

LEADING CANADIAN STORES

F. B. BAGSHAW, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

IN the book and stationery trade it is a common saying that the west is the place for up-to-date stores.

If the business presided over by Mr. F. B. Bagshaw in Portage la Prairie, may be taken as a sample, the saying is undoubtedly true. In few eastern towns the size of Portage la Prairie will a better store be found.

The present premises occupied by Mr. Bagshaw were opened in September last, and already the pressure of business has made itself felt to such an extent that what was deemed amply sufficient last year is now found to be too small. As may be seen from the illustrations, the front of the store has a single large show

ed out to Fisher, and after several months Fisher in turn sold out to N. B. Scott.

Mr. Bagshaw, on leaving Todhunter, took a position with Scott, and remained with him until the business was again sold in the Spring of 1900 to Dr. R. H. Robertson. Mr. Bagshaw thereupon took the management, the style of the firm being Robertson & Bagshaw. After a year, Dr. Robertson, holding other interests, wished to retire, and turned the whole business over to Mr. Bagshaw, making a fourth change in a little over two years.

Mr. Bagshaw commenced business for himself in April, 1901. In January, 1903, fire completely destroyed



INTERIOR VIEW, BAGSHAW'S BOOK STORE

window, which admits of effective displays. The interior is well equipped with shelving, stands, showcases, and other devices for showing goods. A large stock of books, stationery, fancy goods, pictures, etc., is on hand.

Mr. Bagshaw is a native of Manchester, England. He came to this country in the Spring of 1894, at the age of 15, proceeding direct to Winnipeg. For three years he lived on a farm, and then took a position in Todhunter's book store in Portage la Prairie. He remained with Todhunter until the Fall of 1899. At that time there were three bookstores in Portage la Prairie: Todhunter's, Douglas' and W. A. Prest Co.'s. Prest

his stock, thus wiping out the pioneer book and stationery business of the town, which had been started in 1877 by Raynor & Co. In March of the same year Mr. Bagshaw, being unable to get a store purchased the stock of the Davis Fair, and with it the lease of their premises.

In the Spring of 1904, the owner of the property commenced the building of a brick block, and no other course being open Mr. Bagshaw was compelled to purchase the building and move it on to the street, where, during the whole Summer, he had the unique and somewhat unenviable experience of doing business in a "jacked-up" building on the street.