

St. Thomas as a Home.

HAPPY is St. Thomas in being the home of eleven thousand people, enjoying a higher average of prosperity than falls to the lot of any other community of equal size in the Dominion. To the railway companies credit must be given for this, but also in some degree to the magnificent character of the agricultural country by which the city is surrounded, and to the manufacturing industries which, from wool and iron, form many products that find constant sale in distant provinces and lands.

Free from the poverty, the stifling tenements, the soil stirring contrasts, of larger places, this model little town enjoys all the advantages which civilization has carried in its train for those who congregate in cities. As an educational centre, St. Thomas rejoices in the possession of the largest and best-equipped institution in the Dominion for the higher education of young women—Alma College. This institution has to-day the largest roll of students of any ladies' college in the country. Its management is energetic, its methods modern, its curriculum high, its results surprisingly good. A Collegiate Institute, the equal of any in a province noted for its institutions; a Central School; four large ward schools; a separate school; an excellent private Business College, and a public Art School, complete the provision made by St. Thomas for the education of its youth, and testify most effectually that the schoolmaster is abroad. A Free Library, the property of the city, is equipped with thousands of books, and its reading rooms are open to all. In every quarter of the city rears the proud head of some stately edifice dedicated "To the known God." Churches are as plentiful as denominations—more plentiful, in fact, for the Methodists support three, the Episcopalians two, the Presbyterians two and the Baptists two. The other denominations represented are the Roman Catholics, Disciples, Latter Day Saints and the Salvation Army. A system of waterworks covering all portions of the city has been constructed, and in connection with an efficient paid brigade furnishes ample fire protection. A handsome structure, "The Amuse Wood Hospital," is dedicated to those poor mortals who worship at the shrine of Our Lady of Pain. The aged and infirm poor are cared for in "The Thomas Williams Home," the burden of maintaining which has been assumed by benevolently disposed ladies. Street railway, gas and electric lighting, streets prettily boulevarded and roadways permanently improved; all these are among the advantages St. Thomas offers to those in search of a home. St. Thomas is a city of fraternal and benevolent associations, and few there be of its citizens who are not members of some society designed to relieve the distressed and assist the needy and deserving. Three chartered banks and five loan societies attend to the financial business of the citizens, while wholesale and retail stores, carrying stocks that in size and quality would bear comparison with any in the province, prove that the people of St. Thomas have both the taste to desire fine goods and the means wherewith to gratify their tastes.

By the character of its location, of its railway possessions, and of its people, St. Thomas stands to-day at the head of the smaller cities of the Dominion as a business centre. As a place of residence it is peculiarly attractive. The same characteristics of climate and of country which made this land so dear to the heart of the red man three hundred years ago, prevail to-day, and have a similar effect upon his pale-faced successor.

S. CHANT

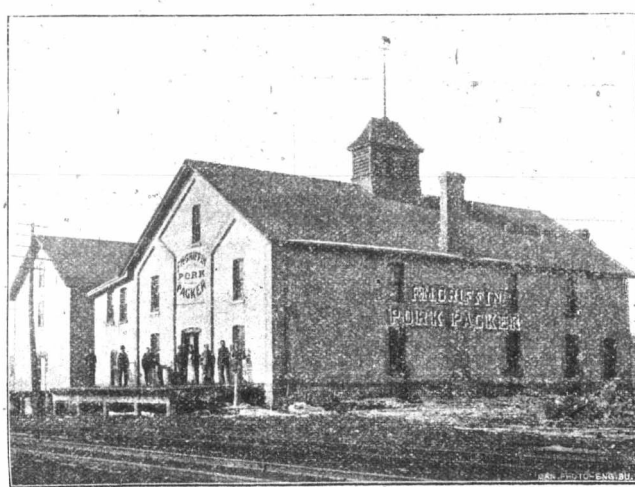
MR. S. CHANT carries on a very large business as a dealer in dry goods, both staple and fancy, mantles, lace curtains, carpets, oil cloths, gentlemen's furnishings, overcoats, clothing, etc., occupying the whole of a large two-story brick building, 80 x 20, on the corner of Talbot and Manitoba streets. His business is so large that he gives employment to four hundred men. The store of Mr. Chant is the largest commercial house, and does the most extensive business, in the east end, and indeed so much so is the fact that the store is generally known to the public as "Chant's Cheap Store." Perhaps it is the cheapness that brings the trade, for it is an undoubted fact that Mr. Chant is enabled to sell goods at prices that are bound to attract trade. Mr. Chant is a Canadian by birth, and has resided in St. Thomas for a number of years past. He has always taken an active interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the city. He represented No. 6 ward as alderman for five years, and did good service



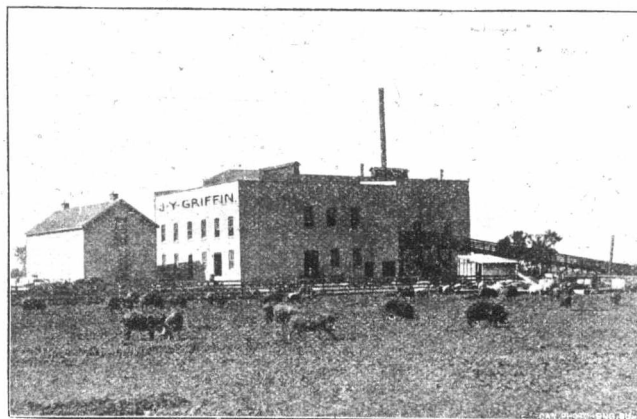
or the city as chairman of No. 1 committee. He is also treasurer of Grace church, and has always taken a lively interest in moral projects. As a business man Mr. Chant is energetic and enterprising and has won the confidence of the commercial world, while as a citizen he stands in the highest degree of esteem with all of his fellow citizens.

F. M. GRIFFIN

ONE of the leading business men, and one who has done much to build up St. Thomas, is Mr. F. M. Griffin. He carries on a very extensive trade as a pork packer, and is the curer of the celebrated Griffin brand of hams, bacon, lard, etc., of wide reputation, his hams being of such a superior quality that they command a higher price than any others in the market. The excellence of his goods in this line, is due to employing none but the best of workmen and buying the choicest hogs in the market. His output of pork exceeds \$200,000 annually, the product finding its way to all parts of the Dominion, and everywhere being in the highest repute. Mr. Griffin is also interested with his brother in this line in Winnipeg, where they have a large packing house with an output of \$200,000 yearly. The capacity of the Winnipeg branch is 300 hogs per day. The size of the building is 60 x 120, and is three stories high. It has an immense ice house in connection with a storage capacity of 3,000 tons. The building was erected last year and cost \$30,000. Mr. Griffin also does a very large trade in coal, wood, ice, lime, cement, plaster, salt, sewer pipe, etc. He has been established in business for twenty years, and gives employment to a number of hands ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five. His premises include a large three-story brick building, 80 x 40 feet, used as a packing house, with a large two-story warehouse adjoining, and also a capacious store house for salt, lime, cement, plaster, etc. He has also large coal sheds on the G. T. R. and coal and wood sheds on the M. C. R., with a capacity of three thousand tons. In addition he has an immense ice house, with a capacity of 2,500 tons, and stabling accommodation for the ten horses that he employs in the business. Mr. Griffin has resided in St. Thomas for the past twenty years, and it is needless to say that he has done a great deal to build up the town and city. He is one of the most enterprising business men in the west, upright and straightforward in all his dealings, and highly popular as an individual citizen. He was for many years prominently identified with the Street Railway Company and has been for a long time a member of the board of management of Alma College, one of the leading educational institutions in the province. In fact, Mr. Griffin has always exhibited a spirit of enterprise where the interests of the city were concerned, as well as in connection with his own large and extensive enterprises.



GRIFFIN'S PORK PACKING ESTABLISHMENT, ST. THOMAS



GRIFFIN'S PORK PACKING ESTABLISHMENT, WINNIPEG

I. MORSE

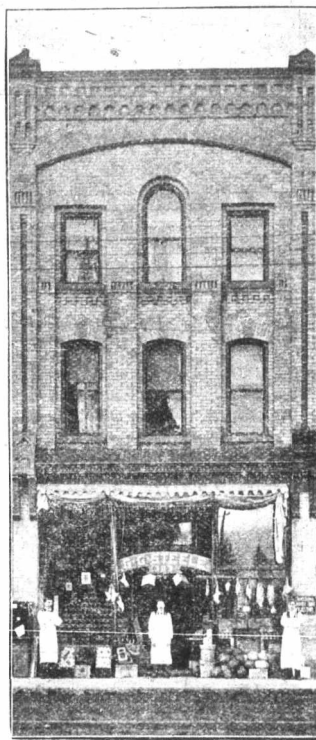
MR. I. MORSE, dealer in flour, feed, seeds, etc., occupies the whole of the ground floor of the large three-story brick building situated at No. 578 Talbot street. Mr. Morse has been established in this business for about a year, having previously been engaged in the planing mill and contracting business for several years. He is a Canadian, born in Halton county, but has resided here for half a century. During his residence amongst us he has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and has filled some of the most important positions in the gift of the people and government. He served with acceptance as alderman for eight years, and was mayor of the city for two succeeding terms, 1889-90. He also filled the position of city auditor for two years, and is at present one of the license commissioners for West Elgin. This record is sufficient to enable one to judge of Mr. Morse's standing in the eyes of those who know him best. He is a representative man in every sense of the word, and a great favorite with the people. He numbers his friends by the hundreds and is extremely popular personally and regarded by everybody as a straightforward fair-dealing business man.

S. S. FRANE

MR. SAMUEL S. FRANE has been established in business as a merchant tailor for the past twenty years. He occupies the whole of the first and second floors of the large brick building located at No. 561 Talbot street, where he gives employment to eight hands. He carries a very extensive stock of imported and domestic cloths, tweeds, etc., all of which he makes up in the latest and most fashionable styles, invariably ensuring a fit and giving the greatest amount of satisfaction to his many customers. His trade is not only very large locally but extends to a great extent to the surrounding towns and villages, while he has several customers in the States, former residents of St. Thomas. Mr. Frane has resided in this city for twenty-one years, having formerly been connected with the firm of Denton & Frane, of London, and during his whole business career he has catered to the best class of the custom trade. His reputation as a merchant tailor and business man is fully established, while he is held in the highest esteem by all classes as a citizen.

G. G. STEELE

MR. G. G. STEELE carries on business as a wholesale and retail dealer in fruits and fancy groceries, at 383 Talbot street, where he has been established about four years. He occupies the whole of the ground floor and basement, 70 x 22 feet, of a large three-story brick building, and makes a specialty of fruits, of which he always carries a large stock of the freshest and latest in the market. He has everything in its proper season, and in this line does a trade which is not excelled in the county of Elgin. He also makes a special point of the quality of his teas, for the excellence of which he bears a very high reputation throughout the whole of the county of Elgin. He gives employment to from four to six hands, from which fact the size of his trade may be gauged. Mr. Steele is a thorough business man, active and enterprising, and respected by all.



W. O. FOSTER

MR. W. O. FOSTER is a large wholesale and retail dealer in drugs and chemicals, druggists' supplies, fancy goods, perfumery, toilet accessories, Christmas goods, etc. He has been established in business for twelve years, and occupies all of the large three-story brick building, at No. 221 Talbot street, with a large warehouse in the rear. Mr. Foster handles a large quantity of preparations of his own, manufacturing all of the standard pharmaceutical preparations, such as fluid extracts, etc., giving employment to two assistants. He makes a specialty of perfumery and fancy goods, carrying a very large line of each, and doing a trade which extends all over the vicinity. He also does an extensive jobbing trade throughout the whole of Western Ontario. In addition Mr. Foster does a very large trade in bulbs and seeds in their respective seasons. Mr. Foster has resided in St. Thomas for twelve years, and during that time has built up a reputation as a gentleman who thoroughly understands the scientific side of his profession, and also knows how to please the taste of the public. Personally he is highly popular with all classes of the community.

RISDON & LIVESEY

THE firm of Risdon & Livesey are wholesale and retail dealers in shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, ranges, furnaces, tinware, plumbing and plumbers' goods, paints, oils, etc. The business was originally established by Risdon Brothers fourteen years ago, the present firm being formed one year ago. They occupy two floors in the fine large three-story brick building, 100 x 20 feet, on the corner of Talbot and Metcalf streets, with two large storerooms and workshops adjoining, and give employment to from eight to twelve hands. They carry a very large stock of stoves and ranges, being agents for the Gunneys of Hamilton and other celebrated makers, and do a trade which extends all over the district of which St. Thomas is the business centre. Mr. John Risdon, the senior member of the firm, has resided here for fifteen years, and Mr. J. C. Livesey is also an old resident, he having lived here for eleven years, having previously been road-master on the Grand Trunk Railway. Both gentlemen are thorough business men, and stand high in the commercial world, while personally they possess the respect and esteem of all their fellow citizens. Their establishment does much to add to the importance of St. Thomas as a business centre.

PINFOLD & REEKS

THIS firm, comprised of Mr. T. Pinfold and Mr. A. Reeks, are importers of and dealers in ales, wines, liquors, etc., and also handle Nelson, Morris & Co.'s extract of beef. They have been in business for seven years, and occupy the whole of the first floor of a large three-story brick building on Talbot street, and give employment to one hand besides themselves. They carry a very large stock of goods, being agents for the Walkerville Brewing and Distilling Company, the British American Brewing Company, Carling's (London) ale, porter and lager, and other first class and recognized standard manufacturers. They import all their goods direct from the manufacturers, and so ensure the purity of all their brands. They do a very large trade all over this vicinity, and in the neighboring towns and villages, having an output of fifty thousand dollars annually. Mr. Pinfold has resided here for about eighteen years, and Mr. Reeks was born in St. Thomas and has lived here for the greater portion of his life. Both gentlemen are enterprising business men, stand high in the commercial world, and possess the respect and confidence of their fellow citizens.

EMPIRE TEA COMPANY

MR. GEORGE H. MALCOLM is the proprietor of the Empire Tea Company store in this city, occupying the whole of the fine three-story brick building at No. 463 Talbot street, he has been established for about four years and a half. He is a wholesale and retail dealer in teas, coffees, baking powder, spices, fancy chinaware, glassware, silverware, etc. He makes a specialty of his teas and coffees, in which lines he has built up an exceptionally large trade, in consequence of the purity and excellence of the various brands which he handles. Mr. Malcolm gives employment to four clerks in this city alone, and in addition he has a number of agents and sub agents in the surrounding towns. Notwithstanding the large extent of his trade at the present time, it is constantly and rapidly increasing. During his residence here, Mr. Malcolm has proven himself a shrewd and enterprising business man, while at the same time he has gained the respect and confidence of all as a first class citizen in every respect.