

NEW LIBRARY IS DESIRABLE

Investigation Turning Toward Carnegie As a Possible Benefactor.

There has been some correspondence on private account by Peabody parties who think it is about time that the city had a bigger Public Library, to see if connection could be made with the Carnegie plan for libraries by which so many towns are profiting.

At the last meeting of the Commercial Club opportunity was afforded that body to lend a helping hand in this direction, and a committee has been appointed to get in shape some proposition that will appeal to the iron king. It is understood that Peabody will have to tell what it would like to have, and what we are prepared to do, and then the Carnegie board will look wise, and perhaps ask us to make good.

The Carnegie plan ought to be inclusive enough to provide a suitable home for one of the pioneer libraries of the middle West. Here, at any rate, a library is appreciated, which is more than can be said of all towns. There may be some reluctance to place Peabody in the attitude of courting favor for the library founded forty years ago. It is doubtful whether any Carnegie gift would stimulate civic pride as has the modest building which our people have always been glad to show to their friends. The new one will be a Carnegie Library – this is the Peabody Library.

But just as with the old homestead, when the log cabin gives way to the brown stone front, we will probably get used to it – that is, unless we have the moral independence to build what we want without asking favors. Let the request be made in a dignified way, so we will have nothing to regret even if we are turned down, and maybe our attitude will be appreciated. Certainly, Peabody would like a new library.

The Peabody Gazette Herald, February 12, 1913, page 5.