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CHARACTER SKETCH.

MR. E. B. EDDY.

"If I have done the public any service it is due to nothing but industry and patient thought." - Newton.

WHERE in this broad Dominion is the name of E. B. Eddy, of Hull, Que., not known? Influenced by the law of association, who strikes a match, for whatever purpose, without thinking of this greatest of match-makers?

E. B. Eddy comes of historic Mayflower stock, and was born in Bristol, Vt., in 1827, being a direct descendant of that doughty warrior but luckless wooer, Miles Standish. He came to Canada in 1851 and settled in Hull, Que., where, in 1854, he commenced the making of matches. The contrast between the small beginnings of those days and the achievements of the present—by actual calculation the product of his match factory is 27,600,000 matches per day

is an illustration of the tremendous energy and push of the man during these years; for it has not been all plain sailing with Mr. Eddy. He has had difficulties to overcome that would have downed ten ordinary men, but his unconquerable energy has enabled him to climb successfully over each obstacle as it has met him in his path.

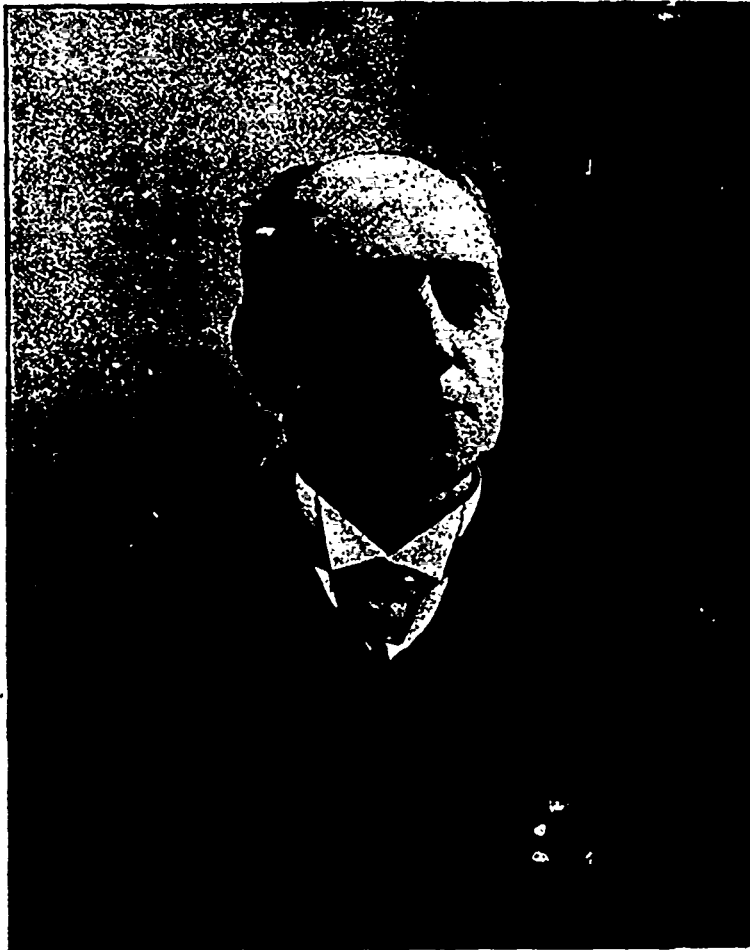
The fire-fiend did not spare Mr. Eddy. In 1882 his large works were destroyed by the devouring element. He was in Quebec at the time, and his laconic, but intensely practical reply to the telegraph message sent him, whilst the labor of years was being so ruthlessly wiped out, is characteristic of the man. These were his words: "Put out the fire, clear up debris, prepare to build. I'll be home to-morrow."

In 1856 the manufacture of woodenware in the shape of pails, tubs and washboards was added to match-making. Later on he acquired large tracts of land and entered extensively into lumbering, erecting huge sawmills, planing mills and door and sash factories.

In 1886 Mr. Eddy's vast business interests were organized and consolidated into the E. B. Eddy Co., (Ltd.), working under charter secured from the Dominion Government. Since that date the concern has withdrawn from the planing mill business, and gone extensively into the manufacture of paper and the operation of a sulphite fibre mill, becoming large consumers of spruce and pulpwood. How closely Mr. Eddy's interests are identified with the timber interests of this country is shown in the fact that about 15,000,000 feet of lumber are sawn each year, all of which is used by the company in their various factories. About 15,000 cords of pulp is consumed annually in their chemical and wood pulp mills; thirteen tons of sulphite fibre, sixteen tons of wood pulp, fifteen tons of manilla, tissue, wrapping and newspapers, and ten tons of wood board are made daily, together with a daily average of from 260 to 265 dozen wooden pails and tubs; fifty dozen fibre ware pails, tubs, etc. and 27,600,000 matches are turned out each day (Sunday excepted) the year round by the E. B. Eddy Company. The pay roll runs about \$30,000 per month.

The following story of Mr. Eddy, told by his familiar friends, illustrates, without any playing on the word, the matchless business resources of this commercial king. Some years ago the match manufacturers of the United States resolved to secure a prohibitory duty to exclude Mr. Eddy from a modest share in the match market of

that country. He protested, but in vain. The duty was about to be put on when he appeared at a convention of the manufacturers, and, after exhausting every plea against the proposed duty they were about to rivet on by a formal demand, he threatened to place his matches, beautifully labelled, in every city, town and hamlet between Canada and the Gulf of Mexico. He did this quietly. They laughed. The duty promptly went on. Mr. Eddy returned home, re-crossed to Ogdensburg and at once secured suitable buildings for a large factory. This he equipped at once, and in a week or ten days he brought over foremen and scores of skilled hands from Hull, and engaged fresh hands on the spot, and began operations. Within a month an enormous quantity of matches was produced and pushed into the market all over the country. The American manufacturers became alarmed; the threat seemed in process of quick realization. They called another meeting; offered Mr. Eddy



MR. E. B. EDDY.

an immense sum to abandon his Ogdensburg factory, and besides paid the entire expense incurred in establishing it, and even the return fares of the employees brought from Hull.

Of Mr. Eddy personally little need be said; he is well known to the people of this country. Busy man that he is, he is ever the gentleman, and genial and courteous to all visitors. His acts of enterprise as a citizen bear their own evidence in the town of Hull, which owes its rapid and continued growth in an incalculable degree to Mr. Eddy's efforts. No more beneficent citizen is found in any community, as the people of Hull and its institutions, public and private, testify. He was married in 1846, before leaving Bristol, to a native of the same town, a lady who can claim the distinction of being the grand-daughter, on her father's side, of John Arnold, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. It has well been said: One Canada, one Eddy.

THE STRENGTH OF WOOD GREATER THAN STEEL.

A STATEMENT recently appeared in a contemporary giving the results of a comparative test of hardwood with steel, and showing that the advantage of strength in proportion to weight was with the wood. This fact seems to have been unobserved until recently, and has occasioned much surprise among woodworkers. But it is the fact that hardwood is stronger than steel in resistance to breaking weight. Some further advantages in favor of wood are thus stated by an exchange when an all-steel machine is brought into sharp contact with some unyielding obstacle, its frame is liable to spring, and when once sprung its usefulness is at an end. It cannot be strengthened without resort to the shop for repairs. If a wood frame it is not thus affected. If bent under a violent strain, it at once springs back to its original shape. A piece of steel one foot long and a half inch square weighs double as much as a piece of seasoned ash one foot long, 1 3/8 inches square. In other words, the steel in proportion to bulk is 15 1/2 times as heavy as the wood. A steel frame of a machine which is one-fifteenth as large as a wood frame weighs exactly the same as the wood. But even with this difference in size, the wood has four times the strength. These are problems that any one can solve.

On the contrary, recent evidence as to the use of steel in place of wood for railway ties, which have been very reluctantly adopted, has proven that steel is the most economical. In Burmah steel ties, after having undergone a careful test on different parts of the line, are now displacing the teak railroad ties hitherto used on the open line of the state railway. Teak so far has been found the best timber yet used for this purpose, and has been found to last as long as ten years; but the use of steel ties economizes the expense of spikes, and is reported to last from 40 to 50 years. The low price now ruling has been a great inducement not only of substituting steel ties, but also a large quantity of steel rail is now being used in this province. With the growth of this idea, which must result from the rapid depletion of our hardwood forests, no doubt a method of preserving metal ties from rust will still further lengthen the period in which it may be used and make it still cheaper as a permanent sleeper for railway tracks.

A GOOD SUGGESTION TO ADOPT.

EVERY mechanic should have a library of his own, no matter how small. A library, even if it only consists of two books, is of value. Once the habit is formed of purchasing books, it is surprising how soon a creditable collection of books will be secured, and what a benefit they will be to the owner. The mechanic unaccustomed to the use of books has no idea of the benefit to be derived from them. He does not know that the use of books will fit him for a better position, and enable him to earn better wages and do better work.

It is a good plan to set aside a certain sum each week or month to be applied to the purchase of books. Here the mistake of buying the wrong books must not be made, or the money will be wasted. Some men, once in the habit of acquiring a library, buy books merely because they are books, and will help to fill the shelves and make a show. Avoid all such nonsense. Buy books as tools are bought, because they are needed, and they will be a benefit to their purchaser.

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