BEAUTIFIERS AND BUILDERS.

How the City of St. Paul Has Been Transformed Into One of the Most Beautiful Towns in the Country.

A Tribute to Man's Genius, Ingenuity and Dogged Determination to Overcome All Difficulties.

Architects Who Have Planned the Mammoth Buildings and Magnificent Residences Which Grace the City.

Contractors and Builders Under Whose Guidance the Stately Edifices Have Been Raised to the Skies.

By the Pick and Spade of the Graders the Unsightly Bluffs and Swamps Have Almost Disappeared.

The Organizations Formed by Business Men for Mutual Protection and the Regulation of Competition.

One of St. Paul's numerous advantages is picturesqueness of situation. Nature has surrounded the city with a lovely country, diversified by lakes and forests, which enterprise has developed into one of the most inviting of summer regions. All the approaches to St. Paul are especially attractive. It matters not from which direction the traveler approaches, he passes through beautiful and varied scenery, and the site occupied by the city possesses a rare combination of natural beauties. The business part of the town lies in a spacious, uneven elevation above the river, surrounded by a semi-circle of bluffs averaging something like two hundred feet in height. Up the sides of these the city climbs, beautifying every vantage ground with handsome and stately residences. On the north the bluffs maintain their elevation in a splendid plateau, and over this dry and healthful plain the two cities advance to meet each other, and already meet in suburbs, colleges and various public buildings. Summit avenue curves along the line of the northern bluff, and then turns northward 200 feet broad, graded a distance of over two miles, and with a magnificent asphalt roadway for more than a mile. It is almost literally a street of palaces, although wooden structures alternate with the varied and architecturally interesting mansions of stone and brick on both sides, each house is isolated, with a handsome lawn and ornamental trees, and the total effect is spacious and noble. This avenue commands an almost unequaled view of the sweep of bluffs, round to the Indian mounds of the city, the winding river, and the town and heights of West St. Paul.

The residence portion of St. Paul is justly noted for the exceptional beauty of its shaded avenues and the elegance of the mansions and their surroundings; and the character of the business men and the degree of prosperity they have achieved is emphatically evidenced by the tasteful homes which they have built and maintain. The extreme comfort and modest elegance of the medium-class of houses will also impress the visitor favorably, and so will the taste and care displayed in the gardens and grounds. The school houses, churches and public buildings are also indicative of prosperity and cultivated taste.

The huge business blocks and office buildings in St. Paul are not only a tribute to the enterprise of its citizens, but a monument to the genius of its architects. The visitor to the city is at once impressed by the magnitude of the buildings in the business center. Few cities can equal them in stability, in height or in beauty. The Globe building, the Pioneer Press, the New York Life, the Manhattan, the Germania Life and the Germania bank are among the finest office buildings to be found in the country. They are all fitted up with modern conveniences; and every one are above seven stories high.

St. Paul has many public halls suitable for every variety of purpose. The largest hall is in the second story of the public market house; it is of generous dimensions. The Grand opera house has few equals in the country for beauty, spaciousness, comfort and completeness. It has a seating capacity of 2,250, and is fitted in the most elegant manner throughout. It is heated by steam and lighted by incandescent electroliers. It is admirably managed, and St. Paul is provided with the best attractions of the day.

The building containing the city and county offices occupies an entire square in the heart of the business district. It is one of the most substantial and elegant public edifices in the country. The walls and towers are of solid Kasota stone, whose beautiful tint and enduring qualities have commended it to builders of St. Paul. Fire-proof throughout; constructed according to the latest plans, and fitted with every modern improvement; furnished with modest elegance, and lacking nothing that taste and public spirit can suggest, this building is one of the notable ornaments of the city. Its cost was about $1,000,000. The imposing character of the Ryan hotel cannot be too highly praised. This immense structure is seven stories high, and rises to a height of 112 feet from the sidewalk, while its three towers extend to a height of 180 feet. The architectural appearance of the hotel is very pleasing, consisting of a combination of modern Gothic and Moorish. The exterior is of St. Louis pressed brick and Joliet marble, with trimmings of sandstone and red and drab terra cotta. The interior finish is of antique oak, enhanced by free-hand frescoing on wall and ceiling, and on every hand one is impressed with the taste and elegance displayed. The Globe building is a structure whose solidity and imposing proportions would attract attention in any metropolis in the country. It stands at the corner of Fourth and Cedar streets and is ten stories high. It is built of pressed brick, with trimmings of brownstone and elaborate decorative work in terra cotta. There is not a particle of wood used in the construction except in floors, window sashes and carvings, and the whole is thoroughly fire-proof. The building rests upon a foundation of solid rock, and towers above its six and seven-story neighbors like a giant. The New York Life building cost in the neighborhood of $1,000,000, and is among the most magnificent office buildings in the city. There are also the Germania Life building, the Germania Bank building, the Pioneer Press building, the Endicott Arcade, the Lowry Arcade and the Manhattan building, which, in point of architecture, stability and finish, cannot be excelled if equaled by any other city in the Union.

Among the other notable buildings of a public and semi-public character are the following: State capitol, between Wabasha and Cedar and Exchange and Tenth street; court house and city hall, between Wabasha and Cedar and Fourth and Fifth streets, postoffice and government building, corner Wabasha and Fifth streets; public market, corner Wabasha and Seventh streets; chamber of commerce, corner Robert and Sixth street; public library building, Bridge square, corner Wabasha and third streets; high school, corner Tenth and Minnesota streets; reform school, St. Anthony avenue, near Simpson street; Minnesota club, southeast corner of Cedar and Fourth streets; Northern Pacific block, Broadway, foot of Forth street; Merchants' hotel block, corner of Jackson and East Third street.

A THOROUGH TRAINING.

The Eminent Fitness of Mr. Dewey as an Architect.

C. R. Dewey, architect, of 36 Schutte building, has been in business in St. Paul since 1889. He removed here from Chicago, where he worked for six or seven years. Although Mr. Dewey's residence in St. Paul is limited to three years, in that short time he has done what must appear a great amount of work. To mention the prominent buildings he has planned: J. F. Riley's residence, 63 Tilton street, a $6,500 building; John Heinen's residence at Hastings, $4,500; C. T. Newcombe's residence on Summit avenue, $5,000; B. S. Harris' residence corner Mendota and Dawson, $7,000; D. H. Michaud, 640 Olive street, $3,000; L. N. Bryant's residence, South Park, $4,000; alterations on the Shandrew residence on Ashland avenue, $2,000; alterations on A. L. Larpenteur's residence, $9,000. Mr. Larpenteur's residence is one of the oldest, as it is one of the best colonial residences in St. Paul. It was built in 1865 and has been modernized by Mr. Dewey. Mr. Dewey is now engaged making plans for a $16,000 three-story brick tenement house for J. H. Morong, to be built in Lincoln Park. These are, of course, but a few of the buildings with which Mr. Dewey has been professionally connected. Prior to entering his profession, Mr. Dewey fitted himself for it in superintending buildings, several of which are to-day permanent landmarks in Chicago. He was thus employed for ten or twelve years. Before locating in St. Paul he was also engaged three years as a draughtsman. It will thus be seen that, as an architect, Mr. Dewey is fully competent to undertake the best, as well as all kinds of work. Mr. Dewey was born in Iowa.

ALWAYS PREPARED.

Mr. Bergman's Prominent Work in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Mr George Bergman, architect, moved from Germany to St. Paul in 1880, and has been identified with the leading architects of St. Paul since. He has planned some of the best residences in the city, as well as several churches and school houses, including the Bohemian church and St. James church and St. Agnes school. He has also planned several churches in outside cities, Stillwater, Rush City and all over the state. In Wisconsin his buildings may be seen in all the principal cities. Mr. Bergman has under contract a large business block in St. Paul, which will soon be built. Mr. Bergman is located on Wabasha and Fourth streets, where he is at all times prepared to furnish plans and specifications.

HAS A GOOD RECORD.

The Public Works Built Under the Eye of Phillips & Merryman.

Mr. Phillips, the past summer, has been examining mineral lands in the northern part of the state for a Detroit, Mich., firm. He makes a speciality of mineral and coal lands. Under the old firm of Brinckerhoff & Phillips he drew plans and specifications for the St. Paul coal and iron docks at Superior, and had general supervision of the same. He was two years on river and harbor work under Maj. McKenzie. He was one year with the Northern Pacific railroad, located the Western extension of the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad and has had charge of several large surveys for Eastern and local syndicates. Mr. Phillips is a graduate of the Indiana university. Messrs. Merryman & Phillips are prepared to furnish surveys and estimates for railway lines, townsites laid out and mapped, plans, specifications and estimates furnished for roofs, bridges, docks, water supplies and sewerage drawings, and all engineering structures. Construction of engineering works attended to. Examination and reports of railway, mining and other properties.

W. C. Merryman, civil engineer, is a graduate of Bowdon college, class of '82. He subsequently put in a year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and then worked for some time on the N. Y. & N. E. railroad. He came West in the summer of 1883, and went into the employ of the St. Paul water works, remaining until the works were completed. Altogether he was two years in the employ of the water works. The first year he was engaged on location and some construction; the second year he had charge of all instrument work on second division, including one and a half miles conduit, waste weir, terminal chambers, pump house and pipe lines, between four and five miles. Mr. Merryman returned East for about six months, returning to enter the city engineer's department, where he remained until June, 1890. When in the city engineer's department he had charge of the bridge work, the Robert street bridge being built under his superintendance. He also did surveying for paving, and had charge of a number of sand-rock sewers, including the Ohio street system, finishing with the Midway sewer system. In June Mr. Merryman went into partnership with H. L. Phillips, and has been doing general engineering work. The firm is a capable one. The fact that Mr. Merryman is a member is sufficient criterion of its standing.

CIVIL ENGINEER.

Mr. Loweth Has Had Great Experience in His Line.

Charles F. Loweth, 560 and 561 Drake block, established in St. Paul in May, 1883, does a general business as a consulting civil engineer for all kinds of bridge designing, sewerage, waterworks and other municipal engineering. He was engineer for the union depot company, and designed and supervised the construction of the union depot train shed in this city, costing $130,000, He was chief engineer for the Sioux City Rapid Transit company, Sioux City, Io., and designed and superintended the construction of the lately completed elevated railroad in that city; a double track steel structure, a mile and a half in length, and costing $270,000. Mr. Loweth, during this last year, was engineer in charge of the construction of a $100,000 highway bridge over the Mississippi river at Lyons, Io., for the Lyons & Fulton Bridge company. He lately designed a $76,000 street viaduct to be built over the railroad track, on Fourth street, in Sioux City. Has designed and had charge of the construction of four large street bridges now being built in Minneapolis, by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway company over its yards and tracks. Also designed the bridges at Seventh street and Lafayette avenue over the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroad tracks, and at Mississippi street and Rice street over the Northern Pacific railroad tracks, all in this city; also a number of important structures on the lines of the Northern Pacific railroad, St. Paul & Duluth railway, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railway, including two Mississippi river bridges, several iron draw spans and roof trusses for three different lots of large railroad shops. He is now preparing plans for a sewerage system for Waverly, Io.; Janesville, Wis., and Owatonna, Minn., and has lately done similar work for Escanaba and Hancock, Mich., and previously for Eau Claire, Sioux City, Mankato, Yankton, Sioux Falls and other places. He is now making plans for some large storm water sewers for Sioux City. Also prepared plans for water works for Waverly, Cedar Falls and Vinton, Io.; Black River Falls, Wis., and Austin, Minn., and lately for Redwood Falls, Minn.

AN HONORABLE CAREER.

The Great Services Rendered the City by Surveyor Curtice.

D. L. Curtice was born in New York, in 1828. He was a classmate of the late Dr. Taylor, and also a student with Roscoe Conkling, and took a course in civil engineering. Mr. Curtice was in the engineering department when the first railroad was built in Canada west in 1851. He came to St. Paul in 1856 and was civil engineering in 1858 and 1859. In 1862 located the St. Paul and Pacific railroad from Big Lake to St. Cloud, and then became civil edgineer from 1869 to 1874, during which time, by his recommendation, the street grades were fixed, leveling Baptist Hill, now the wholesale district of St. Paul.

Mr. Curtice is county surveyor at present and is engaged in civil engineering, having done the greater portion of surveying for the principal buildings in the city. The entire wholesale district was done by him.

There is no need to speak of Mr. Curtice's exceptional abilities as a surveyor; the great work he has done in the city, county and state are a sufficient and a higher testimonial than mere words.

FORGED TO THE FRONT.

The Standing Quickly Attained by Mr. Lee in Bridge Work.

Will A. Lee came here in the winter of 1885-86 to act as general foreman for the Morse Bridge company on the erection of the Robert street bridge, having acted in the same capacity for the Central Bridge Works of Buffalo, N. Y., in erecting the cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls. After completing the Robert street bridge he settled in St. Paul and has been doing a contracting business, erecting, painting and repairing bridges and buildings. During this time he has erected the iron in the Manhattan, the Kavanagh, the Merchants' bank, the electric power house, Lowry's arcade, and bridges on Mississippi, Fourth and Reaney streets, this city. He has also painted all the bridges on the Northern Pacific railway between St. Paul and Minneapolis, including the Mississippi river bridge at Minneapolis, and the water tower for the new water works in Albert Lea. Mr. Lee was inspector of the high bridge in this city. He has been connected with a greater portion of all bridge building in the Twin Cities. He has just completed the bridge over the Northern Pacific tracks on Fourth avenue north, Minneapolis, and is erecting another bridge at Fourth street north over the Great Northern tracks in Minneapolis.

AN EXCELLENT TRAINING

Disclosed by the Record of Mr. Toltz, of the Great Northern.

Max Toltz, a graduate of Berlin university, located in St. Paul in 1881. As an engineer Mr. Toltz has had excellent experience. He was for five years after his arrival in this state in the engineering department of the Manitoba railroad. He subsequently took up a position in the city engineer's office, where for four years he had charge of the construction of sewers. Mr. Toltz was engineer for the Minneapolis belt line, in connection with which was the belt line bridge, which was also built under his superintendence. Mr. Toltz is now connected with the Great Northern as bridge engineer.

THE BUILDERS' EXCHANGE.

An Organization Doing a Great Work for Business Men.

The first step towards the organization of this important adjunct to the city's progress was taken in 1886, and its raison d'etre has since been shown in the great benefit accruing to the building fraternity and such of the public at large as have availed themselves of its privileges. The prime object in its formation was to bring into closer and more harmonious relations the various branches of the building business of the city, in order to protect and promote the several interests represented. Hearty co-operation on the part of the leading craftsmen of the different trades and by the manufacturers of and dealers in building materials soon placed the association on a substantial basis, and its rooms became the headquarters of the building interests of the city. In addition to the usual features of organization for protection and promotion of common interests, the association endeavors to serve the public, as well as its members, by providing a central bureau or "exchange" where any requisite information concerning building may be had, and where the leading contractors, manufacturers and dealers may be found by one another, or the public, at a stated hour in each business day. In the building business this is particularly needed, as the busy contractor wants daily to consult owner, architect, subcontractor or dealer; but the contractor's operations cover so wide a territory and his presence is so constantly required on one job or another that he can spend but little time in his office, and that irregularly. To prevent the consequent loss of time and annoyance in transacting business among and with its members, the Builders' exchange has established a 'change hour, from 11:30 to 12, when every member is expected to be on the floor in person or by a representative. The advantages to architects, contractors, manufacturers, dealers and the public generally are obvious. The exchange membership embraces the representative men of all lines of the building business, and its commodious quarters are conveniently located on the second floor of the Builder's exchange building, 34 East Seventh street, corner Cedar street, where the public are cordially invited to avail themselves of the privileges offered by the Builder's Exchange of St. Paul.

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

The End and Aims of the Contracting Carpenters' Association.

Among the many organizations which exist in St. Paul there are none which have performed their work and accomplished more changes and reforms in the building trade than that of the association known as the Contracting Carpenters' association. Up to the time of its organization there had been no branch of trade which has suffered so much from incompetent and unreliable competition as that of the building contractors, and on March 3, 1890, the master carpenters met together at the rooms of the Builders' exchange and formed the above association. This association was organized for the purpose of establishing a more social and friendly relation between architects, owners and the builders, and to better the conditions of the building interests of St. Paul. Last March the leading builders realized that something should be done, and the Contracting Carpenters' association took the initial step towards bringing together the different trades in separate organization and uniting them in what is known as the Contractors' Exchange. As a consequence of the movement the master painters, plasterers, stone and brickmasons, stone cutters and carpenters have been associated, and are prepared to guarantee its membership to the public as thoroughly reliable and competent in their several trades. The Contracting Carpenters' association have a large and commodious room on the second floor of the Reardon block, where a daily exchange meeting is held between the hours of 11 and 12 a. m. The different trades composing the Contractors' exchange meet each other at times to transact whatever business which may be necessary in their relations to each other in the construction of buildings. The officers and members are:

OFFICERS.

M. Gordon Craig, president.
John H. Donohue, vice president.
John H. Hoffman, secretary.
Andrew Rankin, treasurer.

TRUSTEES.

F. J. Roemer. O. L. Rheaume. Nicholas Rauen, E. A. Fitzgerald, G. W. Dorrance.

Delegates to Contractors' Exchange of St. Paul: F. J. Roemer, John H. Donohue, G. W. Dorrance.

SQUARE DEALING

The Motto Which Mr. Carrier Places to the Front.

Frank X. Carrier, contractor and builder, of 487 St. Anthony, came to St. Paul in 1865. He was born near Three Rivers, Canada, in 1835. It was not until 1871 that Mr. Carrier launched into the business world as a contractor. Up to that time he had been occupied as a carriage builder. Since Mr. Carrier engaged in contracting he has built the following: The Foundlings' home, Paul Martin's block, on the West side; a block for Mr. Huppary, of the West side: the residence of L. W. Dione, a block for Mr. Suel, on the corner of Carrol and and Mackubin, and many scores of smaller residences in and about the city. Mr. Carrier employes fifteen men, and prides himself for the care and attention given to job work, such as putting up storm doors, sash, etc. He is a most conscientious master, and has an enviable record for the high class character of his work. Mr. Carrier says "Honesty and square dealing" is his motto.

HE'S WELL FITTED.

Mr. Cooley Can Undertake All Work in His Line.

Mr. J. M. Cooley, of 563 and 565 Broadway, is a contractor and builder. He was born near Homesdale, Pa., in 1847, locating in St. Paul in 1873, first engaging as superintendent of contracts for the Minnesota Real Estate agency. Mr. Cooley did $25,000 worth of work at Inver Grove for Bushnell & Bushnell. He was also the contractor for the residence of J. C. Terry, corner of Pine and Somerset; the residence of E. A. Northrop, on Dayton's Bluff; the warehouse for Greggs & Foster, rebuilding the same after the fire; the omnibus barn for A. B. Cook, rebuilding the same after fire, and numerous city engine houses, schools, churches and business blocks. The annual business done by Mr. Cooley figures up to $50,000 a year. He gives employment to twenty-five men. Mr. Cooley pays special attention to orders for screen doors, windows, storm sash and doors, office and store fittings.

GAINING FAST.

Messrs. Amlee & Hoff, a Young Firm, Growing in Popularity.

Messrs. Amlee & Hoff, of 20 West Tenth street, contractors and carpenters, are thoroughly reliable workmen. Mr. A. G. Amlee was born in Norway in 1861, coming to St. Paul in 1878. He thereafter acted as foreman for several of the best contractors in the city, gaining for himself a high and honorable reputation. About a year ago he embarked in the contracting business on his own account. Mr. Amlee has been eminently successful, and deservedly, for no man works harder or more conscientiously. Messrs. Amlee & Hoff make jobbing a specialty. They are responsible for the work on a number of first-class residences in the city, which stand as a monument to the excellence of their work.

SOME FINE WORK

Accomplished by Mr. Covington in St. Paul and Its Suburbs.

F. W. Covington, contractor and builder, is a native of Virginia who moved to St. Paul in July, 1884. He has been contracting since that date. Prior to coming to St. Paul he conducted a carpenter's shop in Kentucky for several years. Mr. Covington does a general contracting and building trade, and has a shop and office at 515 and 517 St. Peter street. He has taken contracts for a great many buildings in this city, including A. T. Larpenter's residence, the Capitol apartment building, Monroe school building, Beebe's residence and the Northwest Kennel club's house at Silver Lake. H. Boardman's residence at Delwood was built by Mr. Covington, as well as most of the houses there. Mr. Covington is ready at all times to take contracts for buildings outside as well as in St. Paul, as he has erected buildings in all the suburban towns of St. Paul.

A HARD WORKER.

The Success Which Has Attended Contractor J. Hasslen.

Mr. John Hasslen, contractor and builder, is to be found at 159 Grotto street, corner of Hague, where his office and shop are located. Mr. Hasslen came to St. Paul in 1880 and engaged as a carpenter. By dint of perseverance and honest industry Mr. Hasslen soon launched into business as his own master, and now has thirty men in his employ. He has built the residences for the following: Ed Konners, J. W. Taylor, W. Doolittle, Rothchild & Thurston, Smith & Taylor and Henry Rothchild. Mr. Hasslen pays special attention to job work, sash, doors, windows, etc. He is a most reliable man, and in business circles has a very high standing. Mr. Hasslen's business is increasing—a tribute to his admirable management and untiring energy.

FOR FIRST-CLASS WORK

The St. Paul Furniture Company Cannot Be Excelled in Its Line.

The St. Paul Furniture company, doing business at 161 West Fifth street, is one of the best-known firms in the Northwest for fine furniture, office fixtures and interior hardwood finish. This firm started business in 1880, and each year since have steadily increased their amount of work done, and today they can cite many of the most elaborate offices and banks throughout the city and state which attest their ability for neat design and good workmanship. Also in the line of hardwood interior finish their work is not surpassed by any Eastern firm and is a credit to any city. We give a few of the many residences which their interior hardwood work shows for itself: D. C. Shepard's, Dayton and Farrington avenues: C. P. Noyes' on Virginia avenue; A. W. Krebs', Dayton and Farrington; J. L. Schurmeier's, Crocus hill; Mrs. C. C. Smith's, Olive street; the Aberdeen, Dayton and Virginia; Clinton Markell, D. G. Cash, of Duluth; the Spalding hotel, of Duluth; the Broadway hotel, of West Superior, Wis. At the present they are employed in filing a large contract for D. D. Merrill & Co.'s new store on Fifth and St. Peter, and interior hardwood work for the residence of Peter Pfeifer.

AN EXCELLENT SHOWING

Made the First Year by the Minnesota Sash and Door Company.

The Minnesota Sash and Door company is officered as follows: S. E. Mahan president, Thomas Kenworthy secretary and treasurer and A. I. Wilson manager. This company manufactures sash, doors, frames, mouldings, brackets, stair, church and office work in all kinds of interior pine and hardwood finish. The company is located at 1037 East Seventh street, and was started this year. So successful has its operations been that the annual turnover will amount to between $80,000 and $90,000. There are now seventy men employed, but it is the intention of the company to increase the capacity of the factory next year so that 100 men may be employed. The company has already filled contracts for a college and building at Charles City, Io.; also the mill work for two fine churches, one at Ada, Minn., and Ackley, Io: a large row of department houses at West Superior, the Arroll block, C. F. Clark's residence, the two fine residences at Eagle Grove, Io.; S. B. Mahan residence, and the shelves and counters for the Golden Rule in St. Paul. Also do a general business in this line. President Mahan was born at Terre Haute, Ind., in 1846, and came to St. Paul in 1889. He was first engaged with the St. Paul Ice company. Thomas Kenworthy, the secretary and treasurer, is a Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) man. He was born there in 1869, and came to St. Paul in 1890 for the purpose of entering the firm with which he is now connected. The Minnesota Sash and Door company could not have secured an abler manager than A. I. Wilson. He is a thoroughly practical man. Mr. Wilson, who was born in Rochester, N. Y., in 1852, settled in St. Paul in 1886, and for three years filled the onerous position of superintendent of the Bohn Manufacturing company.

IT RANKS HIGH.

The Position Gained by the Taylor-Craig Corporation Among the Building Fraternity.

The Taylor Craig corporation is officered as follows: Mathew Taylor, president; M. Gordon Craig, secretary and treasurer, and the office and factory is situated at 201-211 West Fifth street. The corporation does general contracting business, and it may be stated succeeded to the business of John Summers in 1878. The corporation has built some of the largest buildings in St. Paul, of which can be mentioned all of the wood work in the Pioneer Press building and Manhattan block. The corporation has its own factory and manufactures all interior and exterior finish, employing on an average of 300 men all the year round. The company is ready at any time to fill large or small contracts. They also manufacture doors, sash and blinds, and mill work and Fling's Excelsior sliding screens. They manufactured and shipped last year blinds and screens to the amount of $10,000 to outside trade. At present they are engaged in building the Olympic theater in St. Paul and Kansas City shops at South Park; German M. E. church, corner of Olive street and Van Slyke court. Store fixtures, counters, etc., are also manufactured by the firm, the success of which is largely due to the consummate manner in which the business has been managed. It is interesting to note that the Taylor-Craig corporation also built the Central Presbyterian church, and Litt's Grand opera house. Both Messrs. Taylor and Craig are old settlers in St. Paul. Mr. Craig came here in 1854 and Mr. Taylor in the '60s.

TURN OUT GOOD WORK.

High Econiums Paid Johnson Bros. & Loomis for Their Fixtures.

The firm of Johnson Bros. & Loomis was established in 1883. Henry Johnson and Charles Johnson were born in Sweden and moved to this country in 1870, settled in Philadelphia, afterwards moved to St. Paul in 1878. They at once embarked in the manufacturing business. They are manufacturers of bank, office and store fixtures, sideboards, counters, mantels and bookcases. They have taken and completed contracts for some of the best inside hardwood workin the city, among which is the the Bank of Minnesota, Merchants' National bank, and some of the best residences on Summit avenue and St. Anthony hill. They also do a large business with outside trade, making large shipments annually. They have just secured the contract for the refitting of the Hotel St. Louis at Duluth, to be finished in mahogany, and have just completed the refitting of the Grand sample room. Their office and factory is situated on Jackson street, Nos. 639-641. The business was established by Johnson Bros. They took in, in 1883, Mr. Loomis. Johnson Bros. learned their trade in Sweden, which is a guarantee that they are thoroughly competent to do the finest kind of work. They have in their employ, on an average, fifty men the year round. Their work is always reliable, and for design and beauty of finish not to be excelled in the Northwest.

LAUER'S LINE.

The Class of Work Done by a Young Business Man.

Mr. Jacob Lauer was born in Lorraine, France, in 1865, taking up his residence in the capital city of the North Star state in 1882. He first engaged as foreman to C. and H. Lauer, but the year 1887 saw him commenced in business for himself. Today Mr. Lauer employs from 75 to 150 men. The line of work undertaken by him is the building of cellars, cisterns and all kinds of stone and brick work. Mr. Lauer has done considerable brick work for the city on school and public buildings. He has also done the foundation work for many churches and residences in and about the city, and is now building the large box factory for Messrs. Blodgett & Osgood. Mr. Lauer guarantees satisfaction for all work contracted. The contracts he has held under the city are a sufficient guarantee of the excellent workmanship performed by Mr. Lauer, as well as the high standing occupied by him among business men in the city. Mr. Lauer's place of business is located at 252 Erie street.

HE IS THOROUGH.

The Competency, Demonstrated by Mr. A. Rapue.

Mr. A. Rapue, plasterer and contractor, a native of St. Louis, Mo., moved to St. Paul in 1874. He has been contracting about ten years, and was formerly emyloyed as a superintendent by leading contractors of the city. Mr. Rapue has made contracting his life study, and for thorough workmanship he is difficult to excell, if equal. Mr. Rapue was the contractor for the Clifton block, corner Congress and Clinton; the Myers' block, on Wabasha; the Wecker block, on West Winifred street; the residence of B. Higgin and numerous other erections around the city. Mr. Rapue is prepared to undertake contracts, large or small, for plastering or cementing. His place of business is 248 East Robie street. The buildings on which Mr. Rapue has contracted are of themselves sufficient testimonial of the class of work done by him. He is a thoroughly competent man of business.

HE HEADS ALL.

Mr. Brack the Pioneer Painter in the City.

George M. Brack, of 41 and 43 West Fourth street, has been thirty-three years in business in St. Paul, and this consecutively but for three years spent in the army during the rebellion. It would be difficult to give a business man any higher testimonial than this, for it demonstrates more loudly than words the high qualifications which have enabled him to successfully continue to cater to the wishes of his customers. Mr. Brack has actively interested himself in promoting the welfare of the painting trade as a profession, and towards that end he has occupied the onerous and honorable position of president of the local association of master painters. Mr. Brack has contracted for some of the best buildings and residences there are in the city. A few may be mentioned: Buildings—the Mannheimer block, Mayall & De Coster building, Metropolitan opera house, Central Presbyterian church; residences—Dr. Wharton's, Archbishop Ireland's, Clarence Secors', Farrar & House block on Summit avenue and F. B. Kellogg's. Mr. Brack is now engaged on the new Merrill block, the German M. E. church and a number of new residences in course of erection. A year ago Mr. Brack, notwithstanding the competition met with in this line, he was compelled to enlarge his quarters to meet the demands of his increasing trade in wall papers. The flattering success in this department warrants him in enlarging his stock. Geo. L. De Zouche, an artist, has charge of this department.

A BIG BUSINESS

Done by the Well-Known Grading Contractors, Messrs. Dale & Bumgardner.

Messrs. Dale & Bumgardner are grade contractors. This firm has between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars invested in plant, consisting of cars, track, scrapers, teams, etc. They are credited with having the most complete grading outfit in the city. Few firms have undertaken larger contracts. To mention a few: Messrs. Dale & Bumgardner graded Marshall avenue, from Victoria street to the river: Jenks street, from Mississippi to Earl street; Earl street, from Post Siding to the city limits; Fairview street, known as Jackson street hill. The amount of dirt removed from Fairview street and private property adjoining amounted to nearly 500,000 cubic yards, and one year's work was put in upon it. The average haul of material was three-quarters of a mile, and from 100 to 150 men, with 15 or 20 teams, were employed. The firm has done a large amount of private work, Paul Martin's fill being one. This consisted of 20,000 cubic feet of dirt taken from the hill and placed on the low level. Among the earliest contracts done by this firm was some of the heaviest work on the shores of Lake Pepin for the Burlington railroad, and the waterworks extension for Minneapolis. Mr. Dale, the senior member of the firm, has charge of the financial matters, and Mr. Bumgardner personally superintends the outdoor work. The firm is now doing a piece of grading on Stickney street, and improving the Kansas City railroad track with the dirt removed. The turnover of the firm averages $100,000 a year, thus placing them in the front with the other leading contractors of St. Paul and vicinity. Messrs. Dale & Bumgardner do not confine their contracting to St. Paul, but do railroad work all over the country. Of the outside work done by them, a large portion has been undertaken in the city of St. Cloud. Mr. John Dale, an Englishman by birth, has been in St. Paul about twenty years. He is a member of the park commission. Mr. Brungardner came from Ohio ten years ago, and has been engaged in general contracting since 1886, when he and Mr. Dale entered partnership. Prior to that time Mr. Dale was a building contractor. Mr. Bumgardner has been superintendent for some of the leading firms in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The office of this firm is at 78 South Robert street.

GIVES SATISFACTION.

An Enviable Faculty Enjoyed by Mr. P. Tantholt.

Mr. Peter Tantholt, of 461 Blair street, is a contractor and street grader. He came to St. Paul in 1876, first engaging as a grading contractor on railroads. Two years later, 1878, he commenced as contractor and grader, and now employs fifty men. Mr. Tantholt graded Duke street, Fairview avenue and, as he remarked, "other streets all over the city too numerous to mention." He has done a considerable amount of railroad grading in this state. Mr. Tantholt also excavates cellars for stone buildings, and, in fact, is ready to undertake all kinds of excavating work. Mr. Tantholt has just finished grading Richmond street, which he has done with complete satisfaction to the city authorities —a satisfaction which, peculiarly enough, is evinced by all fortunate enough to give their contracts to Mr. Tantholt to perform.

HAVE TWO OFFICES.

Messrs. P. Brennan & Son, the Prominent Railroad Contractors.

P. Brennan & Son, railroad contractors, have two offices. Mr. P. Brennan is located at Owatonna and his son is to be found in St. Paul at 132 East Fourth street. The firm make a specialty of track laying and ballasting, and have laid track for the Great Northern road since 1880. During the twelve years Messrs. Brennan & Co. have laid 2,000 miles of track for the Great Northern. The firm have just finished a contract for the Wadena branch, from Wadena to Grand Rapids, a distance of sixty miles. Mr. P. Brennan is a native of Ireland and has made contracting his life work. The junior member of the firm became connected therewith twelve years ago. As railroad contractors there are few more stable or more thoroughly reliable firms than that of Messrs. P. Brennan & Son.

IS THE PEER.

Messrs. Sherwood, Sutherland & Co. Control Business in Their Line.

Messrs. Sherwood, Sutherland & Co. are builders of bridges, elevators and railroad buildings, pile driving and trestle work. This is the oldest business of its character in St. Paul, having been established "way back in the fifties." The date of commencement was 1856, and the founders Fitz & Sherwood, but Mr. Fitz dying shortly afterward, the management and conduct of its affairs devolved solely on the other member of the firm, who carried on the business alone until 1871, when B. Sutherland secured an interest; Mr. Oakes being admitted to partnership in 1886. The concern have done most of the pile driving in St. Paul for the past twenty-five years, and still controls it. They have constructed the elevators on several of the leading lines of railway radiating from St. Paul, and erected the depots, trestles, bridges and warehouses on many of them besides. They also built the trestlework, etc., of the first railroad between this city and Minneapolis in the early days, and in all their operations have kept fully abreast of the rapid development and enormous construction business of recent years. They employ one hundred men, on an average, at all seasons of the year, and are well supplied with engines, hoisting machinery, pile drivers, and all the other paraphernalia and equipment pertaining to the business. George W. Sherwood, the head of the firm and founder of the enterprise, is a native of New York, and followed the same occupation in that state before coming here in 1856. He is the best known man in this line of industry in the entire Northwest, and stands in the highest estimation of all. B. Sutherland is also a native of the Empire state, and was engaged in farming and the hotel business there prior to his advent here in 1871; and George W. Oakes, the junior partner, hails from Ohio, and dates his arrival in St. Paul from this same year.

BUILT BIG BUILDINGS.

The Foremost Position Taken by the Lauer Bros.

Lauer Bros., contractors and builders, proprietors of steam sawmill, have their office, sawmill and yard at foot of Chestnut street. They are dealers in all kinds of stone, Bedford limestone, Bayfield brown stone and Kasota limestone. Lauer Bros. were given contract for the cut stone used in the main walls and piers of the New York Life building. They became established in 1880, since which time they have been identified with some of the largest as well as finest buildings in this vicinity. They did all the cut stone work for the Aberdeen block and were the general contractors for Germania bank, Germania Life Insurance building, prominent church buildings, and many of the most prominent residences, including A. B. Stickney's, D. R. Noyes' and Mr. Gambles'. They are also experienced in making fire and burglar proof vaults, having made those in the Endicott building. They are ready at all times to take contracts for buildings in stone, possessing all modern conveniences, including a steam mill for sawing stone. The firm is the owner of the quarry on Seventh street in addition to handling all kinds of stone before mentioned. They are at present engaged in constructing the German M. E. church on Van Slyke court and Olive street.

A RAPID RISE

Made by Mr. Johnson in the Ranks of Contractors.

Mr. N. C. Johnson, the prominent sewer contractor, settled in St. Paul in 1882, coming from Denmark. He first interested himself in the hotel business, and it was not until 1888 he embarked into contracting. He built the Hoffman avenue sewer, which is 117 feet deep, and is said to be the deepest sewer in the city. Mr. Johnson employs from fifteen to fifty men the year round. Other sewers put in by him are those on Pleasant avenue and York street, and he is now completing a sewer on Winslow avenue. He is a most reliable business man, and his energy and tact are demonstrated by the rapid rise he has made since taking up contracting. Fremont street, Dawson street, George street, Margaret street and Delos street sewers were put in these streets by Mr. Johnson also. Mr. Johnson's office is at his hotel, 66 East Fourth street.

DOES GREAT WORK.

The Contracts Successfully Undertaken by J. D. Moran.

J. D. Moran, of 210 Lumbermen and Builders' Exchange, is a contractor and quarry owner, who has built some notable buildings in St. Paul. To mention a few, he was the builder of Lowry's Arcade, the electric power house on East Seventh street, the Phalen creek sewer, one of the largest sewers in the West; the grading and walling of East Third street, the grading and walling of Oakland street and East Sixth street, Selby avenue for the city railway company, a dwelling for himself at 588 Rondo, a dwelling for G. A. Morgan at 481 Goodhue street and Fifteenth to Twentieth streets, and sewer contracts for the city. Mr. Moran has the largest and best plant in the city for heavy masonry, quarry and brick work, and has a capital of $80,000. During the working season he employs from 150 to 200 men and 25 to 50 teams, and has constantly on hand a large stock of quarried bluestone, footing, range and rubble for sale. Mr. Moran came to St. Paul in 1855, and has been contracting for the past nine years. Previous to that time he was in the mercantile business. He is a native of Illinois.

IN THE LEAD.

Messrs. Tostevin & Son, of the Minnesota Steam Marble Works.

The proprietors of the Minnesota Steam Marble works are J. F. Tostevin & Son. They are manufacturers of marble, slate and wood mantles, and were first established in 1855. The business was started in a little wood shanty on Jackson and Seventh streets, out of the window of which, Mr. Tostevin relates, he used to shoot ducks and geese, but from a struggling frontier post St. Paul has grown to metropolitan proportions, and Mr. Tostevin's business has grown commensurately. The place of business is now at the corner of Robert and Eighth streets, where is manufactured some of the best goods in the state, Messrs. Tostevin & Son have completed contracts for some of the best monuments in the West. Monuments of their workmanship are to be seen in Ogden, Utah; Bismarck, N. D.; Princeton, Minn., and numerous other cities. They erected the monument to the late Judge Hale in the Oakland cemetery. Mr. Tostevin was the first marble cutter in Minnesota, and did all his work himself, but now employs on an average of fifteen men. The firm has established the largest business in their line in the city. In the mantel line, they have put in mantels for all the principal residences in the city.

A PIONEER.

Mr. Pat Kelly Well and Honorably Known Among Business Men.

There are few men better known in the building trade than Mr. Pat Kelly, of Dayton's bluff. Mr. Kelly was born in Ireland, came to America in 1848, and settled in St. Paul in 1858. It will thus be seen that Mr. Kelly must be numbered among that hardy band of pioneers, who, facing the hardships of frontier life, by hard work and indomitable spirit built the foundations of the present great, thriving metropolis of the Northwest. Mr. Kelly first engaged in farming, the location of his farm being the present site of St. Paul. It was not until 1870 that Mr. Kelly located on Dayton's bluff, where he now owns and operates the largest stone quarries in the city. The magnitude of his business may be conjectured when, among other buildings, it is stated Mr. Kelly furnished stone for the Pioneer Press, the Endicott arcade, the German-American Bank building, the St. Paul foundry and the Manitoba shops. Mr. Kelly has at times 200 men employed. He has a large quantity of excellent building stone for sale. His quarries are situated at the corner of Plum street and Hoffman avenue.

ONE OF THE OLDEST.

A Favorable Showing Made by Messrs. John Nevin & Son.

Messrs. John Nevin & Son are among the oldest contractors in the city. Mr. Nevin came to St. Paul in the early spring of 1859. The building trade was somewhat slow just then, and smaller in proportion to what it a few years later assumed. Mr. Nevin, shortly after his arrival here, took a contract for the cutting of a portion of the cut stone for the McKubbin building, then in course of construction on the ground now occupied by the Metropolitan hotel. Mr. Nevin, speaking of Mr. McKubbin, says, "He was a big-hearted Southern gentlemen," and in reference to the business section of the city in the fifties says, "It then ran from Bridge square up to and around Seven corners. The Winslow and the American hotels were at or near Seven corners, with 'Doc' Robinson's drug store and dry goods on the first floor of the Winslow." Mr. Nevin, from the outset of his settlement in St. Paul, found plenty of work. He contracted for and furnished the native lime stone dressed ready for the walls of the Burbank residence near Ramsey street hill. Mr. Nevin says: "It was the only stone we had then in St. Paul. I call the Burbank residence a nice-looking one even yet." Mr. Nevin has continued contracting in stone and brick work from that time up to the present, with full satisfaction to the citizens whose work he has so successfully and excellently finished. Mr. Nevin is a most painstaking, diligent and honorable gentleman. "I fancied at one time," he the other day remarked, "that a corner or angle on my own work was not properly started if I did not see to it myself." Among the later achievements of Messrs. John Nevin & Son may be mentioned the foundation of the GLOBE building, the numerous stone foundations of bridges in St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Great Northern offices and the original Washburn A mill, Omaha shops at Hudson, roundhouse at St. Paul. Messrs. John Nevin & Son do all manner of contracting and building work in stone and brick. Their sale quarry and residence is at 282 Harrison avenue. They own red and gray granite quarries at St. Cloud, and their offices are 94 and 95 Germania Life building.

A BOX FACTORY.

Enormous Volume of Business Done by Blodgett & Osgood.

Blodgett & Osgood will about Jan. 1 move into their new factory at East St. Paul. Their business was established about twenty-one years ago by J. F. Blodgett, who started the first box factory in St. Paul. He was succeeded by the present firm about eighteen years ago, and the business has continued to grow as the city has grown. Twice before the firm has been obliged to move into larger quarters to accommodate their business. They have been doing all their facilities would permit during the last two years, manufacturing all kinds of plain and dovetail boxes, egg cases and box shooks: also dressed lumber and general building woodwork, both pine and hardwood, and have done fully ten times the volume of business done on the start. Last January they had a very disastrous fire, their factory being entirely destroyed, entailing a very heavy loss. They built temporary quarters on the old site, and, having strong faith in the future of St. Paul, both as a manufacturing and commercial city, concluded to build a factory which will be a credit to themselves as well as to the city, and put in a plant which, when completed, will be one of the best box factory plants in the country and second to none in the West. The building is of brick, solid and substantial, and covers a ground space of 150x200 feet. It is surrounded by ample grounds and railroad facilities to handle lumber as cheaply as it can be handled. The building will be equipped with first-class machinery, ample dry kiln facilities, and, if business increases so as to make it necessary to run the plant to its full capacity, 200 men will be employed.

A HOME FIRM.

The High Standing Attained by the Minnesota Slate and Tile Company.

F. B. Boss is president, and W. T. Rumney the secretary and treasurer of the Minnesota Slate and Tile company. This company bought out the Pennsylvania Slate company, January, 1891, and they do a wholesale and roofing, slate and floor tiling business. The company has done some of the largest slate roofing in the Northwest. The Pioneer Press building was roofed by this firm, and is considered the largest job of the kind west of Chicago. The tiling was also done for this building, and it was one of the largest jobs done in the city. The company has also tiled the floors of the following buildings: The Germania Life, union depot, Germania bank, Ryan, Metropolitan, Dacotah flats, and the state capitol. The Granite block and Montana National bank, of Helena, Mont., were tiled by this firm, as well as the insane asylum at Fergus Falls, reform school at Red Wing, and the St. Louis hotel at Duluth. There is hardly a public building in St. Paul which the Minnesota Slate and Tile company has not either roofed or tiled the floors, and the high-class character of its workmanship is well attested. The company is a home organization and is deserving the support of every patriotic Minnesotan.

IS GROWING DAILY.

The Business of the St. Paul Roofing and Cornice Works.

One of the most enterprising institutions in the city is the St. Paul Roofing and Cornice works, whose works are located at the west end of Wabasha street bridge. The proprietors, Messrs. Lefebvre & Deslauriers, are both practical men, and have, by close attention to business, built up a trade second to none in their line in the Northwest. They employ at present in St. Paul thirty-five to forty men, and in their branch at Duluth have twenty-five men. The work of this firm can be seen in all parts of this city and vicinity. They have made and put up some of the finest copper and galvanized-iron work ever used in this section, that on the Dacotah flats, at the corner of Selby and Western avenues, being a fine specimen of what can be done with copper. Samples of their work can be seen on such buildings as J. H. Schurmeier's residence, the Convent of Visitation, Blair block, the Colonnade, the Union depot train sheds, on which they used 32,000 square feet of ribbed glass and 900 squares of Taylor's old style tin roofing. They have put the roofing on some of the largest buildings in this part of the country—warehouses and engine houses for the Eastern Minnesota railway company at West Superior, round houses for the Northern Pacific railway at Glendive, Mont.; Dickinson and Jamestown, N. D., also on the Kavanaugh block at the corner of Sixth and Wabasha streets in this city. This block has the largest single skylight on any building in St. Paul.

The works occupied by this firm last

DR. PRICE'S
Cream Baking Powder.
Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard.