

Hot Blast Feather Co.

The Hot Blast Feather Co. commenced business in 1880 as a partnership with about \$15,000 invested. It was managed by W. J. Kennedy and A. T. Driggs, and was located at 107 S. Front St. At first it employed only four or five men but it now employs about forty. In 1903 it was incorporated with \$30,000 capital. Its present officers are L. D. Field, President; Bert Henderson, Vice-President, and Wm. J. Kennedy, Secretary and Treasurer. It manufactures mattresses, pillows, beds and springs, and its output is about \$70,000 a year. Its products are sold chiefly in Michigan.

It is now located at the corner of South Front and Shawmut, but during the year 1906 will move to the corner of Third and Seward streets, where it is constructing a building 60x100 feet and four stories high.

Edward H. Stein, for many years Secretary of the Board of Education, was born in Germany, Feb. 24, 1847. His father was a school teacher. When two years of age his parents migrated to America and settled in Indiana. He was educated in the Ft. Wayne public schools and in parochial schools taught by his father. When a young man he was apprenticed to a blacksmith and served four years with the exception of nine months when he was in the army and saw active service in the Nashville campaign of 1864-5. After the war was over, he spent six years in Germany; returned to America and followed his trade of blacksmithing for seventeen years, working for the G. R. & I. Railroad Co. at Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. In 1885 he was elected a member of the Board of Education. In 1888 he was elected Secretary of the Board, which office he has since held. In 1887 he was elected member of the Common Council and was an Alderman for twelve years.