

New East Kildonan Branch of Imperial Bank of Canada Has Most Modern Banking Facilities

It is fitting that during 1950, the year which marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Imperial Bank of Canada, that a new building to house the East Kildonan Branch of this progressive bank should now be opened.

On Monday, May 15, the East Kildonan Branch of Imperial Bank closed the doors of the temporary premises at 215 Melrose avenue, and opened the doors of the new and modern branch office on the north-east corner of Melrose ave. and Henderson Highway, which is within a few hundred yards of the temporary premises originally occupied.

The East Kildonan Branch of Imperial Bank first opened for business in April, 1949, and the bank has not wasted any time in

giving residents and business people in the East Kildonan district a fine new building offering modern banking facilities. The building is a one-storey brick and stone structure with a frontage of 40 feet. The exterior design is modern in treatment and will enhance the Melrose ave. and Henderson Highway corner.

The interior of the new building corresponds to the modernistic treatment of the exterior with pleasing decoration, oak counters and furnishings and up-to-date fluorescent lighting. There are also excellent facilities for safe-keeping of valuables, with a strongly constructed safety deposit box vault, and comfortable booths for the use of customers.

The floors are of rubber tile in the public office and Marbolium covering the work space. The building is heated by oil with automatic controls on the forced hot water system. The color scheme is pastel green and the fluorescent lighting puts the finishing touches on a very modern office.

J. B. Schmor, who has been managing the branch in the temporary premises, will continue to manage the East Kildonan Branch in its new home. Mr. Schmor joined the staff of Imperial Bank at Hepburn, Sask., in 1920, and has always served Imperial Bank in the western provinces, having held positions at Moose Jaw, Laird, Saskatoon and New Norway Branches, before returning to Hepburn as the manager at that branch prior to opening the East Kildonan Branch.

Founded in 1875, Imperial Bank of Canada opened its first branch in Winnipeg in January, 1881. Imperial Bank has always been a "Pioneer Bank" and in a recent statement I. K. Johnston, president of the bank, stated:

"The original staff, numbering seven, has grown to more than 2,600, and the assets of the bank now exceed five hundred million dollars. There was at no time anything spectacular about the extending activities of the bank. While the statements published annually give a complete picture of

the varying economic periods of good times and bad, wars and depressions, the bank carefully managed, was able to pay a dividend at the end of its first year and has continued its dividends ever since.

"I would describe the history of Imperial Bank as a consistent picture. The first directors were able to take a long view and, while never plunging, they saw the future as a goal to be approached step by step with no retreat. They made it a 'Pioneering Bank' by going into the new places—at first the west, and later the mining areas of the north which were opened by the discovery of Cobalt.

In this big country of still small population, pioneering is not over, and within the past three months Imperial Bank has opened a new branch on the lower St. Lawrence River at a small village called Seven Islands, which is destined to become the shipping port for iron ore mines developing in Quebec and Labrador.

"The first expansive move was to the west in 1881, when a branch was opened in Winnipeg before the Canadian Pacific Railway had reached the then small but thriving town of 7,000. As the rails moved west the bank followed to Brandon in 1882, and Calgary in 1886."

In 1891 Imperial Bank of Canada moved into a small village called "Edmonton" near the Saskatchewan River and opened its first Edmonton Branch. From that time on Imperial Bank has continued to extend its facilities until today with branches in Halifax, N.S., and Victoria, B.C., the bank serves Canadians with 213 branches from coast to coast. There are now four branches in Winnipeg which are the Main Branch at Main and Bannatyne, the North End Branch, the St. Vital Branch, and the new branch in East Kildonan.

Two directors of Imperial Bank are Winnipeg men, G. H. Aikins, K.C., and H. E. Sellers, C.B.E. R. Carson is the superintendent of western branches with his headquarters in Winnipeg.

Imperial Bank of Canada can be proud of its development in the west and this new building in East Kildonan is another example of banking progress which has become synonymous with the name Imperial Bank of Canada.

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