

Regina.

Any person who was acquainted with Regina as it was two years ago or less, and who would now pay a visit to the place, would certainly be surprised to find the change that has been made on every side. Regina has made a splendid showing in building improvements within the last year. Probably no other town in Canada of the same population can show a better record. Substantial business blocks have been erected to take the place of the light frame structures which have done duty since the town was first established, and many fine residences also attest the solid progress the town is making. In the summer of 1882 there were no buildings to obstruct the view about the open plain for miles around, and the only sign of the coming tide of civilization and settlement was the construction work going on upon the railway, which was then being extended rapidly across the uninhabited prairie. Now Regina looms up upon this plain—a town possessing fine brick and stone business blocks, comfortable residences, fine schools, churches of the leading denominations, electric lighting, etc.

Of the principal buildings put up this year we will first mention the fine solid stone and brick warehouse erected by the Smith & Ferguson Company. The size of this building is 56 feet frontage, by 90 feet deep, three storeys high, with basement. This building is first class throughout. It has been constructed with a view to furnishing the greatest convenience, combined with elegance. The interior finishing is of British Columbia lumber done in oil. The ground floor, which is divided into two stores, has a fifteen feet ceiling, with fine plate glass windows. One store on the ground floor is used for the retail hardware department of the Smith & Ferguson Company, and it makes one of the finest stores in Canada. Winnipeg has nothing approaching it in appearance in this line of trade. The store is furnished with a railway ladder on each side, for reaching the upper shelves, patent tool rack, exhibition folding show cases, and many other conveniences. Stained glass windows mellow the light and add to the appearance of the store. The manufacturing department and wholesale sample rooms are on the first floor, which is reached by the elevator, and the third floor is used for light storage, and a portion for a society lodge room. The building is heated by furnace.

P. Lamont, books, stationery, music and fancy goods, occupies the other ground floor in the Smith & Ferguson block, and he also has the basement in this portion of the block. The description of the block already given will make it evident that Mr. Lamont has a very fine store. The store is now filled up with holiday stock, and presents an inviting appearance.

Another new structure is the Williams & Ferguson block, a two storey solid brick building, with basement. This block is divided into two stores, one apartment having a frontage of 27 feet by 85 deep. This portion is now occupied by R. H. Williams, proprietor of the Glasgow House, with a large stock of general merchandise. T. H. Miller is in charge of this business. The other portion of the block has a frontage of 27 feet, by 60 feet deep. This portion has just been taken possession of by L. C. Rogers, who commenced in business in Regina last spring, and has now found it

necessary to occupy larger quarters. Mr. Rogers carries boots and shoes, clothing, furnishings, etc.

Another building erected this season is that put up by C. H. Black, and now occupied by himself for his book and stationery business. Mr. Black was burned out in the fire last March. This fire, it may be said, led to the erection of some of the new buildings in Regina this year, but a number of them were planned before the fire occurred. Mr. Black's store is a fine, two storey solid brick structure, and in it he carries a large stock in his line, including also musical instruments, fancy lines, etc.

J. F. Mowat, dealer in furnishings, boots and shoes, etc., who was also burned out in the fire of last spring, now occupies a fine store in the new Palmer house block—size, 25 by 54 feet. Mr. Mowat lost heavily by the fire, his entire stock having been destroyed, but this did not discourage him. He at once put in a new stock, and he now carries about everything in men's furnishings.

The new Palmer house building is now completed and occupied by the proprietors, E. & J. Smith. This building has been erected on the corner site of the old Palmer house, which was destroyed by the fire of last spring. The new structure is a great improvement on the old one. It is a two storey brick building, having a frontage of 92 feet on one street and 54 feet on the other. It is all used for the hotel, with the exception of the ground floor portion occupied by J. F. Mowat. This corner, being opposite the railway depot, is a fine one for a hotel. The house has 38 bed rooms.

Another fine building is the Martin & Eddy block on Scarth street, the buildings previously mentioned all being on South Railway street. This block is three storeys high, with basement, and divided into two stores on the ground floor. The Y.M.C.A. occupy quarters on one of the upper floors in this block.

The new Lansdowne hotel building is another important addition to the business structures of Regina. This building was erected in the summer of 1889, but it was not completed and occupied till last spring. It has a frontage of 100 feet on Scarth street and 50 feet on South Railway street, three storeys high, with basement. The house is in charge of F. Arnold, who was also proprietor of the old Lansdowne hotel, which has been established in Regina for years. The building is owned by J. D. Sibbald. The house is nicely furnished throughout, with parlors on each floor, has large airy rooms, with high ceiling, electric lighting, furnace heating, etc. The building is kept clean and comfortable, and all the rooms are warm. Fine commercial sample rooms are a special feature of the house. There are 75 rooms. So long as Regina has anything equal to the Lansdowne, there need be no complaint about the hotel accommodation of the place.

In addition to the brick and stone business places, a number of other buildings have been erected. Massey & Co. erected a large implement warehouse at Regina last spring. This is a frame building sheathed with iron. C. J. McCusker is the local manager for Massey & Co., and he reports having had a good season's trade. D. J. Robertson, furniture dealer, started business last spring in a new frame building on Scarth street. E. G. Collier, who started in the grocery and confectionery trade about a year ago, erected a new frame store the past

summer. Jas. Duncan, general dealer, who also started in business about a year ago, has erected a new frame store on Broad street, into which he has recently moved. Lo Juno, Smith & Co., have a brick building in course of completion, which they will occupy soon. In addition to the buildings named, a good many private residences have been erected the past season.

This is a good record for Regina, and speaks well for the stability of the place, as the buildings have about all been put up by resident business men. In fact, Regina business men have been successful as a rule. Since the town was established there have been few failures. The failures of late years have been of parties who came in without capital, and who only held out for a short time. The old firms, that have been in business for a length of time, have done well, and they show their faith in the future of the place by investing their capital in permanent improvements.

Altogether, 1890 is the best year Regina has ever had in the matter of substantial building improvements. Buildings erected in previous years were not of as substantial a character. Several of the blocks put up this year were to replace what may be termed the temporary quarters occupied by the business men who started in the early days of the town. Next year there is a prospect of continued activity in the building line. The Bank of Montreal have already the foundation down for a new bank building, and the superstructure will be erected next year. The location of this building is on Scarth street. It is to be completed by October next. The building will be solid brick, three and a half stories above ground, and will be occupied by the bank alone. The present location of the bank is some distance from the business portion of the town, and the change to the new location will be welcomed by the business men. The Bank of Montreal is doing a good business at Regina, and J. A. Paddon, the sociable manager, is popular with the patrons of the bank. A registry office, land office and new depot building are among the probable buildings to be erected next season.

J. D. Sibbald, the leading grain dealer, estimates that about 200,000 bushels of wheat will be marketed at Regina from this crop, besides oats and barley, which will be about 40 per cent. more than last year. Unfortunately the Regina roller flour mill was burned last summer, but the elevator close by was saved and is now being operated by Mr. Sibbald, who also does a produce and commission business, handling goods in car lots. His large brick warehouse, extended some this year, is now 157 feet long by 27 wide, two storeys and basement.

The planing mill, operated by J. R. Reilly & Co., has had a busy season, on account of the amount of building going on, and future prospects are good.

Wm. Cruickshank, general merchant, one of the old-timers of Regina, has recently made a change in his business by admitting a partner in the person of Thos. Ptolmy. Style now Wm. Cruickshank & Co.

Tinning & Hoskins occupy a fine brick store on the corner of Scarth and South Railway streets, erected in 1889. They carry a fine stock of general merchandise.

R. B. Ferguson, who is also one of the old timers of Regina, is working up a fine trade in