

AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

HER PRICE IS ABOVE RUBIES.

"YOU cannot accent this too much, the Y. W. C. A. stands for *all* the young women of Winnipeg, not for our boarders only, stands for the upbuilding of young womanhood physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually." So spoke the busy, bright General Secretary, Miss Bambridge. And what Miss Bambridge does not know about Y. W. C. A.'s is hidden in the illimitable future, for this is her twentieth year in Y. W. C. A. work. Twelve years in Toronto, a course at the Moody Training School in Chicago, several years in Kansas City, and finally Winnipeg in April, 1908, in response to an urgent invitation, pondered upon for two years before acceptance seemed possible and imperative.

And certainly, after being shown over the new building, and after learning something of the plans for the coming winter, one leaves with an illumined comprehension that the Y. W. C. A. can claim to stand for very big things with no aid from an optimistic imagination.

A conspicuous white-brick building of six storeys, conveniently central in the city, between Ellice avenue and College place, is the outward and visible sign of an inner history of fifteen years. This largest Y. W. C. A. building in Canada is one hundred by eighty feet, and added to this on the west is a cheerful screened-in sun parlour of ambitious proportions. The cost of lot, building, and furnishings is approximately one hundred and ten thousand dollars, the raising of which is an interesting chapter of the more recent of that fifteen-year history—\$10,000 was collected first for the lot, \$5,000 was the net gain of the Women's edition of the Winnipeg Telegram in May, 1907; \$60,000 was raised in the campaign of the spring of 1908, and \$11,000 by a Tag Day in the spring of 1909. The remainder is being carried by a local bank.

Coming in from the thick, slanting sun-rays of late western summer, the library finished in oak and furnished in cool greens is most restful. The Girls' Auxiliary Club of the Y. W. C. A., numbering twenty-eight members, have to their credit the clothing of this very attractive room, and the fireplace is a gift. Back through folding-doors is the assembly room, with a seating capacity of three hundred, a man's size platform, and a piano. There are several pianos throughout the building. In the centre front are the secretarial offices. To the right, heralded by a little reception-room, is the public drawing-room of epic dimensions and brown decorations furnished by the ladies of the city. One social evening a week will be given here. The boarding half on this flat, led to through convenient cloak-rooms, holds further offices and waiting-rooms and a very large living room and parlour cosily furnished and leading out to the sun parlour.

Skipping some storeys here, the gymnasium is arrived at. This is to be under the direction of Miss Fisher from Detroit, one of the most experienced teachers of physical development in the United States. The gym-

nasium is sixty by thirty-two, a running track above, shower baths and dressing-rooms to the south. There are several class rooms on another floor, and the subjects to be taken up include music, business, literature, sewing and millinery, and domestic science, as well as the Bible study, which is to be inaugurated by a three weeks' lecture course early in the season by Miss May M. Blodgett, of Bible study fame. Domestic science and art work will be in charge of Miss Burgoyne. Laundry, kitchen, dining room, lunch rooms, etc., are in the basement. Miss McArthur is in charge of the house-keeping and superintends a large staff of servants, for every room in the house is filled, and the sound of voices and laughter of girls floated along the corridors as they returned from desk and office, while, as we waited, several disappointed girls went away sadly, for there was no room for them in this pleasant place.

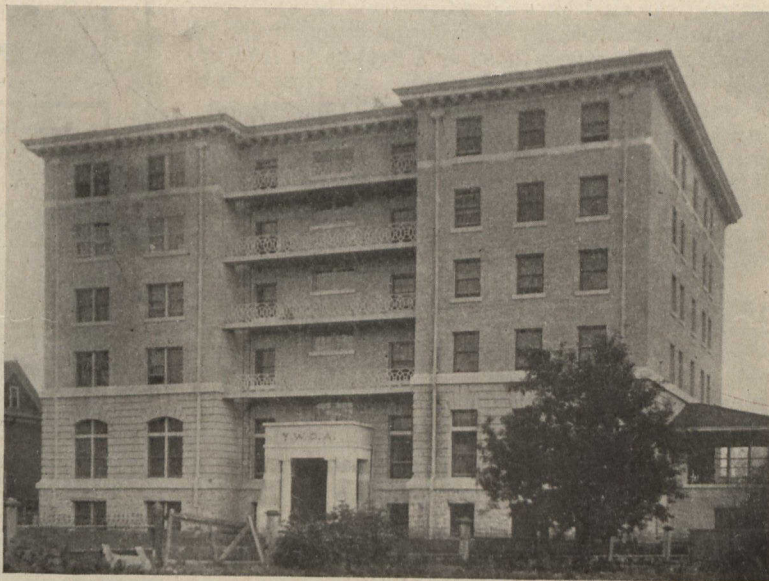
And, at the very last, we went softly to the University girls' room, the cherished heart of this new home, a room that stands exquisitely for the fragrant memory of a young girl, the leader of the College Y. W. C. A., who went away from her study and usefulness and joy-giving here before the building was completed. But, going, she knew what her father meant to do, and, in the room of harmonious pale golds and autumn browns, of soft coloured Persian rugs and pictures of gracious tones, the Spirit of Rubelle Telford lingers like a benediction.

For the early history of this splendid achievement Mrs. H. B. Stiles was sought. Fifteen years ago the first little Y. W. C. A. in Winnipeg was born. Lady Schultz was interested then as now, Mrs. J. A. M. Aikens (then Miss Colby) was first President, and Mrs. Stiles first Vice-President. Mrs. George Scales was also early in the work. One room over the old C. P. R. telegraph office on Main street was secured. Bible study was all that was attempted that year, Mrs. A. D. McKay and Mrs. Stiles doing the teaching. During the second year social and factory work were begun, the Rialto Block became the headquarters, and Mrs. Dr. McQueen was prominent in the new branch of endeavour. At this stage of the Y. W. C. A. history, the indifference of the Winnipeg people was heart-breaking. It was a city of young men. They were welcomed, looked after, planned for. But nobody was interested in the girls without homes and friends. In 1902, the first Y. W. C. A. boarding-house was opened on Broadway. Miss Munro carried this to a successful issue, and is still with the work in the North End boarding-house. There are no words, the ladies say, full enough of meaning to tell of her quiet personal sacrifices, her wonderful helpfulness and ability. The business men backed this first enterprise, and, afterwards, other boarding-houses were started at various points throughout the city. These have now been absorbed into the new building, all except the one at the North End. Another move, from the Rialto Block to the Portage avenue offices of recent occupation, was the last flitting until

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Miss May I. Bambridge
General Sec'y Y.W.C.A., Winnipeg

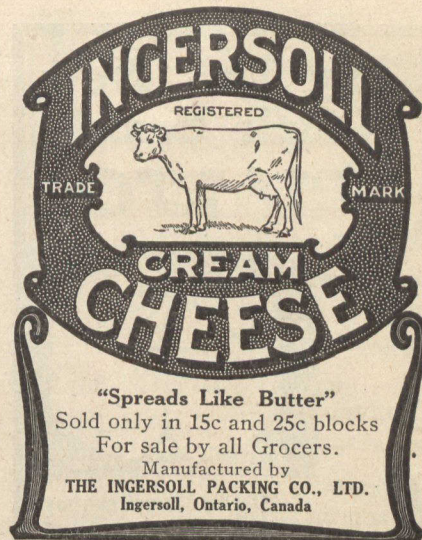


This splendid building was recently erected by the Y.W.C.A., of Winnipeg



Mrs. G. R. Crowe
President Y.W.C.A., Winnipeg

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