

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

To Be Celebrated by Thompson Brothers.

Twenty years ago April 21 the firm of Thompson Brothers first made its bow to the people of Bath and vicinity and during all these years has constantly forged to the front making a name second to no other clothing house in Maine.

This firm consists of George E. and Frank N. Thompson and both are hustlers as well as thoroughly capable business men.

The president of the corporation, George E. Thompson, commenced his experience in the clothing business 32 years ago in Bath, as a boy, in the store now occupied by James H. Scott, later going to Lynn, and came back to his native city to open the old Boston Bargain Clothing Company store, then known as the B. B. C. C., which was located at the foot of Elm street and which was owned by William L. Filene of Boston, later the head of the great Filene store at the "Hub." This was in 1884 and he had with him his brother, Frank N. Thompson, who is treasurer of the corporation, and as a boy Amos Perry, who is still with this famous firm of clothiers. The Thompson boys remained in that store for four years and then purchased the "Blue" store located where is now the Marine National Bank and put their own sign over the door. The location was not at that time considered a good one and many predicted that they would not long remain in the clothing business at that stand. Those who made any predictions as to the unlikelihood of success were not acquainted with the Thompson Brothers' grit and enterprise and before many months passed the general public began to see that the firm of Thompson Brothers had come to stay. Extensive advertising, square dealings and fair profits and a strict regard for the word of the firm in its dealings with all men were the stepping stones to success. In 1885 came the big Sagadahoc fire and while the flames were still burning Thompson Brothers had made arrangements to occupy the big store on the corner now so well known as Thompson's Corner. Such a store and expense were not common in Maine at that time and people again got busy predicting that they were "going too steep." Pushing and progressive, however, they undertook the big risk and with several times as much floor space, ten times as much stock, more than double the force of employes and the good will of the people, which had been previously won, this firm of hustlers proceeded to get busy. In October, 1894, they opened the doors of what is acknowledged to be one of the finest equipped and stocked stores in New England. On January 1, 1896, the firm took another step which, too, was declared by many not to be practical, announcing that business would thereafter be done on a

strictly cash basis. Not a cent of credit was given anyone and while some citizens, many of them men of wealth, kicked at first they soon found that the Thompson boys were going to do just as they had stated and today the firm feels this was one of the wisest steps it ever took.

Last May their fine store was badly damaged by fire, the stock being partly damaged. Immediately this immense stock was thrown on the market at low figures and consequently was soon entirely disposed of and after the store had been once more made ready for occupancy it was reopened in the summer with an entirely new stock of goods.

Not only have the Thompson boys been successful in business but they have made good citizens as well, displaying the same energy in local affairs that they have in their business and every worthy cause has received their endorsement and aid. Their annual New Year's dinner to the poor children of Bath which was inaugurated in 1895, is a feature of the charitable work which they have done.

In celebrating their twentieth birthday on April 21 the firm will have the good will and best wishes of the general public for miles around who admire the energy, push, pluck and perseverance which these Bath boys have shown.

All members of the Bath Merchants' association will observe Easter Monday as Patriot's day too, and will have their stores closed for the entire day.

Beautiful Plants

For Easter gifts at our store. We have some in the window and many more inside.

We Invite You

To come in, see the plants and remind you that we deliver all orders free.

Webber's DRUG STORE

Order Page & Shaw candy for Easter today.