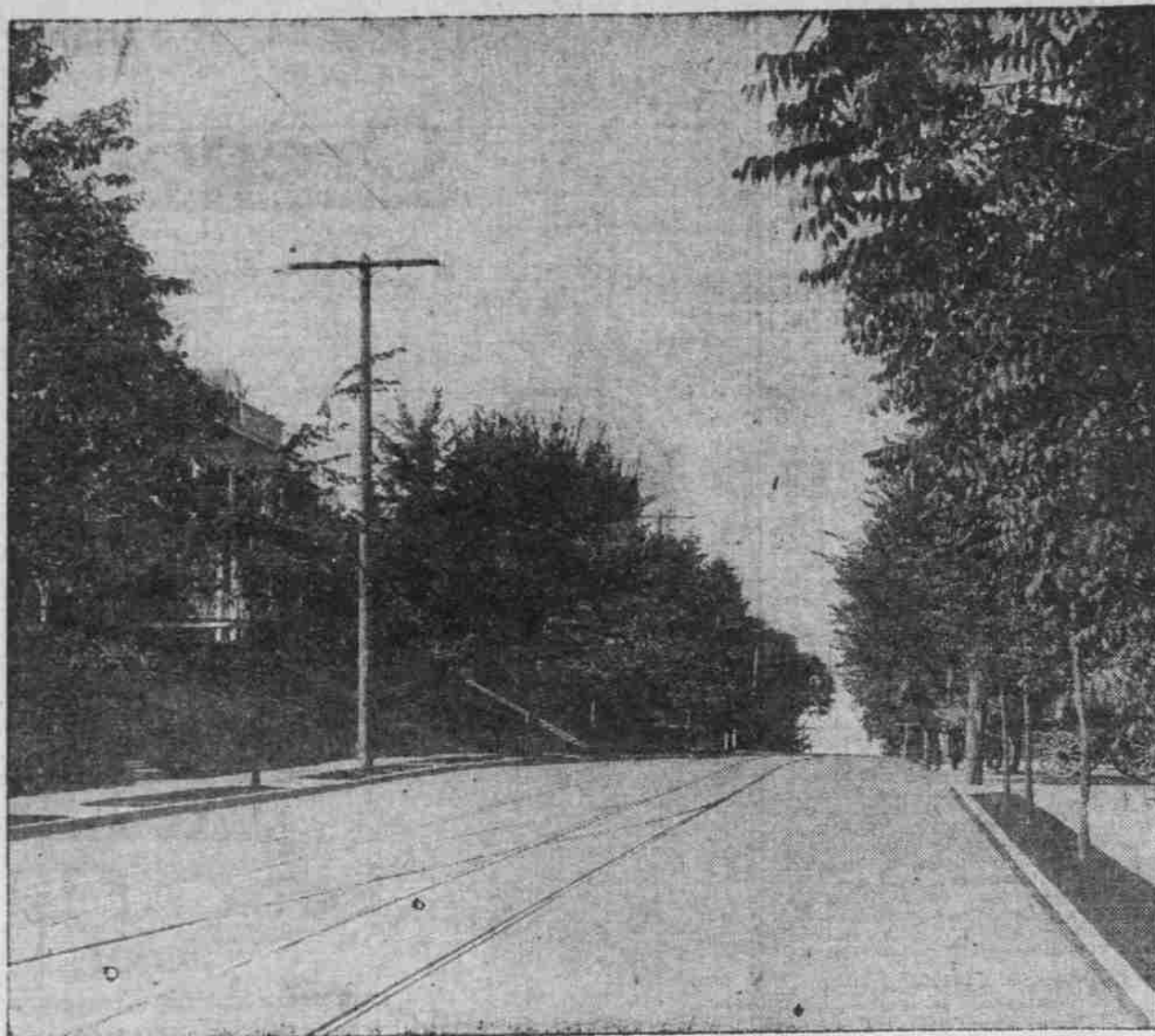


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BIG BUILDING FOR Y. M. C. A.

Public Subscriptions Provide Fine Home for Portland Association,
Which Now Has 2000 Members.

By H. W. Stone, Secretary Portland Y. M. C. A.
THE biggest gymnasium, with the largest number of athletes, three paid instructors giving their entire time, 50 voluntary instructors; over 1000 taking regular exercises—and yet not an athletic club.

An educational institution, having more young men students than any other school in the state, giving over 30 courses; a trade school, teaching such branches as plumbing, carpentry, electricity and telegraphy; commercial schools in bookkeeping, shorthand, accountancy—and yet not a college.

A religious organization, the largest in the city, with many men dedicating their lives to its work; with a graded system of training and Bible classes; supporting missionaries in the foreign fields; carrying on aggressive evangelistic campaigns—and yet not a church.

A society providing game rooms, billiards and pool and social functions without number—and yet not a club.

A society running employment agencies, helping young men to get started in life, visiting hospitals, jails and sickrooms—and yet not a charity.

A corporation erecting a great building with about 200 bedrooms, providing dining-rooms and kitchens—and yet not a hotel.

The above are only some of the features of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association, with over 2000 members, administered by leading business and professional men, and its activities directed by a large corps of specialists, known as secretaries and department directors.

This institution is now over 40 years old in the city of Portland. Its type of work has been a continual evolution, beginning with the enthusiasm of a religious propaganda, and containing in its early membership, the better leaders of the life of the Portland of that day.

In the prosecution of the work these keen business men early perceived that it was not enough for a young man to have a religious experience, but that he had social instincts that must be ministered unto. Some rooms were secured and fitted up on First street, and much was made of the Association as a place providing good environment and a resort away from saloons and evil places of the city. Some 10 or 15 years ago the directors further expanded the work by securing the property of the present Association building, corner of Fourth and Yamhill streets, and undertook a greatly increased number of features. Educational classes were added, and for ten years the old building where the Association is at present located has been a beehive of activities of all kinds. Hundreds of boys and young men have learned to swim in the big pool. Thousands have exercised in the gymnasium and on any night during the season young men can be found there in prayer-meetings, plumbing classes, boxing classes, Bible classes, literary societies, contesting in basket-ball, foreigners learning to speak and read English; hand-ball courts thronged with players. This building is completely outgrown, and the new structure being erected at the corner of Sixth and Taylor streets was made absolutely necessary.

The new building, the construction of which is being watched by every member with the greatest interest, when completed will be eight stories high besides the basement, 260x160 feet in area. It will provide facilities for over 3000 members; sleeping-rooms for over 200 young men; educational classrooms, laboratories and workshops for a night school of over 300 students. Two gymnasiums, hand-ball courts, swimming pool and special

boxing and wrestling rooms here to meet the increased demands for physical culture in a growing modern city. A whole series of rooms and halls is set aside for the religious department. An entire separate equipment—practically a building within a building—is dedicated exclusively to the boys' department.

Association men from all over the country agree that in many ways the building being erected is a model of arrangement for the purposes to which it is dedicated. Dr. S. A. Brown, chairman of the building committee, is giving close and detailed attention to the work. Associated with him on the building committee are Thomas Roberts, Philip Buchner, Robert Livingstone and Fletcher Linn.

In the Portland Association is also the headquarters for all of the associations—college, railroad, industrial and city, for the States of Idaho and Oregon.

While the steady growth of this organization has been the product of no one man or group, but rather the resultant work of the brains, hearts and influence of hundreds of men, still it is doubtful if the present prestige and power could have been achieved without the constant and stimulating leadership of William M. Ladd, its president for the past 14 years.

Each year the membership grows larger. Last year the work expands. Each year it takes more money for current expenses, but so thorough and careful have been the organization that there has never been any serious embarrassment over the large budget carried. The expenses during the year past were over \$20,000. In the new building they will necessarily be greatly increased.

Over 100 different lines of work are now conducted by the Association. In the new building these will be further expanded to take care of the constantly growing needs of the complex life and demands upon the young manhood of Portland.

The Association expects to occupy the new building September 4, 1909.



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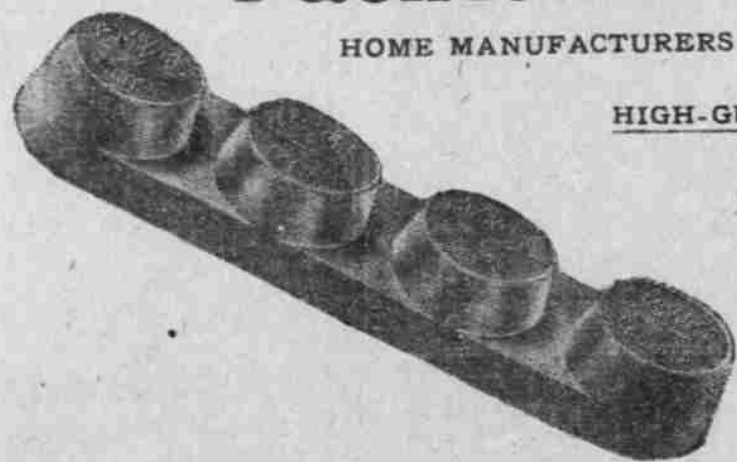
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