

Remarkable Bank Showings

history of a city's banks is a mirror in which the character, growth and decline of its commerce are faithfully reflected. As irrigation to the soil is life and health to the products, even so are banking institutions the sustenance of commercial life in every city. They indicate the depression or buoyancy of a place and keep alive the commercial body which would otherwise become inanimate and dead. There is a continual current of cash flowing from the banks through all the arteries of trade, which is the sustenance and support of commerce, just as the blood from the heart constitutes the vitality of the human frame. Therefore, the presence of substantial, solid banks in a city is an indication of a powerful pulsation, plenty of cash permeating the entire commercial system, and a healthy condition of every branch of business. Judging of the presence within her confines of four national banks, one private bank and the circulation of capital through her arteries of trade the degree of financial healthfulness.

Banks have always been allied to the progress and prosperity and their policy has ever been to promote, as far as consistent with their patrons' safety the general well-being and advancement of our various industries, and no city of her size is so well served in this direction.

Confidence inspires and sustains confidence both at home and abroad. Fort Wayne must be that the place is prosperous, and its trade and industry are conducted upon lines of prudence and intelligence. Declining to a certain period of their decline, had solvent banks, and not lessen the significance of the fact that a city whose banks have been for a long time solvent is necessarily solid and strong. The latter condition applies to Fort Wayne from the earliest times—its credit has ever been of the best.

It is of vital importance in the growth of the business in a city is its government, and it would, indeed, be difficult to find a better system than Fort Wayne. In the election and candidates for the various municipal offices the element of safety to the enforcement of purely business methods is commended. In local election there are no republicans or democrats, and therefore not one of party which is necessarily circumvented solely on the reputation and ability of those seeking office to administer the affairs of government with all the prudence, and method as would be applied by them to their own affairs. The result is that the office seeks the man and the best results are always obtained.

the state, its home being a magnificent structure and its equipment being of the most modern design. The vaults are fire and burglar proof and the safety deposit vault contains 800 deposit boxes, all of which are rented for a nominal sum to individuals for the safe keeping of valuable papers, jewelry, money, etc. Mr. J. W. White has been the president of the bank since its organization and is a native of Fort Wayne. He is one of the most able financiers in the city

has besides its capital stock an additional liability of stockholders of \$200,000, making a total liability of \$400,000. The office hours are from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m., and Saturday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30. The officers are Henry C. Paul, president; Samuel M. Foster, first vice president; Andrew E. Hoffman, second vice president; Chas. A. Wilding, secretary and E. H. McDonald, assistant secretary; while the directors are the officers and C. S. Bash, G. W.

They do a general banking business and pay interest on deposits, discount commercial paper and issue foreign and domestic exchange. The responsibility of the bank is \$300,000. Mr. Hanna is a son-in-law of Mr. Nuttman, sr., and is one of the highest esteemed of our citizens.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FORT WAYNE.

The banks of Fort Wayne have long maintained an influential place in the commercial supremacy of the state, and their well-balanced and conservative management has been a most important factor of the prosperity of this community. One of the very foremost in this respect is the subject of this sketch, the First National Bank, the first national bank to be established in Fort Wayne and the eleventh to be established in the United States. This bank is one of the financial fortresses of the country, and has always been held in the highest esteem and confidence by its many patrons. It has a capital stock of \$300,000 and a surplus and undivided profits of \$150,000. The bank transacts a general banking business, loaning money, buying and selling exchange, discounting gilt edge paper, receiving deposits, making collections, etc., utilizing every modern system which in every

time, and was for thirty years previous to his election connected with the bank in different capacities, having entered it as a messenger. Mr. J. H. Orr was elected assistant cashier and Mr. Edward Detzer as note teller. Mr. Charles H. Worden was elected vice president last June and has active management of the bank's business, Mr. Bass, the president, not having the time to care for it on account of his other extensive interests. Mr. Bass is the president and principal owner of the Bass Foundry and Machine company, which is the most important industry in Fort Wayne next to the Pennsylvania railroad car shops. He is also identified with many other industries of the city and is one of the most influential and highly respected of our citizens. Mr. Worden was for a good many years one of our most eminent attorneys and prior to taking hold of the bank's business was a member of the firm of Zollars, Worden & Zollars. He is a native of the city and is interested in other important industries, among which is the manufacture of paper. Mr. Freeman, the cashier, is also a native of Fort Wayne and as we said before has been connected with the bank for thirty years, prior to which he received his education in the public schools of this city. Mr. Orr, the as-

stepping into the bank and asking who laid the floor for them. After being answered he said that he had seen many Italian mosaic floors in his own and other countries, but must say that he never saw a finer or better kept floor than the one in the First National Bank. And it certainly is a magnificent floor and one of the landmarks of beauty of Fort Wayne. The bank is equipped with every modern convenience known to the banking world, among which is their complete safety deposit department, in which there are 400 safety deposit boxes. They also have two vaults, the one for the bank's books being fireproof, while the one in which is kept the valuables was built by the Diebold Safe and Lock company, of Canton, Ohio. This vault is equipped with the modern timelocks and has two fire and burglar proof safes. The safety deposit vault is lined with two inches of Chrome steel, while the floor and top of the vault is made additionally safe by the use of heavy steel ribs embedded in concrete. The bank employs ten people, including its executive officers, and the office is equipped with the Burroughs adding machine for expediting the work of the bookkeepers in balancing pass-books and monthly accounts. The bank has always been noted for its



WHITE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING.

and is a liberal, public spirited gentleman. Mr. H. A. Keplinger, the cashier, has lived in this city the most of his life and is also a director in the Citizens Trust company and the Allen County Loan association. His opinion and advice are often sought in banking circles and have great weight in all serious questions. Mr. C. G. Detzer is the assistant cashier and the directors are J. W. White, Edward White, E. L. Romy, Sam G. Fisher, also vice president; D. C. Fisher, Sol Rothschild and Jacob Collier.

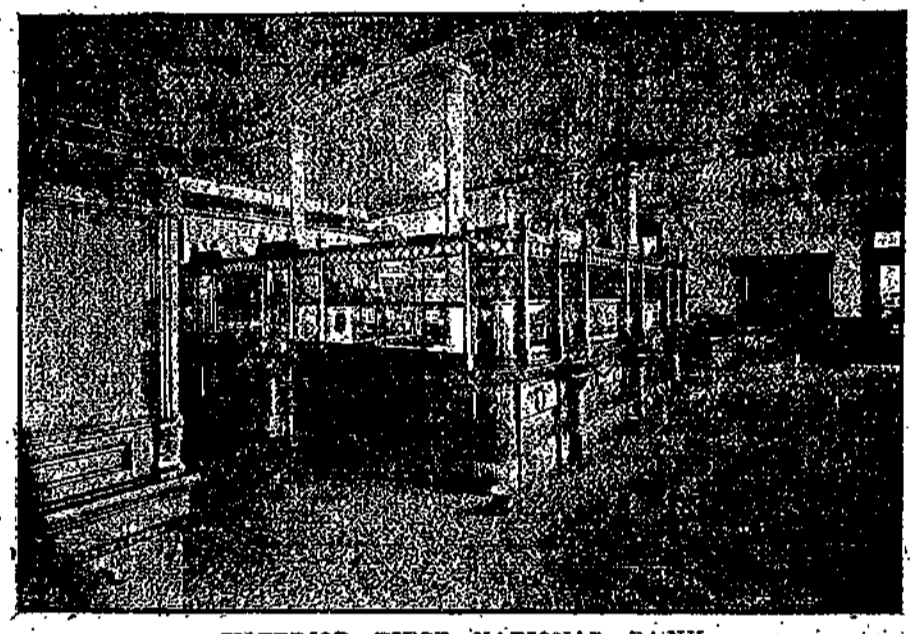
Fixley, W. E. Mossman, J. C. Peters, W. J. Vesey, Louis Fox, J. B. Reuss and David Studebaker.

THE CITIZENS' TRUST CO.

This company was organized in 1898 with a capital stock of \$200,000 with an additional liability of stockholders, \$200,000, the total security for depositors, being \$400,000. This company makes loans at reasonable rates and pay 3 per cent interest on deposits. The loans are only made on the best of real estate security, the rate being governed by the security offered and no commission charged. The company acts as executor, administrator, guardian, assignee, receiver, trustee and agent and has for its stockholders some of the most influential and wealthiest of our citizens. The officers are John Ferguson, president; Fremont L. Jones, vice president; Herman Michael, second vice president; Chas. H. Newton, third vice president, and Ernest W. Cook, secretary.

NUTTMAN & CO., BANKERS.

In 1881 a private bank was established in this city by Messrs. Nuttman & Co., the members of the company being J. D. Nuttman, sr., and J. D. Nuttman, jr., and Oliver S. Hanna. In 1884 Mr. Nuttman, jr., died and Mr. Nuttman sr., in 1890, leaving the entire management of the bank to Mr. Hanna, who has discharged the duties faithfully and with great profit to the bank. Mr. O. S. Hanna is one of the best posted financiers in this city and it is due chiefly to his knowledge and extra effort that the bank of Nuttman & Co. has become known as one of the most substantial banks in the state.



INTERIOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

way tends to enhance or benefit financial transactions, and that its efforts in this direction are appreciated by the mercantile and manufacturing community, as well as by private individuals, is evidenced by the large and influential line of accounts it carries. The First National Bank was organized in 1863, was reorganized in 1882 and had the charter extended in 1902. Mr. J. D. Nuttmann was the first president and remained such until 1882, when he resigned. At that time Oscar A. Simons was elected president and continued so until his death in 1889 when the Hon. J. H. Bass was elected president and the Hon. Wm. Fleming vice president, who was actively in charge of the management of the bank until his death. Mr. L. E. Hartman was cashier for about 30 years previous to June, 1902, when he died. His place was then filled by Mr. H. B. Freeman, who has been and is cashier at the present

time, and was for thirty years previous to his election connected with the bank in different capacities, having entered it as a messenger. Mr. J. H. Orr was elected assistant cashier and Mr. Edward Detzer as note teller. Mr. Charles H. Worden was elected vice president last June and has active management of the bank's business, Mr. Bass, the president, not having the time to care for it on account of his other extensive interests. Mr. Bass is the president and principal owner of the Bass Foundry and Machine company, which is the most important industry in Fort Wayne next to the Pennsylvania railroad car shops. He is also identified with many other industries of the city and is one of the most influential and highly respected of our citizens. Mr. Worden was for a good many years one of our most eminent attorneys and prior to taking hold of the bank's business was a member of the firm of Zollars, Worden & Zollars. He is a native of the city and is interested in other important industries, among which is the manufacture of paper. Mr. Freeman, the cashier, is also a native of Fort Wayne and as we said before has been connected with the bank for thirty years, prior to which he received his education in the public schools of this city. Mr. Orr, the as-

conservative management and his experience in banking, he having started in the old Fort Wayne National Bank as messenger in 1871, and has been connected with the First National Bank since 1882 when he became its general bookkeeper, after which he was elected to his present position. Without doubt the home of the First National Bank is one of the handsomest in the state. It is a mammoth stone building, the counting rooms having a frontage of 60 feet with a solid plate glass front. The finishings are of quartered oak and beveled chipped glass; the two together presenting a most magnificent appearance. The floor is of Italian Mosaic and was laid by the Davis Mosaic company of Chicago, who brought with them their own Italian labor. Mr. Edouard Remanyi, the noted Italian violinist, in passing the bank on his way from the depot to the hotel while in this city, could not resist the temptation of

NATIONAL BANK.

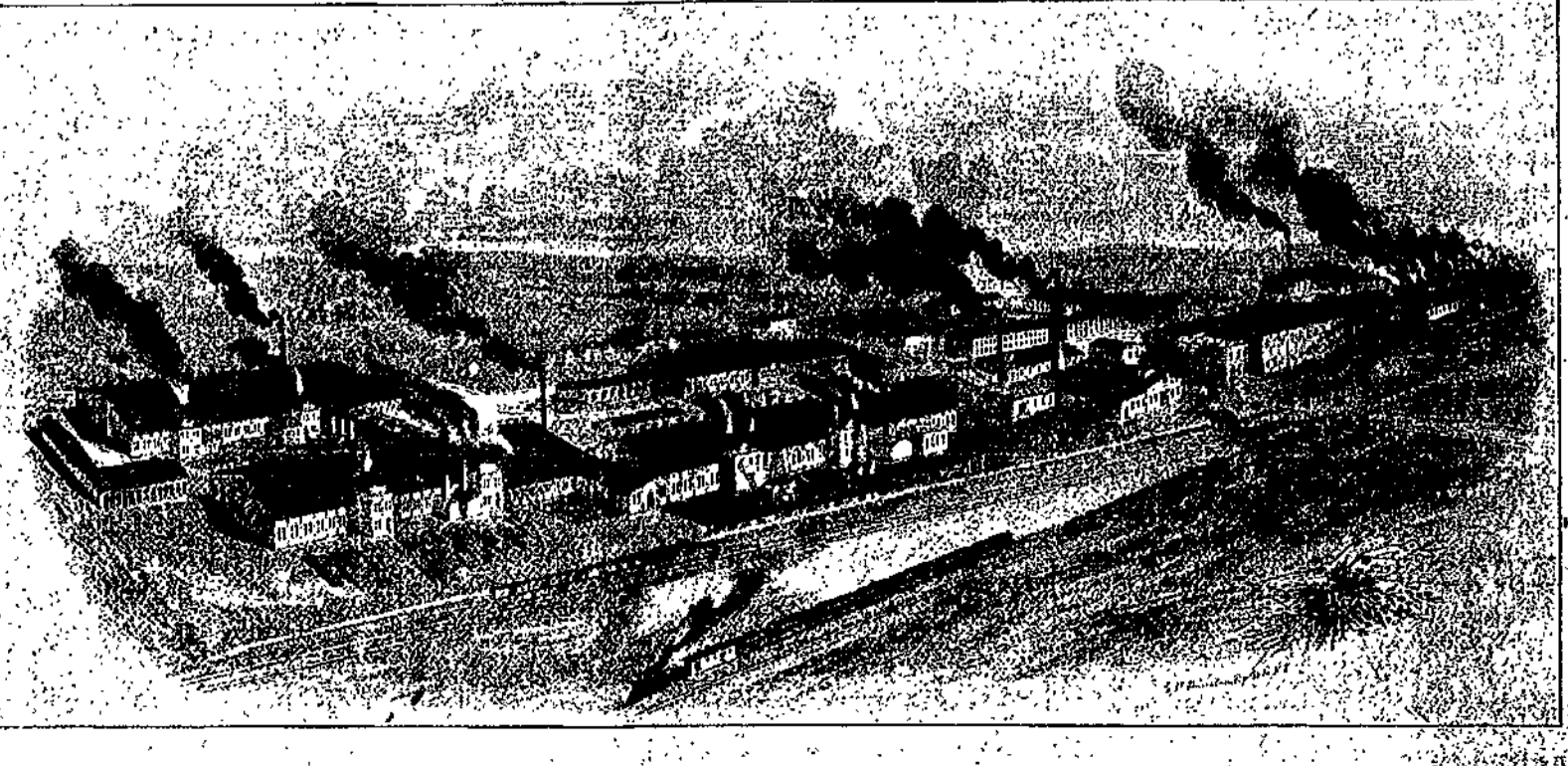
first assistant cashier, and Frank H. Poole, second assistant cashier. The directors are C. S. Bash, Louis Fox, John B. Reuss, Benjamin Rothschild, John Mohr, John Ross McCulloch and Chas. McCulloch.

THE WHITE NATIONAL BANK.

Nothing so accurately measures or correctly defines the business status of a great, populous community as the record, standing and financial condition of its banks and banking houses, and judged by this universal and unerring standard, this fiscal barometer, the city of Fort Wayne is in a condition of high thrift and well diffused prosperity. Our banks have long been noted for wisely conservative, yet judiciously progressive management, and for general soundness, stability and safe responsibility. Business men need scarcely be told that one of our leading and strongest banks is the White National, an institution that carries a capital stock of \$200,000 with a surplus of \$80,000. This institution was established in 1892 by J. B. White, T. B. Hedekin, R. T. McDonald, Sol Rothschild, R. L. Romy, D. C. Fisher and J. W. White, since which time the first three mentioned have died, the balance of the gentlemen all being interested in the bank at the present time. The bank is one of the largest and best equipped in

COMMERCE OF OUR CITY

COMMERCE of our city. It is so varied that it would require more than sixteen pages of the Sentinel to give our readers a full and detailed report. However, a glance at the concerns herein mentioned will give one some idea of the magnitude of the commerce of our city. One of the proudest records in the pages of commercial history is that attained by Fort Wayne as a great industrial and manufacturing center. The proximity of nature's store houses is sufficient to give prominence to the more staple industries, and to command such varied and valuable products of the west and the farm, and possessing the very best facilities for the distribution of goods, nothing is lacking to make Fort Wayne the location of manufacturing establishments of every kind. The city has established a permanent reputation for sound business and the substantial basis upon which her commercial and industrial rests, and it is destined to become the manufacturing center of the United States. A glance at the following establishments already here will show the diversity of our manufactures, and that they are all in a prosperous condition is evidence that manufacturing of any nature will pay in Fort



assistant treasurer. The Bass Foundry and Machine company are capitalized at \$1,500,000 and have the distinction of having practically made the city of Fort Wayne. When they came here in 1853 the city was very small, but with their advancement, it has also advanced until today it can be thankful to this same concern. Mr. Bass is interested in the Old National bank, is president of the First National and has other large industrial interests in Fort Wayne. He owns one of the handsomest residences in the state, known as Brookside, it being Fort Wayne's "beauty and show place," and one of which the whole community are proud. Mr. Bass has always been one of the foremost in everything calculated to advance the city and is looked upon as one of our most public spirited and enterprising citizens.

HENRY KLEBE.

The subject of this sketch is a manufacturer of light and heavy harness and dealer in blankets, robes, whips, curry combs, brushes and in fact everything in horse furniture or dress. He employs three skilled workmen and is located at 190 East Columbus.

FOUNDRY AND MACHINE COMPANY.

These works are by Cooper, Bash & Co., and after passing through several changes was incorporated under its present style in 1898. The company are manufacturers of car wheels, heavy castings of all kinds, corliss engines for heavy machinery, boilers, etc., and give employment to from 1,000 to 1,200 people. The shipments extend to every part of the United States and are very heavy, there being a large number of men on the road the year round looking up business. The Bass Foundry and Machine company have works in North Tennessee and at

Rock Run, Alabama, employing in these two places about 500 additional men. The officers of the Fort Wayne industry are J. H. Bass, president and principal owner; C. T. Strawbridge, secretary; F. S. Lightfoot, treasurer, and E. J. Fisher, assistant treasurer. At Rock Run, Alabama, where pig iron is manufactured, Mr. J. M. Garvin is the manager and assistant treasurer and at Lenoir City, Tenn. where car wheels and castings are made, Mr. C. H. Watson is manager and as-

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