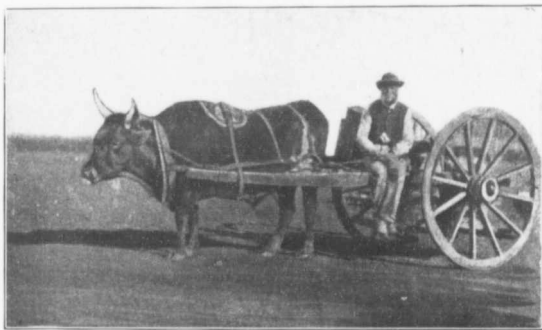


GOLDEN JUBILEE

public-spirited citizen of Winnipeg. It is to supply this information, and at the same time to relate the more formal history of the Ashdown Hardware Company, that the present publication has been undertaken.

Emigrating to Canada

In the forties and fifties of the last century there was a heavy tide of emigration from the old land to Canada. James H. Ashdown was a boy eight years of age in old London when his father caught the Canadian fever. It was in 1852 that William Ashdown and his wife, Jane, brought their family on the long voyage to this country and settled in the village of Weston, near Toronto. The father opened a small store and at the early age of eleven James had to leave school, for he was needed at home to serve behind the counter. During his schooling, however, he seems to have imbibed a love for solid reading, for at the age of fourteen he gave his evenings to the perusal of Chitty's Blackstone, certainly a peculiar work to attract a growing boy. But Mr. Ashdown derived great benefit from his study of Blackstone. Aside from a general knowledge of the principles of English law, a valuable intellectual asset for a business man to possess, he is nothing if not logical. A well-known Winnipeg lawyer, who has done a great deal of work for Mr. Ashdown, states that few men can equal him in getting at the weak spot in a legal document. This ability comes from those long winter evenings in his youth when he pored over the famous commentaries.



Red River Ox Cart from Actual Photograph