

The City of To-day.

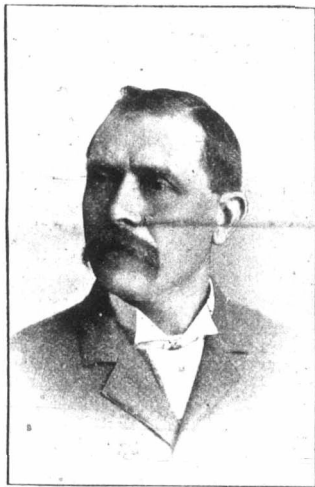
TO-DAY St. Thomas is a city with a quiet, uneventful past, a present of marvellous growth, large prosperity, and irrepressible energy, and a future, as its more sanguine citizens believe, of possibilities almost unbounded and limitless. As the great railway centre of Western Ontario, possessing advantages over its sister cities that manufacturers are not slow to appreciate; as the depot for the goods consumed by the inhabitants of an extent of rich agricultural country unequalled in the province, that naturally attracts retail merchants; as a city situated upon a beautiful location, surrounded by the most charming scenery, calculated to allure the members of less highly-favored communities, St. Thomas certainly can lay claim to being a city of exceptional advantages and attractions.

In appearance St. Thomas is the capital of any city of its size in the Dominion, and by many strangers is considered far superior. Business centres upon one street—Talbot—which is nearly two miles in length. The buildings on this street are for the most part imposing, substantial, business edifices, with large plate glass windows. The frontage tax system being in operation in the city the residents upon the principal streets have shown their liberality and enterprise by securing the most desirable improvements. Talbot street is blockpaved and stonedagged almost its entire length. Several of the side streets are also paved with cedar blocks and many thousands of dollars have lately been expended in permanently improving the principal residential streets and in boulevarding them. An extensive sewerage system ramifies in all directions throughout the city. The citizens generally seem determined to make every effort to improve the appearance of the city.

The health statistics show that St. Thomas is almost without a parallel in the Dominion as regards the health of its people, which is no doubt the result of its drainage facilities, and the invigorating breezes (free from all miasma) that are constantly sweeping over the city from the beautiful hills encircling it.

FRED DOGGETT.

THERE are few better known men in the city of St. Thomas than Mr. Fred Doggett. In commercial circles Mr. Doggett is known as an extensive importer of and dealer in marble, granite and stone, for monumental purposes, drawing his supplies from England, Scotland, Sweden, Italy and other countries. He established this business, in which he employs from eight to twelve hands, in 1874, and does a trade which extends over the whole of western Ontario, his place of business being a large two-story frame structure, 60 x 40 feet, at No. 20 Elgin street. Mr. Doggett is an Englishman by birth, a native of Somersetshire, but has resided here for the past twenty years. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs and in whatever tended to the welfare of the city. For five years he has represented No. 2 ward as an alderman, having been for the past four years chairman of the Board of Works, and is likely to be the coming mayor, probably without opposition. He was for eleven years a member of the fire department, and prior to entering the position of chief. He established the present excellent fire department system. He takes a great interest in works of benevolence, and stands high in the Odd Fellows, being Past Grand of St. Thomas Lodge, Past Chief Patriarch of Elgin Encampment, Past Commander of Canton Victoria, Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Dominion Regiment of Patriarchs Militant Ontario, and Past Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of Ontario, and for the past two years he has been Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, meeting at Milwaukee, Wis., and Chattanooga, Tenn.



FRED DOGGETT

He was chief of the Sons of Scotland and district deputy grand chief of S. O. S., of St. Thomas. He does a very large business, and is personally a highly popular man. He was chief of the Sons of Scotland and district deputy grand chief of S. O. S., of St. Thomas.

MCDONALD FRASER & CO.

MCDONALD FRASER & CO. occupy the ground floor and basement of a large three-story brick building, 85 x 20 feet, at No. 531 Talbot street, where they carry on business as dealers in general dry goods and keep in stock everything that a home or its occupants require. The business was established in 1888, and has proved a success from the start. The head of the firm, and only partner, Mr. P. McDonald Fraser, is a native of Inverness, Scotland. He conducted a business in Hamilton for some time and returned to Scotland in 1872, but again came back and located in St. Thomas in 1888. He filled various positions of honor in Inverness. He was treasurer of the Workingmen's Club, a representative in the town council, commandant of No. 6 Battery Highland Artillery, and has filled other offices of trust and responsibility. He is a true-born Heilan man, possesses a large fund of spawky humor, and can tell a good Scotch story or sing a good song. He does a very large business, and is personally a highly popular man. He was chief of the Sons of Scotland and district deputy grand chief of S. O. S., of St. Thomas.

W. R. JACKSON

W. R. JACKSON carries on business as a dealer in diamonds, fine watches and jewelry, at No. 296 Talbot street, where he occupies the whole of the ground floor of a large three-story brick building, 70 x 22 feet. The business was established eighteen years ago, and Mr. Jackson does a very large trade, which extends all over western Ontario, and into the border States. The store is elegantly fitted up, the fixtures being all of red birch with mahogany finish, and is second to none in the Dominion. Mr. Jackson carries what is probably the largest stock of diamonds in the province of Ontario, and has an immense variety of stones of the purest water. Mr. Jackson is an expert lapidary and artificer in the precious metals, and knows the full value of any stone, cut or uncut. His patronage is largely from the wealthiest class, and he does a very extensive trade. Personally, Mr. Jackson is very popular.

J. F. WILKINSON

J. F. WILKINSON carries on a restaurant and confectionery trade in the fine large three-story brick building at No. 314 Talbot street. The business was originally established twenty-seven years ago, but after carrying it on for some time Mr. Wilkinson gave it up and lived a retired life for a long period.



INTERIOR WILKINSON'S RESTAURANT

re-entering business thirteen years ago. The store is 60 x 20, the dining room in the rear, where meals are served at all hours, adding an area of 50 x 20 to the ground space occupied. Mr. Wilkinson enjoys the distinction of having been the first man to manufacture ice cream in St. Thomas, and this fact alone should entitle him to a lasting place in the memories of the ladies. At that time the city was not so large and he did not require so many assistants as he does now, when he employs from four to eight hands. His dining room has lately been refitted throughout with new furniture, and has a seating capacity of 100. Mr. Wilkinson is an Englishman by birth, but has lived in Canada since an early age. In St. Thomas he bears the reputation of being in all respects a first class man of business and a citizen who is popular with all who know him.

STACEY HARDWARE COMPANY

THE Stacey Hardware and Manufacturing Company is one of the leading hardware concerns of St. Thomas and the western district. They are manufacturers of railway headlights and switch lamps, plumbers, steam and gas fitters, tin, copper and galvanized iron workers, wholesale dealers in hardware, cutlery, silverware, tin and japanned ware, paints, oils, etc., and also prepare plans and specifications for heating with hot water, steam and hot air. The business has been established for the past fourteen years, and the firm occupy all of the large three-story brick building, 250 x 23 feet, at Nos. 323 and 325 Talbot street, where they give employment to twenty-seven skilled workmen. They do a trade which is not only large locally, but extends all over the district, particularly along the line of the Michigan Central Railway. They make a specialty of their railway headlights, which have a high reputation in the market. The company is composed of Mr. Thomas Stacey and Mr. John Stacey, the latter being a son of the former. Mr. Thomas Stacey has resided in St. Thomas for fifty-two years, while Mr. John Stacey has lived here all his life. Both gentlemen are highly progressive and enterprising business men, who have done a great deal towards building up the city and making it what it is now, a thriving manufacturing centre. By persons in all walks of life these gentlemen are highly respected, commercially and socially, and they are regarded as very important factors in the prosperity and success of St. Thomas as a city.

L. H. TARRANT

MR. L. H. TARRANT has been established in business for twelve years as a merchant tailor and dealer in gentlemen's furnishing goods, of which he carries a large stock at his fine store on the first floor of the elegant three-story brick building, 100 x 20 feet, at No. 581 Talbot street. He gives employment to a dozen hands, and carries a very large stock of imported and domestic cloths, tweeds, etc., much of which he imports direct from the manufacturers. He does a very large local and country trade, his goods being always of the best quality and made up in a skillful manner and in the latest styles. Mr. Tarrant has been a resident of our city for eighteen years, and has built up a first class reputation both as a business man and as a citizen. He is highly popular personally.

D. D. BLACK

MR. D. D. BLACK is a very extensive dealer in groceries, both staple and fancy, provisions, etc., his place of business being located on the corner of Elgin and Wellington streets, where he has been established for the past four years. It is a one-story frame building, and although the building is not extra large, it furnishes another proof of the folly of judging by appearances, for as a matter of fact, he does one of the largest retail trades in the city. He carries a full line of the freshest goods in the grocery and provision trade, and everything he sells is known to be of the finest brand. This fact, no doubt, in a great measure accounts for the phenomenally large trade that he is constantly doing. Mr. Black is a Canadian by birth, and a gentleman of considerable experience in his line of business, understanding it in all its various details, and giving to everything his personal supervision. To this must be added another part which no doubt has its influence in booming his trade. Mr. Black is a highly popular man personally, not alone with those with whom he has business relations, but in society circles generally. He has achieved commercial success because he earned it, and is popular personally because he deserves to be on account of his many good qualities.



D. D. BLACK

W. H. CRACK

W. H. CRACK carries on business as a dealer in furniture, stoves and other house furnishings, occupying the whole of the ground floor of the large three-story brick building at No. 521 Talbot street, and has been established in business for twenty years. His premises are 90 x 20 in extent. He makes a specialty of sideboards, bed room sets, extension tables, etc., and he furnishes his customers at prices that cannot be underbid. Mr. Crack, who is an Englishman by birth, has during his long residence in St. Thomas made many friends.

MEEHAN & REGAN

MEEHAN & REGAN, 535 Talbot street, are wholesale and retail dealers in boots and shoes, trunks, valises, etc., and have been established in business for eleven years. They occupy the ground floor and basement of a large three-story brick structure, 85 x 20 feet, at the number given, and carry one of the largest and most select stocks in Western Ontario. Mr. Patrick Meehan is an Irishman by birth, but has lived in Canada for a number of years. He represented No. 5 ward as an alderman for seven years, two of which he held the important position of chairman of



No. 4 committee. He is a member of the Board of Trade, and one of the foremost men in St. Thomas in working for the advancement of the city's welfare. Mr. Charles W. Regan is a Canadian of Irish descent, born in London. He is one of the most popular young men in the city. Both are enterprising business men, and have built up a very large trade.

W. J. KERR

FUNERAL director and embalmer, 389 Talbot street, has been established in business for the past two years. He occupies the whole of the ground floor of the fine, large three-story brick building at the number indicated, where he keeps on hand a large supply of all kinds and sizes of caskets, funeral furnishings, etc., being supplied with everything requisite to pay proper respect in performing the last sad offices for the dead. Mr. Kerr is a practical and scientific embalmer, and thoroughly posted in all the details of his profession. He is a Canadian by birth, of Scottish descent, and has been a resident of St. Thomas for the past forty years. He is well known to our citizens, and highly respected.

JAMES ACHESON

CARRIES on a very extensive business as a dealer in shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, furnaces, etc., and also as manufacturer in tinware, sheet iron and copperware. He has been established in business for the past fourteen years, and gives employment to fifteen hands. From this it will be seen that his trade is a most extensive one among the largest in the west. Mr. Acheson's place of business is at No. 223 Talbot street, where he occupies the whole of a very large three-story brick building, covering an area of 140 x 20 feet. Mr. Acheson is a thorough business man in every respect, and one of the most progressive and enterprising to be found in this section. He is a hustler and no mistake. Personally he enjoys a very high degree of popularity, his manner making friends wherever he may go.

ELLISON & LEWIS

ONE of the most extensive commercial enterprises of the west is that of the firm of Ellison & Lewis, whose establishment is situated off the corner of Talbot and Southwick streets. They are very extensive dealers in coal, wood, lumber, lime, cement, sewer pipe, plasterer's hair, calmed plaster, etc. The present firm has been established for seven years, but Mr. Ellison has been in the same line of business during the whole of his commercial career. They carry a very large stock in all of their various lines, their large lumber yards and coal sheds occupying the one side of a block. They do a very extensive trade in the city and surrounding country, being noted for their straightforward dealing and business enterprise. The firm gives employment to eight. They handle immense quantities of sewer and culvert pipe. Both members of the firm are Canadians, Mr. Ellison having been born in this city, and Mr. Lewis in Elgin county. They are enterprising and progressive business men and highly popular with all classes of the community.