

## FOREWORD



IN "ST. THOMAS AND ITS MEN OF AFFAIRS," an effort has been made to bring together historical data of the city from its earliest days in an interesting and readable form calculated to make it a work of reference on topics of everyday conversation in which constantly recur conflicting opinions of dates, events and persons that have figured in the development of the community from its earliest days.

The biographies of the men who in 1914, a year destined to become memorable in the world's history, are most prominent in the city's professional, official, railroad and business life, lend a personal interest to its pages that will increase as the years pass, for included in the more than two hundred is practically every one whom a reader familiar with St. Thomas would expect to find, with the facts of his life set forth briefly and without any attempt at elaboration. It answers authoritatively the questions: Who is he? Where did he come from? How old is he? His past attainments and his present standing? And, finally, his personal appearance? The next best thing to seeing and conversing with a man is to see his portrait, especially if a pen picture accompanies it as in the present plan.

The various groupings of residences, street scenes, public buildings, business places, manufactories, railroad shops, schools, churches, etc., convey impressively to the reader the substantial character of the city of today, and a perusal of these pages, will, we believe, awaken in the average citizen a new pride in his home town (perhaps the most happily circumstanced of any Canadian community of importance), and its institutions.

To those whose co-operation has made possible "St. Thomas and Its Men of Affairs" in its attractive and permanent form, the appreciation of the publishers is gratefully acknowledged.