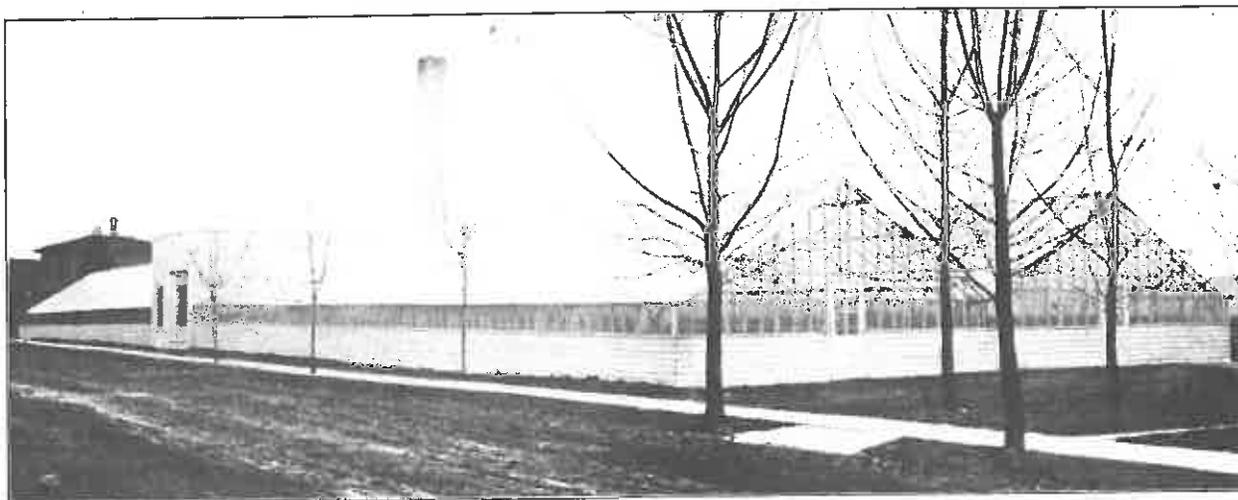


D. L. Vincent.

entered the employ of the Williams Mfg. Co., remaining with them five years. Then he engaged with H. G. Thornton, remaining there until he purchased the business in 1902.

Mr. Vincent is a wide-awake and enterprising young man, thoroughly conversant with all the details of his business, in which he has made many improvements since becoming sole owner, the most important being the erection of the large new greenhouses shown in the accompanying engraving; completed during the past summer and occupied last fall.

Mr. Vincent was married June 5, 1901, to Miss Mary Honson, of Otisco township, this county.

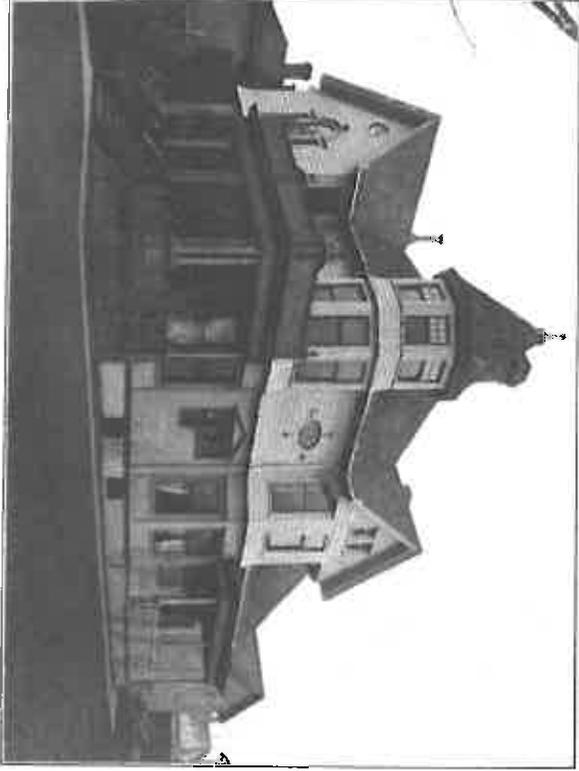


Greenhouses of D. L. Vincent, East Main Street.

GROUP OF IONIA RESIDENCES.



Residence of A. J. Ashdown, Jr., 448 Pleasant Street.



Residence of Lewis P. Schmolz, 526 West Main Street.



Residence of A. G. Snell, 408 High Street.



Residence of G. F. Faude.

FRED CUTLER, JR.

Fred Cutler, Jr., was born in this city, Oct. 2, 1862, and received his education in the schools of this city. After leaving school he entered the store of A. S. Wright, where he remained for the next six years. In 1883 he engaged in the dry goods business on his own account, conducting a very successful business for a number of years.

In 1894 he was appointed Deputy Grand Chancellor of the K. P., and later was made Grand Keeper of Records and Seals of that fraternity. After leaving this office he established a real estate office in this city, conducting the same until January, 1898, when he became associated with Thos. A. Carten, as superintendent and bookkeeper of the latter's extensive mercantile establishment, a position which he still holds, a portrait of Mr. Cutler being found with the display of that store on page 27.

Mr. Cutler has been very active in Maccabee work, having served Wabasis Tent as finance keeper and commander for a number of terms. He was a delegate to the Great Camp for a number of years, being elected Great Chaplain in 1887, and a member of the Great Executive Committee in 1896. In 1899 he was elected Great Lieutenant Commander, holding that position for two years.

Mr. Cutler has also been an active Republican and has served his party as

city clerk, alderman, and as secretary of the county committee.

Mr. Cutler was married in 1887 to Miss Allie M. Ryerson, of this city.

Mr. Cutler has always taken an active

interest in the welfare of this city, and is today serving as a member of the Library Commission, director of the Board of Trade, and as president of the Ionia Pottery Co.



Interior of the Ionia Economy Store.

Ionia Economy Store.

This store was established in August of 1904 by H. E. Bergy and Geo. Beemer, and was at that time located in the west store in the Stevenson block, on West Main street. Here the business prospered, and larger quarters

were soon demanded, the firm moving to their present location Jan. 1, 1905, where their stock was considerably increased, and where additions have been made from time to time as their trade grew.

Today their store at 321 West Main street, an interior picture of which is herewith shown, contains one of the largest and best assorted stocks of fancy China and bazaar goods to be found in any city of equal size with Ionia in Western Michigan.

From the outset it has been the endeavor of this firm to give its customers the greatest possible value for the money, and the rapid increase of their business is the best possible testimonial of their success in that line. The rapid increase of their business has been one of the features of this city's prosperity, and today few firms are enjoying a better trade or a more thoroughly established business.

The firm also conducts another store at Saranac, Mich., that being in charge of Geo. Beemer, while the Ionia store is looked after by H. E. Bergy, the resident member of the firm.



Residence of Fred Cutler, Jr.

S. HEMENS.

Sylvanus Hemens was born at Port Ontario, Oswego county, N. Y., March 8, 1851, and received his education in the schools of that village. When 23 years of age he came to Michigan, locating at Jackson, where he lived for several years.

In 1879 he entered the employ of the McCormick Harvester Co., and for three years traveled for that company as a field expert, during that time covering a considerable country, and hav-



S. Hemens.

ing much to do with the early introduction of the twine binder, now found on every farm in the country.

In 1882 he located at South Lyon, Mich., engaging in the drug, book, stationery and wall paper business, and remaining there until 1904. In August, 1905, he came to this city and purchased the stock of books, stationery and wall paper then owned by Peck Bros., and has since conducted this business. Since coming to this city Mr. Hemens has very firmly established



Residence of John Nelson, 318 Pleasant Street.

himself with the people of Ionia and very materially increased the business of this store. His stock is a very well assorted and complete one, as is shown by the accompanying engraving.

Mr. Hemens was married, June 22, 1877, to Miss Emma J. VanDerlyn, of Jackson, Mich. They have two children.

JOHN NELSON.

John Nelson was born in Denmark, Oct. 18, 1864, where he received his education, later engaging at the cooper's trade, which he followed until he came to this country in 1892. On coming to the United States he located on a farm near Coral, Mich., where he remained one year, then going to Green-

ville, Mich., where he tended bar until 1901.

In that year he came to Ionia, entering the employ of Henry Kreiger and remaining with that gentleman in the capacity of bartender until 1904. On May 1st of that year he engaged in the saloon business on his own account, having since conducted this business at his present stand.

Since engaging in business in Ionia Mr. Nelson has made a very large circle of friends, both because of his genial and courteous qualities and because of the business methods adopted



John Nelson.

by him, his place of business being conceded to be one of the most orderly and best conducted to be found in this city.

Mr. Nelson was married in Denmark, August 4, 1884, to Miss Marie Bjornskow. They have two children: Miss Dora, aged 21, and Nels, aged 18. The accompanying engraving shows their residence, at 318 Pleasant street.



Interior of Store of S. Hemens.

R. E. DONOVAN.

Richard E. Donovan was born on a farm in Ronald township, this county, Aug. 11, 1856, where he lived until 25 years of age. At that time he entered the United States mail service, being appointed a route agent, and for the next two years running between Cleveland and Chicago.

This position he resigned to accept one as traveling salesman for a stationery firm, with whom he remained until 1885, when he engaged with the Duluth Dry Goods Co., at Duluth, Minn. He remained in that city for the next



R. E. Donovan.

four years, when he again took a position as traveling salesman, this time with a clothing firm.

In 1896 Mr. Donovan came to this city and opened his present confectionery and tobacco store, and where he has since continued to do business. He has, during the eleven years which he has been in this business, built up a very substantial business. His stock is large and well assorted, while it has



Residence of O. S. Wood.

always been conceded that at Donovan's one could always get the best goods and have them put up right. These conditions have made Mr. Donovan's business successful.

Mr. Donovan was married, June 10, 1903, to Miss Cora E. Coon, of this city.



O. S. WOOD.

O. Scott Wood was born on a farm in Muskegon county, March 22, 1850, moving with his parents to a farm near Paw Paw when four years of age. At 13 years of age he entered a store at Paw Paw as a clerk, remaining there until 1869, when he came to Ionia and entered the employ of Cooper & Northup.

In 1871 Mr. Wood purchased the interest of Mr. Northup, the firm at that time becoming Cooper, Wilson &

Wood, and being engaged in the dry goods business. In 1875 Mr. Wood sold his interest in this concern and went to Sheridan, entering the employ of Dan T. Fargo, and remaining there for the next two years. Then he returned



O. S. Wood.



Interior of Store of R. E. Donovan.

to Paw Paw as a member of the firm of Connor & Wood, remaining in that place for the next six years.

In 1883 he again became a resident of Ionia, this time as a member of the firm of L. D. Smith & Co., who were conducting an elevator business here at that time. Three years later he sold out and entered the employ of H. R. Wagar, and since that time has been very closely associated with that gentleman, looking after many of his varied business interests. In 1895 he was elected manager of the Ionia Water Power Electric Co., which position he still holds. Mr. Wood has during the past 20 years been interested in the real estate and insurance business, in addition to the matters above mentioned.

Mr. Wood was married, Oct. 15, 1873, to Miss Clara E. Smith, of this city.

lery then owned by a gentleman named Barnum. In 1888 he opened a gallery, in company with a gentleman named Smith, the firm name being Merell & Smith, purchasing his partner's interest in 1889, and finally selling this gallery in 1891. Then he went to Battle Creek, remaining there until 1894, when he returned to this city, pur-



L. K. Merell.

chasing his old gallery and conducting it until 1896, when he again went to Chicago. There he remained until 1899, when he returned to this city and purchased his present gallery from a gentleman named Curtis.

In his many years' work in this city Mr. Merell has established a reputation which needs no embellishments at our hands. A very large portion of the



Mrs. L. K. Merell.

personal portraits shown in this book are from his studio, and a glance through its pages is all that is necessary.

Mr. Merell was married, May 31, 1888, to Miss H. Elizabeth Gorton, of Racine, Wis.



Interior of the Studio of L. K. Merell.

KOPPITZ, MELCHERS BREWING COMPANY.

A little over ten years ago the Koppitz, Melcher Brewing Co. established a cold storage plant in this city for the purpose of supplying their trade in this section with their beer in a quicker and more convenient manner than could be done from the brewery. This feature of their business soon proved a very advantageous feature, as is shown by their large patronage from this section of Michigan.

From this cold storage plant nearly all of the cities and villages of Western Michigan are supplied, the business assuming much greater proportions than is generally understood.

For six years past this branch of their business has been under the personal supervision of Chas. H. Soule, a gentle-



Chas. H. Soule, Manager.



Cold Storage Building of the Koppitz, Melchers Brewing Co.

man who in that period of time has acquired a very wide acquaintance in Western Michigan, and whose friends are numbered by the thousands. In fact, to the hustling abilities and the popularity of "Charlie" Soule must be attributed a considerable portion of the company's success in this venture.

Chas. E. Soule was born in Canada, but moved with his parents to Iowa

when but two years old, growing to manhood in that State. Eighteen years ago he came to Fenton, Mich., clerking in a store there for two years, after which he became one of the proprietors of the Roberts House, conducting that hotel until he entered the employ of the Koppitz, Melchers Brewing Co., and came to Ionia to take charge of their business.

throughout this section that is probably equaled by no man now living, and in justice to him it must be said that few men have lived to enjoy the warm personal friendship of a larger number of people.

Mr. Allured was married, Nov. 26, 1861, to Miss Emeline M. Nichols, of this city.

HENRY G. WRIGHT.

Henry G. Wright was born in the township of Boston, May 1, 1846, coming to Ionia with his parents in October, 1853, and having been a resident of this city ever since, with the exception of ten years (1891 to 1901), which were spent in Chicago.

Mr. Wright received his education in the public schools of this city, and when 12 years of age began work with his



Residence of Chas. H. Soule.

GEORGE H. ALLURED.

George H. Allured was born in Old Whittelsey, Cambridge shire, England, June 5, 1840, coming to the United States when 17 years of age and locating at Greenville, Mich., May 1, 1857. Before leaving England, Mr. Allured had worked at the cabinet-makers' trade, and he took up that line of work upon settling at Greenville.

He remained there for the next two years, coming to Ionia July 15, 1859, and has since been a resident of this city. During the first few months of his residence in this city he worked for Jos. Blatt, but on Oct. 5 of the same year, entered the employ of Southwick Merritt, who was conducting a furniture and undertaking establishment in this city.

After being in the employ of Mr. Merritt for four years he formed a partnership with that gentleman, under the firm name of S. Merritt & Co., which firm continued in business in this city until the death of Mr. Merritt, in 1872. At the time Mr. Allured located in this city there was no such thing as ready-made furniture or coffins, and these two gentlemen worked side by side at the cabinet-makers' trade for many years, gradually putting in a line of modern furniture as the furniture manufacturing trade grew. While at Greenville Mr. Allured made the first batch of ready-made coffins ever in that city, and as a matter of fact, ever in any city in this section. After coming to this city he finally prevailed upon Mr. Merritt to allow him to repeat the experiment, which

proved more than successful, and from that date the ready-made coffin was a fixture with the firm. Prior to that time it had been the custom to make the coffin complete as the necessity for its use occurred. In this connection Mr. Allured relates many very amusing experiences.

After the death of Mr. Merritt, in 1872, Mr. Allured purchased the busi-



George H. Allured.

ness, conducting it until the fall of 1906, when he sold to T. J. Banfield, of Portland, Mich. During his 47 years as an undertaker in this city Mr. Allured has gained an acquaintance



Henry G. Wright.

father, learning the carpenter's trade. For some years Mr. Wright worked at the carpenter's trade during the summer and attended school during the winter, later devoting his entire time to his trade, but remaining with his father until 21 years of age.

Mr. Wright began contracting on his own account when 22 years of age, and has followed that line of business together with architectural work up to the present time.

As a contractor, Mr. Wright has gained a very enviable position in this section, his work not being confined to this city alone, but also embracing many fine buildings in the surrounding cities and villages. Among the more prominent buildings erected by Mr. Wright may be mentioned the Ionia high school, the Catholic academy, the buildings of the Stafford Mfg. Co., one of the asylum buildings, two of the large silk mills at Belding, the \$22,000 M. E. church at Belding, the first ward school building at Belding.

In politics, Mr. Wright has for a number of years been a Democrat, and has served the first ward of this city as Supervisor, being elected in 1906 and re-elected at the election just passed.

Mr. Wright has been quite prominently identified with Ionia Lodge F. & A. M., the Chapter and Commandery,

and with the Knights of Pythias of this city, and is a member of Saladin Temple Shriner, Grand Rapids.

Mr. Wright was married to Miss Symantha A. Drown, of Nelson, Ohio, in September, 1868.

SLYE & KELNER.

The real estate business now conducted by Slye & Kelner was established by Smith & Kelner in 1900. Later, Mr. Kelner sold his interest to his partner, who conducted a fire insurance and real estate business for nearly two years. In February, 1906, Mr. E. E. Slye purchased the business from W. Walter Smith, and in the following April Mr. Slye formed the partnership in the real estate business under the firm name of Slye & Kelner. Mr. Slye retaining the insurance business. The firm devote a very large portion of their time and attention to the real estate business, handling both city and farm property, but making a specialty of farm property. These gentlemen are both hustlers and have become firmly established in this line, and



Residence of John Thwaites, East Main Street.



Eldridge E. Slye.



George L. Kelner.

are today doing a larger business in their line than any other firm in Central Michigan.

Elbridge E. Slye was born at Wellington, Ontario, June 22, 1874, coming to a farm near Ionia when 18 years of age. In 1903 he was superintendent of the farm of the State Asylum, and in 1904 and 1905 was traveling salesman for the Ionia Pottery Co., opening up his present office in the Silver-Graft block in February, 1906. At present Mr. Slye is treasurer of the Ionia District Fair Association, finance keeper of the Wabasis Tent, and is prominent in many leading lodges of the city.

George L. Kelner was born in Wood county, Ohio, August 18, 1845, coming with his parents to this city when two years of age. When 21 years old he purchased a farm in Easton township, where he resided for twenty-five years. Eight years ago he came to this city and engaged in the real estate and auction business, and he is recognized as the leading auctioneer of the county. Mr. Kelner is at present president of the Ionia District Fair Association and secretary of the Ionia Driving Club.



Residence of Edward Thompson, East Lincoln Avenue.



Gen. F. S. Hutchinson.

