

BRANTFORD Y. M. C. A. ASSOCIATION.

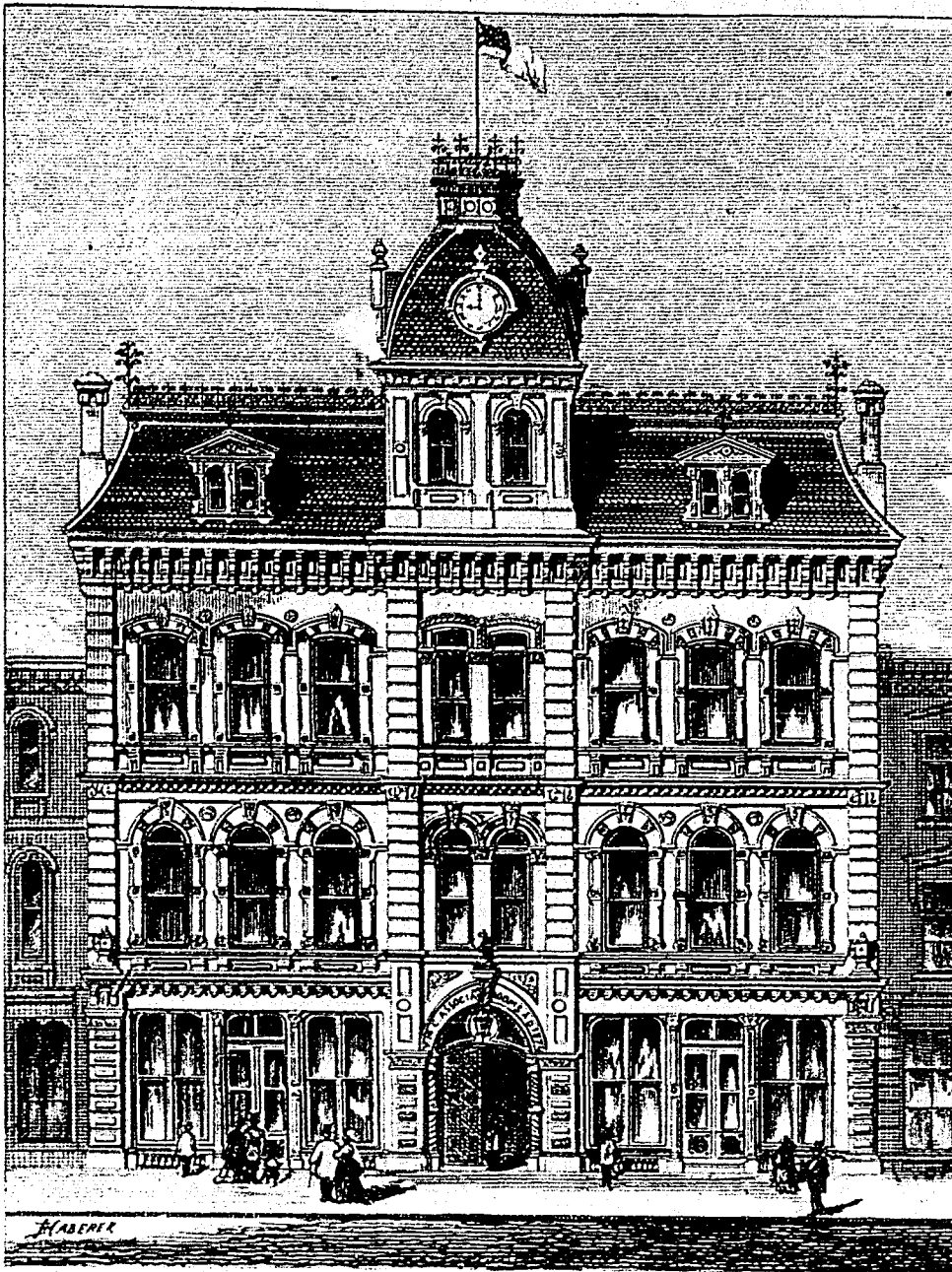
The corner-stone of the handsome edifice in process of erection for the Young Men's Christian Association of Brantford, was laid at noon, Dominion Day, with appropriate and imposing ceremonies. The day was all that could be desired for such an interesting event, and the attendance proportionately large. On the platform were W. Wilkinson, Esq., President of the Association, who presided; W. P. Crombie, Secretary; Dr. Nichol, Vice-President; Ignatius Cockshutt, Esq.; Wm. Paterson, Esq., M. P.; A. S. Hardy, Esq., M. P.; Mayor Mathews, Rev. John Wood, Rev. John Alexander, Rev. William Cochrane, M. A.; Rev. W. H. Porter, M. A.; Rev. B. B. Keefer, and Messrs. Alfred Watts, Geo. Foster, D. R. Blakader, James Mills, Thomas McLean, T. S. Shenston, James Wilkes, George Watt, W. E. Welding, Wm. Buck, Wm. McIntosh, James Ker, H. B. Leeming, and the leading business men of the town.

The exercises were begun by singing lines composed for the occasion by the Rev. Mr. Wood.

Rev. Mr. Porter then read the Scriptures, the passages selected being 8th chapter of Proverbs and portions of the 28th chapter of Isaiah and 22nd chapter of Revelation, and the Rev. Mr. Alexander offered up the dedicatory prayer. The Treasurer, Mr. D. R. Blakader, then read the following historical statement of the Association, from its establishment in 1859 to the present date:—

HISTORICAL STATEMENT OF THE BRANTFORD Y. M. C. A.

The first Young Men's Christian Association of Brantford was organized at a meeting held in the basement of Zion Church, on Monday, the 19th of April, 1860. The following were the officers of the Association: President, Judge Jones; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. Cox, G. Foster, E. C. Passmore, and James Woods; Treasurer, Mr. T. S. Shenston; and Secretary, Mr. James T. Boyd. A room was rented in Mr. James Moore's building on the south side of Colborne-street to be used for their meetings and as a reading-room. A Sabbath-school was conducted by its members in West Brantford, and the work of tract distribution and cottage prayer-meetings was carried on. This association was kept up for about three years, when, owing to the removal of some of its active members, and other causes, it was for the time given up.



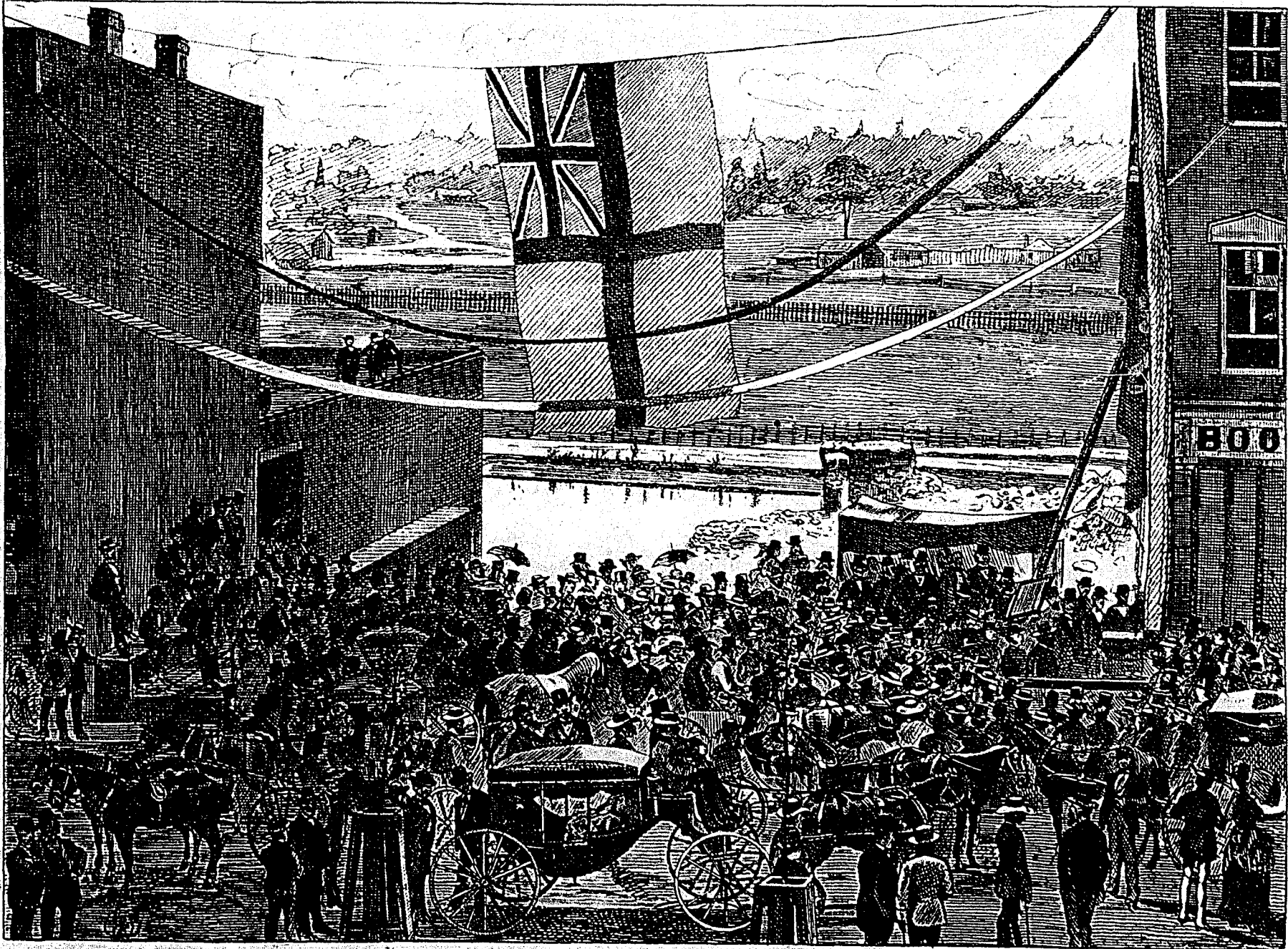
THE BRANTFORD, ONT., Y. M. C. A. NEW BUILDING.

At a meeting held in the Congregational Church in Nov., 1868, the subject of reorganizing the Association was discussed, and at an adjourned meeting held in Zion Church on the 16th Dec., it was formally organized, and a constitution and by-laws adopted.

A suitable room was engaged on Market-street, opposite the market, and at the first regular meeting held there on the 28th of December, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. G. R. Van Norman; Vice-President, Mr. George Foster; Secretary, B. W. Craig; Treasurer, C. B. Moore, and Librarian, S. Tapscott.

The regular meetings of the Association were held weekly during the winter months, and monthly during the summer; the exercises, in addition to the regular business, consisting of essays, debates, &c. During the winter months of each year a course of lectures was given under the auspices of the Association.

The reading-room was well supplied with the leading papers and magazines, and kept open from 8 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. At the first annual meeting held in Nov., 1869, Mr. Van Norman was re-elected President, holding that office for two years, when he resigned, and Mr. C. B. Moore was chosen. At the meeting in Nov., 1871, the Rev. G. H. Bridgman was elected; but being removed from the town in June, the duties again devolved on Mr. Moore, the first Vice-President, till the meeting in Nov., 1872, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. Wilkinson, who still holds office. In June, 1870, the first cottage prayer meetings in connection with the Association were organized, and a Sabbath afternoon prayer meeting held in the rooms. In Oct., 1872, the Association removed to its present rooms on the south side of Colborne-street, in Mr. Cockshutt's new block. During the year the reading-room, which had been nominally reserved for the use of the members and strangers visiting the town, was thrown open free to all. From this time the meetings of the Association were held weekly all the year around on Monday evening. Reunions, the entertainment of which consisted of readings, addresses, and music, were commenced. The temperance work was taken up, and meetings held in the ward school-houses and in the Town-hall. A Sabbath evening service was also held for the winter in the King's Ward school-house, conducted by the members. During the month of August, 1873, a young people's Sunday-evening service was commenced in the rooms; but as the attendance increased the Town-hall was kindly granted for the purpose. This still continues to be one of the best meetings



LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE BRANTFORD Y. M. C. A. NEW BUILDING.