

FREDERICK J. SMITH.

The name of Frederick J. Smith is well known in real estate circles in Toronto, in which connection he has a most extensive clientage. He has developed his business along modern lines, displaying the spirit of enterprise and energy which are characteristic of the age and which have been the dominant factors in the commercial upbuilding of Toronto. It was in this city that Mr. Smith first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 1st of August, 1861. His father, Henry Smith, came to Canada in 1850 and for many years was identified with the Robert Wilkes Company, which afterwards became the firm of Smith & Fudger, wholesale dealers in fancy goods. He was also associated with the Goldsmith Stock Company, of which he was the promoter, and in his business life made substantial progress. He died April 21, 1896.

At the usual age Frederick J. Smith entered the public schools of Toronto, but put aside his text-books there when quite young and began the study of architecture, serving a regular apprenticeship to the profession. He decided not to devote his life to that calling, however, and turned his attention to the real estate business under the direction of T. H. McCall, a builder and real estate agent. He was afterward engaged with the firm of Butler & Lake as bookkeeper and in 1885 opened a real estate office on his own account. Gradually he developed a business of considerable proportions, and after remaining alone for several years he admitted A. G. Hodgetts to a partnership, this connection continuing until 1902, at which time A. D. Parker was admitted to the firm under the present style of F. J. Smith & Company. The principal department of the business is the handling of estates, the most important of these in Canada being entrusted to the company. In fact the business partakes more of the nature of a trust company than of a private concern. However, the firm also has an extensive patronage along other lines, especially in the purchase and sale of real estate and in valuating and arbitrating property interests. The insurance business also conducted has reached large proportions, and the firm of F. J. Smith & Company is one of the most prominent in real estate circles in Toronto.