

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

### *Historical Sketch*

By

W. T. Allison

IT may be questioned whether any business man in Canada has had a more interesting or more successful career than Mr. James H. Ashdown, of Winnipeg. He has not only had the satisfaction of building a gigantic wholesale and retail hardware business from the smallest of small beginnings in a frontier settlement, but he has had the rarer fortune still to live to such an age as to be able to pass the fiftieth mile-stone in the history of the business that he has guided and conducted with unerring skill to this hour. Mr. Ashdown is in his seventy-sixth year, but his strength is still unabated and his eye and brain are as clear as ever. He is in his office every day, and holds in his steady hand all the threads of a business that operates over the western section of the Dominion. The head and centre of a vast organization, with headquarters in Winnipeg and immense warehouses in Saskatoon and Calgary, he is a wonderful example of mental and physical vigor. Surrounded by a strong staff of men, whom he has selected and trained during the long years, Mr. Ashdown looks forward confidently to the future expansion of trade in the prairie provinces. Although the business is fifty years of age on September 11, 1919, quite ancient in comparison with most of its rivals, it is still young and hopeful in its outlook, for the twentieth century belongs to Western Canada, and no man can be too optimistic concerning the possibilities of settlement and development in the immense territory served by this well-established, alert and always growing house.

#### *A Household Word*

While the name of James H. Ashdown is a household word in the western provinces of Canada, and while tens of thousands of people know that he has occupied a prominent place in the life of Winnipeg, both as mayor and as president or director of the Board of Trade and of numerous financial and philanthropic institutions, comparatively few westerners, not even his personal acquaintances, are familiar with the story of his early life, his experiences during his first arduous years in the Red River Settlement, and the subsequent steps by which, seizing occasion by the hand, he mounted to a leading position as business man and