

THE CARRIAGE AND IMPLEMENT JOURNAL (OF CANADA).

Devoted to the Interests of the Manufacturers and Dealers in Carriages, Implements, Wagons and Harness.
P. N. LEATHERICK, Comptroller, Ottawa, Ont.

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WE take pleasure in presenting in the initial number of THE CARRIAGE AND IMPLEMENT JOURNAL, a cut of one of the most widely known members of the trade, Mr. Robt. Gray, President of the Wm. Gray & Sons Co., Limited, Chatham. The subject of this sketch is endowed with business attainments of a superior order; he is a favorite in social circles in his native city, and he has won the respect and confidence of all those brought in contact with him in a business way.

The enterprise of which he is now at the head was founded in 1844 by his father, Mr. Wm. Gray. The original shop, which stood where the present handsome 3-story factory now is, was a small one. Chatham was then little more than a village, and in fact those were pioneer days in the Western Ontario Peninsula, London, the largest centre, not having yet attained more than the dignity of a town. The country was not then, as now, girdled with railroads—the Grand Trunk to Windsor was the one railway running out from London west, and it had just been completed. Mr. Gray, Sr., was the only carriage builder in the "Maple City"; his workmanship was honest, an important recommendation to the early residents, particularly in view of the fact that in their intercourse with one another, they were compelled to drive long distances. By de-

gress his trade extended. Gray buggies found their way into the several contiguous towns, but their builder went unostentatiously on laying the foundation of bigger things in the future. Later on his two sons, Messrs. Robert and James S. Gray, became associated with him. The same policy was pursued and success continued to follow them.



Mr. Robert Gray.

(President, Wm. Gray & Sons Co., Limited, Chatham.)

In 1890 the present three-story brick factory was erected, and the firm went still further afield for business. Their trade went on, yearly showing a healthy increase, until the capacity of their present extensive premises is found to be inadequate, and it is the intention of the management to add to the building and increase the plant to double its output of 5,000 rigs.

In addition to carriages, they will also devote some attention to automobiles, for which they anticipate considerable demand will develop in the near future. They will be on the market shortly with two special steam-propelled "mobes."

Wm. Gray & Sons Co., Limited, pride themselves on their ability to build vehicles to meet the popular fancy as it arises, and through this happy faculty they have to a large extent been enabled to attain their high standing. The concern was incorporated in December, 1898, with Mr. Robert Gray as President and Mr. James S. Gray as Secretary-Treasurer.