

stands. In 1879, the village experienced some growth and a good many substantial improvements were made. Among others was the building of an addition to the schoolhouse for the primary department. The school was in a flourishing condition, with Homer E. Gordon as principal, and Sarah J. Dickson as assistant.

In 1884 the front part of the present school building was built at a cost of about \$8,000. About this time W. F. Benkelman became superintendent of the school. He served in this capacity from 1884-1889. Sometime during the year 1884, the new building was completed. A twelve grade course was adopted and with some changes the course now used in the schools is the outgrowth of that beginning.

### FRUTCHEY, McGEORGE & CO.

Well-conducted elevators are a necessity to the welfare and best business interests of any community depending largely upon agricultural pursuits for its maintenance and that Cass City has always been fortunate in this respect is shown in the history of the elevator business at this point. We have two large and well equipped elevators here, both operated by Frutchey, McGeorge & Co., than whom there are few larger operators in this part of Michigan and certainly none of better standing or who are more closely in touch with their patrons. The firm deal in grains of all

aware of this fact more than M. Sheridan, who for many years was the Boniface of the old Sheridan house on Main Street. And once having decided to make the investment Mr. Sheridan was not slow in carrying to successful completion his ideas. As a result Cass City now has a hotel that every citizen can point to with pride and that every traveling man can, and does truthfully recommend to his brethren of the road.

As is well-known, the New Sheridan was completed and formally opened last fall, since which time it has enjoyed a patronage far in advance of Mr. Sheridan's expectations. It is a substantial three-story brick building, located at the corner of Main and Seegar Streets, in the very center of the business district and is modern and up-to-date in every respect. Its furnishings and other equipment are all new and of the most approved character, the office, dining room and parlors are handsomely furnished and decorated and the rooms are all comfortable and most inviting. The house is steam heated and electric lighted, and what is pleasing to traveling men its large sample rooms are all on the ground floor. Indeed, there is not a shortcoming about the place. The diningroom service is excellent and the meals served equal to any \$2-a-day house in the state. Add to this a splendidly stocked buffet and the warm and cordial greeting with which "Mike" receives all patrons, to say nothing of the careful attention extended all who make the New Sheridan their home, and there is nothing lacking.

The New Sheridan is not only an ornament to Cass City, but as well will long stand as a monument to the enterprise and progressive spirit of Mr. Sheridan. He is deserving of all praise for having made the investment. Mr. Sheridan is ably assisted in the management of the Sheridan by his estimable wife, who gives her personal attention to the housekeeping and culinary departments and looking after the comfort of the guests. Mrs. Sheridan has been a great helpmeet to her husband in making so decided a success of the hotel business.

### CHAS. S. WEAVER.

THE VERY EFFICIENT SUPERINTENDENT OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Under the guiding hand of Prof. Chas. S. Weaver as superintendent, the schools of Cass City have gained an enviable name throughout this section, as well they may, for the professor is acknowledged a most careful, conscientious and capable instructor.



CHAS. S. WEAVER.

going about all his work with a systematic thoroughness that is most commendable. Much credit is due him for having brought the standard of our schools to their present degree of excellence, and it is the sincere wish of all parents who have given the matter due consideration that his services may long be retained by the school board. Professor Weaver is a native of Tuscola County, and although still a young man, has made for himself a splendid name in educational circles.

Since the above has been written, Mr. Weaver has resigned and occupies a similar position in St. Clair.

### DR. M. M. WICKWARE.

A YOUNG BUT VERY SUCCESSFUL PHYSICIAN.

Although Dr. Wickware has been practicing medicine little more than three years, yet in that comparatively short time he has built up a large clientele and is exceedingly popular and successful throughout this part of the country. The Doctor is a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine and is thoroughly versed in all that pertains to the latter-day treatment of disease. He is a native of Belleville, Ont., but has been a resident of Cass City since he was two years of age, at which time his parents removed to this place. He has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, all of whom are pleased at the success he is meeting with in his chosen calling. About ten years ago the young man was the publisher of a Cass City newspaper, but had the good judgment to sell out and stay out of the business.

### EVIDENCE OF OUR GROWTH.

SHOWN IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CASS CITY LUMBER AND COAL YARD.

That Cass City is in a growing and prosperous condition is evident in more ways than one even to the prejudiced, but in no one business venture made here in late years has the real prosperity of this community been more potent than in the success that has been accorded the Cass City Lumber & Coal Yard, which was established as a branch of the old and well-known Anketell Lumber Co., of Chicago, late last fall. From its very beginning the company was accorded a most flattering patronage, and the unusually large trade they have enjoyed is a positive indication that there is much building being done in the village and surrounding country.

The company's plant is located on most convenient ground immediately adjoining the P. O. & N. depot, and its buildings are new and ample for the large stock carried, the office building being two stories, 16x26 feet. The larger lumber warehouse is 22x148 and another is 22x68, while the lime and cement warehouse is 16x30, and the coal shed 16x90. An exceptionally large and complete line of building material of every description is carried, including rough and dressed lumber, lath, shingles, doors, windows, moldings, lime, plaster, cement, hair—in fact, every article except hardware needed in the construction of a building. The location of such a complete stock of the above goods in Cass City means much to our people, as we are now enabled to purchase these necessary building material at far less prices than when we were forced to send outside for them. The Anketell Co.'s manufacturing headquarters are located at Merrill, Wis., in the heart of a great lumbering district, and as they are extensive wholesalers as well as operators of a number of yards throughout this section, they are in excellent position to offer patrons of the Cass City Lumber and Coal Yard splendid material at very low figures. As the title of the concern implies, they are also dealers in coal, handling superior grades of hard and soft coal, and as they purchase this product also in large lots at very low rates, consumers can make quite a saving by giving them their orders.

The yards in Cass City are in charge of William Davis, one of Cass City's bright and hustling young men.

THE CHRONICLE compliments the officers of the Anketell Company upon their wisdom in selecting such a live place as Cass City in which to establish a branch of their business, and congratulates the people of this section upon their now being placed on a par with larger and more pretentious towns in the matter of buying advantageously such commodities as are handled by the Cass City Lumber and Coal Yards.

Both President Anketell and Secretary M. J. Cook, during their visits here, have most favorably impressed our people as being progressive business men, and we bespeak for their concern a continuation of the unmeasured success that has so far attended their enterprise in Cass City. During the time Mr. Cook has superintended the construction of the plant he has made many warm friends here.

### WETTLAUFER & RATZ MFG. CO.

MAKERS OF ONE OF THE GREATEST OF LABOR-SAVING FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Undoubtedly Cass City has gained more fame and notoriety throughout this part of the country on account of the business of the Wettlaufer & Ratz Manufacturing Company than from any other source, at least since that enterprising company was organized in April 1899.

The company are extensive manufacturers of the American Pea Harvester, one of the greatest labor-saving implements known to modern farming. The machine will harvest

cast iron, malleable iron and steel, and with proper care will last a lifetime. It is a veritable record breaker in the pea field and is simplicity itself. There are no holes to be drilled in the mower bar, it is easily adjusted to any mow made, and does not break guards like other harvesters. In short it is a model machine in its class and is superceding all other makes.

The Wettlaufer & Ratz Co.'s plant in Cass City is pushed to its utmost to keep up with orders which are becoming more numerous, especially where their machine is best known, in Michigan, Wisconsin and New York, for instance, but the company is progressive and amply able financially to increase their capacity if necessary in order to meet the demand. Therefore, if the reader of this article, no matter where located, is interested in machinery that is intended to aid the progressive farmer in making money, will send his address to the company they will be pleased to forward him complete information concerning their machine and will promptly fill his order later on. The Wettlaufer & Ratz pea harvester, with its several attachments, is perfection and its owners are destined to reap a rich harvest in its manufacture.

The company, as before stated, was organized in the spring of 1899, since which time it has sold hundreds of machines, from the owners of which they invariably receive highly complimentary testimonials. The stockholders, George and Henry Wettlaufer, W. J. Campbell, Wm. Ratz, and Samuel and John Benkelman, are all most reliable and substantial men, in every manner worthy the respect and confidence of the public.

Write and ask them for fuller particulars and you will be pleased with the information received.

### MRS. E. K. WICKWARE.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS IN THE MILLINERY BUSINESS.

During all the many years Mrs. Wickware has conducted a millinery establishment in Cass City, she has always displayed a skill and taste that was pleasing to her patrons, and as the lady has ever carried a stock that was second to none in this section, she has been favored with an unusually large patronage. Mrs. Wickware's store at the west end of Main street will soon be filled with all that pertains to fashionable millinery for the spring and summer, and the lady who "decides" before seeing what she has to offer will make a mistake.

### JOHN ETHERINTON.

WELL-KNOWN AS PROPRIETOR OF THE CASS CITY HOUSE.

The Cass City House is one of the best popular price hotels ever conducted in Cass City, and its proprietor, John Etherinton, has been very successful in caring for the public at reasonable rates.

The gentleman also manufactures Kaskarilla, an excellent remedy for stomach, liver and kidney troubles, which finds ready sale wherever known. Kaskarilla is also a splendid blood purifier and spring medicine.

### DAVID LAW.

AN OLD AND RESPECTED MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY.

During the many years David Law has been a resident of this section he has borne an excellent reputation and has proved himself a man in every way worthy the esteem and respect bestowed upon him by his fellowman. Mr. Law has been very successful in developing our agricultural interests. He is a native of Novi, Oakland Co., where he was born in 1850, and has been a resident of this vicinity since 1884.

### G. W. GOFF.

MEETING WITH MARKED FAVOR AS A HARNESSMAKER.

During the comparatively short time that has elapsed since Mr. Goff bought out the harness business so long conducted here by Mr. Schooley,

### CHAS. W. HELLER.

PRESIDENT OF THE VILLAGE AND A MOST PROGRESSIVE MAN.

Cass City is noted for her enterprising business men, but none are more deservedly entitled to a place in this class than Charles W. Heller, the bustling proprietor of our flouring mills. Mr. Heller has long been identified with Cass City and has always been active and foremost in all public movements tending to her advancement. He is at present president of the village and has ever been willing to make personal business sacrifices if his services in public office were thought to be needed by his fellow citizens. He is a far-seeing, level-headed, successful business man, as witness



CHAS. W. HELLER.

his introduction when a member of the council of a resolution resulting in municipal ownership of our present excellent waterworks and electric light plants, which has proven a boon to our people.

But aside from his public-spirited acts, Mr. Heller has made a remarkable success of his private affairs. When he took hold of the flour mills the business through frequent changes of ownership, had been allowed to run down to almost a mere nothing, but his activity and general hustling qualities, together with his known reliability soon put it upon a paying basis, and the property today is one of the best paying of its kind in the Thumb. Mr. Heller made many necessary changes in the mill for its successful operation, but retained the planifter system, acknowledged one of the best milling systems known to the trade, and is even now contemplating even greater changes in order that his mill may be kept abreast of the times. The excellent product of flour and feeds of the mill find ready sale throughout this section and the mill is favored with a large amount of custom work.

### R. A. LUTZ.

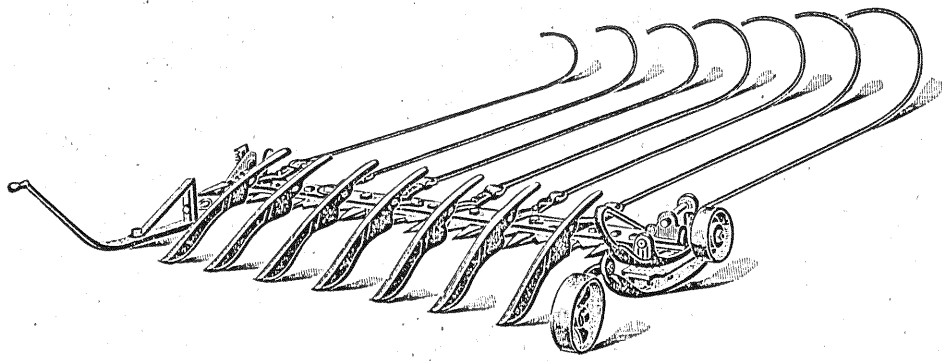
ONE OF THE PIONEER BLACKSMITHS OF CASS CITY.

For many years Mr. Lutz has been a leading horseshoer and general blacksmith of this section, his old shop on Main Street, near where the Sheridan House now stands, having long been a favored smithy for Cass Cityans and farmers throughout the surrounding country. Some years ago he removed to Buffalo, but returned to Cass City a short while afterward to resume his old occupation among his former friends. For the past five years he has been doing business in the shop he at present occupies. Mr. Lutz is a good business man and an enterprising citizen. His residence on Main Street is one of the most substantial brick houses in town.

### F. LENZNER.

WELL-KNOWN AS AN INSTRUCTOR ON THE VIOLIN, PIANO AND ORGAN.

A review of the more or less public men of Cass City would be incomplete without reference to F. Lenzner, who has an excellent reputation as an instructor on the violin, piano and organ. Mr. Lenzner is gifted with unusual talent as an instructor and has met with remarkable success in imparting his knowledge to younger



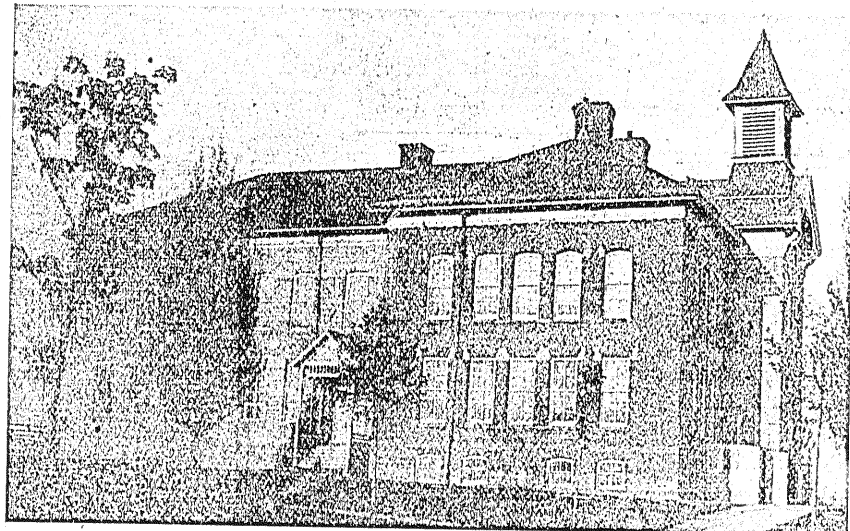
PEA HARVESTER AND WINROWER ATTACHED.

and winnow any kind of laying down grain, such as peas, buckwheat, clover, peppermint, beans, etc., and will do it better, quicker, more satisfactorily and with less loss of product than any other machine made, and is being rapidly adopted by progressive farmers wherever introduced. It will cut as many acres of peas per day as one can cut grass, and less peas will be shelled than if the crop were harvested with a scythe, and is made of

he has made a most favorable impression and is now enjoying a splendid trade. He is an expert workman, and every piece of harness that goes out of his shop bears the imprint of honesty. He is fully sustaining the excellent reputation of his predecessor, both in workmanship and fair and honorable dealing. His line of blankets, robes, whips, collars, and other horse goods is second to none hereabouts, and low prices always rule.

minds and withal is most modest and unassuming. He is also very expert in the matter of repairing and putting in order all kinds of musical instruments and whenever he has a spare moment he can be found at this work.

As a matter of course, Mr. Lenzner is naturally an excellent judge of pianos and intending buyers will do well to see him and get his opinion before purchasing a piano.



CASS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Three classes graduated during Prof. Benkelman's administration. From 1890 to 1895, the following gentlemen were employed as principals of the school: T. A. Coulton, Chas. Rittenger and J. P. Smith. In the fall of 1895, Gerrit Masselink took charge of the school.

During the summer of '97 the new addition was erected at a cost of \$5,000, and the school developed rapidly. A kindergarten was introduced and together with the first primary department was given a separate room and placed in charge of Miss Allen. The past few years the school has made marked advancement. The library has been increased, a set of Relief maps secured; the walls have been beautifully decorated with pictures, the gymnasium fitted up and the course of study broadened by the introduction of German and Latin.

Prof. Weaver, who has only recently resigned his position, with his faithful assistants, has succeeded in maintaining the high standard of the school during the past year for which they deserve the unqualified gratitude of the community. Prof. D. H. Kyes, the present superintendent is a man of marked ability and we have every reason to believe that the interest of the school will be carefully fostered in the future as in the past.

### A. A. M'KENZIE.

A RESIDENT OF THIS SECTION FOR 34 YEARS.

For more than a third of a century A. A. McKenzie has been a well-known resident of Cass City and the immediate surrounding country, during all of which time he has borne an excellent reputation as a citizen. He has been living in town for 17 years, 15 of which he has devoted to the business of directing funerals. In this



A. A. M'KENZIE.

business, Mr. McKenzie is known as a careful, painstaking and thoroughly experienced man, and as he is called to all parts of the country hereabouts he has an unusually wide acquaintance. Mr. McKenzie owns three hearses and is prepared on the shortest notice to promptly attend all calls. He is also in excellent position to compete with any and all competition in the matter of price.

### MRS. M. E. LEE.

A FAVORED DEALER IN MILLINERY, LADIES' FURNISHINGS, ETC.

The millinery shown by Mrs. Lee is "in style" and her stock is ever large and varied enough to suit any fancy of mind. The lady also shows a splendid assortment of veils, tips, plumes, fancy wings, ribbons, ready-to-wear suits, furs, ladies' furnishings, etc., and is noted for being very modest in her charges.

### N. BIGELOW & SON.

ONE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS HARDWARE CONCERNS IN THE COUNTY.

The hardware business conducted by N. Bigelow & Son is one of the oldest, best known and most successful in this part of the country. The business was originally started by Weyde-meyer & Kane, who were succeeded by Howe & Bigelow in 1888. Mr. Howe retired in 1895 and Samuel Bigelow joined his father in business, the firm assuming its present title. Bigelow & Son have been unusually prosperous, their business becoming larger and larger each year until today their trade may be said to extend over a wider field than any other like firm in this section. The last two years their business has been exceptionally good, the banner years in the history of the house, it may be said and the outlook for 1901 is even brighter. The firm carries a very large and varied line of heavy and shelf hardware, paints, oils and a number of specialties, and gives much attention to doing tin work in all its branches, especially in the matter of cave-troughing. For the past 10 years or more this department has been in charge of Joseph Kline, a most expert workman.

Mr. Bigelow is a native of Independence Township, Oakland County, where the early years of his life were spent on a farm. He is an excellent business man and one of Cass City's most sterling citizens. The firm will erect a substantial brick building on their present site this spring.

### THE NEW SHERIDAN.

A HOTEL THAT IS A DECIDED CREDIT TO CASS CITY.

No one feature about any town is of more comparative benefit to the place than a first-class hotel, for it is patent to anyone that the town that supports such a public place must be "a good town." Cass City has grown to such an extent in the past few years that the needs of the traveling public demanded the erection of a new and modern hostelry, and no one was