



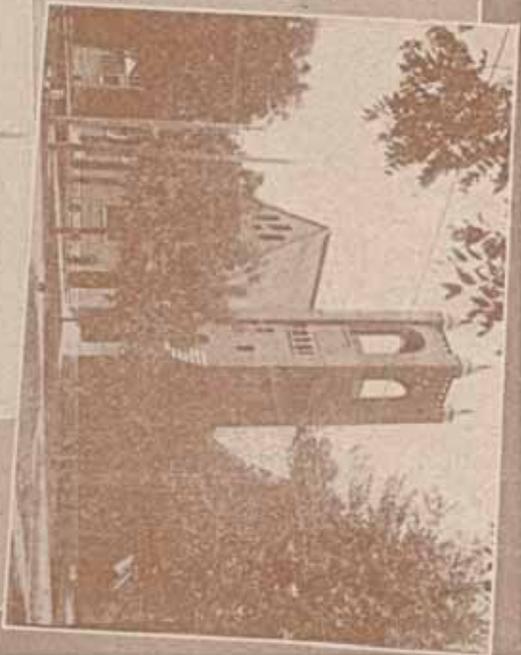
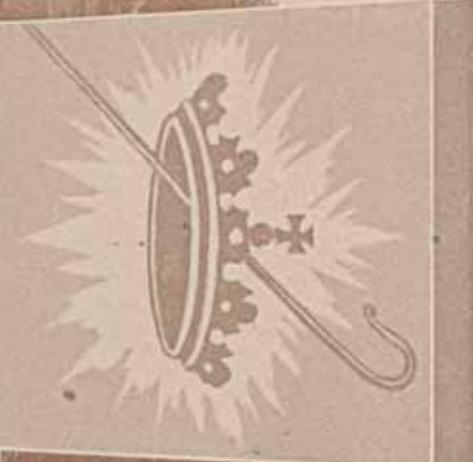
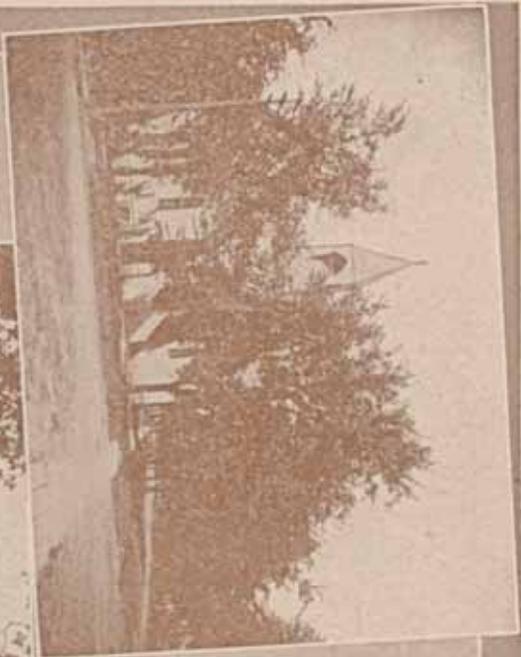
PROBABLY no city of its size in the west has more churches or more enthusiastic congregations than Hastings. Services were held upon the Hastings town site before the municipal corporation was formed. The first services were held in sod houses, and in store rooms, or wherever people could gather together. It is related that in 1872 a party of religious worshippers, finding no other place available, secured the use of a sample room for their service.

About the same time a small congregation utilized Pratt & Lawson's store for religious worship, nail kegs, boxes and barrels being pressed into service as seats.

There are now eighteen church organizations in the city, a detailed account of which follows:

Congregational church—The first services in this section of the country by people of the Congregational church were held in emigrant wagons. In the fall of 1871 the congregation was organized under the direction of Rev. J. F. Clarkson, who came to the county as chaplain for a colony of Englishmen. The services were then held in a sod house on which is known as Moore's addition to the city of Hastings. The building now owned by the Congregational church, at the northeast corner of Lincoln avenue and Sixth street, was built in 1879. The building originally occupied the northeast corner of Lincoln avenue and Third street. It was moved to its present site in 1888. Rev. Hiram B. Harrison, the present pastor, has been in charge since February, 1904. The officers of the church are: Trustees, Hans Hansen, J. H. Fleming, C. I. Van Patten, Dr. Wm. Kern, F. C. Day; deacons, Wm. Duncan, Geo. F. Work, W. H. Waldron, F. F. Carruthers; treasurer, Hans Hansen.

Baptist Church—The early settlers of the Baptist denomination organized a congregation in 1874, Rev. I. D. Newell being engaged as the first pastor. In 1881 the congregation began the erection of its first church home, which was completed and dedicated in the early part of the following year. The present beautiful Baptist church building was completed in 1901. Rev. B. S. Hudson, the present pastor, has been with the Baptist



Evangelical.

First Congregational.

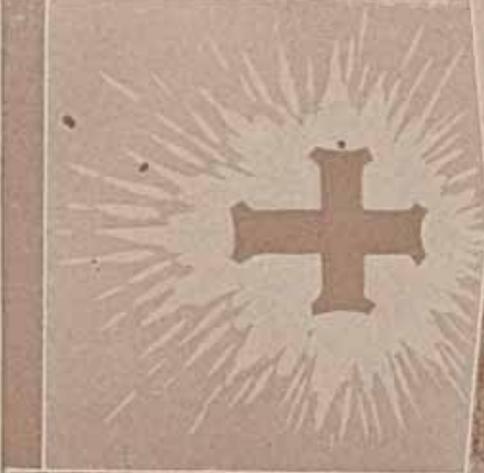
First Presbyterian.

First Church of Christ.

church since April, 1905. The officers of the church organization are: Deacons, C. P. Sheaff, J. H. Rodgers, A. P. Slack, H. H. Starr, Walter Coombe; deaconess; Mrs. H. J. Prather; trustees, C. P. Sheaff, John McGrath, Jacob Wooster, Harvey Waldron, A. R. Giffin; treasurer, Wm. Saxson; clerk, J. E. Nau.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church—As a result of the efforts of Charles Cameron, L. H. Tower, Oswald Oliver, F. J. Benedict, H. M. Oliver, Robert Oliver, A. B. Ideson, J. C. Ideson and L. M. Norton, an Episcopal congregation was formed on May 2, 1880, and Rev. John W. Greenwood was engaged as rector. The church building, at the southeast corner of Fifth street and Burlington avenue, was finished early in 1881, and was dedicated on March 26 by Bishop Clarkson, of Omaha. Rev. Lee H. Young has been rector since September 1, 1904. The officers of the church organization are: Vestrymen—John Slaker, senior warden; Robert Falkner, junior warden; treasurer, Lem Tibbets; O. Oliver, J. M. Sewell, J. M. Ferguson, S. E. Howard, M. A. Hartigan, J. T. Steele; clerk, Burgess Hartigan; warden emeritus, E. C. Burton.

First Presbyterian Church—The life of the Presbyterian church of Hastings dates back to August 15, 1873, when a small band of people of the Presbyterian faith assembled in the building then being erected for the Methodist church, and formed an organization. The first pastor was Rev. James A. Griffis, with Samuel Alexander and A. L. Wigton as elders, and James Reed as deacon. For two years services were held in the school building and after that in Millett's hall, until the completion of the congregation's first church home in 1878. The building now owned by the Presbyterian church was completed in 1888. Rev. E. Van Dyke Wight, after serving in the pastorate seven years, resigned on March 25, 1906, in order to devote his entire time to the presidency of Hastings College, a position he had held in connection with his church duties for three years. Rev. C. W. Weyer was elected pastor at the annual business meeting of the church on November 1, 1906. The officers of the church are: Elders, W. N. Filson, Fred Pease, W. H. Fuller, P. L. Johnson, G. H. Edgerton, A. Bowles, Charles Bunce, C. L. Jones; deacons, A. Haynes, H. C. Kerr, H. Carpenter, C. A. Heartwell, N. V. Stine, Geo. Brown; trustees, W. F. Buchanan, Fred Pease, G. H. Pratt; treasurer, L. A. Payne.



Methodist Episcopal.
St. Cecelia's Catholic.

First Baptist.
St. Mark's Episcopal.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church—The Methodists held their first service on September 22, 1872, in the section house of the St. Joe & Denver City railroad, now the St. Joe & Grand Island. Rev. R. H. Crane was the first pastor. The Methodists erected the first church building in Hastings on lots at the northwest corner of Second street and Kansas avenue, given to the organization by the Railroad Town Company. The building was later sold to the Evangelical Association. The building now owned by the Methodist church was begun in 1880 at the northwest corner of Third street and Burlington avenue, and was completed at a cost of about \$6,000. Rev. M. Bamford is pastor. Dr. John W. Straight is superintendent of Sunday school.

St. Cecilia's Catholic Church—The Catholic church of Hastings was organized in 1879 with Rev. George Klauber as priest. The first services were held at the residence of Thomas E. Farrell. A church building was begun in 1879 and in the following year a parish house was built. The church is in charge of Father Wm. McDonald, with Father Gilroy as assistant.

United Brethren Church—Was organized in 1892 and now has a membership of over 125. Rev. S. M. Zike is pastor. The church building is located at the southeast corner of Third street and St. Joe avenue.

The First Church of Christ—Was organized in 1885 and has a large frame church building at the southeast corner of Fourth street and Lexington avenue. A large addition to which was completed in 1906. Rev. Robert A. Schell is pastor.

First Church of Christ, Scientist—This church was organized in 1900. Services are held at 214 North Lincoln avenue. Walter H. Brownell is reader.

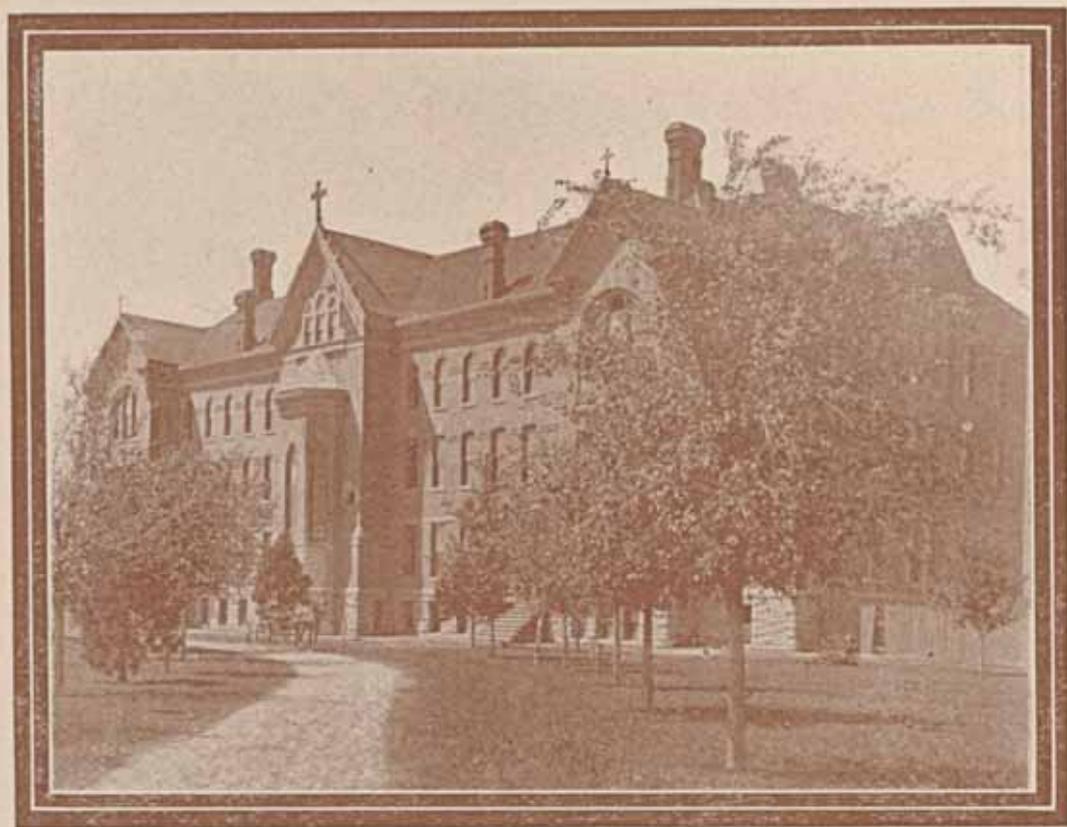
German Congregational Church—Was organized in 1890, and now has a membership of over 200. The church building is at 402 New York avenue. Rev. P. J. Theil is pastor.

German Evangelical Association—Was organized in 1879 and now has a membership of about 100. The church home is at the corner of Colorado avenue and Fourth street. Rev. F. W. Schuelzky is pastor.

German Evangelical Church—Was organized in 1894, and now has a membership of over 120. Rev. Aug. Lemkau is pastor.

St. Paul's German Lutheran Church—A congregation of this denomination was organized in 1878. The church now has a membership of about 100. Rev. W. M. Kronsbein is pastor. The church home is at the corner of Fifth street and Burlington avenue.

St. Paul's German Lutheran Church, of South Hastings—The congregation was organized in 1894, and now has a member-



Convent Building.

ship of upwards of 100. Services are held at the southwest corner of New York avenue and C. street. Rev. Henry Siekman is pastor.

Zion German Lutheran Church—The congregation was organized in 1900. Rev. L. W. Plehn is pastor. Services are held at the southeast corner of Denver avenue and B street.

Hamilton Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church—The congregation was organized in 1904. Services are held at the southwest corner of Hastings avenue and D street. Rev. Johnson Taylor is pastor.

German Presbyterian Church—Services are held at the southwest corner of St. Joe avenue and B street. The congregation was organized in 1886 and now has a membership of about 100. Rev. A. C. Kruse is pastor.

Mennonite Brethren—The congregation owns a new church building at the corner of A street and Cass avenue. John Brehm is minister.

The Young Men's Christian Association—Was formed in the spring of 1881, its first officers being: James B. Heartwell, president; O. C. Hubbell, vice-president; E. B. Stevenson, corresponding secretary; L. H. Felt, recording secretary; Walter Snook, treasurer. The present officers are:

President, Harry Dungan; treasurer, G. H. Edgerton; secretary, J. W. Hogue.

The Y. M. C. A. building, now in course of construction, will be notably complete in all its arrangements. The total cost of building and furnishing will be approximately \$30,000, nearly all of which has already been subscribed. The building is constructed of brick, with stone trimmings, and is three stories high, with a deep basement. A natatorium, a gymnasium, reading rooms, and the men's apartments on the third floor are among the building's features.

The Hastings Public Library, which is now housed in a building erected with a donation of \$15,000 by Andrew Carnegie, was originally opened in January, 1888. The library was maintained by the Library Mite Society and until it was taken in charge by the city government a nominal fee was charged its patrons.

The Carnegie building, at the southeast corner of Fourth street and Denver avenue, was completed in the spring of 1905. The library now has about 6,000 volumes. Miss Mabel Stone is librarian.

The building now owned by the United Brethren Church was built in 1878 by the Free Religious Church Society, and was called Liberal Hall. The society was composed of citizens of Hastings whose opinions upon religious subjects were not confined to any particular denominational creed or doctrine. After a few years the services of the society were discontinued. The first officers of Liberal Hall were John N. Lyman, president; R. A. Batty, treasurer; George W. Mowry, secretary; E. Steinau, M. K. Lewis and A. D. Yocum, trustees.