# what they are doing

# Harold Cooper, A. R. I. B. A. (Soane Medalist)

Architect, Saskatoon

When Mr. Harold Cooper, a few months ago, chose Saskatoon as the ideal location for his profession, he not only made a wise choice but, in doing so he paid a compliment to the artistic intelligence of the citizens. How his decision has been justified is best examplified in the commissions Mr. Cooper is already undertaking in Saskatoon and the vicinity. Mr. Cooper before coming to Canada had already a splendid reputation for good work in the Old Country—a reputation begotten of a large experience in designing many important public works and buildings and in town planning. Before settling down to routine work, the subject of this sketch won the Soane premier prize which is open to all British subjects. The winning of this great prize entitled him to a six months' tour for the purpose of studying the masters of Europe. Mr. Cooper's first work was to act as assistant to the architect of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Offices, Liverpool, which is practically the first building of any note that meets the eye of the visitor to England. He was next engaged in H. M. Office of Works, where he designed many Government buildings, including some of the largest Post Offices in the country. After gaining a good experience Mr. Cooper commenced, in partnership with Mr. W. H. Slater, in private practise in Lancashire. The firm of Cooper and Slater soon secured a large practice principally in open competition. For instance the firm was one of six selected out of over 200 to compete finally for the beautiful Library and Art Gallery in Manchester, which was erected at a cost of over one million dollars. Mr. Cooper built the Council Schools, Blackburn, St. Anne's Golf Club House, and won the Town Planning competition of the Blackeley Estate, Manchester. He also won the second prize for Cardiff Technical College, second prize Blackpool Public Library and many others. These successes in a country where competition is of the keenest show something of the calibre of Mr. Cooper, particularly when one considers that the best architects enter for every public contract that is given out.

When Mr. Cooper was asked his opinion on Canadian architecture, he considered that though the general standard of architectural design was somewhat low, in every city he has visited he came across buildings which any country would be proud of. He had every confidence that in the near future Saskatoon would not only be one of the prosperous cities of the great West, but one of the best designed and beautiful.

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