



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

American Library Association Madison Day souvenir booklet. July 9, 1901

[s.l.]: [s.n.], July 9, 1901

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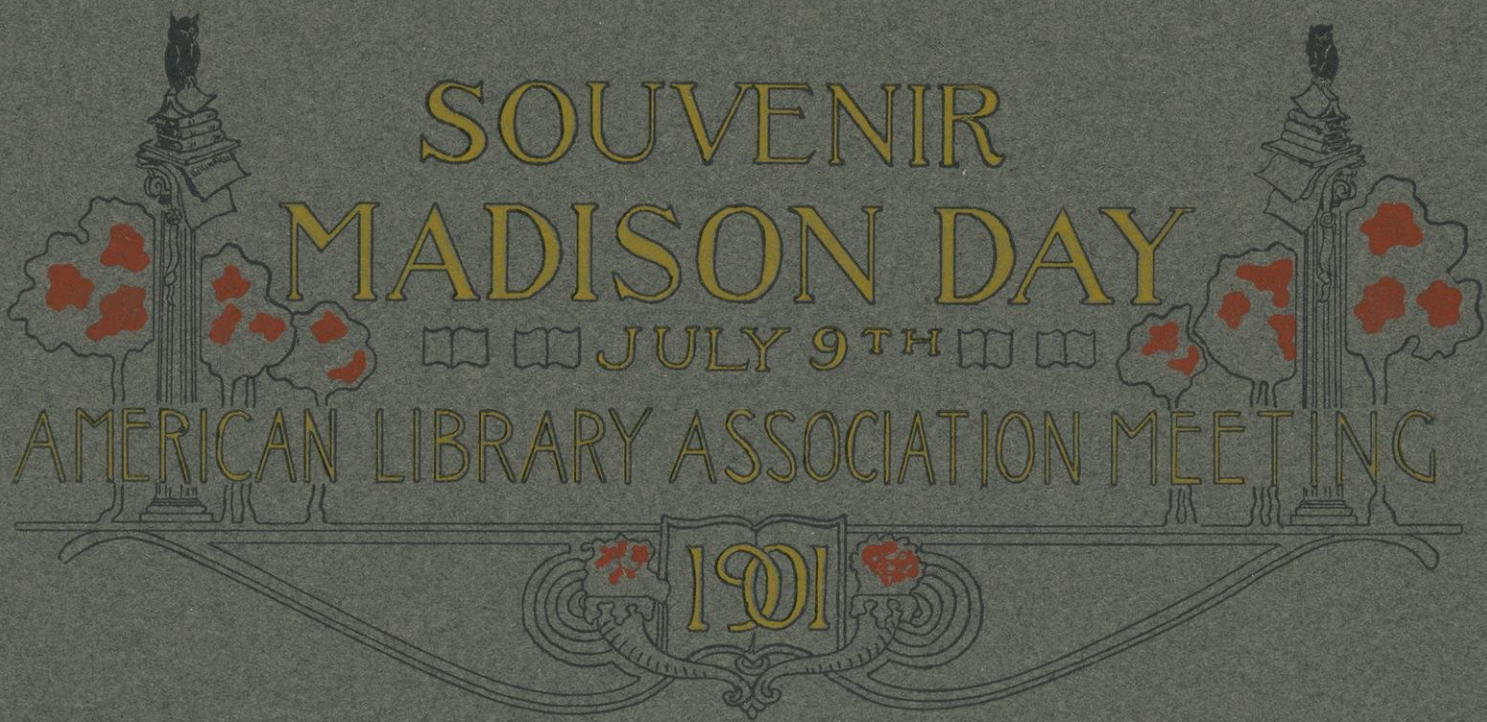
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SOUVENIR

MADISON DAY

JULY 9TH

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

1901

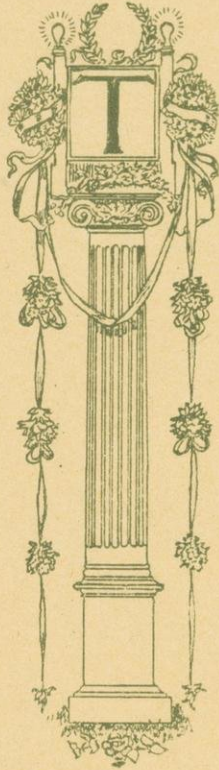


The WISCONSIN
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LIBRARY BUILDING



A SOUVENIR of
MADISON DAY
A.L.A. MEETING JULY 9th 1901





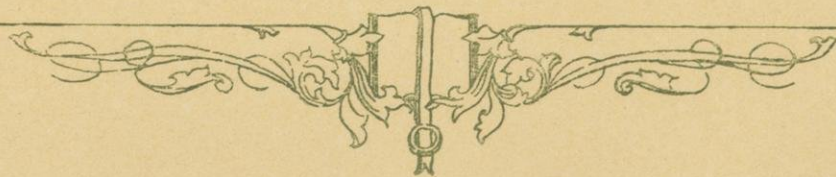
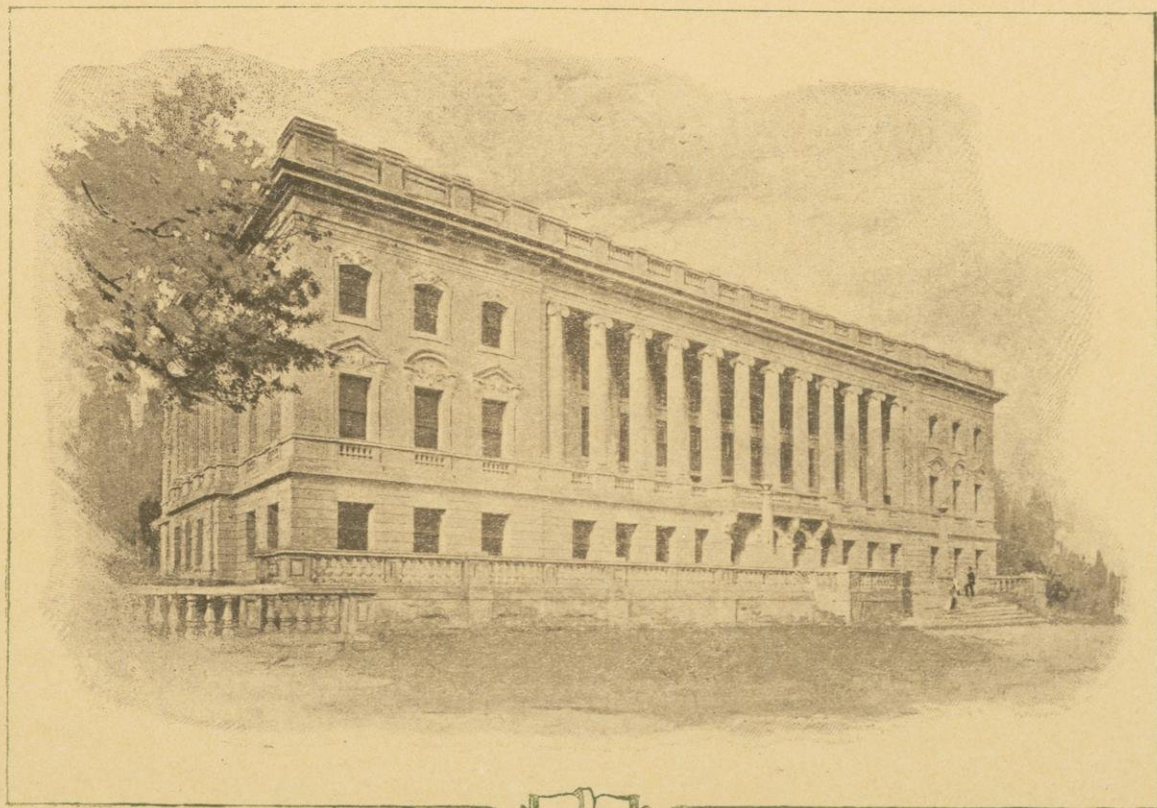
THE new building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, at Madison, is one of the most artistic, well built, well arranged, and conveniently equipped library structures in the United States. Its cost, fully equipped and furnished, was about \$600,000; but contracts were awarded at a time (1896) when prices were at their ebb — the building would now (1901) probably cost a million.

The statutes providing for the construction of the building permitted the Society to invite thereto such other State-supported libraries as it deemed proper. From the first it was well understood that the library of the University was also to be housed beneath the same roof. Ample provisions were therefore made for the latter, and to this fact the plans owe their somewhat peculiar arrangement. The attempt has been made, and we believe successfully, to provide for two distinct libraries, separately administered, but using the reading and consultation rooms in common. By joint agreement the Historical

Society retains the general administration of the entire building, such as heating, lighting, cleaning, repairing, policing, and the special custody of all rooms to which the public are admitted; but the University controls the actual daily use



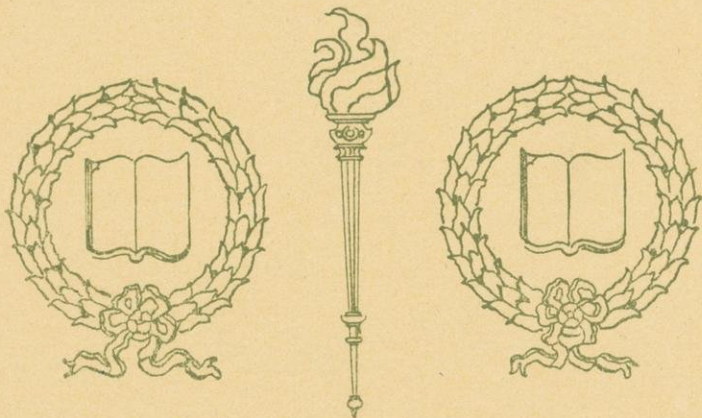
WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING



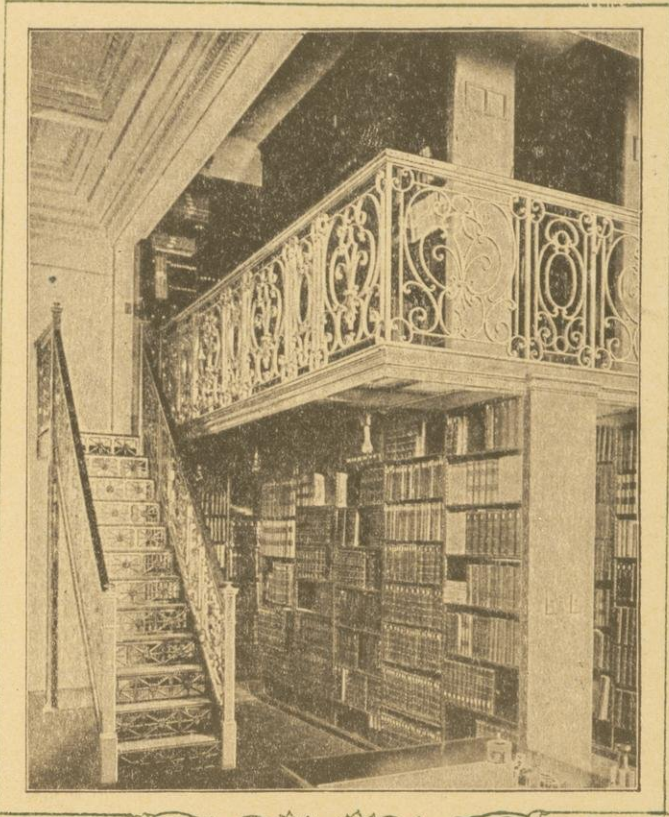
of its own offices, seminary rooms, storage rooms, and the space assigned to it in the south-west book-stack wing. When the north-west book-stack wing is constructed the University library will be transferred thereto. This wing will be in direct connection with the administrative rooms of that library.

There are entrances upon all four façades. The principal façade is on the east, facing the "lower campus" of the University, and the city. The best and most familiar views of the structure are from the south-east on State Street, and the north-east on Langdon Street, but these fail to give an adequate conception of its depth from east to west. The situation is commanding. As the ground slopes upward to the west (rear) a balconied terrace is rendered necessary on the east, north and south sides. The outlook from the general reading room is an interesting roof-view of the neighborhood, with pretty glimpses of Lake Mendota, dissected by the University gymnasium and neighboring residences; from the roof there is visible a wide sweep of land and water.

The building, designed by Ferry & Clas, architects, of Milwaukee, is constructed of buff Bedford limestone, from Bedford, Ind. The architecture is of the Ionic order, in the renaissance style, and in some points resembles, although less elaborate than, the Milwaukee Public Library and Museum building by the same architects. While the exterior of the structure is distinctly the work of the architects the interior arrangement — as is proper, for this is a librarians' workshop — is in all es-



A STACK ROOM



sentia] particulars the plan of those who are to occupy it. Their wishes — based on experience, on the peculiar needs of the Historical and University libraries, and on wide observation and study of other great reference and college libraries in this country and abroad — have been faithfully observed by the architects, and it is believed that the building is as nearly perfect, from a librarian's point of view, as is possible under the circumstances.

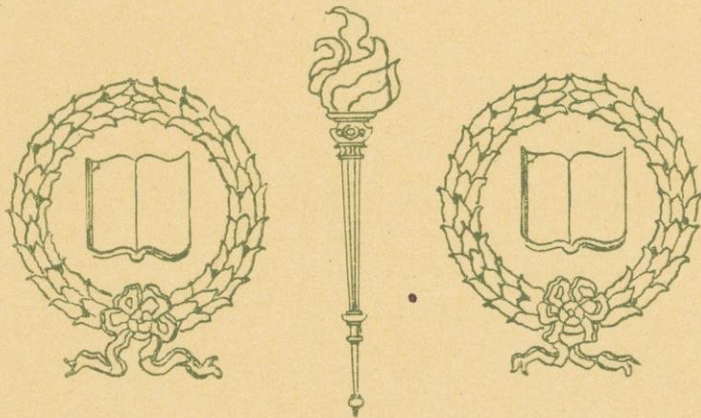
The building is heated by steam conveyed in a tunnel leading from the neighboring central power plant of the University, and is furnished throughout with pneumatic heat regulators. It is lighted solely by electricity, obtained from the

local city plant. Drinking water is furnished from the city system of artesian wells; water for cleaning comes from the University pumping station.

In the basement, besides the fans and heating and plumbing machinery, are located unpacking, duplicate, and storage rooms, toilet and dressing rooms for the janitorial staff, bicycle rooms for readers, and the bulk of the large collection of bound newspaper files for which the Wisconsin Historical Library is famous; these are placed on steel shelves furnished by the Art Metal Construction Co., of Jamestown, N. Y.

Upon the first (or main entrance) floor are public toilet and cloak rooms, and the departmental libraries devoted to maps and manuscripts and public documents; there is also here located the public consultation room for newspaper files, the 17th and 18th century files being in this room upon steel shelves of the "Standard" pattern. Upon the same floor the University School of History, and School of Economics and Political Science have their headquarters, together with seminaries for the departments of Mathematics and Commerce.

Upon the second floor the offices of the State Historical Society are ranged along the south side, and those of the University Library upon the north; between is the principal feature of the building — the great reading room and its annex, the "Poole periodicals" room. The reading room, fitted with solid mahogany furniture, seats 240 readers; the "Poole room," as the students facetiously term it, is fitted with a double-storied





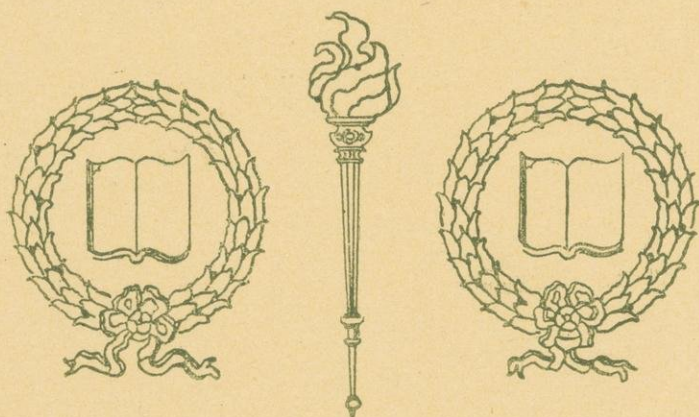
MAIN READING ROOM

"Standard" all-steel stack. Connected with the reading room are the delivery desks and the public card catalogue; immediately over these is the visitors' gallery, to which alone the non-reading public is admitted. The reading room, upon the walls of which are 5,000 selected reference books, communicates with the impressive loggia extending along the front of the building.

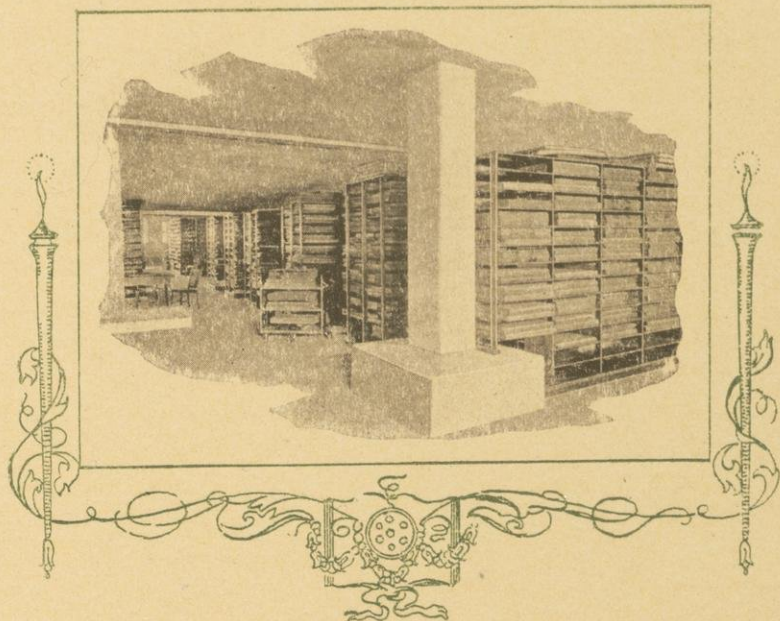
Upon the third floor there are, upon the south side, a lecture hall, convenient toilet rooms, a staff room, and a study for the superintendent; on the north side are seminary rooms for the University, devoted to German, Greek and Latin, French, English, and Philosophy and Education. Between are the visitors' balcony above mentioned and study rooms for visitors. In each of the seminary rooms there is a special library, and upon the visitors' balcony is the State Historical Society's departmental library of Genealogy and Art.

The fourth floor is devoted to the Society's museum and portrait gallery, with a well-appointed photographic dark room, public toilet rooms, janitors' room, etc.

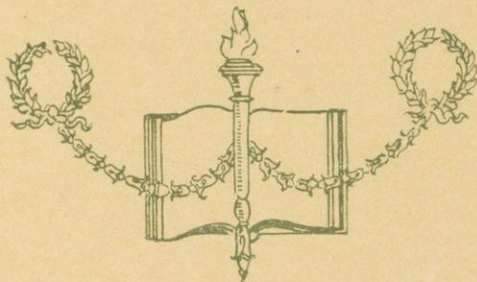
When the building is completed, there will, as above intimated, be two book-stack wings; at present only the southwest wing has been constructed. There are six stories of the stack, each about 7 feet 4 inches high, fitted with steel book shelves of the "Standard" pattern, furnished by the Art Metal Construction Company. In addition to an electric service elevator and an electric book-lift, a continuous stairway connects

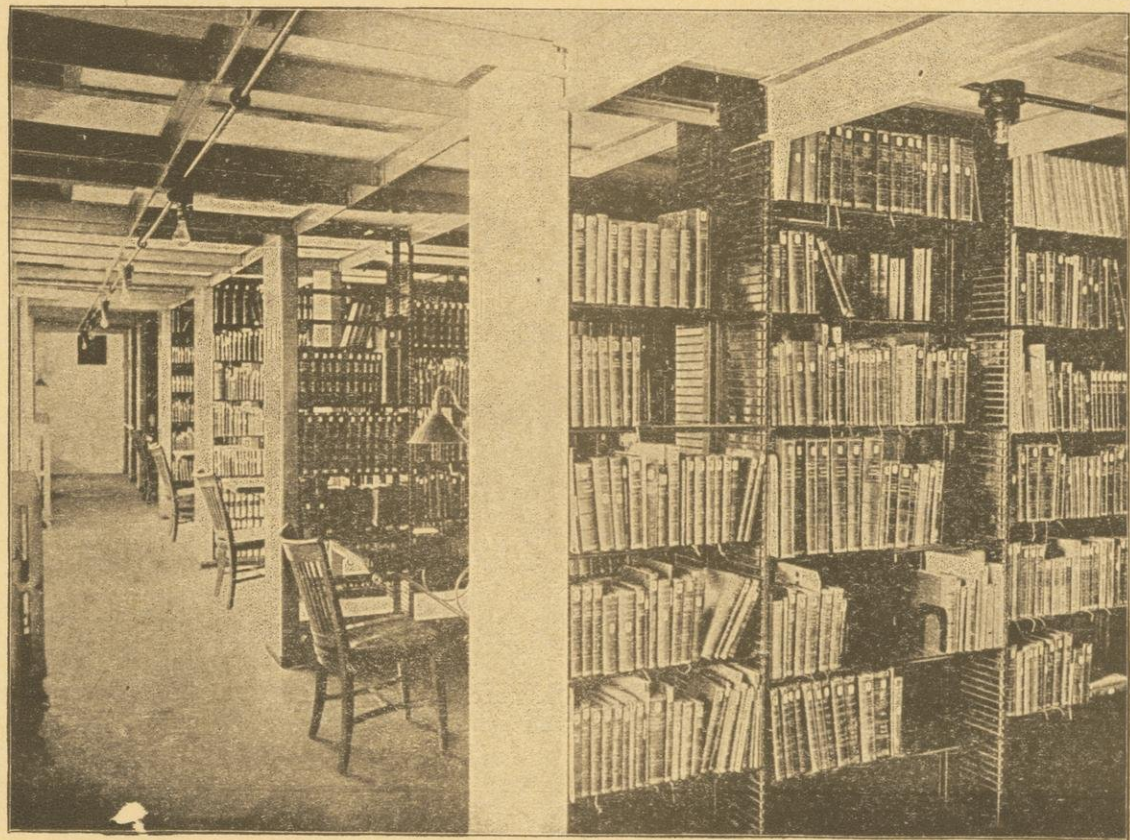


NEWSPAPER ROOM



the several floors. Upon each floor of the stack are desks and tables for the use of those specialists and advanced students who have received permission to go to the shelves; alternate cases are shortened to make room for small study desks. Each floor of the stack will shelve 40,000 volumes — thus the stack wing now completed has a capacity of 240,000. Adding the books in the reading room, the periodical room, the several departmental libraries, the newspaper stack in the basement, the libraries of the University seminaries, and the proposed north-west stack wing, as yet unbuilt, the normal capacity of the building will ultimately be about 685,000 volumes.

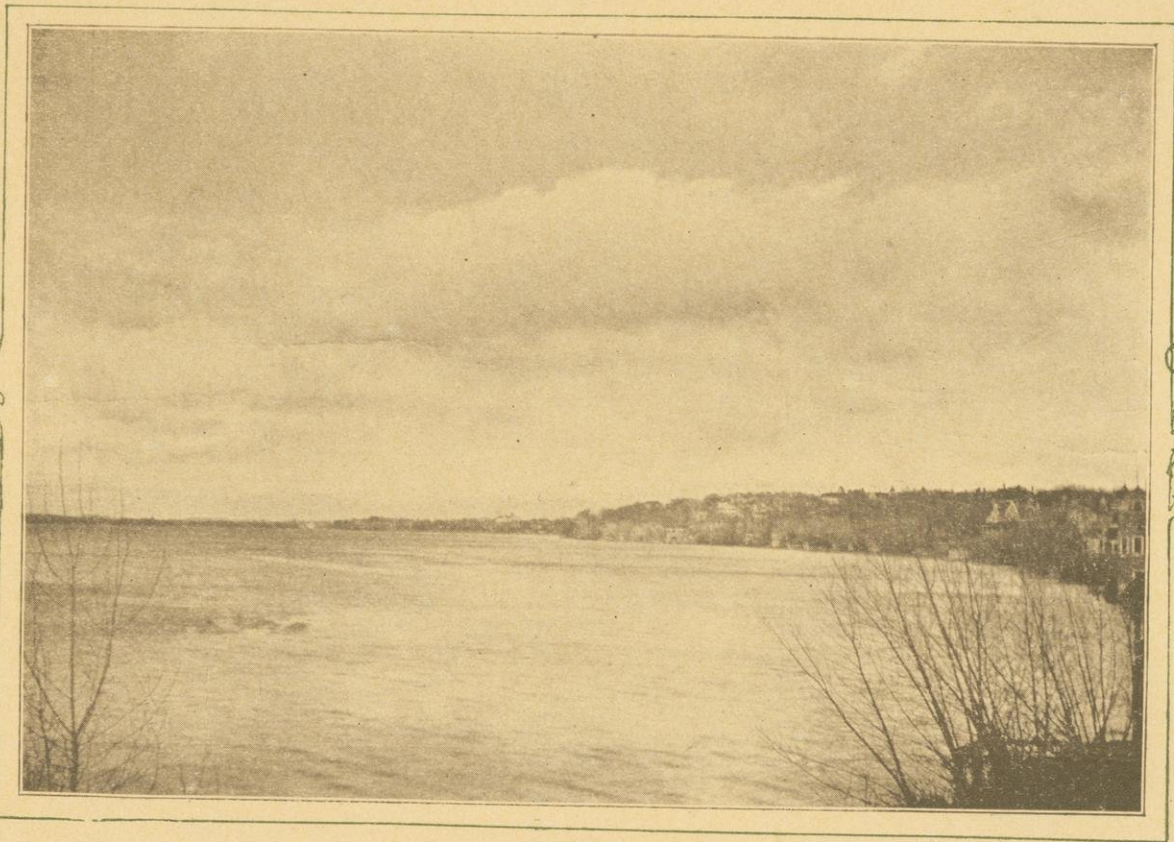




ANOTHER OF THE SIX STACK ROOMS



“ POOLE ” READING ROOM



VIEW OF LAKE MENDOTA FROM LIBRARY

Compliments
of



ART METAL
CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY
Jamestown N.Y.



