

—circumstances which render the notable success of the industry not phenomenal, but natural and justly due.

KIEFER & FECHT.—Wool pullers and dealers in pelts, wool, furs, tallow, beeswax, etc., South Front street. It is a fact universally conceded that no city in the State offers to manufacturing enterprises so desirable facilities, ready capitalistic support and general fostering care as does Grand Rapids, and within her hospitable walls no legitimate undertaking need lack for appreciation. A unique, and one of the latest manufacturing enterprises to be pro-

jected here, is that whose auspices and character are noted above, the interested principals being Edgar S. Kiefer and Albert Fecht, both Detroit men, who have located here recently and established the above industry May 1, the same being the only one of the kind in the city. The capital invested in the business at this initial stage of its existence is \$10,000, and the trade territory covered will comprise all Michigan, with the widening of the range as circumstances justify. The plant of the firm soon to be entirely completed, will be second to none in the character of its appointments, and will comprise every essential mechanism and accessory for the successful prosecution of the work. A force of ten workmen will be employed at the start, and the capacity of the institution will be increased as the demands, surely to be placed upon it, shall warrant. The principal feature of the business will be in the production of wool from sheep-skins by the "depilatory process," which is a more rapid and efficacious method than the "sweating" system, which has long been in vogue. A specialty will also be made of tanning sheep-skins, and general dealings in hides, pelts, wool, furs, tallow and beeswax. The members of the firm are both young and energetic business men, who will make their influence felt in local commercial circles. Mr. Kiefer has been connected with the similar and well known establishment of Trangott Schmidt, of Detroit, for four years, and Mr. Fecht has been seventeen years with the same concern, and is thoroughly informed on every practical detail of the work, including both buying and manufacturing. He comes with the highest recommendations from his former employer, and with his able colleague, will soon have control of a business that will occupy a position of prominence among the industries of the Valley City. Mr. Kiefer, senior member of the firm, is a graduate of the Imperial Academy of Scientific Research, at Vienna, Austria, in phases bearing upon the great leather industries of the world.

**The city of Grand
Rapids, manufacturing
advantages
commercial
importance ...**

By Robert H. Baker
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