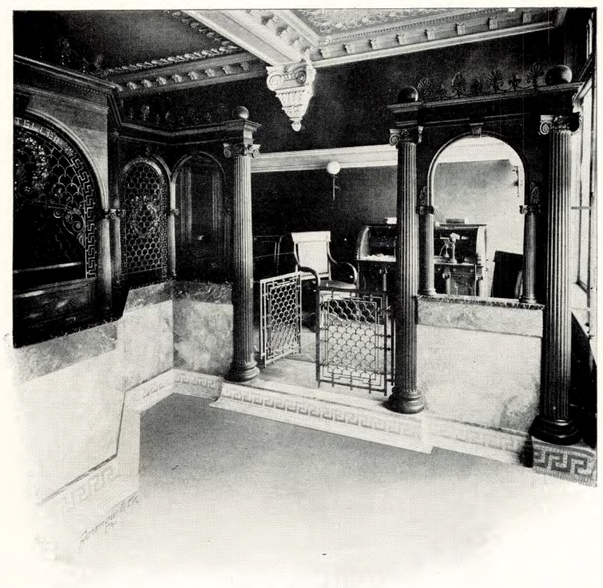
FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Hamilton's First and Biggest Financial Institution



PRESIDENT'S ROOM

A bank is a public institution and its officers are as much public officials as if elected by the suffrage of the people. The men behind the First National Bank realize this and as a result every safeguard known to modern banking is taken to protect the interests of the depositors. The people of Hamilton realize this and the result of this confidence in the strength of the bank and the integrity of its officials, is the strongest financial institution in any city the size of Hamilton in the country.

The deposits, aggregating over two and one-half million, are the best evidence behind the stability of Hamilton's oldest bank.

Not only is the strength of the First National Bank realized in this country, but its reputation for sound business principles extends the country over.

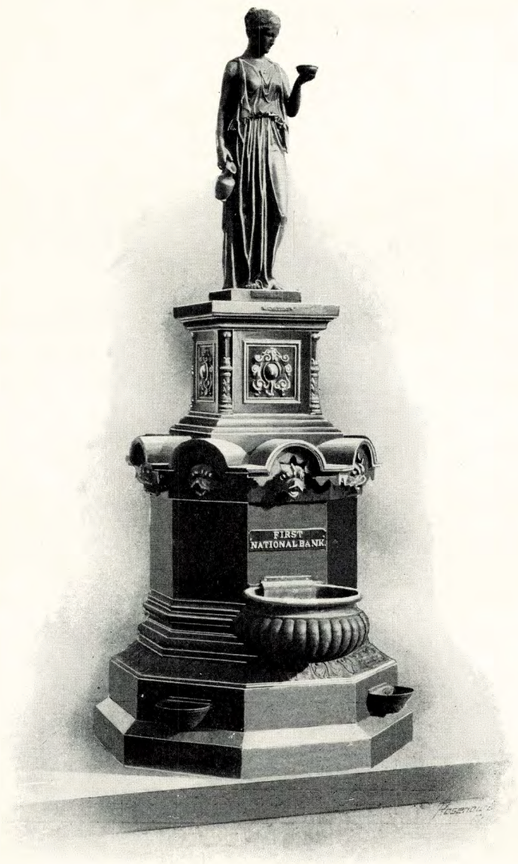
The rapid growth of the First National Bank is a natural sequence of the belief of its officers in the future of Hamilton, the people of Hamilton, and the industries of the city. Everything that could be done to boost and advertise the city has been and is being done, new industries are given encouragement and assistance and are urged to make Hamilton their home. Old industries know that the consistent conservative yet progressive policy of this bank are conducive to the best interests of its army of depositors and borrowers.

The bank in many instances has shown its interest in Hamilton, but the more outward evidence of this was the erection in 1898 of a big fountain in front of the bank, the first public drinking place in the city, which even the flood of March, 1913, with all the wreckage and debris thrown against it, failed to more than budge. The bank also presented to Hamilton a big chimes clock where after the striking of each hour, the tune of "Home Sweet Home" is wafted to the breeze. This is the first chimes clock in Hamilton.

FIRST NATIONAL WAS FIRST BANK IN CITY.

The First National Bank is not only the oldest National financial institution in the city but in Butler County as well. Shortly after the National Banking law took effect in 1863, a few leading men of this community got together, applied for a charter and opened the bank for business on August 15, 1863, in the room now occupied by A. Seidensticker, jeweler. The first officers of the bank were, Micajah Hughes, president; James Beatty, vice-president; John P. P. Peck, cashier, and John P. Cornell, assistant cashier. These officers with Phillip Hughes, Edward Hutchinson and Joseph W. Davis constituted the first board of directors.

The present officers of the bank are:
- S. D. Fitton, President
- B. Benninghofen, Vice-President
- E. G. Ruder, Cashier
- John M. Beeler, Assistant Cashier
- Don W. Fitton, Assistant Cashier



FOUNTAIN IN FRONT OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HOME OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

VIEW FROM DIRECTORS' ROOM

The directors of the bank are:
- James K. Cullen
- E. G. Ruder
- Christian Benninghofen
- James Fitton
- Peter Benninghofen
- Frank M. Hughes
- S. D. Fitton

The aim of the bank always has been and always will be to serve the every legitimate business. The demands for this service have been enormous in the past and the steady growth of the bank's business is incontrovertible proof that its methods of fair and honorable and impartial dealings with all of its patrons, has gained the unlimited confidence of the community.

It is hard to imagine a more substantial or convenient banking home in the country. The accompanying cuts give a fine idea of the perfect arrangements within the bank. There is a separate window for every department with which the public has to personally deal and small identification glass cards ease the way for the patron to the paying teller, the receiving teller, the man in charge of the drafts, notes, and other divisions of work.

The floor is of Roman mosaic with curved shoe base enriched by a Grecian border. On this rests a base of Sienna marble which extends all the way round the banking counter and booths.

The ceiling is divided into panels and supported by columns and pilasters. The entire interior of the bank has but recently been redecorated and the color scheme is perfect.

There is in the bank in the north end of the west lobby a big table where the public may find papers to read and writing materials. There also is a ladies room.

The bank is equipped with the latest burglar proof devices. The vault is a mammoth affair and is locked by the most improved of the Mosler patents which also protect the big safe inside the vault, and this gives double security to the man or woman who intrusts their valuables to the bank.

The doors of the vault weigh nearly five tons and are as impregnable as modern genius can make them.

When farmers come to the city to sell their produce or do other work they have always made the First National Bank their headquarters. One may enter the bank almost any day in the week and find several farmers discussing crops, transacting business, or reading the agricultural papers which the bank provides for them. This is a habit which the farmers acquired soon after the bank was opened and which the bank encourages.