

## CHAPTER XVI

### CLUBS, LODGES, SOCIAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Y. M. C. A., Boys' Club, Home for Aged People and Similar Institutions. Quequechan Club, and Masonic and Other Lodges. The Militia. Labor Unions and Labor Troubles

The leading club in the city is the Quequechan, which has a large and comfortable house on North Main street, where nearly all the distinguished visitors to the city have been entertained in recent years. Among these have been the Honourable Artillery Company, of London, when it was the guest of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston; the delegations of prominent Filipinos who visited the United States as the guests of the nation, and Governors and other high dignitaries. The club was formed in 1893 in part as a successor of the old Commercial Club, with 25 charter members, of whom William F. Hooper, James E. Osborn, Edward Barker, F. O. Dodge, David Beattie and Dr. D. A. Babcock were the more active. The membership soon increased to 200 and now consists of 235 resident and 95 non-resident members. The William Mason house was purchased and greatly enlarged to its present size. William F. Hooper and James E. Osborn have been president and vice-president, respectively, since its organization. Frederick O. Dodge was the first treasurer, succeeded by Edward I. Marvell and shortly after by Edward Barker, the present officer. R. P. Borden was the first secretary. That office is now held by P. A. Mathewson.

The first Young Men's Christian Association here was formed in the spring of 1857, with R. K. Remington, Walter Paine, 3d, William H. Mason, John C. Milne, Elihu Andrews, John D. Flint, Alexander T. Milne and Walter C. Durfee among its prominent supporters. R. K. Remington was president, James B. Pearson secretary and Charles J. Holmes treasurer. The association lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when it gave up its work, in common with many similar organizations. It was reorganized

in 1868, with George B. Durfee president. He was succeeded by E. C. Nason in 1870, Leroy Sargent in 1873, Ray G. Huling and J. H. Pierce. The work was discontinued in 1880.

The present association was formed eight years later, in 1888, with James F. Jackson president, Andrew J. Jennings vice-president, W. Frank Shove recording secretary, and Enoch J. French treasurer. Mr. Jackson was succeeded in 1891 by Rev. Percy S. Grant, who held office till the fall of 1893, when he resigned to remove to New York. A movement to raise funds for a building was started at this time, and about \$19,000 paid in, with which the site of the present building was purchased.

The home of the association from 1888 till 1895 was in the Slade house, so-called, at the corner of Elm and North Main streets, generously contributed rent free by Mrs. Mary B. Young. The selection of the site of this structure for the new public library building made removal necessary and the store-room on the southeast corner of North Main and Pine streets was occupied till the old house that stood on the site of the present building could be renovated and made ready for occupancy in the fall of 1896.

Shortly after entering this building Mr. W. D. Fellows, of Erie, Pa., was engaged as general secretary, and his coming to the city marked the beginning of a new era for the Association. He was a man of magnetic personality, rare executive and business ability, combined with unusual spiritual gifts, and under his administration the Association gathered fresh impetus. Mr. Fellows was ably assisted during this crucial period by Mr. Arthur Rudman, who resigned in 1904 to accept a position in the work at

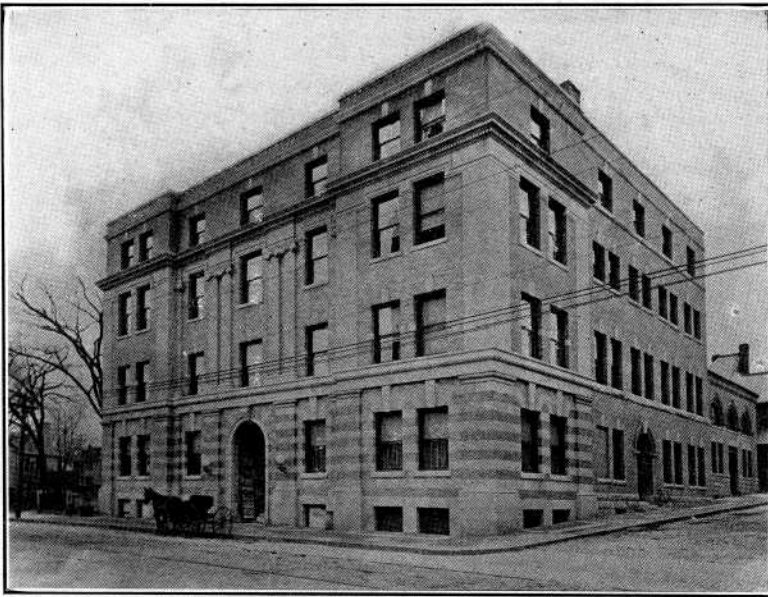
Manila, Philippine Islands, under the International Committee.

A gymnasium was erected in 1896, and in April, 1900, the building fund for the present structure was started with a gift of \$10,000. Other contributions brought the fund up to about \$77,000, and work was begun in the spring of 1901. The cornerstone was laid September 21 of that year, and the building dedicated April 19, 1903, with addresses by prominent city officials and others.

It is a handsome four-story structure of hammered Fall River granite and gray Roman brick, with a frontage of 86 feet on North Main street and a depth ranging from

sachusetts and Rhode Island. The third floor front contains a kitchen with modern accessories, and dining room, and the fourth floor is given up to dormitories, from which an annual income of over \$3,000 is derived. The basement of the combined structure contains separate lavatories and locker rooms for junior and senior departments, swimming pool and bowling alleys, and a photographic dark room.

The building proper cost \$90,000, and with the connecting gymnasium and the land represents an investment of \$125,000. As a result of a special effort early in 1906 the property is free from debt.



Y. M. C. A. Building

75 feet on Pine street to 87 feet on the north. The front elevation is an American modification of the French Renaissance style and most attractive. The building is handsomely finished, with a large reception room, reading and game rooms, and a small hall on the first floor.

A pretty auditorium, with a seating capacity of 548, occupies the east half of the second and third floors. This is called Remington Hall, in memory of Robert K. Remington, whose widow was a large donor to the building fund. It contains an excellent portrait in oil of Mr. Remington. The west half of the second floor is given up to the boys' work, with comfortable and cosy quarters. The Association has the largest boys' department in the two States of Mas-

sachusetts and Rhode Island. The third floor front contains a kitchen with modern accessories, and dining room, and the fourth floor is given up to dormitories, from which an annual income of over \$3,000 is derived. The basement of the combined structure contains separate lavatories and locker rooms for junior and senior departments, swimming pool and bowling alleys, and a photographic dark room.

The Association now has 1,054 regular members and 232 contributing non-members, and is in a prosperous condition and doing an excellent work among the young men of the city. Andrew J. Jennings is president, having succeeded Mr. Grant in 1893. The other officers are: Leonard N. Slade, vice-president; Charles D. Buffinton, treasurer; Ralph B. Smith, recording secretary.

The secretaries have been: George M. Stowell, 1889-91; A. N. Lowe, 1891-96; W. D. Fellows, 1897-1905; D. M. Spence, since 1905. Associated with Mr. Spence on the executive force are Ernest P. Conlon, assistant secretary; William J. Davison, physical director; George L. Atwood, assistant physical director, and John H. Piper, boys' work director.

The Women's Union was started late in 1873, and on December 15 opened a room in the Troy Building, where working women might come for enjoyment and assistance. Mrs. A. G. Hart was the first president. A sewing school was begun in 1879, and in 1883 the rooms over the Union mill office were offered and have since been used. Classes in millinery, dressmaking, cooking, etc., have been successfully carried on. A day nursery was established December 27, 1886, but discontinued after two years. In 1887 the Union was incorporated. The Working Girls' Club, which now has a membership of 200 and is the largest of its kind in the State, was formed in 1891, and has always been self-supporting. Up to 1893 the Pleasant street rooms were opened certain evenings in each week—since then they have been open every week day evening from October to June, four evenings being devoted to the Working Girls' Club and two to the Happy Girls' Club. October 14, 1896, the Home on Pine street was opened. These rooms were furnished by various societies and have been kept under the supervision of a resident matron.

The Industrial Exchange was opened December 1, 1896, and has been self-supporting except that the Union has provided rooms, rent free, in the Pine street home. In 1904 a lot of land on Rock street, corner of Franklin street, was presented to the Union, and upon this lot it is intended to erect a building suitable for its various needs, including a reading room and reception or waiting room, where any woman (from in town or out of town) may find a convenient and comfortable resting place. A committee was appointed to devise means for raising the desired amount of \$50,000, and circulars were issued in October, 1905. During the next three months more than half that amount was pledged, and it is now hoped that Fall River may soon see the Women's Union established in its own home.

The Home for Aged People, which now occupies a handsome brick building on Highland avenue, providing a comfortable home for between 25 and 30 persons of advanced years, is the outgrowth of a movement begun in 1891 by John D. Flint, John S. Brayton, Hon. Milton Reed, Mrs. Hannah Almy, Mrs. Charles Durfee, Mrs. David M. Anthony, Mrs. John H. Boone, Miss A. B. Wrightington, Mrs. Edward S. Adams and others. The old Leland house, on High street, was rented for the first home. The

late Robert Adams gave a lot on Highland avenue as the site for a new building, and an active canvass for money to pay the cost of erecting a structure, aided by a gift of \$15,000 from M. C. D. Borden, justified the beginning of work in the latter part of October, 1896. The structure, which is of brick, 76½ by 37½ feet, was completed at a cost of \$41,000 and dedicated in March, 1898. Various individuals, churches and societies furnished the building, which has a commanding view, is finished in whitewood and North Carolina pine and excellently arranged for its purpose. As a result of numerous legacies it now has invested funds amounting to about \$56,000. The present officers are: President, John D. Flint; Vice-Presidents, Milton Reed and Mrs. D. M. Anthony; Secretary, Miss A. B. Wrightington; Treasurer, Edward S. Adams.

The Boys' Club of Fall River was organized February 1, 1890. The first impulse for its formation came from Rev. John C. Collins, representing the Christian Workers' Association of New Haven. The late Rev. Edwin A. Buck was a prime mover in the organization. Local citizens took hold of the work with heart and soul, and from that time to the present interest and faith have never faltered and the club has steadily grown, until now it ranks with the highest in efficiency, power and progress. The first home of the club was on Third street—one room, with a piano, a few tables and benches, several mottoes on the wall, were its only adornment. A corner was railed off for a toilet room, with two tin hand basins and a roller towel. A book case filled with books occupied another corner. This was the beginning, and yet the boys came, were happily entertained, and thought the two hours spent in the room in the evening passed altogether too quickly. In less than a year the club outgrew this home, and rooms in Vermont Block, Pocasset street, were procured and occupied. The present building was given by M. C. D. Borden, of New York, a native of Fall River, and was dedicated January 12, 1898.

It has indeed been to the members of the club a true home in every sense of the word, and the boys take the greatest pride in keeping it without mar or disfiguration. Through the generosity of Mr. Borden the club has been able to extend its privileges to other organizations, and to young men who have long needed the influence of such a place, where they could spend their even-



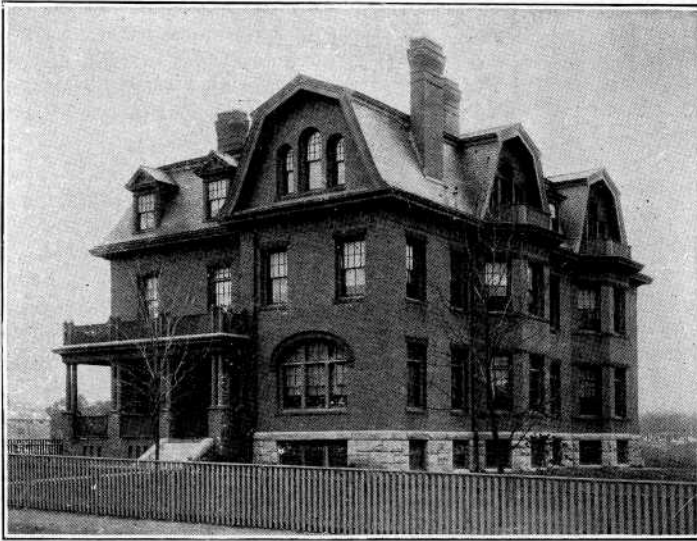
ings. Mr. Borden has watched the work grow with unabated interest, and is at the present time enlarging the work by erecting and giving to the club another building, connecting in the rear and facing Pocasset street, which will be larger than the present structure and adapted in every department to the needs of these older boys. The old adage "Tall oaks from little acorns grow" is illustrated in the Boys' Club of Fall River.

The exterior of both of these buildings is fire-flashed buff brick, with brown stone trimmings. The one now occupied is 90 feet long, with a depth of 75 feet. On the ground floor is a hall, with seating capacity of 500. A library, gymnasium, reading room and

towards the club, and was always ready to sanction any plan that would lead to the formation of high principles and noble character in any of its members.

The superintendent, Thomas Chew, has been with the club since its formation, and it is owing largely to his unremitting labors, zeal, forethought and tact that the club holds its present position in the community and country.

The club was incorporated in 1892. The present officers and directors of the club are: George A. Chace, president; John D. Flint, vice-president; James W. Bence, treasurer; Harriet H. Brayton, secretary (the president, vice-president and secretary



Children's Home, corner Walnut and Robeson Streets

office, all finished in oak. The second story has four class rooms. The third story is the home of the superintendent, with a large game room. In the basement are to be found a swimming pool, bowling alleys and bathing facilities.

The extension will be 141 feet long and have an average width of 65 feet. The gymnasium will have an area of 9,000 square feet and be 22 feet high, with no columns. There will be 28 shower baths, a kitchen, dining room and many other special features.

The membership of the club is 1,800.

The late Rev. Edwin A. Buck was the first president of the club, and retained the office until his death, March 10, 1903 (thirteen years). Mr. Buck held a parental feeling

were charter members); Richard J. Thompson, M. D., Cornelius S. Greene, Mrs. E. H. B. Brow, Mrs. Jefferson Borden, Mrs. James Osborn.

In 1896 George W. Dean gave to the club the Dean farm, in Freetown. Many of the members go there in summer for a two weeks' outing.

With the superintendent to lead on, the club cannot but always be one of the beacon lights in the history of the city.

The Children's Home of Fall River, which now cares for about 80 boys and girls, 59 in its building at the corner of Robeson and Walnut streets and 21 in private homes, and by its last annual report had sheltered 685 children since its foundation in April, 1873, was incorporated by act of the Legisla-

ture, allowing the Fall River Orphans' Asylum and the Children's Friend Society to unite and constitute one corporation.

Thomas J. Borden was the first president, Thomas F. Eddy and Dr. J. L. Clarke vice-presidents, John C. Haddock secretary, and Samuel R. Buffinton treasurer. The board of managers was composed of prominent and influential people who recognized the necessity of charitable work, and who were willing to devote themselves to alleviating distress and misfortune in Fall River.

A tract of land 300 feet square was purchased, and a substantial frame building was erected at a cost of \$10,018.26, and dedicated to its work on February 27, 1874.

It was necessary to mortgage the property, and for many years it was a struggle to meet obligations.

In 1882 Simeon B. Chase and George H. Hawes felt that it was time that some effort should be made to liquidate the indebtedness so as to put the Home on a substantial financial basis. Subscriptions were solicited and nearly \$12,000 was obtained, and all indebtedness cancelled.

In 1883 John M. Bryan donated \$1,000, which was the beginning of the permanent fund, now amounting to \$83,377.52. The income from the investment of this fund provides money which pays about one-half the annual expenses. The rest of the money necessary to maintain the Home is derived from the board of some of the children, and from the annual contributions from the churches at Thanksgiving. The home was full all of the time, and it soon became apparent that larger accommodations were necessary. At the suggestion of Mrs. Sarah B. Chace, widow of Edmund Chace, steps were taken to interest the people of Fall River to furnish the means to build a new brick building, which resulted in the erection of the present home building, dedicated May 20, 1895. This building cost \$23,000, the greater part of which was generously given by Mrs. Chace, who had been a member of the original board of managers, and had always taken great interest in the welfare of the Children's Home, and was conversant with its needs.

Thomas J. Borden, the first president, was succeeded in October, 1874, by Thomas F. Eddy, who held the office of president until October, 1876, when Dr. James M. Aldrich was elected. Dr. Aldrich resigned in 1889 on account of failing health, and was suc-

ceeded by the present incumbent, Nathaniel B. Borden.

The present officers are as follows: President, Nathaniel B. Borden; Vice-Presidents, Robert T. Davis, Charles B. Cook, Oliver S. Hawes and Mrs. William Beattie; Treasurer, Benjamin S. C. Gifford; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Lydia H. Read; Recording Secretary, Miss Ellen M. Shove.

The Deaconess Home was founded largely through the efforts and benefactions of John D. Flint, who, becoming impressed with the value of the work, about 1888 employed Miss Emma Ross as a city missionary. Her reports were so encouraging that a meeting of representatives of all the Methodist Churches in the city was called December 21, 1892, and the following year a corporation was formed. Mr. Flint gave \$10,000 as an endowment, and in 1894 the Benjamin Covell estate, on Second street, was purchased for the headquarters of the work.

The Salvation Army, whose work now has the respect and assistance of all, was begun here November 3, 1883, when Captain and Mrs. Hulmes came to this city to inaugurate it at the request of William Brooks, a local citizen who had been a member of the army before emigrating from England. The first quarters were in the old opera house in Court Square, where it remained 11 years, removing to the southeast corner of Pleasant and Third streets and subsequently to other rooms, till in November, 1903, it occupied its present citadel on Bedford street, which had erected for its work. This is a brick building with a commodious hall on the first floor, and on the second a dormitory with 34 beds, shower baths and reading rooms. A salvage department has also been established and a brass band of 22 pieces organized. The membership is now 125.

The Young Men's Irish-American Catholic Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society was formed January 28, 1872, as the result of the efforts of Patrick E. Foley, Daniel Downing, Timothy Harrington and Frank O'Brien. Its first quarters were in the Concert Hall building on Pleasant street, from which it removed to Mayhew Hall on August 10. Carrolton Hall, the next home, was occupied from May, 1877 to 1895, when the Quinn, Woodland & Co. building, the D. D. Sullivan building and St. John's Hall were occupied within a few months. Work on the building on Anawan street, now occupied by the society, was begun July 31, 1895, and the structure dedicated January

27, 1896. It is of red brick, with buff brick and terra cotta trimmings finished in North Carolina pine, with library, smoking and lounging rooms and a hall 61 feet square. Its cost, with furniture, was \$24,672. The Irish-American Guards and a drum corps were organized in 1889, and an auxiliary, the Women's Catholic Associates, in 1892. F. A. O'Brien was the first president, and among his early successors were Marcus Leonard, Patrick E. Foley, Thomas F. Cunneen, P. M. McGlynn, P. H. Baldwin, Edward F. Murphy, Augustus P. Gorman, John H. Carroll, James F. Manning, Michael H. Connelly, Thomas Donohue, John Casey and Daniel J. Harrington. The present officers (April, 1906) are: President, James Fagan; Vice-President, Thomas Fitzpatrick; Recording Secretary, Frank L. Coyle; Corresponding Secretary, Thomas Geary; Treasurer, Bernard F. Doherty; Financial Secretary, James M. Manning; Assistant, John H. Murphy. The membership is 510.

The Masonic societies are represented by Mount Hope Lodge, instituted December 8, 1824; Narragansett and King Philip Lodges, Fall River Royal Arch Chapter, Fall River Council of Royal and Select Masters, Godfrey De Bouillon Commandery of Knights Templar and the Purple Consulate. The order is making great advances in membership and has a comfortable hall on Franklin street.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has four lodges—Mount Hope, dating from March 5, 1845; Friendly Union, from September 5, 1873; Loyal Unity, from June 4, 1881, and Fall River, from December 1, 1892. Metacomet Encampment was instituted in 1847. These are supplemented by Canton Beard, Patriarchs Militant, Loyal Puritan and Olive Branch lodges, Manchester Unity, the United Sisters, I. O. O. L., M. U., and Hiawatha and Minnehaha lodges, D. of R.

The Knights of Pythias have seven lodges—Mount Vernon, Anawan, Puritan, Lafayette, Pocasset, Star and Excelsior—and two sections of endowment rank. The Rathbone Sisters have two temples—Damon and Rathbone.

The English are well represented in the four lodges of the Sons of St. George—Livingstone, U. S. Grant, Bonnie Red Rose and Cromwell—and the Uniformed Rank, Napier Commandery. The Daughters of St. George have two lodges—Britannia and Primrose.

The Foresters have a large representa-

tion here in courts We'll Try, Littlejohn, Good Samaritan, Progress, Benevolence, Onward, Victory, Rochambeau; Court Lady of Victory, of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters; Courts Work and Win, Robin Hood, and a juvenile court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and Courts Sauval, Notre Dame and St. Ann of the Catholic order. There is also an organization of the Companions of the Forest.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians have five divisions, known as Nos. 1, 6, 11, 14 and 16.

In addition to these many others could be named, including Pocasset Council of the Royal Arcanum and its ladies' auxiliary; the Weetamoe Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; Fall River Commandery of the United Order of the Golden Star; Harmony Lodge, Order of Brith Abraham; Mount Hope, Puritan and Volunteer Colonies of the United Order of the Pilgrim Fathers; Troy, Fall River and Priscilla lodges of the New England Order of Protection; Fall River and Quequechan Conclaves of the Improved Order of Heptasophs, and Pilgrim and Plymouth lodges of the United Workmen.

From the close of the Civil War until 1876 Fall River had two companies of militia, known as B and D, of the Third Regiment, but they were disbanded in the reorganization of the militia in that year. In November, 1878, a petition for a new company was circulated and granted by the Governor. On November 29 an order was issued for Sierra L. Braley to recruit a company to be attached to the First Regiment, M. V. M., and known as Company M. The rolls were opened December 5 and sent to Boston the following day with 57 names. This was the beginning of what was afterward known as Battery M, and now as the Twelfth Company, Corps of Coast Artillery, M. V. M.

The company was mustered in December 12, and on December 17 elected Sierra L. Braley captain, V. O. Sayward first lieutenant and Charles E. Tetlow second lieutenant. Arms were received in April, and on May 30, the new organization made its first public appearance, as escort to Post 46, G. A. R. Since then it has taken part in all tours of duty performed by the regiment. It attended the funeral of General Grant in 1885, the Philadelphia celebration in 1887, the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Providence in 1886, the McKinley inaugural parade in 1901, and was stationed at Fort



Greble during the joint army and navy manoeuvres in 1902. It has an enviable record for efficiency, discipline and attendance at drills.

On the 25th of April, 1898, the day war was declared with Spain, Captain Braley received orders to "assemble his command and await further orders." In one hour the men were assembled, had answered the roll-call and were armed and equipped to answer the call of the President. Early the next day it was on its way to Fort Warren, where it was mustered into the United States service for two years, on May 9, a part of the first volunteer regiment in the country to be mustered in. It served there under Major James A. Frye until September 19, when it went to South Framingham to be mustered out. A furlough was granted October 5, and the federal duty ended November 14.

By act of the Legislature the regiment to which the company belonged was changed to the Heavy Artillery June 1, 1897, and Company M became Battery M. In accordance with the statutes of 1905 it assumed its present title November 1, 1905.

Captain Braley resigned January 1, 1899, and on February 14 was succeeded by Captain David Fuller, the present commanding officer. William J. Meek is first lieutenant, and Harry W. Skinner second lieutenant. Others than those named who have been lieutenants are James F. Jackson, Charles B. Woodman, John D. Munroe, Horace E. Whitney, Walter F. Borden and Fred W. Harrison.

Company F, Naval Brigade, was formed September 30, 1892, under General Orders No. 15, of September 26, in accordance with an act of the legislature allowing the forming of four companies as the Second Battalion. Companies were also formed at the same time in Fall River, New Bedford and Lynn. John D. Munroe was the first lieutenant chief of company, with Nathan Duffee and William B. Edgar lieutenants, junior grade, and Richard P. Borden and W. C. Wetherell, ensigns. Mr. Munroe retired December 11, 1894, with the rank of lieutenant commander. He was succeeded by William B. Edgar, who served till his resignation December 24, 1897. George R. H. Buffinton, Mr. Edgar's successor, was elected lieutenant commander and was followed by William H. Beattie June 4, 1900, and by Milton I. Deane March 15, 1904. The latter resigned December 4, 1905, to become

paymaster on the staff, and since then John T. Nelson, lieutenant, junior grade, has been acting chief of company, with John M. Young, Jr., ensign.

Company I was formed as a reserve company May 25, 1898, at the outbreak of the war with Spain, and was one of four companies organized at this time. William B. Edgar, who headed the petition for the company, was elected lieutenant, chief of company, with Richard P. Borden lieutenant, junior grade, and George W. Palmer ensign. Mr. Edgar resigned November 3, 1899, and was succeeded by Richard P. Borden till February 8, 1904, and by William M. Olding till November 11, 1904. Since then the company has been in charge of Minor W. Wilcox, lieutenant, junior grade. Charles A. MacDonald is ensign.

Company I as a whole was not called into active service during the war with Spain, but the men of Company F served on the Lehigh and Prairie, and in some cases were detached for duty on other vessels. The Signal Corps was also called out.

The Prairie detachment, which numbered about 30 men, were a part of the first detail of the naval brigade to respond to the President's call for men, and reported at the Brooklyn Navy Yard at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, April 24, 1898, in response to an order from Theodore Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the day before, received here on the afternoon of the 23, and now preserved at headquarters. The Prairie served first on patrol duty, and about July 1 was transferred to Cuban and Porto Ricoan waters, where it went on the blockade. One member of the company, Lynwood French, died of disease during the conflict. The Lehigh was attached to the Northern Atlantic patrol fleet.

Headquarters and the Signal Corps were brought here on the election of Mr. Buffinton as lieutenant commander, in 1900.

#### THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Richard Borden Post No. 46, G. A. R., was organized January 22, 1868, and reached its greatest membership—494—in 1895. This has now fallen to 210. The list of past commanders includes Frank McGraw, John H. Abbott, Joseph Harrison, John M. Deane and Amos M. Jackson.

The officers for 1906 are: Commander, John Gilbert; Senior Vice Commander, Joseph Bowers; Junior Vice Commander,

George Hanson; Adjutant, F. H. Channell; Quartermaster, Edward Hague; Officer of Day, Gilbert Arnold; Officer of Guard, James Holehouse; Chaplain, Albert S. Palmer; Surgeon, Charles M. S. Gerry; Sergeant Major, Robert Fielden; Quartermaster Sergeant, William McLane.

The present handsome armory, of Fall River granite, was completed in 1897. It contains on the first floor rooms for the Twelfth Company, and another when needed, as well as a drill hall, 150x75. The quarters of Companies F and I, Naval Brigade, are on the second floor, rooms for two others on the third, and a gymnasium on the fourth. Land owned by the city on the south side of Pine street, opposite Ruggles Park, was first selected as the site for the structure, but abandoned in deference to the general desire. Prior to the erection of the armory the militia was quartered in a frame building on Bedford street, and later on the upper floor of the Central Engine House. Another building on the corner of Fourth and Pleasant streets was rented for Company F.

Fall River has had its share of labor troubles, some of them extended and a severe blow to the welfare of the community. Since the 1879 strike, however, they have been notable for the orderly behavior of those on strike, even under trying conditions, a fact of which all have been proud, the sympathizers with the mill owners no less than those who sided with the operatives.

The first serious trouble began in July, 1870, when the spinners struck in protest against a reduction. By August 24 some of the men had returned to work, and on that day a large crowd gathered at the Duffee Mills. The police felt unable to handle the situation and the fire department was called on to disperse the crowd with its hose. The two local military companies were called to their armory and two others brought here from Taunton, but were not sent out. The strike, which had lasted just two months, ended September 15, when the spinners returned to work at the reduction.

The "Great Vacation" began early in August, 1875, in the decision of the operatives to take four weeks' rest, believing that a curtailment was a better remedy for the situation than the cut in wages proposed. At the end of that time the manufacturers decided on another vacation of equal length.

George Gunton was prominent in the labor meetings at this time. The mills started up on September 27, but required the operatives to sign an agreement not to belong to any labor organization. One clause was misunderstood and led to a demonstration near the city hall and the calling out of five companies of militia, two from this city, two from Taunton and one from New Bedford, who remained here until Saturday.

The strike of 1879 on the part of the spinners for an advance of 15 per cent is still remembered for its bitter spirit, engendered largely by the bringing of strike-breakers here, to be quartered on the property of the corporations. It was marked by occasional violence, and lasted from June 15 to October 26, and was unsuccessful. Mr. Gunton was again prominent in labor meetings.

In 1884 occurred the "ten-mills' strike" against a reduction, which lasted eighteen weeks, and was also unsuccessful. It began early in February and affected the two Border City Mills, the Sagamore No. 1, the three Union Mills, the Wampanoag No. 1, Tecumseh No. 1, Slade and Chace. These were assisted financially by the other mills during the strike, and the idle operatives received aid from those at work.

The strike of 1894 was against a reduction, and began as a "vacation" of the operatives August 24. The spinners later declared a strike, and returned to work October 15 on a compromise, by which their wages were cut only 5 per cent, instead of the 10 of the others. This was to be restored if the margin was 85 cents for the next sixty days. Many of the weavers remained out till October 30, when they accepted the reduction.

The strike of 1904 was the longest and most disastrous in the city's history and followed the announcement of a 12½ per cent. reduction of wages, the second within a year, to which were added a feeling of resentment at what was regarded as high-handed action on the part of the manufacturers and the opposition of the weavers to being asked to run more looms. In the vote of the unions on the strike question, July 21, three—the weavers, loom fixers and slasher tenders—were recorded in favor of suspending work, and the carders and spinners also showed a majority in favor of this course, though they were counted in opposition because they did not have the necessary two-thirds vote. The textile council



had recommended acceptance of the reduction, but as three of the five unions favored a strike it had no course but to order one, which went into effect Monday, July 25. The strike was carried on till the 26th week, when, on January 18, at a conference before Governor Douglas at Boston, the labor leaders agreed to an immediate return to work at the reduction, with the condition that the Governor should investigate the situation and report a margin on which a five per cent. dividend should be paid on wages earned. The operatives returned to work the following day, and on January 21 a reduction was announced in the Fall River Iron Works, which had been kept running at the full scale throughout the strike. The strike is estimated to have cost the operatives \$4,500,000 in wages lost. About \$200,000 was paid out in benefits by the unions, including \$26,500 to non-unionists. The overseers of the poor were rushed with applicants, and considerable sums were sent here from outside for the aid of the strikers. Several thousand persons removed from the city and the merchants lost heavily by the decline of trade. Various fruitless conferences were held during the struggle. At one held November 5 it was agreed that the books of the corporations should be inspected by a committee of five, consisting of two labor men, two manufacturers and a fifth man to be selected by these four, to verify the assertions of losses. The textile council approved this, with the addition that the reduction notices be taken down and the help allowed to return at the old scale pending a settlement. This was refused by the manufacturers, and the matter dropped. At a conference December 4 the labor leaders proposed a reduction of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for three months, when another conference was to be held. The manufacturers refused, and on December 30 the unions voted on the continuance of the strike. Little change in the sentiment was shown from July.

The mills were opened November 14 and ran with varying success till the strike was declared off in January. The entire struggle was marked by notable good order.

A strike had been averted March 17, 1902, after all the unions had voted to go out, only by the granting of the advance asked, to take effect May 7.

The prices paid for weaving, on which the wages of all operatives are based, have been changed in recent years on the following dates: February 4, 1884, 18.50 cents; Janu-

ary 18, 1885, 16.50; March 1, 1886, 18.50; February 13, 1888, 19; July 1, 1892, 19.6; December 5, 1892, 21; September 11, 1893, 18; August 30, 1894, 16; April 22, 1895, 18; January 1, 1898, 16; February 27, 1899, 18; December 11, 1899, 19.80; May 7, 1900, 21.78; November 23, 1903, 19.80; July 25, 1904, 17.33; October 23, 1905, 18, and a dividend based on the margin; July 2, 1906, 19.80.

The profit sharing system went into effect October 23, 1905, after a conference of manufacturers and labor secretaries. It was based on an amended form of what was a fair margin for manufacturers reported by Gov. Douglas after an investigation following the strike in 1904. It was announced following the request of the operatives for higher wages, and after granting an increase to a basis of 18 cents a cut for weaving allowed for a weekly dividend to the help of one per cent on their wages for every cent of margin over  $72\frac{1}{2}$  cents until the margin reached 85, when one-half of one per cent. was given for every cent of increase. The margin was figured daily on the difference between New York quotations for 8 pounds of middling upland cotton and the average selling price of 45 yards 28-inch 64x64s and 33.11 yards  $38\frac{1}{2}$ -inch 64x64s. No change was to be made in the minimum before October 1, 1906. The dividends paid ranged from zero to ten per cent. It was abandoned on the advance granted July 2, 1906.

The Mule Spinners' Association has for many years been a conservative and powerful organization, numbering in its ranks every spinner in the city and possessed of finances that have allowed it to care for its members through thick and thin. It was established in January, 1858, chiefly by men who had come here from Lancashire, England, where they had seen the benefits of united effort. Patrick Carroll was its first president and John McKeowen secretary. It at once began an agitation for more wages, one-third of which was granted and the remainder obtained prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. During that conflict most of its members shouldered the musket, and the books, which had been closed in 1861, were not re-opened until 1866. In 1870 they asked for an advance of 10 per cent. in wages. The manufacturers offered to compromise on five per cent., but this was refused, and a nine weeks' struggle followed, ending in defeat for the spinners. This was

a severe blow, as hours of labor were increased, wages reduced and the backbone of the union broken. Their efforts were then devoted to securing the passage of the ten-hour law, which they saw put on the statute books in 1874. In February, 1875, three and then six mills were struck for an advance in wages, leading to negotiations with the manufacturers and the resumption of work on the promise of an advance April 1. An agitation for weekly instead of monthly payments was also begun.

What is known as "The Great Vacation" commenced August 1, 1875, following an announcement of a reduction in wages. The operatives, believing a curtailment was a better remedy for the situation, determined to take a month's vacation. At the end of that period the mills gave them another month, and on the ninth week the help were obliged to submit and to sign a document, promising, among other things, not to belong to any trade associations in the future. All the other labor organizations but the spinners went to pieces. Three more reductions in wages and a disastrous strike at the Granite mills led to desertions, and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that the union, the only organization of textile workers in New England at the time, was kept alive. In June, 1878, Robert Howard was elected secretary, and the association soon began to increase in membership and funds.

Early in 1879 conditions of business had so improved that a restoration of part of the wages lost was asked, but refused, and after fruitless negotiations a strike was ordered June 15, which continued until October 26, with considerable bitterness. It was lost for want of money to carry it on. In January, 1880, an increase was given, and the agitation for weekly payments carried on with the result that by April, 19 of the 53 mills made the desired change. In 1885, through the efforts of Mr. Howard, a 60-hour law passed the Legislature and went into effect January 1, 1886. In 1884 had occurred the ten-mills strike against a reduction, which, after 18 weeks, ended in defeat, and in 1886 the spinners were formally recognized by the manufacturers.

The organization reached its largest membership in 1885, with a total of 750, which has since fallen to about 400, owing to the substitution of frame for mule spinning in many mills. Secretary Howard, who had been elected a member of the Legisla-

ture in 1880, was elected to the Senate in 1885 and served consecutively until 1893. He resigned his position with the union in 1897, and was succeeded in July of that year by Thomas O'Donnell, the present secretary, who had been treasurer since 1885.

The present weavers' union, formed February 27, 1888, is the successor of various organizations of weavers more or less short lived. Its name was at first the Weavers' Protective Association and was changed to the Weavers' Progressive Association when it was united with the Amalgamated Association in 1889. The first hall was in the Pocasset block, and it occupied various quarters till the completion of its handsome building on Second street, erected in 1904. This is a four-story structure, costing \$47,000, with stores on the first floor and offices and halls above, the larger with a seating capacity of 839. Patrick J. Connelly, the first secretary, served until April, 1891, when he was succeeded by James Whitehead, the present secretary, who had formerly been treasurer and president. William Granton is now president, and John T. Riley treasurer. The union has a membership of more than 3,000.

About thirty-five years ago Fall River had two or three families of Jews, who came here from the German-speaking portions of Europe. About thirty years ago there were two or three families of Russian and Polish Jews. In 1880 the number increased to about a dozen families. Not until 1891 did the numbers increase to any extent.

That year the terrible persecutions by the Russian government drove the Jews to emigrate to all parts of the world. Many of them found their way here. From that day to this there has been a gradual increase in the Jewish population of Fall River, so that to-day they number about 3,000.

They are settled in groups. Most of them are found in the centre of the city. There is a large number of the Jews in the eastern portion of the city, large enough to maintain a synagogue for themselves.

All told there are three synagogues owned by the congregations—one on Pearl street, one on Union street and one on Quarry street.

The majority of the Jews are engaged in business on their own account, as hawkers or storekeepers. Several of them own stores of considerable size. The rest of the population are clerks or mill workers. Those

occupied in the mills are by no means content, and the first opportunity they get they go into business.

There are no wealthy Jews in Fall River. A few are well fixed. More are moderately well off, but the biggest portion of them are not far removed from a hand-to-mouth existence. There is only a very inconsiderable

number that cannot take care of themselves, and these are provided for by the two Jewish women's societies that have existed for several years.

Besides these societies there are twelve lodges, and the Beaconsfield Club (recently organized), which are ready to alleviate the sufferings of their people.

