

OUR EDMONTON LETTER.

(Special Correspondence of Journal of Commerce.)

EDMONTON, JUNE 17th.

Thomas Walker, city assessor, has just submitted the second civic census to Mayor William Short, showing that the population of Edmonton was 67,243 on May 1, as against 53,611 on June 1, 1912, an increase approximating 25 per cent. Calder, which is within the city limits, but will be incorporated as a village, and several other suburban settlements are not included in the foregoing figures. The Dominion census, taken in 1911, gave the Edmonton and Strathcona, now merged, a population of 30,462. The correctness of the census was challenged at the time, as being too low.

Analysis of the figures for 1913 shows there are 28,469 males and 15,999 females over 21 years of age, 10,992 males and 10,869 females under 21 years and 915 unclassified, while on May 1, 1912, there were 22,630 males and 11,452 females over 21 years, 8,247 males and 8,591 females under 21 years and 2,691 unclassified.

The total assessments, levied on land values only, are estimated at \$190,000,000 this year, as compared with \$123,500,000, exclusive of exemptions in 1912, when the tax rate was 12 mills on the dollar. It is announced that the rate will be somewhere between 12 and 14 mills this year. There are 27,000 names on the assessment lists for 1913, as against 19,000 names last year.

Permits for buildings costing more than \$23,000,000 have been issued since the Dominion Government took the census in 1911. Of this total \$14,500,000 was expended in buildings erected during 1912. Architects and contractors estimate that the \$20,000,000 mark will be reached this year.

Morley Donaldson, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, announced in Edmonton that steel will reach Fort George, B.C., this summer and that two ends will be connected in September, 1914. He said that if labor conditions and weather are favorable the line might be finished before then, but this was allowing for contingencies. Steel was now westward as far as Mile 80 B.C., and would be laid without interruption now onward to mile 147 at the second crossing of the Fraser River. The Fraser River probably will be crossed on a temporary structure and the permanent steel bridge will follow later. Several thousand men are now employed on the line west of Edmonton.

T. G. McConkey, superintendent of agencies of the Canada Life Assurance Company announced in Edmonton that the company will erect an eight story steel and terra cotta building of most modern design and construction at First and Rice streets. Work will begin as soon as the plans are completed.

E. Williams who has been engaged in sheep ranching in Australia and New Zealand for 20 years and pioneered with Morgan, discoverer of Mt. Morgan, famous in the gold mining history of Australia, is in Edmonton on a tour of Western Canada looking for a suitable range to devote to ranching, something after the style of Australia.

Donald Urquhart of Ayrshire, Scotland, is in Edmonton looking for a site to establish a commercial poultry and truck ranch, in which capitalists from abroad will be interested.

Eighty representative business men of Winnipeg, making a trip of 2,860 miles over the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railway systems visited Edmonton on May 23 as guests of the Ad club, the members of which were assisted in entertaining the guests by Mayor William Short and officials of the municipality and President H. H. Cooper and officers of the Board of Trade. Every minute of the day and evening

was occupied, beginning with a tour of the city in motor cars, followed by a mid-day luncheon at the Corona hotel, the race meet at the exhibition grounds in the afternoon and theatres in the evening. The visit of the Winnipeggers was also recorded on moving picture film.

Referring to Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, Mayor Short said among other things:—

"We have started out on the fringe of civilization to make a city. We are doing it, and when we have finished we will eclipse even Winnipeg. We have the making of the greatest city in the Dominion. We have every faith in the future of our city and unbounded confidence in central Alberta and Western Canada. The actual development that has taken place in the last few years is surprising even the most optimistic, but this is nothing to what it will be during the coming years."

H. R. Cooper, president of the Board of Trade, seconded the welcome extended by Mayor Short and Mr. Fraser and expressed the pleasure of the organization in assisting to entertain the visitors. He was followed by R. C. Riley, president of the Northern Trust Company of Winnipeg, who referred to himself as a city farmer who has made success in the country.

Mr. Riley said there were two classes of farmers who do not win out as a rule. One is the farmer who wants to live in the city, and the other man who thinks he can direct the farming operations from his office in the city, adding: "This proves that the farmer's real place is on the farm. We need more real farmers—men who know how to till the soil and handle livestock and poultry."

The luncheon came to a close with rousing cheers by the Edmontonians for "Winnipeg, the queen city of the prairie provinces," responded to by the visitors with prolonged cheering for "Edmonton, the city of homes, health and hustle."

BANK CLEARINGS.

The following shows the weeks bank clearings for some of the larger Cities.

	1913	1912
Montreal.....	56,892,615	60,859,033
Toronto.....	40,894,800	41,384,846
Winnipeg.....	28,955,825	28,982,273
Ottawa.....	4,544,653	4,345,791
Quebec.....	3,544,127	3,209,946
Hamilton.....	3,383,617	2,998,962

DIVIDENDS DECLARED

Nova Scotia Steel & Coal com. 1½ per cent., and preferred 2 per cent., payable July 15th record June 30th. Books do not close.

Penman's pref. 1½ per cent., payable August 1st record July 21st.

Penman's com. 1 per cent., payable August 15th record August 5th.

Porto Rico 1 per cent., payable July 2nd record June 21st.

Tucketts pref. 1½ per cent., payable July 15th record June 30th.°

THE MAY BANK STATEMENT.

The following are some of the chief figures of the May bank statement, which reached us as we were going to press.

The figures compared with April follow:

	May.	April.
Circulation.....	\$102,997,936	\$98,100,111
Demand deposit.....	364,139,642	365,340,002
Notice deposit.....	630,755,603	631,160,280
Deposit outside.....	97,935,216	103,925,361
Call loans, Canada.....	69,982,540	69,757,912
Call loans, outside.....	96,151,209	103,212,135
Current loans, Canada.....	898,950,650	898,964,181
Current loans, outside.....	37,691,786	36,310,033
Assets.....	1,521,841,373	1,527,088,246
Liabilities.....	1,231,739,097	1,285,071,059