

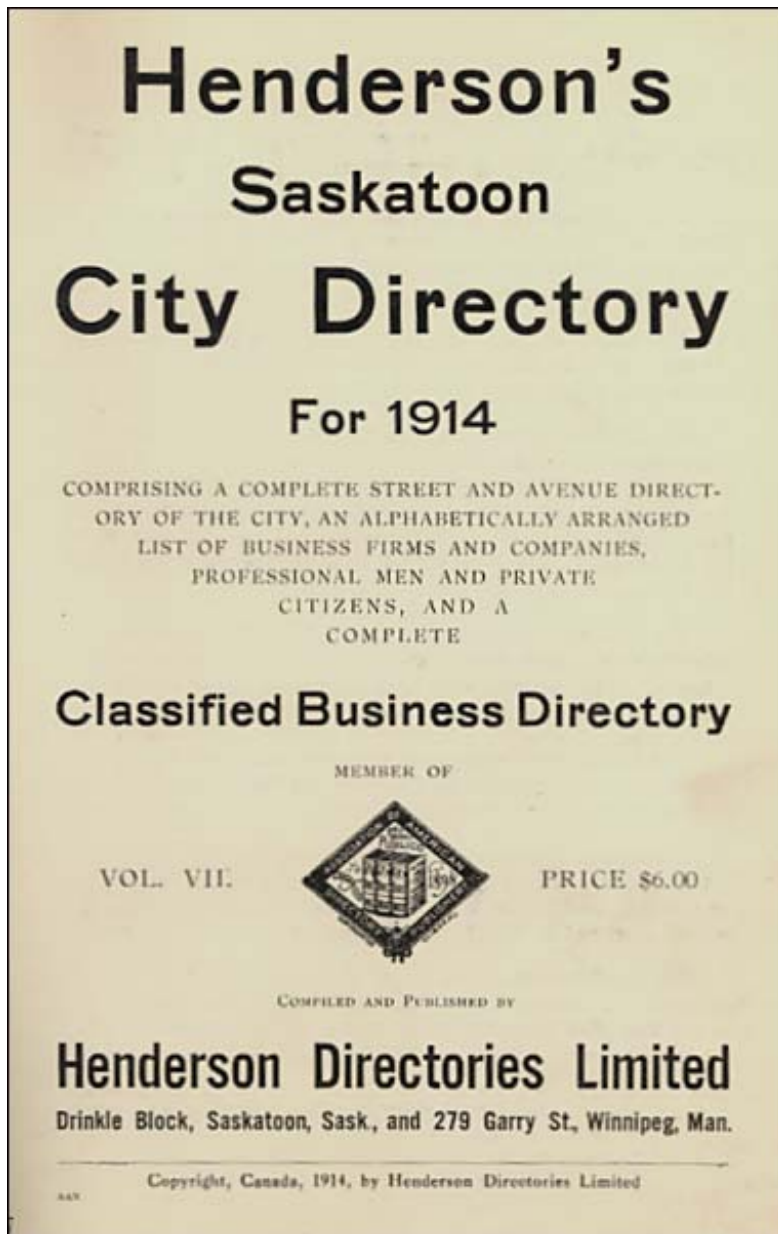
Saskatoon's "Throbbing Heart":

From the 1914 Henderson's Directory for Saskatoon, written before the clouds of war had gathered above the pristine prairie skies, when the optimism of the boom still lingered.

"One hundred and thirteen hopeful souls and a few rude shacks huddled together on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River - such was Saskatoon in December, 1903; such was the crude and humble embryo from which the splendid city of today with her prosperous population of about 30,000, has arisen, as though by enchantment, in those few, short, intervening years."

"[The] shack hamlet of yesterday now possesses every comfort and convenience typical of all that is modern and thoroughly up-to-date, and in such desirable respects is quite as completely equipped as is any of the larger progressive cities in Eastern Canada."

"It seems but yesterday since the wild pea vine and the delicate prairie anemone flourished in extravagant luxuriance where mile upon mile of cement street and sidewalk now streak hither and thither by beautiful homes and imposing business blocks; along streets with their splendid stores and bustling throng of busy, happy-looking people - streets where but yesterday the cheeky little gopher peered from the grass at the passing bullock wagon of the pioneer as it jolted along toward that grey ribbon of a prairie trail that led - God knows where - some said to Battleford."



"No noise had then been born upon these plains. The silence and the hush dwelt there as virgin as the land. But, the finger of solitude touched men's hearts - drew them together and bound them in a bond of brotherhood which in these easier and more affluent days still holds the citizens of Saskatoon in unwavering unity. That, at least, will never change. Our people have tested and proven its potent magic. All else has changed. Today, fifteen and a half miles of electric street railway replace the uncouth trails of yesterday and all lingering traces of a town have been lost forever in the throbbing heart of a truly modern city."

(Henderson's Saskatoon City Directory, 1914, pp. 99-100)