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to the large sum of \$2,280,000, while up to the beginning of the present month permits to the value of \$1,574,000 have been issued. The city owns the electric light system, and is in course of installing a big gas-producer plant at a cost of \$140,000. With these, the city will be in a position to supply electric energy for industrial purposes day and night. The city also owns the latest and best in the telephone line, which occupies a handsome central building. The system in use is the Chicago Electric (Strower patent), by which the services of the "hello girl" are dispensed with. An indication of Edmonton's prosperity is afforded by the bank clearing house, established July 1906. The figures for the year ending December 31st, 1907, were \$45,716,000. All this goes to show that Edmonton is in a very thriving condition.

Building and Real Estate.

While the building trade is not perhaps in as flourishing a condition as it was this time two years ago, it cannot be said to be depressed. Leaving out of account the large new depot opposite Broadway to be erected for the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific Railways, there is a large amount of general building work on hand, including the new telephone building and several handsome apartment blocks. One of the latter, for which excavations are now in progress at the

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corner of Carlton and Cumberland, will probably be the finest apartment building in Winnipeg, if not in Canada. Another important structure, for which tenders are being invited, will be the erection of the splendid Cecil Rhodes school building to be built by the Winnipeg School Board at Weston.

The chief feature of the week's business in real estate has been the activity in West Winnipeg. A large number of lots have been sold, many of which have been acquired for the purpose of converting them into market gardens. Two manufacturers are said to be in negotiation for locations in West Winnipeg. Several transactions are also announced in sales of houses. On the whole, the general opinion is that an era of greater activity and prosperity is just shaping and will be in full swing by the coming autumn.

Two decisions have already been given in the courts in favor of the Methodist Church at Welland against the town of Welland for \$15,000 damage for the burning of their church by a steam roller breaking a gas pipe and setting fire to the gas last summer. The town is stubborn, and has appealed again.

Between \$8,000 and \$10,000 has been spent since 1906 in re-wiring Toronto theatres for electric lighting. But the proprietors are satisfied that it pays.