

VIRGINIA, TWICE DEVASTATED BY FIRE, NOW A SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT CITY OF 6,000 POPULATION---RESOURCES ARE BOUNDLESS---WILL BE BIG BUSINESS CENTER

DR. J. H. CROWE,



Health Officer of Virginia.

E. G. BUSH,



Alderman of Virginia.

P. A. COFFEY,



Alderman of Virginia.

The city of Virginia on the Mesaba range is a community that quickly impresses the visitor with its metropolitan aspect, atmosphere, and evident prosperity.

People were erecting tents and preparing to put up permanent structures on the present site of the city about the same time others were doing the same thing at the present site of the city of Eveleth, four miles distant, 13 years ago. Virginia has been razed by fire, but in some respects at least the two general configurations were not without their blessings, for they have resulted in the construction of a business street such as is not to be found anywhere in the northwest in a city of six thousand people. Chestnut street is built up entirely with brick structures. After the second fire five years ago, the common council adopted a resolution that in future nothing except brick should be used in the construction of buildings on that thoroughfare. The property owners complained some at this. Many had lost all that they had, and others had

among the new buildings lately completed. The city hall is at Maple street and Cleveland avenue and represents an expenditure of \$14,000. The Roosevelt high school, the Hotel Fay and many other buildings excite the admiration of the stranger.

The Hotel Fay has lately been enlarged. B. F. Smith, the proprietor, who also owns the property, has sought to make it the best hotel in northern Minnesota. Outside of Duluth, and traveling men say that he has succeeded. This fine brick hostelry is very attractive looking and reflects much credit on the city. It has 53 rooms, and no hostelry in northern Minnesota sets a better table.

Virginia is a sort of distributing or starting point for traveling men. If they have numerous points on the ranges to make they usually go to Virginia, and as all railroads north of Duluth lead to that city they have exceptional advantages for starting in any direction, east, west or north. The Hotel Fay has the finest sample room for commercial travelers in the state.

With 2,932 in 1900 it will be observed that the city has more than doubled in five years, and not every community in even this great northwest has come anywhere near making such a splendid showing. The city has a class of business men that reflect credit on the place. They are enterprising, metropolitan in their ideas and first, last and all the time are loyal citizens, willing to sit up nights to explain the advantages and resources of their town. Strangers who visit the place and take the trouble to look into what the city has, go away with a wholesome respect and confidence in its future. There are several good and prosperous towns on the Mesaba range but none that looks better for the present and future than Virginia. The city has a paid fire department, and it is provided with modern fire fighting equipment.

The resources of the city are varied. They consist of iron ore, lumber manufacturing and a fine and extensive agricultural region that is rapidly being developed in the tributary country. It is estimated, and in fact it is known

FACTS ABOUT CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINN.
Has a population of 6,000 as compared with 2,932 in 1900.
Has four railroads running regular trains in and out.
Is the only community on the range that is reached by all three of the iron ore carrying roads, the Duluth, Mesabe & Northern, the Duluth & Iron Range and the Great Northern.
Is the southern terminus of the Duluth, Virginia & Rainy Lake road.
One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is paid out monthly in wages at Virginia, and the immense iron ore resources in the vicinity, comparatively speaking, have scarcely been touched.
It is estimated that there is 400,000,000 tons of iron ore in the ground within a mile of Virginia.
Has two sawmills and a third is to be built at once.
Has a solid brick business street, and is a very metropolitan town.
Has a very fine agricultural region tributary that is now being developed.
Has a future that is unsurpassed for future population and business prosperity by any northern city.
City is growing steadily and on a sound business basis.

CAPT. M. L. FAY,

Mayor of Virginia.

OTTO A. POIRIER,



City Attorney of Virginia.

A. N. THOMPSON,



City Clerk, Virginia.

A. HAWKINSON,



City Treasurer, Virginia.

regals of steam shovel dipper teeth, smoke stacks, mine ships, mining cars, diamond drills, etc., and turns out iron and brass castings. In fact the firm is especially well equipped to do all kinds of foundry and machine work. No other institution of the kind anywhere has better facilities. There is a side track near the plant onto which locomotives and steam shovels may be run for repairs. Mr. Osborn says that the work at the shop is constantly increasing and additions to the equipment are being made accordingly. The plant is operated night and day to meet the demand. The firm also makes diamond drill supplies.

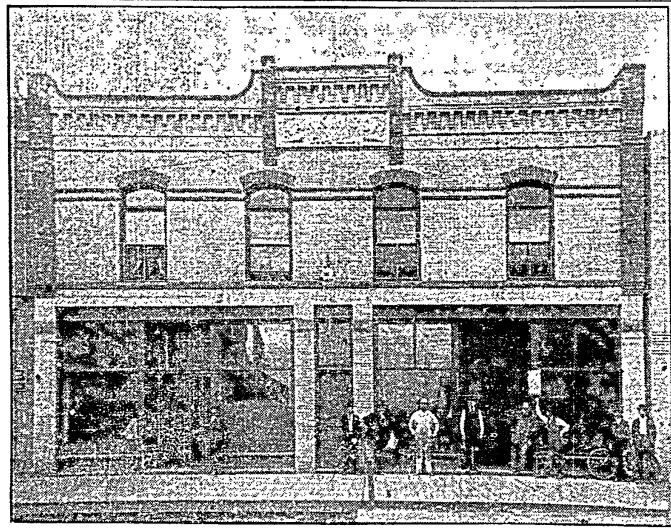
A Successful Firm.
Jacob Stein and E. J. O'Rourke, of the firm of Stein & O'Rourke, the men that place great faith in the future of Virginia and have become wealthy in their operations there and on the Mesaba range at other points. They own the fine business corner occupied by Henry Hughes & Company, H. A. Holmer, and other firms at

business and have their offices in their own building, at Chestnut street and Mesaba avenue.

The City Administration.
Mayor M. L. Fay of Virginia, is one of the well known iron mining men of northern Minnesota. He has encountered some criticism because of his policy to enforce the laws as he finds them, but he contends that the city has not suffered, but on the contrary, has prospered under his administration. The names of the other city officials are as follows:
Treasurer, Andrew Hawkinson; clerk, A. N. Thompson; attorney, Otto A. Poirier; health officer, Dr. J. A. Crowe; engineer, J. D. Lemont; municipal judge, Charles E. Nelson; assessor, D. W. Freeman; aldermen: E. G. Bush, Conrad Mattson, Harry George, B. O. Wiggins, Gust Johnson and P. A. Coffey.

Mayor Fay has led a rather strenuous existence since he became mayor of Virginia. He says he was elected on a reform ticket and it was his duty to work reforms. All that he had to do,

deem all my pledges, and not considering it advisable to do this at one stroke, I have done it by degrees. The liquor dealers have placed many obstacles in my way, and the strenuous experience that I have had has become widely known. I have caused the laws as I have found them to be enforced. If the laws are wrong it is no fault of mine. During the period that the reforms were brought about the city of Virginia has increased in population more than 1,500. More than 150 beautiful homes have been built, and a number of substantial business blocks have been or are now being erected. The streets of the city have been boulevardized in the residence section. A new city hall and jail have been built and a site for the Carnegie library has been acquired. The building itself is to be erected this season. Several tracts have been purchased by the city for park purposes and are paid for, or will be, out of the receipts of the city. In place of a balance of \$150 in the city treasury at the beginning of the present administration there will be a balance running



ANDREW HAWKINSON'S BUILDING AND STORE, VIRGINIA LODGE HALL ON SECOND FLOOR.

lost heavily of the resources, and it seemed a hardship to have to rebuild with brick after what they had gone through. But people who complained have since been glad that the step was taken by the city fathers. It cost them more to rebuild than it they were to use lumber, but they now have buildings of greater value, enjoy lower insurance rates and the street has a metropolitan appearance which it had lacked previously and which it would now lack if there had been no restrictions.

The city is growing steadily and on a sound and healthy basis. There are now several brick structures in process of construction on Chestnut street. A number have already been completed this year and others are soon to be begun. A new city hall and jail are

It is situated in the new addition, and is 30x10 feet in size. It is well lighted and finished in yellow pine. The hotel is constantly filled with guests and Mr. Smith says that he is thinking seriously of building another addition to the house.

The city of Virginia is in good shape financially. It has no floating debt and the bonded debt is small. Public improvements being made this year, in addition to the new city hall already referred to, consist of sewer extensions on the south side addition, new sidewalks and the extension of some water mains. Paying for some of the streets will come next year. The tax rate was cut in two last year, and the city has several thousand dollars in the treasury at present.

The population is 6,000 as compared

to be true that there are 400,000,000 tons of iron ore yet to be mined in the immediate vicinity of the city. The Virginia mining district is not being developed as rapidly as that of some of the other iron districts of the north country, but the ore is there and it carries the assurance of a great and certain source of wealth in mining and shipping. The Franklin, Victoria, Bessemer, Lincoln, Commodore, Higgins, Minorca and other mines at Virginia are active and will show increased shipments this year. The Commodore has been out of commission for several years and will re-enter the shipping list as a very substantial producer. The Virginia mining district will one day attract unusual attention when the operating companies draw heavily upon it for furnace supplies.

May of Virginia.

Virginia is the seat of operations of the Virginia Lumber company. It has a sawmill that operates night and day, turning out seventy-five million feet of lumber a year. The company has plans for tripling its capacity at Virginia by the construction of another mill of 100,000 feet capacity a year on day and night runs. The present plant also has a fine planing mill in connection. The company is manufacturing its own lumber, hauled from north of Virginia over the Duluth, Virginia & Rainy Lake line, an associate corporation, and will be one of the heaviest operators in the country for many years to come. Virginia has encouraged the company in the matter of securing a mill site for the proposed new mill. The city has purchased land for park purposes, which it leases to the mill company at a nominal rate, in order to provide it with sufficient territory to conduct its extensive operations. The sawmill at Virginia owned and operated by W. T. Bailey was one of the pioneer industries of the city, and is still operating actively. The two sawmills in Virginia together with the men they employ, furnish employment to a large number of men the year round.

As a Railroad Center.
Virginia is the only large town on the range that is reached by all three of the ore carrying roads, the Duluth, Mesabe & Northern, the Duluth & Iron Range and the Great Northern. The very best road has built a new and spacious depot building. The road spent \$60,000 to get into the city with its line, after having arrived at some of the mines on the outskirts. Virginia is the southern terminus of the Duluth, Virginia & Rainy Lake road, a line that is ultimately to be extended to the Rainy River country.

Virginia has two excellent banks, the First National Bank and the American Exchange Bank. The former is an old and reliable financial institution with men of great standing and financial standing behind it. The capital is \$15,000. F. Britts is cashier, and A. E. Shipley is assistant cashier. The directors are R. B. Bay, Col. J. R. Jones, Senator E. B. Hawkins, E. Z. Griggs, O. D. Kinney and B. F. Britts. The foregoing information as to the financial condition of the bank is from its last statement. It is a showing well calculated to carry far in financial circles. It will be observed that the surplus and profits almost equal the capital.

The American Exchange Bank of Virginia has been in business a little more than sixteen months, but it has made an excellent showing and as it has a list of men in whom the public has confidence it is rapidly building up a large business. The president is W. H. Cole, the well known mining and diamond drill man. C. T. Fairbairn is vice president, and F. W. Peet is cashier. These men, with the addition of E. G. Bush, R. B. McDonald and Fred Lerach, comprise the board of directors. The bank is a state institution, and according to its last statement, issued May 31, it had a surplus fund of \$2,500 and undivided profits of \$2,586.02. The deposits were \$20,417.47. The bank is young but growing steadily in a healthy and conservative way.

The banks of Virginia are public spirited. They aim to help build up the city in such ways as they can without putting the interests of their patrons or anybody connected with them in the slightest jeopardy. This is one of the true missions of banks everywhere, and redounds to their own as well as the public benefit.

Chestnut street and Mesaba avenue. The building faces 125 feet on Chestnut street, and is two stories high. The second floor is occupied mainly by office tenants. Stein & O'Rourke own the Second Addition to Virginia, consisting of 800 lots. The firm put it on the market eighteen months ago and more than 400 of the lots have since been disposed of. The building of dwellings is active throughout the residence district of Virginia, and the new addition is enjoying a large share of attention. The new addition has been a boon to salaried people and others of moderate means who seek to own their own homes. Stein & O'Rourke are both public spirited men and they seek to advance the interests of the city in a general way, as well as their own. This firm does a large fire insurance

he says, was to enforce the laws to accomplish this. He believes a majority of the people of Virginia are satisfied with his administration, and the result of the next election for mayor, if Captain Fay is a candidate for reelection, will be watched with keen interest all over the state. Mayor Fay is a self made man. He has owned up numerous iron properties on the Mesaba in which he was interested, and has made a great deal of money. His dwelling is one of the finest in northern Minnesota.

Elected on a Reform Ticket.
"Two years ago," said Mayor Fay, "when I was installed as mayor of the city, I found the conditions morally and financially at a rather low ebb. I was elected on a reform ticket and was pledged to reform. I set to work to re-

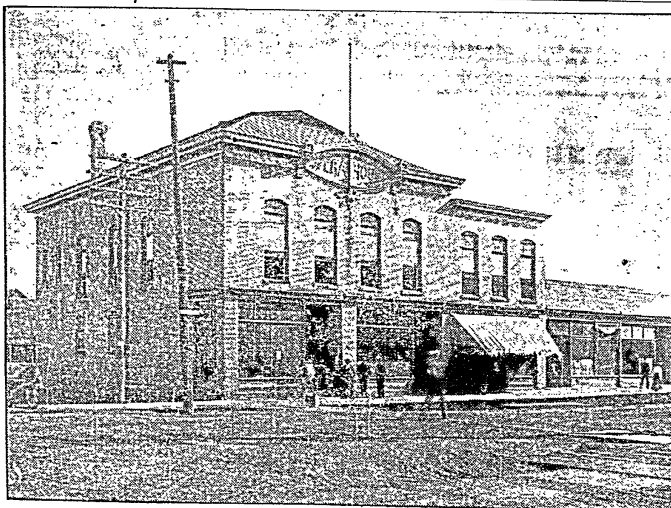
into the thousands by Jan. 1. The tax rate has been cut down from 30 to less than 15 mills. After the present administration was installed, because of the reform ticket having won out for mayor, it was predicted by some that grass would grow on the business streets of Virginia in less than a year, but these pessimistic views were not well founded, for the city is more prosperous now than ever before.

Fay Takes No Credit.
"I take no credit to myself in the matter, having done only my duty according to the state laws and city ordinances, and any man can do this. We have an able common council, and its members have done all in their power to advise and act in the interests of the

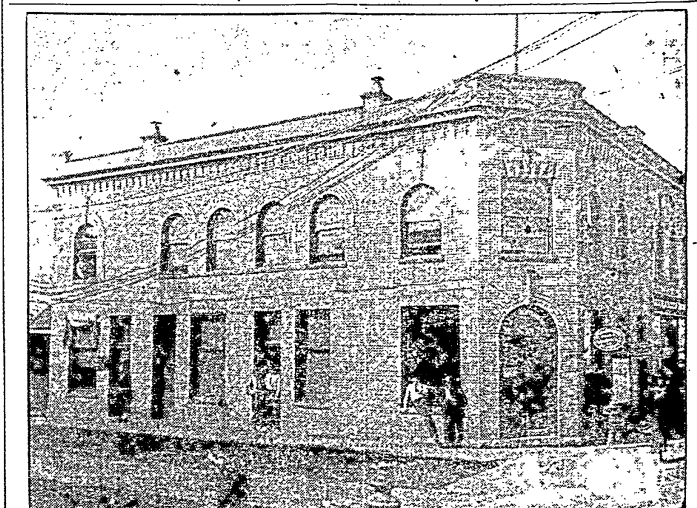
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RESIDENCE OF M. L. FAY, MAYOR OF VIRGINIA.

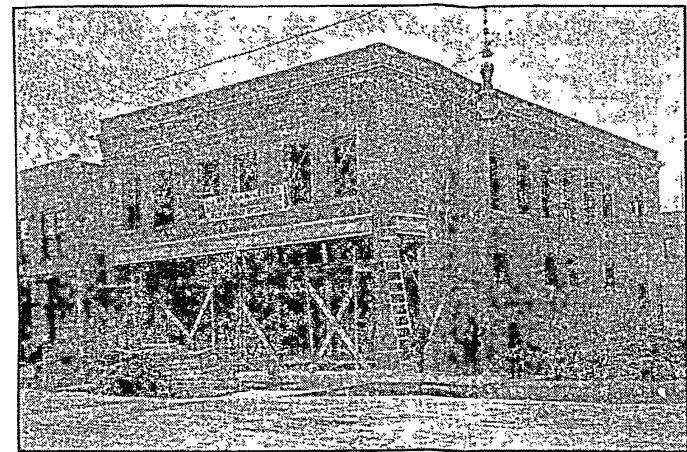


VIRGINIA OPERA HOUSE.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA, CENTER OF THREE RAILROADS IN HEART OF RICH IRON ORE MINES, LUMBERING AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IS A NATURAL DISTRIBUTING POINT



ALEXANDER REID & CO.'S NEW BUILDING AT VIRGINIA.

Continued from Page 4.

city in a financial way. In these matters the mayor and the council have worked always together. I am satisfied that three-fourths of the people of Virginia now uphold the present administration of their city. They have discovered that the liquor traffic may be regulated according to law and the city may be clean morally and still prosper and that such prosperity is real and genuine.

Creating New Buildings.

The Shaneling brothers are erecting a new building at Cleveland avenue and Spruce street that is to be the home of the Mesaba Telephone company in that city. The telephone company had 217 subscribers in Virginia on Aug. 1, and has more now. The new building is being put up expressly for the telephone company and when the company moves into it will make many improvements and additions to the facilities at the same time. The building will be ready for occupancy about Oct. 1. Fifty per cent of the lines in the city will be wired out at the time by the substitution of the cable system. The telephone company will occupy the entire first floor and there will also be a public waiting room for patrons of the toll lines. The residence of C. M. Godfrey, the local manager, will be on the second floor. The operating room will be 13x24 feet in size. There will be space for a 60-line board. The plant will be thoroughly modern and of the very highest standard of the telephone business at the present time. The central energy system is about to be installed.

Virginia people expect much from the development of the farming country tributary to their city, and in its natural course they cannot be disappointed. The Duluth, Virginia & Rainy Lake road runs north from Virginia to Ashawa, and will ultimately be extended clear through to Koochiching on Rainy river. It will run through the Little Fork valley, where there are now scores of settlers carving out farms and preparing to produce agricultural wealth. The merchants of Virginia are already receiving much trade from the farms whose nearest railroad station is Ashawa and Virginia will ever be the natural supply point for them. The country is rich in agricultural resources and the class of farmers there is enterprising and thrifty. There is also quite a large settlement of farmers in the Pike river district, sixteen miles from Virginia, and many good farms are being opened up.

Virginia is not dependent on any one large resource. It has several as has been shown. The permanency of the city, and its future greater prosperity, are well understood by all who have investigated.

The business men of Virginia are very appreciative of the action of the Duluth News Tribune in establishing Sunday train service to their city. H. J. Nathanson, in speaking of this, recently said:

"The News Tribune is entitled to the best wishes and support of this and other range towns for its enterprise in establishing Sunday train service. We were shut out from the world, so to speak, until this was accomplished. We had to wait until Monday for our Sunday News Tribune."

The grocers and butchers of Virginia belong to the state association devoted to credits. The merchants of the city generally are liberal, yet conservative, and the uniform success of the mercantile houses speaks well for them.

Virginia has two weekly papers, The Virginia and the Virginia Enterprise.

The Roosevelt high school building

of Virginia is one of the finest educational edifices in the northwest, costing \$50,000.

The Virginia Brewing company is a new concern that will erect at once a brewing plant in Virginia to cost, fully equipped, about \$300,000.

J. ROMAN HAS GREAT FAITH IN VIRGINIA

J. Roman, of Virginia, who has a large clothing store on Chestnut street, has proved his faith in that city, and has prospered. His store is one of the best known business houses in Virginia, and he carries a full and well assorted stock. Mr. Roman is one of many progressive and substantial citizens of Virginia. He is a pioneer resident and his store has twice been destroyed by the two great conflagrations in that city. His faith has never wavered, however, and he has invested all the money he has in a small way, and spare in Virginia unimproved real estate in the business center, and at once improved it by the natural increase of real estate values, and his investments are bringing satisfactory returns. Among his improved properties is the corner opposite the First National bank.

SHANEDLING BROS. VIRGINIA PIONEERS

Shaneling Bros., proprietors of the "Big Store" on Chestnut street, in Virginia, went to that city to establish themselves in business before there was a building completed in the town. That was in 1852, and they now have the largest as well as the oldest store in their line in the city. Their line is the furnishing of everything in men's and women's wear. They can clothe a man or woman or a child from head to foot. The Shaneling brothers, Julius and Morris, started in a small way, and now have a store in Virginia 50x100 feet in size, and are already planning for an important addition to their establishment next season. They are among the best known and most progressive business men on the range. They also have a store in Eveleth. The Shaneling Bros. are making some substantial business improvements in Virginia this year.

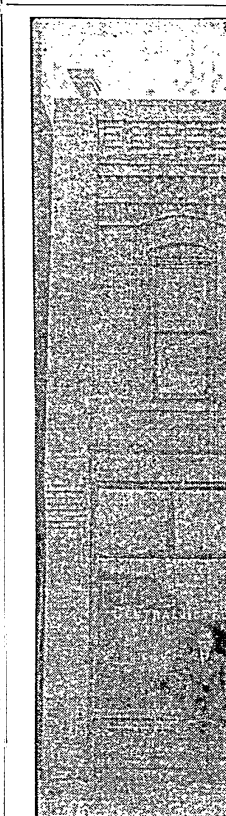
B. LEVIN HAS BUILT UP FINE BUSINESS

B. Levin, of Virginia, carries a fine line of men's clothing, men's furnishing goods, boots, shoes and hats and caps. He claims to have the best stock in these lines north of Duluth, and he has established a large business during his residence in that city, since 1884. The stores of Virginia are metropolitan and Mr. Levin has a representative establishment. In one of his show windows he displays a pair of overalls made by the Headlight company, which is a unique advertisement. The overalls are 58 inches round the waist and 9 feet in length. The pair of overalls is furnished with suspenders to match. The overalls are the best in the market and are union made. The goods are in demand from railroad, mining men and others. Mr. Levin is a live business man of Virginia.

ALEX. REID & CO. TO HAVE DEPARTMENT STORE

Alexander Reid & Co., is the name of a flourishing firm that is engaged in the

dry goods business on Chestnut street in Virginia. Mr. Reid, who is the active head of the firm was for more than nine years a buyer for Pantan & White. He bought dress goods, silks, wash goods, linens, flannels and blankets for the firm for that period, and last October decided to go into business for himself. Last February he opened the present store in Virginia, after having looked over many



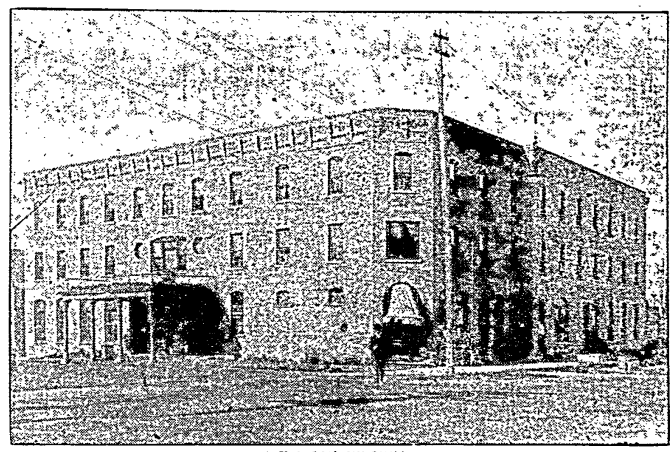
CENTRAL HOTEL, VIRGINIA.

towns in the northwest for a satisfactory opening. The firm has done so well that it has decided to branch out and establish a first-class department store. Adam Kirs, of Duluth is erecting at Chestnut street and Cleveland avenue a two-story brick building 50x95 feet in size and Alexander Reid & Co. has taken a long term lease of the building, and will occupy the space of both floors.

The firm expects to move into its new quarters about Sept. 20. It will then have the largest and best department store on the range. The company will carry dry goods, notions, ladies' and gentlemen's goods, notions, ladies' and gentlemen's furnishing goods, ladies' ready-to-wear suits, skirts, muslin underwear, carpets, drapes, draperies, furniture, crockery and hardware. The firm is now occupying and doing a prosperous business in a store 25x50 feet in size, or 1,250 square feet, and will soon be occupying a store of two floors 50x50 feet in size, or 5,000 square feet. The new building is to be one of the finest devoted to business purposes in Virginia. It will be steam heated, with elevator, and finished throughout in yellow Georgia pine. The main floor will have 13-foot ceilings and the second floor 11-foot ceilings.

PHOTOGRAPHER MAKI MAKES BIG REPUTATION

S. R. Maki established himself in the photograph business in Virginia four years ago and he has made a reputation for his work and himself far beyond the boundaries of his home city. One of the best lines of business on the range is that of making pictures. The country is rich in scenes that appeal to the artist, and to the people that have had the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing them. There is a great demand for pictures of mines, scenes in and about mines, and of the timber and sawmill industries. There is some no natural scenery on the iron ranges. Mr. Maki has made a specialty of taking these views, and he is building up a trade all over the northwest in special views of this region. Mr. Maki also does a large business in all branches of the photographer's art. His work is unexcelled on the range, and his pride in his art has been recognized by the patrons. If he takes a picture that may be satisfactory to a patron, but not to the artist, he will insist upon another sitting and in this manner Mr. Maki has earned a reputation for



HOTEL FAY, VIRGINIA.

ments, building material of all kinds in quantities, including sash, doors and moldings.

N. A. HOLMER ENJOYS FINE RUN OF TRADE

N. A. Holmer, merchant tailor, with an establishment on Chestnut street in

shop from the day he opened it. Mr. Holmer has also been successful in some mining and timber deals. He carries a large and well selected stock of woollens and keeps in intimate touch with the fashions in men's clothing. Mr. Holmer was for two years an alderman in Virginia, and he is a representative business man.

HAVE STORES IN MANY LOCALITIES

Henry Hughes & Co., whose store occupies a space of 75x100 feet in the Stein & O'Rourke building at Chestnut street and Mesaba avenue, Virginia, have a large general store. There is a big warehouse in the rear of the store proper and they have two other large warehouses, one on the tracks of the Duluth, Mesaba & Northern and the other on the Great Northern in that city. This big store is one of fifteen that the same people have established over northern Minnesota. They have stores in other towns as follows: Mountain Iron, Nashauk, Grand Rapids, Deer River, Bemis, Cass Lake, Bemidji, LaPorte, Park Rapids, Walker, Blackduck, Tenstrike and Northome and other points. The stores are controlled by the same people in each case, though each store is under a different name in each town. The first of these was established in Deer River seven years ago with a limited capital. The success of the firm has been notable. Owing to its extensive business the company enjoys a very advantageous purchasing power. The Virginia store was established two years ago last April and Frank Hughes is the active manager. The firm carries hardware, guns and sporting goods, groceries, dry goods, carpets, furniture, stoves, and does a wholesale business in feed and flour. On the second floor the firm has a dressmaking establishment in charge of a lady who is one of the best dressmakers in the country. She is now visiting the centers of feminine fashion to prepare for the fall business.

BOY BUILT FIRST MOTOR BOAT IN WEST

From the Denver News:

There was launched in Grand Lake last week the first motor boat to be built in Colorado, and for that matter between the Mississippi and the Pacific. The most interesting feature of the affair was the fact that the boat was built by a Denver boy, Henry H. Hurlbut, a son of E. W. Hurlbut of 1214 Pearl street, and a student in the Manual Training High school.

Young Hurlbut has been spending his vacations at Grand Lake for some years, and with his family has spent much time on the water. Last year he determined to build a motor boat for use on the lake, and spent all of his spare time through the winter in building and finishing the craft. It is 15 feet long and has 4 1/2-foot beam, is built of oak and cypress, while the deck is of mahogany with maple stripes. It is fitted with an eight-horse power Brennan gasoline engine and will make nearly eighteen miles an hour.

By a clever contrivance of his own invention young Hurlbut can both steer and operate the engines from the bow of the boat. The craft, with engines, weighs 1,200 pounds. It carries its own dynamo and electric lights.

So successful has Mr. Hurlbut shown himself in the construction of the boat and his work has been so admired by experienced boat builders that he will take a special course at Manual Training High school this year and a year

conscientious and high class work. The pictures of the Hotel Fay, the Stein & O'Rourke block, the new Kirs block for Alexander Reid & Co., the Central hotel and the Fay buildings that are reproduced in this issue were taken by Mr. Maki.

CENTRAL HOTEL AT VIRGINIA POPULAR

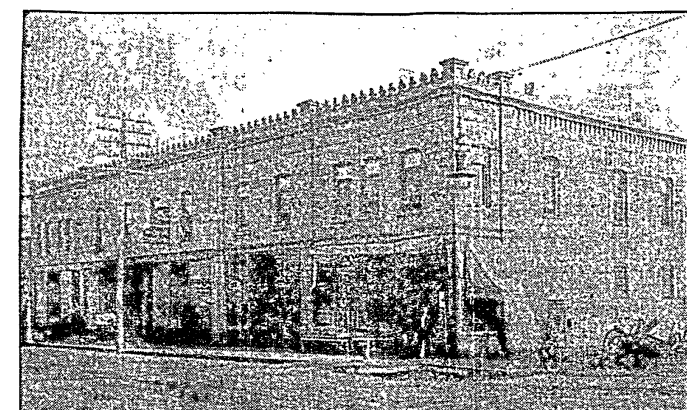
The Central hotel on Chestnut street, in Virginia, of which J. S. Sutherland is owner and proprietor, is one of the popular hostilities of the city. Mr. Sutherland is a pioneer resident of the city, having gone there in 1882. He has been in the hotel business ever since. His first hotel was destroyed by his fire that swept Virginia five years ago, but he at once rebuilt better than ever. His new hotel has forty rooms and the service is such that if a person once becomes a guest he is sure to visit the Central hotel when he revisits Virginia. The hotel is 25x115 feet in size and three stories high. Mr. Sutherland has prospered since the fire, which had left him with nothing except his good credit to make a fresh start. He now owns the hotel building and the real estate that it occupies.

ANDREW HAWKINSON, LEADING BUSINESS MAN

Andrew Hawkinson, treasurer of the city of Virginia, is one of its leading business men. He is an old resident and owns some valuable improved business property. A picture on page 4 shows his hardware store occupying one-half of the ground floor on one of his buildings, the Hawkinson block. The building is 50x50 feet in size. The second floor is occupied in part by a hall that is rented to the lodge of Odd Fellows, and which in turn sublets it for meetings to the lodges of other societies. The Hawkinson block is located on Chestnut street. Mr. Hawkinson carries a full line of heavy and shelf hardware, guns, stoves, etc. He also handles farm imple-



JUDGE CHAS. E. NELSON, MUNICIPAL JUDGE OF VIRGINIA, AND ATTORNEY J. M. MARTIN. THE LATTER IS SITTING NEAR THE WINDOW.



STEIN & O'ROURKE BUILDING, VIRGINIA.