Greater Seattle Business Men

JAMES A. MOORE.

A hardy son of Nova Scotia is the subject of this sketch. While not handicapped by poverty at the beginning of his career, neither did the more fortunate condition of his parents act as a hindrance to the bringing forth of those qualities essential to a successful business life. After several years' business experience in his native land he sought the wide field of the great West, and here in Seattle since 1886 he has been a potent factor in the upbuilding, enlarging and beautifying of the "Queen City," which is the more queenly because of his investments and work herein. His business efforts have been along the line of real estate investments; in the purchase and improvement of property, both in platted additions and the erection of handsome business blocks, the more worthy of which are the Lincoln flats, the Lumber Exchange and the Arcade block, and in completing, equipping and opening to the public the Washington hotel. James A. Moore has been a mighty factor in the building of "Greater Seattle" and well deserves the successes that have come to him.

JAMES W. CLISE.

The great fire of 1889 that laid the old Seattle low marked the beginning of the Greater Seattle that is now in course of construction. With the reconstruction that followed the destruction thus wrought many new men flocked to Seattle to take advantage of the opportunities then offered. One of these, but not coming as a mere adventurer or soldier of fortune, was the successful man of affairs, J. W. Clise. In the rebuilding and enlarging of Seattle, the Clise Investment Company, of which our subject is the head, has played a conspicuous part. Through it much Eastern capital has been profitably invested in this city, and through the genius of Mr. Clise Seattle has been benefited in many ways. One of the notable enterprises attributable to him is the Globe Navigation Company, that already has several large steam and sailing vessels engaged in the rapidly growing commerce of the Pacific. As an active member for years and now president of the Chamber of Commerce, he has been, and is, performing a conspicuous part in the planning as well as the building of "Greater Seattle."

JACOB FURTH.

In 1858 there arrived in California, direct from his native land, Austria, a youth of eighteen, who, with an indomitable will, plus Western American opportunities, has given Seattle one of her foremost and wealthiest citizens. Mr. Jacob Furth, president of the Puget Sound National Bank, the Seattle Electric Company, the Seattle-Tacoma Interurban railway, the Vulcan Iron Works, all of this city, and a land and stock company in Lincoln county. After following mercantile pursuits in California for nearly a quarter of a century, he came to Seatle more than twenty years ago and engaged in the banking business. This and the other many and varied enterprises in which he is interested, have caused his to be a busy life. Mr. Furth has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and was seriously considered as a compromise candidate for the United States Senate at the last session of the state legislature, and it is not at all improbable that the fortunes of politics may yet lift him from his money tables to the upper house in Congress.

JAMES M. FRINK.

From the American farms have come some of our most successful business men. One of these, J. M. Frink, spent his boyhood and early manhood drawing sustenance and laying the foundation for the success that has since come to him from the prairie soil of Kansas. During the exciting times of '61 to '64 Mr. Frink did his part as a defender and protector of his nation's honor. In 1876 he arrived in Seattle and for a time found employment, first as a common laborer, then as a school teacher. In 1881 he engaged in a small way in the iron foundry business, from which has grown the Washington Iron Works Company, one of the largest institutions of its kind in the state, and of which Mr. Frink is and always has been president and business manager. Mr. Frink has always been active in public affairs, serving his city well, as councilman and member of the board of education and the state with distinction for eight years as senator from his district. In 1900 he was the Republican nominee for governor of the state, but owing to factional differences which split the party, he failed of election. Mr. Frink stands on a par with any or all others in the city as an honored, successful, self-made man.

ALEXANDER B. STEWART.

Royalty has few if any more successful and honored descendents than Alexander Bruce Stewart, the successful man of affairs, who is at the head of the Stewart and Holmes drug business, not only of Seattle but of various other parts of the Northwest. While descended from the royal family of Stuarts on his paternal side and of the noted Bruce family on his maternal side, he has not banked on his "blue blood" for the successes that have been his. Fortune has smiled not because of these, but in response to the application of good judgment and honest methods in business. He began his business career as a druggist in Nevada, but in 1882 he came to Seattle, where the opportunity for advancement has been equal to his genius to seize it and success has followed. He has always taken a deep interest in political matters and has been and still is a safe counsellor and earnest party worker. A. B. Stewart is one of Seattle's most honored citizens.

HON. WILL E. HUMPHREY.

Congressman Will E. Humphrey, Seattle's eloquent representative in the halls of Congress, hails from the Hoosier state, and received his advanced education at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, which is the alma mater of that general, statesman and author, Lew Wallace, as well as of many other more or less noted persons. Coming West about a dozen years ago, where the opportunity for such genius as his has greater opportunity to expand, he, like other sensible people, settled in Seattle and soon took his place among the leading lights in his profession, that of the law. As a lawyer he has met with splendid success. Always taking a lively interest in politics, and being a fluent as well as a convincing speaker and debater, his services have always been in demand during political campaigns. When Seattle Republicans made up their minds that this part of the state should have a representative in Congress, it did not take long to decide that Will E. Humphrey was the man. While he has only just entered upon his career as a congressman, yet his ability is such that no fears are felt that he will disappoint his constituents.

SHERWOOD GILLESPY.

Along by the side of the man who is able, by the force of his constructive and executive ability, to set on foot and successfully engineer great enterprises, and fully his equal, is the man who can, as the representative of vast interests, successfully manage and keep them adding to themselves of the wealth of the land. Such a man is Sherwood Gillespy, the general agent for the Pacific Northwest of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, with headquarters in Seattle. Mr. Gillespy has been connected with this company for twenty years, and as general agent in Seattle for over seven years he has conducted the business to the entire satisfaction of the company, as to the increase in its volume and general charcter. He managed for the company the purchase and equipment of the model office building owned by it and the extensive addition to be added thereto will be under his direction. Mr. Gillespy is keenly alive to all that pertains to the unbuilding of Seattle, and is thoroughly in love with his chosen city.

HARRY WATSON.

From the old Keystone state, that commonwealth which has given to Seattle so many of her honored business and professional citizens, comes one of its younger successful business men. Eleven years ago the musical murmurings of the waves of the sundown sea, as they swished upon the evergreen shores of this goodly state, lured Harry Watson from his far Eastern home and here in Seattle the flood tide of opportunity was taken advantage of and the proverbial success has followed. Accepting an humble position with Bonney and Stewart, undertakers, he rapidly rose in the confidence and esteem of his employers, and upon the withdrawal of Mr. Stewart as manager because of having been appointed postmaster for Seattle, Mr. Watson became manager and later a member of the firm, and is still its active manager. Seattle has no more honorable and promising young business man than Harry Watson.

HENRY L. SIZER.

A half century ago, and a little more, the subject of this sketch first saw the light of day in that good old state, New York, that has furnished so many men, good and true, to the nation. The earlier years of his business career were spent in mercantile pursuits. On coming to Seattle, thirteen years ago, he established a fire insurance agency, to which later was added life insurance, then real estate. By close application to details he has built up a lucrative business and is an investor in real property as well as a commission agent for others. Mr. Sizer is of that class of citizens who believe in law, order and right living, and is active in various enterprises for the suppression of vice and the amelioration of the woes incident thereto. As a citizen he is respected by all who know him.

G. W. STETSON

George Washington Stetson, president and general manager of the Stetson-Post Mill Co. is unquestionably one of the best known men in the Northwest. He has been a resident of Seattle since 1864 and has been president and general manager of the mill company ever since 1874. Mr. Stetson is at the head of the largest concern in the Northwest, his mill turning out in the neighborhood of twenty millions feet of lumber every year. To accomplish this it requires the steady employment of never less than 125 men and frequently twice that number. Lumber from his mill is sent to every mart and port in the world and supplies the great bulk that is used in Seattle, where more local building is going on than in any other city in the United States. The success of the concern is largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Stetson. He is one of the mose public-spirited men in the city and Seattleites are justly proud that he is one of them. He is ably assisted in his labors by G. E. Bradley.