



E. F. HUTCHINGS.

### The New E. F. Hutchings Warehouse.

This week The Commercial has much pleasure in presenting its readers with an illustrated description of the business and premises of E. F. Hutchings, the well known harness and leather goods merchant of Winnipeg. The recent opening of a handsome new factory and wholesale building by this concern on Market street east, Winnipeg marks another step in the industrial progress of the city and furnishes a fitting opportunity for the illustrated description which is given herewith.

Only in a now and rapidly expanding country like Western Canada is such success as Mr. Hutchings has achieved in his twenty and odd years of life in this country possible. He landed here in 1876, from Newboro, Leeds county, Ontario, having previously served his time to the harness making trade at Newboro, Ont., and immediately engaged in his chosen avocation in a little premises on what is now Main street, about where the Dundee block stands. An engraving from a facsimile of this first shop is shown herewith. From the first entirely dependent upon his own resources he early learned the lesson of self-reliance and this has stood him in good stead ever since. Almost uniformly successful in every undertaking his business grew steadily until to-day it stands at the head of the harness and leather goods trade of the west.

Briefly, Mr. Hutchings' present establishment consists of the wholesale and retail stores and manufactory in Winnipeg, and a cordon of branches in the leading centres for farm and ranch trade throughout the prairie country. He is also the possessor, as a part of his business, of a very fine farm a few miles out of Winnipeg which is devoted to rye culture for furnishing the straw used in the collar factory. One of our illustrations shows the retail store on the corner of Market and Main streets. This building and its location are well suited to the purpose. The manager of the retail department is A. Wahn.

As this description is mainly intended to deal with the new building, where the wholesale and manufacturing business will be carried on, that part should perhaps be taken

up at once. The accompanying engraving shows the new building as it appears from the outside. Only a careful personal examination will reveal its many inside features. The walls and foundations are of brick and stone. The building is four stories high with basement. It is heated throughout by steam and lighted by gas. It is provided with everything that is up to date in the way of conveniences, toilet rooms, wash rooms, water closets, etc. In the daytime light is obtained from an ample array of windows, front, back and east side, and on the top floor where the factory is located additional light is had from an immense skylight and two rows of side windows.

One of the most important considerations in planning a building of this kind is shipping facilities. In this respect the new building is all that could be desired. Situated as it is within a few yards of the transfer track, which connects the Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific systems, a switch has been put in by which cars can be run right to the back door of the warehouse and loaded with the utmost dispatch and convenience. The shipping and receiving room occupies the southeast corner of the ground floor. It is furnished with a powerful freight elevator worked by electricity, and has two doors, one reserved for shipping and receiving from cars and the other for horse conveyances. This latter door communicates with Market street by means of a lane which runs the length of the building on its east side.

The arrangement of this building inside is well worth a few minutes consideration. A number of different and distinct departments had to be provided for when the plans were made and an inspection of the finished building will convince any visitor that this one has been attained in a most admirable manner. The basement is reserved for the collar making department. This is a fine big room, the

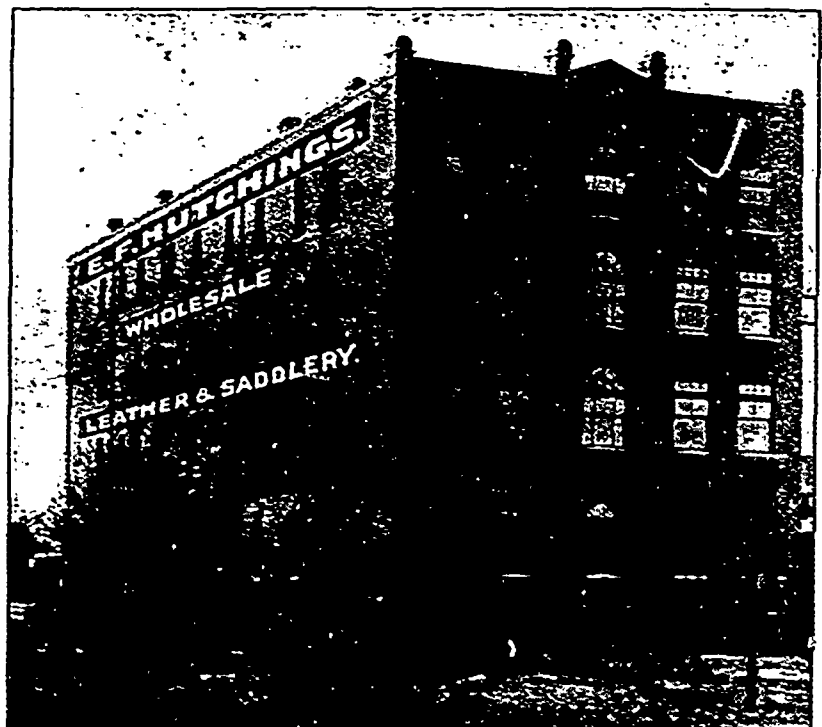
full size of the building, 50x134 feet with granolithic floor, dry and well lighted. It is being fitted up with an entirely new plant of machinery for performing the various operations in connection with collar making. An electric motor supplies the power for operating these, and this power will be transmitted to all the machinery from a single steel shaft running the length of the building. Besides the main basement an extra room has been provided under the shipping platform for the storage of rye straw which is used in stuffing collars. From 15 to 20 men are employed in this department.

The basement also contains the furnace and boiler, which supplies heat for all the floors. The boiler used is of 25 horse-power.

On the first floor the private office of Mr. Hutchings, the general offices, sample room, shipping room, are situated, and a large part of it is set aside for the storage of hardware and harness furnishings. The offices occupy the front end, and are models of neatness and convenience. The finishing has been done in hardwood—birds-eye maple and red birch—which gives a handsome appearance to the interior. A large and substantial looking brick and steel vault furnishes protective facilities for the books, papers, etc., of the business. Here are located also the quarters of the different heads of departments, B. Denby, J. E. Morehead, E. R. Dowdell and J. C. Campbell. The offices are separated from the rest of the flat by glass partitions, which give a complete view of the sample and shipping rooms, permitting of better supervision and also improving the light.

The second floor is used for storage of imported goods of all kinds, and to the eye of a visitor presents a seemingly endless array of trunks, valises, hames, bells, whips and all the other lines which go to make up the list of western imports in this line.

The third floor is devoted to home



NEW WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE AND FACTORY OF E. F. HUTCHINGS, WINNIPEG