

## THE COURTENAY GAZETTE

was soon and well solved, and the construction of the building entered upon with the result that in 1896, the society dedicated a church, 36x36, complete in its appointments, handsome in its design outside and in, at a cost of \$2,000, with a seating capacity of 200, free from debt. To this end they received a grant of \$700 from the Presbyterian board of church erection, of New York City, and the balance was raised by subscriptions. At this juncture the ladies who never ceased to be alert and industrious, demonstrated their helpfulness by furnishing the church, complete. They placed a pulpit bible, the pulpit furniture and organ, hung a handsome chandelier and attached side lamps to the walls, put down a nice carpet and placed excellent cushions on the seats, and one of their number gave a handsome silver communion service. Inspired by their success in building a church edifice the trustees entered upon the erection of a parsonage. By borrowing \$400 from the Church Erection board, which was subsequently paid back, they provided a convenient and comfortable manse of six rooms, a bath room, pantry and cellar. The lots—four for the church and two for the manse—were donated to the society by the townsite company. The value of the church property will aggregate, to-day, approximately \$4,000.

Especial mention and credit are due to Rev. J. S. Corkey for his untiring efforts, zeal and efficient service to the church during the period of the erection of the church and parsonage. Among the supplies, in the history of the church, appear the names of Revs. S. C. Hoyt, J. S. Corkey, J. F. Cheesman, Wm. Steele, J. N. B. Smith, D. D., J. G. Noordewier and the present occupant of the pulpit, Rev. Merchant S. Riddle.

In the history of the church 119 persons have

been received into its membership, 59 have terminated their memberships and 60 retain theirs at this writing, of whom five have been placed on the retired list, their whereabouts being unknown. The necrologic list, embraces the names of seven members, among which appear those of a revered elder, Bro. John McGibbon, and the estimable and lovable wife of Pastor J. F. Cheesman. Thirty-seven infants have been baptized into the church.

The organization and struggles of the Presbyterian church of Courtenay, as here detailed, represent and are typical of the beginnings and trials of churches in the settled portions of the state in its early days, and of those now struggling into existence out further "on the front." The history of one of these is the history of many. The churches of North Dakota are on a safe basis. Watchfulness and intelligent, determined effort, under the direction and guidance of the Great Head of them all, will maintain and protect their advancement in the future.

In conclusion, in fairness to our great state, it should be stated here that conditions and rigors of winters which prevailed through the eighties and into the nineties have materially moderated of late years. No serious blizzard has occurred for years and the dread of them is no longer felt as formerly. More sunshine, less storm, wind and snow, better roads, denser settlements in most parts of the state, have succeeded the old time blizzards and reduced the risk of suffering to a level with those of eastern states, and now North Dakota is somewhere in the world, and is blessed with churches, schools, comforts, luxuries, prosperity and contentment, with a bright and promising future before it which bespeaks a great, powerful and resourceful commonwealth in moral character of her people as well as in their secular wealth.

### MR. E. J. HANCOCK

Mr. E. J. Hancock first looked out upon the things of this world in the state of Indiana in the year 1870. He has now been in the barber business for sixteen years, having learned the trade in Kansas City. For the past five years he has been in North Dakota, and for the two years past in the village of Courtenay. He is now the proprietor of an up-to-date three chair shop in one of the best locations in the



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town and is doing a thriving business. The greater part of the year he employs two men and his shop is one of the busiest places in the town. He is a man who has seen a good deal of the world and is living in North Dakota through choice. He also owns a nice residence and has a fine home and is one of the substantial men of the community. The greater part of his property has been earned since coming to this state and he is naturally well pleased with his success.