

ceptions, the business men form a body of bright, intelligent, broad-minded citizens, who would be a credit to any city, and who, it is to be hoped, will live to see themselves citizens of no mean city of their own making, as a reward for their stick-to-it-iveness if I may be allowed to trench on the prerogative of a brilliant westerner and coin a word to suit the thought. They are stayers these Prince Albert fellows. Just look at the record of their experience written elsewhere. Fifteen and twenty years in business without a pause, the most of them! Doesn't that show staying powers? And I am going to state an almost incredible fact now; true of no other place in the whole west. I venture. In all the history of the town not a man who ever entered retail business has had to close his doors or has gone out of business and not paid 100 cents on the dollar.

And there has been large business done. There are more men in each line in the town than in any other town of its size, yet all have made a living. In the old times when waiting for a railway, the settlement could do no grain growing for export, so that was limited and necessarily much business was done by barter or exchange by the merchants for their goods the latter depending on selling the produce to traders, travellers and other non-producers. Oftentimes have they taken produce in quantities they knew they could not dispose of, but still they stood to the settlers. Cattle raising was an industry which could and did thrive, and to-day there are large herds in the district.

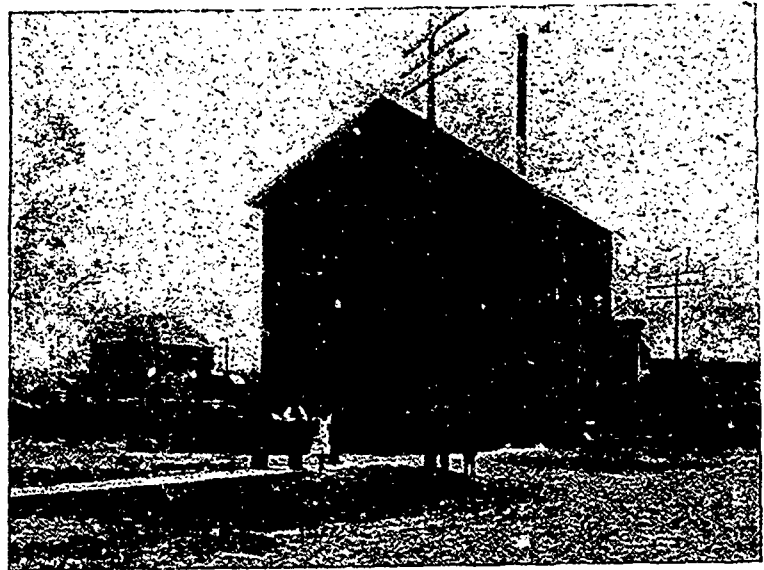
The fur trade was an important factor for the merchants of Prince Albert in the years before the railway. It was the main business of many of them so much so that they called and still call them "fur traders." Many of them have still men employed at outposts at various northern points. The H. B. Co. too made this the chief part of the district and supplied for the chains of northern posts, both east and north went out over the trail to Green Lake and Portage la Loche. One factor in making this a chief port was the company's large flour mill, erected here on account of the excellence of the wheat and that the quantity produced could be depended on steadily. This was a great factor in developing the district and encouraging the settlers to grow grain. The company's mill supplied flour to all the post north, east, and west, thousands of sacks going into the Mackenzie river country and intervening points. The steamer on the river carried loads of it up the river as far as Edmonton and down to Cumberland. This they still do every summer. Both mill and steamer are in charge of Mr. R. McGinn.

Since the railway, and hence possible shipment of produce to markets, the settlement in the Saskatchewan district have rapidly increased and trade has grown accordingly. Great to press for Dominion grant to supply quantities of stock are shipped every year, lumber, from the native spruce, a superior variety, is shipped in large quantities. There have been two grist mills since '91 and there have consumed and made into flour a large part of the wheat grown. They have done a large export trade and Prince Albert flour has a wide reputation. This year the quantity of grain grown attracted more of the grain companies and exporters than before and in another season or two numerous elevators will be seen at the railway

points. The fur trade from the north country has continued good, being still an important item of the volume of business, though long since overshadowed by growing interests. Lumbering has been an important industry since 1876, when the Moore and Macdowell mill was first built. Afterwards it was greatly enlarged until it is one of the finest plants in the country. Unfortunately it has been idle for some time. Keith & Co. have another mill also a large one, with every modern improvement and with a complete plant for making kiln dried lumber. The third mill is owned by Jas. H. Sanderson, west of the town, the others being at the east end; Mr. Keith's near the H. B. flour mill and the Moore & Macdowell mill a mile further. Mr. Sanderson has been here a long time and has built up a good business. He annually cuts a large quantity of spruce and besides has a complete planing mill and wood turning shop. All kinds of mouldings, sash, panel doors, etc., are made from the native spruce which is of a much superior quality to the spruce further east. The samples of moulds in

prettiest building site is on the gradual slope up to the second bench or plateau, or on the plateau itself which is a very commanding position, and is already crowned with a number of fine houses, and with the handsome court house and the extensive barracks of the N. W. M. police, the second largest in the Territories, this being a principal post. Trees are numerous both for beauty and shelter, and from any point of the town a lovely view can be had of the broad, majestic river, and the sloping forest-covered lands on the north side, made all the prettier by the contrasting shade of the dark fir or spruce with other foliage. The river as a place of recreation and amusement is unsurpassed.

A splendid red brick, locally manufactured, enters largely in the material of the best buildings. The fine town hall and offices are built of brick, the court house and many residences. At the west end is situated the cathedral church and palace of Bishop Pascal, of Saskatchewan, and a large convent school. Further west, a mile or so is the Emmanuel college,



KIDD'S FLOUR MILL, PRINCE ALBERT

large and fancy patterns, which I saw, were as good as if made of pine. The supply of spruce in the district is almost inexhaustible.

The two flour mills are described elsewhere in this number. The fishing industry of the many lakes and rivers that dot this northern country, is one which is important, not only industrially, but as supplying plentifully a cheap, wholesome article of food. Salmon, whitefish, jackfish, pickerel and other varieties are obtained. Game is abundant, being not only an agreeable addition to the bill of fare at times, but a pleasant recreation.

Prince Albert is situated on the south bank of the Saskatchewan river, the main business street running along the bank so that the water forms one side of it, the stores, etc., facing directly on the river. The first bench of the valley is narrow, and is pretty well built up with business places and residences though the whole length of about three miles from one end to the other of the settlement is not built up. Perhaps the

a large institution built and maintained by the Church of England.

The location is all that could be desired for a town, except the location of the railway depot, which is situated more than a mile from the business portion of the town. If the future makes Prince Albert a city of large proportions, the site is ample for all requirements and admirably adapted for drainage, street railways, waterworks, etc. Already the town is lighted by electricity, a company having been formed some years ago, and erected a serviceable plant, giving good satisfaction. A good telephone system is installed, with the central exchange in Geo. W. Baker's book and stationery store. The town policeman — Westwood — is a fine specimen of manhood, affectionately called "Scotty." His office as far as keeping peace is concerned, is a sinecure. Fraternal societies flourish here, probably due to the fostering spirit of brotherly kindness so apparent all through the community. The writer never visited a town where there was less petty jealousy and narrow selfishness, so fatal