

the brothers, William and Robert, rented the woollen factory of Hón. Mr. Crooks, and ran it until 1837, when the four brothers bought a small woollen factory at Georgetown, in the township of Esqueving, county of Halton, the place then containing only three families." "The four brothers," writes Mr. Davin, "were in the wilderness, and never could have got on had they not had quick brains, fertile in resources. Anything they required in the way of machinery, they had to make. At that time all the farmers manufactured their cloth; but when the Barbers had their machinery going, the farmers gradually began to exchange their wool for the machine-made cloth. * * * Business increased. A second mill was started at Streetsville. Later on, the water power at Georgetown failing, the two woollen mills were consolidated, and the large mill, now known as the Toronto Mills (Streetsville being in the township of Toronto), were erected in 1853."

About this time the Grand Trunk Railway was under process of construction, and James Barber being a paper maker, it was decided to erect a mill on the Credit river, which runs on the north side of Georgetown. The first freight carried by the railway to Toronto was three car loads of paper from this mill. A second paper mill was erected in 1858, and since that time large additions and improvements have been made to increase the quantity and quality of paper manufactured. The first serious reverse experienced by the family occurred in 1861, when the woollen mill at Streetsville was destroyed by fire, with a loss of \$70,000 above insurance, and the explosion of a boiler at the paper mill caused a loss of \$8,000 more. These mills were again running, and turning out goods as usual, within three months from the date when the accidents occurred. The old firm was dissolved in 1870, thirty-three years after its formation "without any deed of partnership, or any division of profits, each one drawing according to his requirements."

William and Robert Barber took the woollen business, and under the firm-name of Barber Brothers, are employing from 125 to 150 men, women and children, are making all wool tweeds, flannels and some over-coating broad cloths, tweeds being their specialty. They have eight sets of the most improved machinery, and their articles of manufacture are second in excellence to none made in the Province, and there are but three or four mills of the kind more extensive in the Province.

William Barber, the senior member of the firm, though past seventy years of age, being born in 1809, is one of the most energetic and active men in Streetsville. While a resident of the county of Halton, he was for some years a member of the county council; has been a justice of the peace since the first commission was issued in that county, and represented the riding of Halton in the first and second local Parliaments, being a Reformer of the indomitable class.

Robert Barber has been a magistrate for a number of years, and has taken a prominent part in many public enterprises, both in his own county and in the Province at large.

Joseph Barber, the youngest member of the family, retired from business on the dissolution of the old firm, and now enjoys himself as a gentleman farmer and collector of interests and