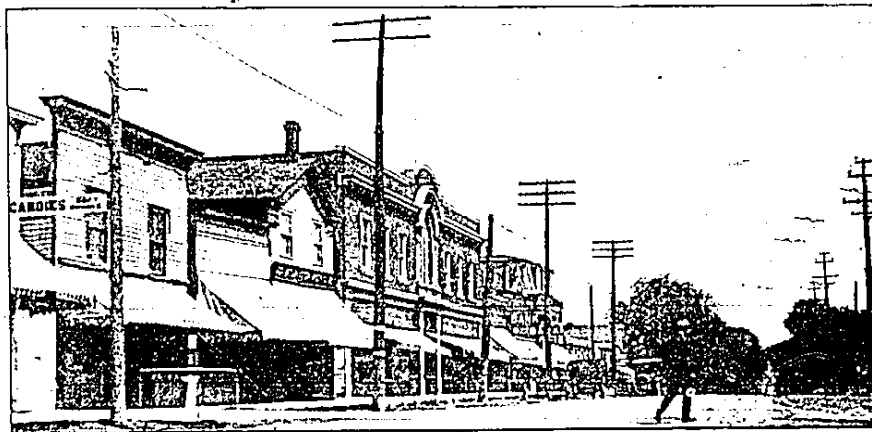


Just a Bit Nearer Our Own Time



By way of contrast—here is Grand River a few years back. Changes have taken place, but not so many as in the years previous. Compare photo below.

The Same Street A Little Farther Back



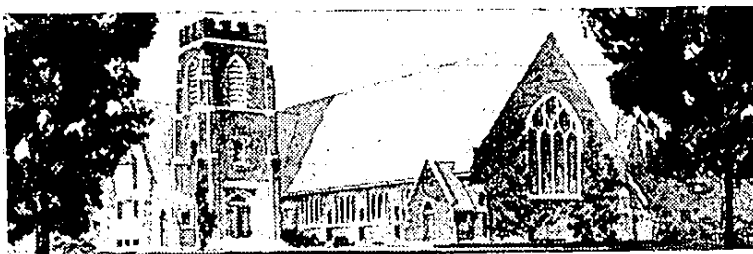
"Main Street, looking east from C. M. Doherty and Co.'s, 1898. Photo from the Enterprise 10th Anniversary Edition

You Know Him—But



Do you recognize his picture? It's "Tom" McGee, in 1898, then a "most successful druggist."

Another Instance Of "The Old And The New"



Burned down in 1920 in one of Farmington's spectacular fires, the old Methodist Church, on the site of the present home of Mayor Butterfield, has been replaced by the new structure on Grand River avenue.

FIFTY YEARS OF HISTORY

(Continued from preceeding page)
nature were his strong characteristics.

Real estate changed ownership rather infrequently and prices were ridiculously low, according to present day standards. The home now occupied by S. D. Harger was offered to the writer for \$600. An acre of land was included with it. This was not an isolated instance. I believe that with two or three exceptions, there was not a home in Farmington that would have been priced

at a sum exceeding \$1,000. A house and garden could be rented for \$100 a year.

—Wages—for common-labor were \$1.00 per day of ten or twelve hours. A farm laborer received a monthly wage of \$20 for a period of eight months. This included board, room and washing. Carpenters received 15 cents per hour, stone and brick-masons 20 cents per hour. A good suit of clothes cost \$15. Best butter was 20 cents a pound, fresh eggs 10 cents per dozen. Pork sold at 3 to 10 cents and the best steaks at a shilling a pound. Telephones,

electric light, and all the modern appliances of electricity were unused and unheard of. In spite of this—the citizens—were happy and enjoyed life.

In addition to his work, Mr. Pierce served as postmaster, being first appointed February 26, 1889. He was succeeded by E. C. Grace in 1893, was again appointed May 4, 1897 and served until succeeded by the present incumbent, T. H. McGee, in 1913. He held the office for 20 years, nine months and 21 days.

In this article I have but sketched a few of the changes that 50

years has seen in the life of this community. Many have passed to the land of silence and mystery that awaits us all. What of the future? Will any other individual have a business career of 50 years in our city? If so, who will it be and between what years will it occur?

In conclusion I know that I express the hopes and wish of the many friends of Mr. Pierce that the years yet remaining to him shall be filled with the experiences that make life happy and well worth living—of all the years the best.

—N. H. P.