

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL

NEW CARNEGIE LIBRARY BRIL-
LIANTLY ILLUMINED AND
FLOWER ADORNED—FORM-
ALLY PRESENTED TO THE
CITY.

CITIZEN'S BESIEGE THE BUILD-
ING IN SUCH NUMBERS
THAT HUNDREDS DO NOT
GAIN ADMITTANCE.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF
THE BUILDING COMMITTEE IN
KEEPING WITHIN THE
\$40,000 DONATION.

The handsome, the complete, Eau
Claire Public Library building has been
presented to the city and duly accep-
ted.

The exercises of last evening were
fitting the occasion, and commendat-
ions were highly showed upon mem-
bers of the hard working library board.
These board members acting as hosts,
had only the regret that all who wish-
ed to enter the building could not do
so on account of crowd. The build-
ing for the first time was brilliantly
illuminated, and approaching it from
any direction the sight was one of
marked beauty. The artistic propor-
tions, the outlines of the windows, the
superb entrance way show up almost
as well by night as by day, and there
is added the beauty of the colored
lights.

So arranged is the library that from
all parts of the main floor can be seen
the desk of the librarian, or rather
the desk of the distributor of books,
which faces the main door. This last
evening was used as a rostrum, and
for this reason the speakers found it a
little hard as the crowd struggled to
enter, eager to witness and to hear.

The several rooms in themselves
beauty spots—for it is one of the most
complete library buildings of its size
in the country—were made more
charming with a profusion of potted
plants, palms, Easter lillies, roses and
carnations.

In the presence of the great gather-
ing, which included officials of the
common council, of the board of educa-
tion, of professors and teachers of
our schools, and innumerable boys
and girls, men and women, Mr. W. J.
Starr, president of the board called
the meeting to order. There followed
brief but keenly interesting addresses,
interspersed with a delightful musical
program by the Steinberg orchestra.

To the addresses the point was well
brought out, that in the educating of
the people as to the needs of such a
library, great credit is due to Mr. O.
H. Ingram, to whose generosity we
owe this growth in library interest for
many years back. Mr. Starr well
brought this out in his address. The
president called upon Mr. F. H. L.
Cotten, chairman of the building com-
mittee, and who has been, even more
than his associates, active in the su-
pervising of the construction of the
new edifice. When it is known that
in numerous cities—in nearly all in
fact—where Carnegie libraries have
been built, the expenditure has ex-
ceeded the appropriation, sometimes
to the extent of thousands of dol-
lars, the work of the local board
should be fully appreciated. They
expended on the gem of a building,
which is now Eau Claire's proudest
possession, but \$3.87 more than the
\$40,000 given by the great library
builder and philanthropist. This is
clearly shown in the report of Mr.
Cotten published in full herewith.

President Starr spoke as follows.

MR. STARR'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Mayor, Gentlemen of Common Council and Citizens of Eau Claire.

Today is a day of positive achievement in the history of our city, for it is the date from which the unity and continuity of our free Public Library really commences. From its early beginning, when years ago a few far-seeing pioneers got together and formed the nucleus for our later work, the growth of our library and of the library spirit has been great, though not always continuous or rapid. Through the various periods of the neighborhood library and the small circulating libraries we came in years to the opening in rather cramped quarters, of a small library in Eau Claire. There were many discouragements and some back-sets, so that no one could well foretell the future of the free library idea, until by the generosity and far sightedness of one of our citizens, Mr. C. H. Ingram, the library was at last given a more fitting home in the fine building across the way from this new structure.

There in the Ingram Block the library grew and prospered, and the people learned to know it and to use it, and to find that it was assuredly worth their support and encouragement.

Modern library methods were introduced in the administration of the institution, a suitable income was from year to year provided by the city government, books, both for study and for recreation, were added in increasing numbers, practical working catalogues and indexes prepared, the book shelves were thrown open to everybody, that all might feel that the library was in truth free, and that the books were for their proper use at all times.

Our library came to be known as one that was abreast of the times, and making the most of its equipment, our li-

brarians began to take their places in the state meetings and national conventions that have marked the later years of this great library movement.

Then, early in 1901, there reached us rumors of the wonderful gifts that Mr. Andrew Carnegie was making to favored libraries that he found to be worthy to last, and we were not ashamed to place our record before him.

And six months followed wherein we did not know if our efforts for a new building would ever receive consideration. One day in January 1902 there was a short letter asking for further particulars—our library work was being investigated by Mr. Carnegie, and we had no fear of the result—that result which you see about you this evening.

Of course there were the inevitable differences of opinion as to where the new library should be built, how it should be planned and how supported, and it was best that it should be so, for these very differences showed that our people were really interested and wanted the new building and would see that it should be well placed and suitable for its work—much better that it should be so than there be a general apathy on the question.

There was never a doubt that our city was to have the library, and those who watched the matter closely, through long months of delay and discussion well knew that our common council was trying to do its best for the good of the whole city and that there need be no fear of a happy termination of our troubles.

And so it came to pass that our city government and the board of directors of the library, working and consulting together, planned and located and built the beautiful building that we are now in, and which we hope to keep and beautify and make useful for generations to come.

This structure, gentlemen, is one of which our city may well be proud, and I now in the name of the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library formally turn this property over to your care as a trust of great worth and great possibilities which we know you will always gladly and unselfishly support and administer for the best wishes of our people.

Mayor William Rowe received the keys and responded in fitting terms. He spoke of the connection the library had with the city schools—the best schools in the state. He, too, spoke of Mr. Ingram, and in conclusion in the name of the city and its citizens asked a vote of thanks to the library board.

It was given in form of a hearty applause.

The address of the evening was then made by Dr. Birge, of the state

university, and president of the Free Library board of Madison. Alluding to the flowers about him he spoke of the library as being the flower of all good things belonging to Eau Claire,

trusting that it would stand for many years, fully used by the people of the city. He saw in it the completion of a work the board he was connected with were beginning on, and he hoped Madison could only do as well. He then spoke of the importance of the library, taking strong exception to Dookey who said, "a library was a cemetery for books." He spoke of a library for the youth and for the workingmen, then of private and public libraries, and of the value of books. He said it was the eternal desire of mankind to get away from the routine of life, and this can be most easily done with books, when a step would take one into a different world. Bringing out many special points, he yet said he desired to avoid a set speech. He spoke of the souls of the books, how their writers put their very best into them, and mentioned many

names. He urged the making of friends in the realm of literature, as the highest common privilege. Hearty applause was given to Dr. Birge on his conclusion.

Mr. Starr read a message of congratulation from a former librarian, Bertho Brown Shaw, of Washington, D. C. He then invited all to thoroughly inspect the building. This was done and a notably occasion in the history of Eau Claire was drawn to a close.

REPORT BY MR. COTTEN.

Mr. President, Members of the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

The Building Committee, entrusted with

the supervision of this building during its construction, is pleased to report this the building proper, constructed under the general contract, as well as all other portions constructed under various contracts with the exception of the contract covering the heating apparatus, is completed.

Our work began a little over a year ago and but for the strikes and labor difficulties of the year 1903, would have been finished several months ago. The members of your committee have worked harmoniously from the beginning to the end. Frequent meetings and consultations have been held and each member was kept in touch with the progress of the work. We have also consulted and advised with the various members of the Board, as well as many of our citizens and we feel indebted to each of you for your kindly co-operation. We also feel indebted to Mr. Alex Yaeger, whom we engaged as local superintendent. This well informed and practical, energetic, honest and firm in judgment, was well equipped for such work and rendered valuable assistance to us. The work of both the superintendent and committee was made easy in a great measure by the completeness of the specifications prepared by our architects, Messrs. Patton & Miller, of Chicago, Ill. So complete were they that we have been called upon to pay only the small sum of \$25.00 on account of omissions by them, and when we tell you that in the architects' plans there were fourteen large sized drawings with numerous smaller ones, and that the specifications covered more than one hundred and twelve typewritten pages of legal cap size, we believe that you will concede that they were drawn with great care and precision. Having planned and constructed nearly sixty libraries, besides a large number of college and high-school buildings, the architects were peculiarly qualified to do the work with accuracy and good judgment. The cost of our building completed, so far as the contracts let by the architects are concerned is only \$55.10 in excess of the gross amount of the original contracts. This is a showing of which they may justly feel proud.

Your Committee begs to acknowledge and make mention of the fact that the contractors, with the single exception of the Spear & Hanson Co., of Chicago, whose contract for heating our building has not been completed, have, as we believe, endeavored to fulfill their contracts in an honorable and workmanlike manner. While our relations with all, with the exception mentioned, have been pleasant, we desire to particularly mention the general contractors, Heppner, Bartlett & Co., of this city. About 75 per cent of the entire work and cost of the building was covered by their contract. We have found them gentlemanly, courteous and businesslike in the adjustment of differences, reasonable in their charges for extras and so liberal in their allowances for deductions that the latter exceeds the former in the sum of \$122.90, thereby reducing the original contract price.

The general contractors as well as the city, are to be congratulated on having such an excellent job of cut stone work. The stone used came from the Bedford quarries in southern Indiana, and Mr.

Hugo Walter, now a resident of Eau Claire, the sub-contractor for that part of the work, deserves special praise for the excellent, artistic and skillful manner in which his part of the work was performed.

The names of the various contractors and the original contract price for the several parts of the work, extras allowed and deductions made, in the construction of the building, are as follows:

The heating contractors do not seem disposed to complete their work but we are holding back a sufficient amount on their contract to make good the deficiency in radiation and to replace the defective valves, which, when supplied, will, we think, make it satisfactory in every respect.

We have gone thus into detail as to the cost and construction of the building feeling that the citizens of Eau Claire would be interested in knowing something about the cost of the different parts of the work. The foregoing statement shows the actual cost of the building as completed, which includes the additional radiation for the heating plant, and the rough grading on the lot yet to be done by the general contractors.

We desire to thank the Board of Directors for the confidence shown in assigning to us this work and also to thank the citizens of the city for their encouragement and kindly advice during its progress. Our work has been so harmonious and our relations so pleasant and

agreeable that I cannot refrain from expressing to the other members of the Committee, Messrs C. L. Allen and C. W. Lockwood, my sincere thanks for their prompt and kindly co-operation in all the work.

Mr. President: -We now desire to turn over to you the keys to the building. We beg the pardon of the Board of Directors and the citizens of Eau Claire for having exceeded the appropriation of \$40,000.00 made by the Honorable Andrew Carnegie to the extent of \$3.87. We now surrender ourselves, plead guilty and await your verdict and penalty.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. L. COTUEN, Chairman.

Hoeppner, Bartlett & Co., Eau Claire, Wis.

General contract, including excavation, masonry, refilling and rough grading of the lot, cement floors, cut stone work, structural iron, carpenter work, including interior finish, cork carpet, wall shelving, hardware, composition roof on rear portion of the building, plastering and stucco work, painting varnishing and glazing, and marble, mosaic and tile work, original contract price.....\$30,004.10
Extras allowed.....230.10

30,234.10

Deduction for changes.....253.00

Making net amount of contract, as per settlement.....29,981.20

Harry C. Knisely Co., Chicago, Ill.

Tile roofing and sheet metal work.....1,000.00
(No extras or deductions.)

W. H. Hobbs, Eau Claire, Wis.

Sewerage, plumbing and gas fitting.....904.00
(No extras or deductions.)

Spear & Hansen Co., Chicago, Ill.

Heating and ventilation, original contract.....1,093.00
Extra, for change in height of radiators.....26.00
Total amount of contract.....1,719.00

Eau Claire Light & Power Co., Eau Claire, Wis.

Electric wiring, as per contract.....522.00
(No extras or deductions.)

Chicago Gas & Electric Fixture Co.,

Gas and electric fixtures, globes, etc.....550.00
(No extra charges or deductions.)

Spiertling & Linden, Chicago, Ill.

Decorations and burlap, original contract.....800.00
Extra for stencil on ceiling in delivery room.....10.00
810.00

Linden Glass Co., Chicago, Ill.

Lensed glass as per contract.....300.00
Extra, for three windows in reference room.....12.00
312.00

Alfred Kahn, (Chicago Store) Eau Claire, Wis.,

Window shades, complete.....65.00

Williams Furniture Co., Eau Claire, Wis.

Delivery counter, card catalogue case, tables in reference room, general and children's reading rooms, and Librarian's desk in children's reading room, as per contract.....728.00
(No extras or deduction.)

Williams Furniture Co., Eau Claire, Wis.

Chairs for reference room, children's and general reading rooms, Librarian's room, catalogue room, delivery counter, and alcove, all on first floor.....235.00
(No extra charges or deductions.)

Simonson & Co., Chicago, Ill.

Card catalogue drawers, as per contract.....69.00
(No extras or deductions.)

Hugo Walter, Cut stone contractor, Eau Claire, Wis.

Two gable ornaments put in place, same not included in his contract with Hoeppner, Bartlett & Co.....125.00

Total amount of contracts on which we pay architect's fees.....\$1,694.20

Putton & Miller, Architects, Chicago, Ill.

5 per cent fees on \$37,693.20.....\$1,694.66

Alex. Yaeger, Eau Claire, Wis.

Superintendence.....594.00

W. H. Hobbs, Eau Claire, Wis.

Steam pipes in gutters or valleys around the roof, (not originally contemplated,).....48.00

Total cost.....40,003.87

