

After Years of Effort Salem Y. M. C. A. to Be Properly Housed

A Great Work Carried on Under Difficulties for Many Years Finally Won and Convinced the People of Salem That Their Best Interests Lay in the Direction of YMCA Work and Two Thousand People Contributed to the New Edifice.—The Building Will be the Last Word in Efficiency and Will be a Monument to C. A. Kells, the General Secretary—To Be Located on Court

Shortly after the first of the year, work should begin on the new Salem Y. M. C. A. building, for which Salem fought, died and prayed and all but died through the late blistering campaign.

"They don't need a new Y—just see what they've been doing with the old one." That was one of the objections frequently met in the New Building campaign. And indeed, it almost looked like the truth—for the past years of the Salem Association read like a romance out of the Arabian Nights or the Golden Age of Pagan. It's true indeed that they didn't need a new building to "serve," though to serve adequately is a totally different story.

The Salem Y has been serving about 7000 boys and men; one, two, three deep, leaving over the hour of the day and night, selling in through the washhouse, cooking in through spreading "hot one" into classes, "staying crowded." That is, it serves about that many regular members; its actual service runs into far higher figures. For instance, in its employment bureau the Y found jobs for more than 7000 people during 1924—hundreds of thousands of dollars of good cheer and square meals, and clothing and comfort and hope for hundreds of wives and children in for just one year's operations.

The Y work has not stopped with the classes, though the organized class work is the foundation for its program. The Y flits through the community like a glad messiah, kissing buds and leaves and grains and hungry babies and tired men and women; like a big, joyous Santa Claus with a strong and willing arm and a heart of love, giving everybody a bit of some kind—a kind word, a lift across the muddy street, a lift over the crank on the halcy car, a thousand little things that are bigger than "tins" decrees.

In some way, the Y has touched every life in Salem; touched it strongly, vitally. It has reclaimed boys who might have become social parasites; it has saved others from the chances of castigation. It has built health and clean ideals into hundreds of men and boys; it has taught 600 people to swim, in the past year alone—and other hundreds every other year for a long time past. Y-taught swimmers have saved other boys and girls from drowning in the streams of Oregon. Salem Y-taught leaders have spread out like hard-working ants, all over the West, to serve other associations with the Salem brand of unselfish helpfulness.

No, Salem didn't need a new Y for service. But neither did Mother "need" a Christmas or birthday remembrance for all her years of splendid, heart-breaking service; neither did Wife need a flower or a crown after she had shared the family hardships through all the weary years of going Father and the children started in on "it." But—wouldn't it be in the best of all to give these little things when they have been so overworked for so long a time; and when they're so tired and forgetful. The New Y is the remembrance.

The plan call for the last word in Community House construction. There will be the big main lobby, where there is room and welcome for scores of men to read, to write, to converse, to rest; there will be restorative rooms where men can sit and listen to the radio. There are separate departments for men, for senior, and for boys; with their own gun lockers, showers, and each to his own kind. The big pool will not be neglected; it will be used in turn by all classes, as will the gym itself; but beyond these, practically everything is specialized and classified.

On the second floor there will be a cinema, with a long dining room adjacent. This can be cut up with accordion doors, into four smaller dining rooms, and each can have its separate service from the kitchen hall. There will be suitable class rooms for every department of the Y—and these are many, when one counts up the many organized activities carried on through the year.

The dining room, or rooms, will not be a commercial activity. Visiting organizations, community get-together events, class meals, will be served, as they have been in the past. Except with a new equipment that will make service a pleasure instead of a nightmare. But the hotels and restaurants of Salem will find their business thus untouched; the Y is for service only, and not for competitive catering.

Forty-five dormitory rooms are to be provided, for men who wish to live under the Y influence. These dormitory rooms in other cities are usually in extraordinary demand; the bath and gym service is a boon to the men who live here, or who come to the dorms, but the vocational service

Newly Elected Members Salem Y. M. C. A. Board of Directors



Justice G. P. Conroy, President of State of Oregon, President Kiwanian; T. M. Hicks, President Salem Abstract Co., President Chamber of Commerce, Prominent Kiwanian; Geo. Arbuckle, Manager Buster Brown Shoe Co., Prominent Rotarian and Chairman of Rotary Boys' Work; D. B. Jarman, Manager of J. C. Penny Store, Prominent Kiwanian

Justice of the Y attracts men to the building capacity. There is a smaller number of rooms in the new Salem building than the association had hoped to have, if the building had been adequate. Fifty-five occupied rooms will give a continuing maintenance fund that helps wonderfully toward supporting the institution.

Activities department. Oliver is a Willamette student, with a rare equipment for handling boys; they are doing wonders in his hands. Loyal Warner, another Willamette student, is secretary of the Pioneer work and comrades; the Pioneers and comrades being the boys clubs organized through the churches. This is proving to be a really great work; it has enlisted a line of support that is most helpful to the whole association. "The Y is the church's right hand," says one of the Salem pastors; others have said the same in different but equally appreciative words. The two Willamette men are helping royally to make their departments a part of the church spirit.

the finest characters in American athletics, in securing him. He is "Bob" to the little kid in the Y. The Salem Y has had various secretaries, among them men who have risen to national prominence. But the outstanding character of them all is Secretary Claude A. Kells, who in less than four years has taken the inadequate local equipment and built it into a mighty machine for civic righteousness. With small funds, with insufficient equipment, he has made courage and industry and heartfelt service supply all the other needs, until thinking men have come here to marvel at what has been done in Salem. "Same old little building, same shortage of funds—but you show us a marvel

Salem it has come to be. "Let Kells do it," and Kells does do it! He wouldn't allow this to be printed if he were to see it—which he won't, until it is in print and he cannot help it. Observing men have said of Mr. Kells, "He is worth half a dozen common millionaires as a community asset," and the phrase sticks. But it isn't for the glorification or ease-taking of Kells; it is for the indomitable spirit of service to mankind, the spirit of the Y made flesh and eager to get to work.

First Contributors to New Salem Y. M. C. A. Building



The Salem Boys' Chorus Under the Direction of H. C. Epley which Meets Weekly at the Association for Practice. One of the Finest Boys' Choruses on the Coast

is no blood-sucking agent watching, hawk-eyed, to gouge upon a man's earnings as commission. The work is done with Y sympathy, and it is helpful and fine. Sam Phillips, the employment secretary, has established a record for excellent service; the Y without the present employment service would be recent in its duty towards those who can not repay but who need the social benefit of Big Brotherhood.

"Bob" Boardman, physical director, is a graduate of the great Springfield Y college. During the war he had charge of 100 divisions of athletics and recreational centers in France; there is hardly an athlete, an officer of standing, in the expeditionary service, who doesn't know or know of him. He was art editor of the Rotarian magazine, but resigned to come here at a much smaller salary to serve with his old college friend, C. A. Kells. Salem gained one of

of community good," they say. It's true; it is a marvel, possible only for one who works lavishly, endlessly. "Best thou a man diligent in business? He shall stand before kings," said the prophet; and the Salem Y work stands before the King of service everywhere, on the personality of its leaders.

During the current year, Clarence Oliver is directing the Boys

"Let Kells Do It." There's an old slang phrase. "Let George do it," as an excuse for side-stepping every kind of a hard or disagreeable job. In

"We're going to offer these outside boys a real program. Lectures, entertainments, help of every kind that will start and keep a boy right, we shall try to have. We start no new and untried forces; we organize to use the social tools already at hand. If we can get all these boys to thinking the Y way, we'll remake society in one generation."

The Greatest Speech Ever Given in Salem



know; but it came through, and the new Y will stand as a monument to the committees named and to the scores of loyal canvassers and the more than 2000 subscribers who helped.

Marion County Y

For years the Marion county Y. M. C. A. has neighbored with the Salem association. Its object and inspiration are exactly the same, in the point of service; though as it does not maintain a building, or run classes, its methods differ. The county Y aims to organize the county into local groups that will be under the central guidance of its executive secretary, especially chosen for his ability to organize boys to help themselves. Each local unit is its own master; the secretary, with his office in the Salem association building but with the whole county as his parish, is in the field most of the time. Edward Socolofsky, the efficient secretary for the past three years, resigned this year; his place has been taken by Ben J. Kimber, recently director of religious activities in the Oklahoma City Y, and a man of dynamic energy and broad experience. He is now on the job in the old building; he will have better room and facilities in the new Y.

Public Speaking class has brought up some rare after-dinner speakers from among the frat-order members business men who did not know they could speak above a whisper. This class has been running four winters. The citizenship class has taught scores of men the ethics and good business; it has been crowded to capacity year after year.

Room For All

A general gym class for business men meets three afternoons a week, and is saving many a man from the pangs of gout and indigestion; it has been crowded to capacity year after year. A general gym class for business men meets three afternoons a week, and is saving many a man from the pangs of gout and indigestion; it has been crowded to capacity year after year. A general gym class for business men meets three afternoons a week, and is saving many a man from the pangs of gout and indigestion; it has been crowded to capacity year after year.

in the comforting shadow of the great new association.

Some striking figures have just been made public through the International Y Bureau of Statistics. George R. Hodge, for 36 years a statistician of the International association, was retired a few years ago by their age limit; but he refused to quit, and here is the substance of what he finds out about Salem: Taking a large group of associations in cities of approximately the same size and conditions, he finds that Salem has only 78 per cent of the national average for number of employed officers; only 35 per cent of the average property value; only about 61 per cent the average operating expense, and 65 per cent the average budget estimate. In other words, the Salem Y is away down in equipment; so low that it could not be expected to be other than sub-normal in every line.

Future Y. M. C. A. Secretaries on Tour of the Northwest Associations, Spring of 1924



The Above Group Was Made up of O. A. C. and Willamette Students While on a Visiting Tour to Seattle, Portland, Tacoma and Other Associations in Northwest. Yale and Willamette Universities are the Only Schools in the United States Outside of the Two Y. M. C. A. Association Colleges Who Train Students for Y. M. C. A. Work

Many things have necessarily had to go largely under the old regime. The attendance at meetings has been smaller than it would have been under better conditions. With the new Y, hundreds will be numbered as regular workers, in physical, social and religious work, who have heretofore only contributed for the good of the boys. But the Y was intended for them, also; it is being planned to give such an interesting program that men can't stay away.

With the completion of the new building, the flowers for cost of plant will rise; but so will the membership and the attendance, so that Salem will still continue to have one of the outstanding associations in the nation. It was a great dream that the founders of the Salem Y had, almost 30 years ago—to give their selves and their boys something better than the streets and the jail. Their dream has come true!

We hope to have every boy in Marion county, between 13 and 18 years, placed in some Y activity this year," said Mr. Kimber. "The boys in the small schools in Pioneer clubs a club in each school—there are 143 schools—and the high school boys in Hi-Y clubs. Already we have made a splendid start; but we've only fairly begun.

"We're going to offer these outside boys a real program. Lectures, entertainments, help of every kind that will start and keep a boy right, we shall try to have. We start no new and untried forces; we organize to use the social tools already at hand. If we can get all these boys to thinking the Y way, we'll remake society in one generation."

Y is Local Affair

It should be emphasized that everywhere the Y. M. C. A. is a local unit. Its money is raised and spent at home; its directorate is made up of home men, who chose their own executive officers. There is a fine cooperation with the national advisory boards; but these are advisory only, and have no control over local affairs. The money raised is spent at home; the glory or the failure is a local responsibility. What Salem has done through her local association is an indication of what any community may do by sacrificial devotion.

Many forms of class and organization work are carried on by the Salem Y. Most of these are familiar, at least in a general way. The Twilight League of baseball, that flourishes in the early summer; the Commercial League of basketball is now in progress, a nip-and-tuck series of contests that have stirred up the keener and finest rivalry among the young men of the city; the handball tournament is now in progress, with 12 of the expert players of the city in the contest. The Americanization class meets every week of the year, and its work has been especially in the influence on the new citizenship of the community. It has been commended by court and by federal authorities as of an especially high class.

Boys Give First Money

The Boys' Chorus, that under the leadership of Dr. Epley is carrying on some high class work among the younger boys, is one of the high lights of the Y activities. The boys made the first cash contribution to the new Y building, giving the proceeds to help meet more than a year's maintenance purpose. The men's



W. I. Staley, President; Mona Yoder, Commercial-Stenographic



A. W. Cooper, Commercial Department; Ors. F. McIntyre, Stenographic

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