

demand for belting; and the business that but a few years ago required hard struggling to keep up, is now one of the largest importance.

As a captain of this industry, Mr. Sadler's connection with it has always been noticeable. Thoroughly understanding his business, his determination from the first was to produce nothing but a first-class article; but one of the great difficulties he encountered in doing this was in obtaining the right sort of leather made from the right sort of hides. Being a self-reliant Canadian; having every confidence in the productive capacity of the country; and that the materials and facilities for making the best quality of belting—to wit: hides, bark and skilled workmen—were at hand, he established a large tannery at Stanbridge East, Que., and now this tannery, said to be the largest in the Dominion making a specialty of manufacturing belting leather; and his leather belting factory in Montreal, which is one of the largest in the country; afford him all the facilities necessary to place him in the highest position in the trade.

The demand for belting manufactured by Robin & Sadler, increased very rapidly and came from all directions; and the trade in Ontario became so large that in 1885 a branch house was established in Toronto, to enable the better filling of Western orders; and these goods are also well known in the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Mr. Sadler believes in the potency of printers' ink, being a liberal and judicious advertiser, and has always availed himself of the fairs and exhibitions in all the larger cities to make attractive displays of his products. These displays are not only to show goods, but to assist in bringing Canadian manufactures prominently to the attention of Canadian users. At all these exhibitions these exhibits have been awarded high honors, among which are the Dominion gold medal, and quite a number of silver and bronze medals, and diplomas.

Canada is proud in producing such men as George W. Sadler.

JOHN TAYLOR.

JOHN TAYLOR, president of the Dominion Dyewood and Chemical Company, and proprietor of the Morse Soap Works, both of Toronto, whose portrait is shown in plate VI. of our series of "Captains of Canadian Industry," was born forty-seven years ago in the quiet silk manufacturing town of Leek, Staffordshire, England; and his schooling was at the National school in that place. Coming to Canada in 1855, he attended a common school for a few months in the township of Pickering, Ontario County, Ont., which closed his scholastic career. Being of a studious disposition, the subject of this sketch improved every opportunity to acquire, by self-directed efforts, what he lacked in not having had a collegiate course; and his favorite motto on this self-help question was: "Schools merely teach children how to learn."

In 1859, young Taylor was given a situation with the old and well-established firm of Messrs. John Taylor & Brothers, of Toronto, paper manufacturers, and proprietors of the Toronto and Don paper mills, with whom he was distantly related; and here it was from his respected principals that young Taylor doubtless acquired those habits of thrift and economy that

have in a large measure ensured the success of his commercial life.

In 1865 Mr. Taylor entered into co-partnership with Mr. J. L. Morrison (now president of the *Grip* Publishing Company, of Toronto), under the firm name of Morrison, Taylor & Co., who for many years conducted a large local and export provision trade in this city.

In 1872 the Morse Soap Company was formed by the then firm of Morrison, Taylor & Co. becoming interested with the late Geo. D. Morse. A large soap factory was erected near the Don Station of the Grand Trunk Railway in the eastern part of Toronto, the pork-packing works of Morrison, Taylor & Co. being absorbed in the new establishment. About eleven years ago Mr. Morse retired from the firm, and in 1885 Mr. Taylor acquired the sole control of the business by purchasing the interest of Mr. Morrison.

Mr. Taylor always took great interest in the success of his soap business, and would never allow any but the very best goods to be made. The vicissitudes of this business twice witnessed the destruction of his works by fire, but with his characteristic push and energy, they were on each occasion speedily rebuilt, and from the comparatively small concern of 1872, have grown up to what is now probably the largest and most important factory of the sort in the Dominion.

Mr. Taylor is best known throughout Canada, from ocean to ocean, as the proprietor of the Morse Soap Works, whose laundry specialty, "Morse's Mottled," has found its way into every hamlet in the land. He has also met a universal demand for the higher grades of toilet soaps. These are manufactured by the French process, and his list embraces nearly two hundred varieties, all of which are of the highest excellence.

Mr. Taylor owns a controlling interest in the Dominion Dyewood and Chemical Company, of Toronto, with whom almost every woolen and cotton manufacturer in Canada has dealings, and who purchase from his Company, anilines, dyewoods, extracts, fulling and scouring soaps, etc.

Although his time is very fully occupied with the details of extensive diversified and growing business ventures, Mr. Taylor finds pleasure in performing his share of the public duties that devolve upon good citizens. For many years he represented his ward on the Public School Board, and he was an alderman of the city for four years; and it was in this latter capacity he became one of the most active and useful promoters of the movement that gave Toronto its valuable and valued free public library. If no other laurel crowned his brow, the honor of having been instrumental in assisting to give this boon to the public, is one that Mr. Taylor prizes most highly. Prior to the establishment of this library (and he was for a term chairman of its Board), Mr. Taylor filled various positions upon the Board of the old Toronto Mechanics' Institute, during a membership of twenty-two years.

While a professed Reformer in politics, Mr. Taylor has always given hearty and generous support to Canada's National Policy, for he believes that under existing relations as between Canada and the United States, there could be no existence for such manufacturing industries as now make the Dominion so prosperous under any adverse policy. He is an active member of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and one of its executive committee.