



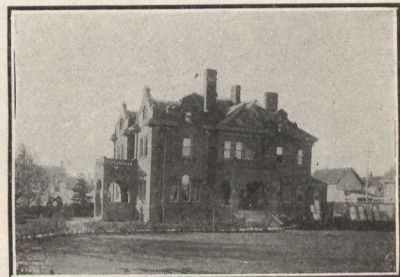
An Edmonton Coal Mine.



A Private Residence.



Hudson's Bay Stores



A Private Residence.

THE CAPITAL CITY OF ALBERTA

THE LATEST ABOUT EDMONTON

A GREAT friendly struggle is taking place among the larger towns of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Calgary and Edmonton are the leaders in the struggle. Each town aims to be a distributing and industrial centre. Winnipeg's supremacy in the three prairie provinces is admitted. To which town shall come the honour of being the second city in this great central portion of Canada is an undecided question. In point of age, Regina and Calgary have the advantage. In the matter of population, Edmonton is now leading. In so far as ambition and enterprise are concerned these six towns are about equal. Much depends on two features, railway connection and civic enterprise.

Edmonton has an advantage in regard to railways which is shared only by Saskatoon. The three great transcontinental systems are helping to make it a distributing centre. The Canadian Pacific was the first railway to serve the people of this district, but it served them with a branch line and not a main line. It was not until the Canadian Northern main line arrived that Edmonton found its railway situation fairly satisfactory. In a few days the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific will cross the North Saskatchewan and enter the city. When that occurs, the railway situation will be eminently satisfactory. The Canadian Northern is pushing on north and west from Edmonton, and the Grand Trunk Pacific line west of the city is also in process of construction. A railway line to Fort McMurray on the north will shortly be built, the bonds for this line having been guaranteed at the last session of the Alberta Legislature.

With a satisfactory railway situation, Edmonton has shown considerable enterprise and ambition. When it became the provincial capital, it ensured its future legislative and judicial importance. When it threw its influence in favour of establishing the provincial university at Strath-

cona three miles away, it ensured educational importance to the twin towns on the North Saskatchewan. It already has a population of twenty thousand, with fifty miles of graded streets, three miles of pavements, forty miles of water-mains, twelve hundred and fifty telephones and four hundred acres of city parks. Its bank clearings for January, 1909, were one million dollars in excess of those for 1908. The gross postal revenue for 1908 is over sixty thousand dollars. Its local land-titles office shows a revenue for 1908 nearly double that of 1907. The city assessment last year was twenty-two and a half million dollars and the building permits reached two and a half million. These statistics will give some idea of the great city which is being built up in the northern portion of the promising province.

In the matter of coal supply, Edmonton has peculiar advantages which are not possessed by Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina. It has an adequate supply of coal right at its door. The coal is a good quality of lignite and is used for domestic as well as steam purposes. Its only drawback is that when used by railway companies the sparks from the engine live too long, and in dry seasons are apt to start prairie fires.

In Edmonton there are fourteen coal companies handling this coal, in Strathcona there are three, in Morinville there are two and in Namao there are four. The total daily output of these four towns, according to the official returns, is twelve hundred and fifty tons. This is a valuable asset in a country which has tolerably severe winters and which hopes ultimately to be an industrial centre.

Edmonton also has considerable advantage in being a lumbering centre, a privilege which is denied all other cities in the Central West, except Prince Albert. The local mills are now cutting about fifteen million feet of lumber annually, and in addition there is cut within a radius of one hundred miles another ten million feet. The building conditions are thus made tolerably easy and give the city a considerable advantage in this respect. In addition, clay, suitable for good brick, is found close at hand, and the annual production of brick is already over the twenty million mark. Indeed, Edmonton brick is being shipped as far as Moose Jaw and Regina. The combined value of the coal, lumber, and brick output in Edmonton itself is estimated at nine hundred thousand dollars annually with a decided tendency to grow.

Like all other towns in this Great West, Edmonton is the centre of a good grain district. Although

there is a marked tendency towards mixed farming, yet there were produced within one hundred miles of Edmonton last year nine million bushels of oats, two million bushels of wheat and one-half million bushels of barley. In the city itself there are two flour mills with a daily capacity of five hundred barrels, and in Strathcona there is one with a capacity of one hundred barrels. Within a radius of one hundred miles of Edmonton there are already forty-seven grain elevators, with a total capacity of nearly two million bushels.

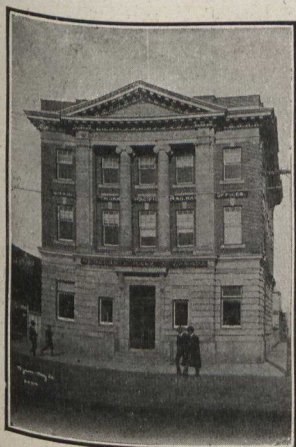
As an index to the growth of mixed farming in this district there has been established in Edmonton a meat packing plant of considerable dimensions. Last year fifty thousand head of cattle, hogs and sheep were transformed into food within the twin towns. This industry is expected to have a very considerable effect upon the density of the population throughout the district.

Undoubtedly, Edmonton's greatness depends upon the development of the country to the north and west. The railway from Edmonton to Fort McMurray and the Athabasca river will run through three hundred miles of fertile country. Moreover, it will connect with Edmonton one of the largest systems of waterways on the continent. This system is about three thousand five hundred miles in length and even now is traversed by twelve passenger and traffic steamers. When the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific pierce in a north-westerly direction they will open up the famous Grand Prairie and Peace River district, which is said to contain not less than fifty thousand acres of excellent land. The possibilities are sufficient to stir the imagination and to arouse the enterprise of a much more sluggish people than those who are making the Edmonton district famous. The potential future of the district is difficult of estimate. There are other districts in the Great West which will hold their teeming millions but certainly none excels the Edmonton district in possibilities.

After less than half a century of development, it possesses twenty-two hotels, fourteen banks, ten public schools, one college, twenty churches, four hospitals and is credited with an assessed value of nearly twenty-three millions of dollars.



Empire Block.



Merchants Bank Branch.