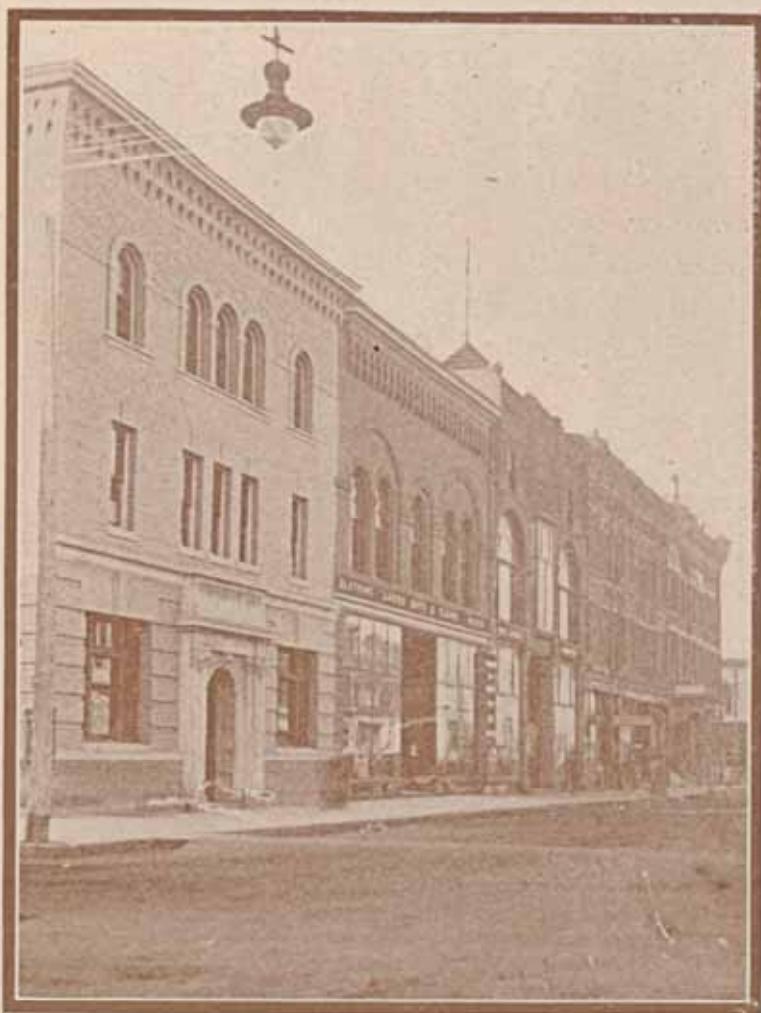




THE remarkable increase in the deposits in the various banks of Hastings tells a gratifying story of the rapid growth and prosperity of the community and reflects the unlimited confidence the people have in the stability of the institutions.

Ten years ago, or more definitely, on February 28, 1896, the day official statements were made to the comptroller of the currency, the deposits in the three national banks—the First National, the German National and the Exchange National—aggregated \$381,885.42.



First National Bank, Second Street, West from Hastings Ave.

Similar statements issued on November 12, 1906, show an aggregate of \$2,101,217.76 of deposits in the same institutions. To this total should be added \$205,923.73, which figures represent the deposits in the Bank of Commerce, a new state bank, on the same day. This makes a grand total of \$2,307,141.49 held in trust by the banks of Hastings.

The firm of Warswick & Wells were the pioneers in the banking business in Hastings. They began operations in 1874,



German National Bank.

but failed a year or so later. Mr. Warswick, who came here from England, returned to his native land, and Mr. Wells went back to Omaha.

The first licensed financial institution of the city was the Adams County Bank, which was organized in the winter of 1875 by J. S. McIntyre. In 1877 it was converted into a stock company with Geo. Wilkins, Samuel Alexander and O. Oliver as principal owners. The home of this bank was on the southwest corner of Second street and Hastings avenue. Soon after its incorporation it was purchased by A. L. Clarke and George

H. Pratt, who reincorporated it in July, 1881, as the First National Bank, with a capital of \$25,000. A two-story brick building, costing about \$8,000, was erected in 1879, which stood until torn down in 1903 to make room for the present First National Bank building. In 1902 the First National Bank bought the Adams County Bank, which was opened on April 2, 1886, by Wm. Kerr, president; J. M. Sewell, vice-president, and O. G. Smith, cashier. This bank, though it took the name of the first financial institution in the city, was an entirely new organization. It had offices in the Kerr Opera House building until bought by the First National. The First National Bank now has deposits aggregating \$1,477,308. Its officers are: A. L. Clarke, president; George T. Brown, vice-president; W. A. Taylor, cashier; assistant cashiers, R. P. Falkner, Jno. P. Madgett.

The Exchange National Bank was started by I. M. Raymond, A. S. Ralmond and A. Yeazel in October, 1877. These three men were residents of Lincoln, but Mr. Yeazel, came to



Residence of A. L. Clarke.

Hastings to manage the institution, and lived here a number of years. The bank now has a capital of \$100,00 and deposits aggregating \$238,149. Its officers are: W. H. Lanning, president; V. B. Trimble, vice-president; C. G. Lane, cashier; J. R. McLaughlin, assistant cashier.

The Farmers & Merchants Bank was organized as a private institution in December, 1881, by A. H. Cramer and H. Bostwick. This firm erected the building at the southwest corner of Denver avenue and Second street. In the same year the City Bank of Hastings was organized by L. H. Tower, president, and E. S. Fowler, cashier. The owners of the Farmers & Merchants bank later purchased the City Bank of Hastings and assumed the name of the latter. In the transaction Mr. Tower and Mr. Fowler disposed of their interests, and Mr. Cramer, one of the organizers of the Farmers & Merchants bank, also retired. The institution failed a few years after the consolidation.

The German National Bank was organized June 24, 1887, with C. H. Dietrich as president; W. M. Lowman, vice-president; W. H. Fuller, cashier, and John Slaker, assistant cashier. Mr. Lowman retired some years later, and Jacob Bernhardt succeeded him as vice-president. The bank now has a capital of \$50,000 and deposits aggregating \$385,760. In July, 1905, Mr. Dietrich retired from the presidency and was succeeded by Mr. J. P. A. Black. The other officers now are: Henry Siekman, vice-president; John Slaker, cashier, and Louis Siekman, assistant cashier.

The youngest financial institution in the city is the Bank of Commerce, which was opened for business on August 1, 1905. The bank was organized by Wm. M. Lowman, F. E. Garratt, O. C. Zinn and others. Its bank room is in the Kerr Opera House building. The deposits of the institution on November 12, 1906, aggregated \$205,923. The officers are Wm. M. Lowman, president; O. C. Zinn, vice-president; F. E. Garratt, cashier. These officers, with S. L. Rife and O. B. Shafer, constitute the board of directors.