

BUSINESS EXPANSION.

Mayor Goggins being asked regarding the prospects of the consolidated cities, in 1900, said: "I have not the faintest doubt we are entering upon an era of prosperity unequalled since the panic of '93. There is a brisker atmosphere in the real estate market than there has been for years. Local industries here are expanding, and many new ones are under consideration, mostly by local capital. Of course, Grand Rapids, like all other Wisconsin valley cities, is looking forward with a great deal of faith in the impetus that will be given this section of the country by the development of our water powers. Here in Grand Rapids proper we have in the neighborhood of 5,000 horse-power that can be developed at a comparatively small expenditure of money. In a municipal way, I believe the consolidated cities will make more advancement this year than ever before. We are contemplating many permanent street and other important public improvements. The increase of population has necessitated broader school facilities, and to the end of supplying the demand, one new high school will be built this coming season."

FIRST MAYOR OF THE COMBINED CITY.

Mayor Goggins enjoys the distinction of being prominent in the work of consolidation of the two cities, which was brought about through the efforts of the Business Men's association, which is a member of the Wisconsin Valley Advancement association. In this work Mr. Goggins was ably assisted by E. P. Arpin, of Grand Rapids, Ernest Oberbeck, of Centralia, L. M. Nash, of Centralia, George M. Hill, of the department store, F. J. Wood, banker, and in short the entire Business Men's organization; and, as a reward for the good work done, Mr. Goggins was nominated for mayor by acclamation, and elected without opposition either at the polls or in the convention.

His record is not that of an office holder or politician. He has held minor offices where good men were needed and has proven himself equal to every trust, and now Greater Grand Rapids will expect greater work from him than ever. Comparatively a young man, progressive and public-spirited, his future is looked upon as bright, and the destiny of the city cast in pleasant places. Mr. Goggins enjoys the fullest confidence on both sides of the river, and in the development of the Wisconsin valley, it is safe to predict that Grand Rapids will be in the front rank.—*Sunday's Milwaukee Sentinel.*