

## LATE J. F. SMITH A REAL PIONEER OF THIS DISTRICT

Did Much to Settle North  
Thompson; Founded Many  
Organizations.

THERE were only some 35 or 40 people resident in Kamloops when the late John F. Smith first arrived in 1884 to start the first boot and shoe store here. Among the families were those of August McNanteau, J. A. Mara, J. McIntosh, T. Spellman, Ed. Cannell, Alex. McLean and J. Ogden Grahame.

The town itself stretched from the rock bluff facing the Thompson River at the west end of the town to a point where R. H. Lee's residence now stands.

### Travelled Extensively.

The late Mr. Smith was born at Frederickssted, Island of St. Croix, Danish West Indies. Educated at Copenhagen and the Jesuit College in Liverpool, he was taught at the latter place the trade of boot and shoemaker.

On April 17, 1877, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married and they duly held their golden wedding in 1927.

### Pioneer of North River.

One of the late Mr. Smith's proudest boasts was that he was the first pioneer of the North Thompson Valley. He spent several years in development work up the river. He filed on a ranch at Louis Creek in 1884, opening a store there in the spring of 1887, an action which men of that day termed "crazy." In 1885-86 he developed the Dunn Lake gold prospect, of which he was discoverer, doing the same for Dixon Creek the following year, being the first to find minerals there. He cut the trail from Adams Lake in 1886 and there also developed the minerals. He did the same for Barriere Lake next year.

### Founded Many Movements.

In 1892 Mr. Smith organized the Agricultural Association; he was associated with the founding of the board of trade, also its secretary in 1901 and for many years thereafter; an alderman in 1902; four years chairman of the water and light committee and one year chairman of the finance committee; city assessor 1908; founder of the Rifle Association, Moral Reform Association, mock parliament, Children's Aid and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, "many of which died when I left them," he was wont to say humorously.

### Became Indian Agent.

The late Mr. Smith had to relinquish most of his public offices when he became Indian agent in 1911. He took an active part in the city's centenary celebrations in 1912, helped organize the Fruit Growers' Association and personally organized District "D" Farmers' Institute. Out of this emerged the bull sale May 15, 1918.

For the last ten years Mr. Smith took more pleasure, perhaps, in his attendance at the Rotary Club than in any other of his many activities.