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Captains of Canadian Industry.

WILLIAM CHRISTIE.

THERE is probably no man in active business life in Canada to-day who owes his success to his own exertions in any greater degree than William Christie, biscuit manufacturer, of Toronto. He was born in Huntley, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, January 6, 1829; and neighbouring schools afforded the only education he obtained away from the domestic fireside. He was fifteen years of age when he was apprenticed to a baker doing business at Turriff, near the place of his nativity. The emolument he received while an apprentice was not very munificent—one pound sterling per annum with board; and when he went to work as a journeyman in the city of Toronto, his pay was only four dollars per month and board. A desire to better his fortunes brought him to Canada in 1848, where he soon found occupation at his trade in Toronto; and although a thoroughly efficient workman, the best pay he received was only twelve dollars per month and board, which was at that time the very highest wages paid for such services, and for which he labored fourteen hours for four nights in the week, commencing work at ten o'clock in the evening; and sixteen hours two nights in the week, beginning work at eight o'clock. And these wages were the highest that Mr. Christie ever received for his services as a journeyman baker.

His first venture in business on his own account was in 1851. At that time the product of the bakeries was chiefly bread in loaves; and Mr. Christie, remembering his experiences in the "land o' cakes" and the large demand existing there for toothsome confections, soon began to manufacture such goods, which

are known to the trade as "biscuit;" and the manufacture of "biscuit" in Toronto, as a distinct branch of his business, dates from 1858 when Mr. Christie turned particular attention to it; going exclusively into it in 1860. From this latter date this business has been remarkably successful; and at this time Mr. Christie's is the largest concern of the kind in Ontario—probably in Canada.

In 1868 Mr. Christie became associated with Mr. Alex. Brown, under the firm name of Christie, Brown & Co.; and then it was that steam machinery was introduced into their works, which were then located at 626 Yonge street. Finding their premises too contracted for their rapidly growing business, in 1872 the firm removed to Francis street, where they still further enlarged their plant, introducing what is known as a thirty barrel reel; but two years later—in 1874—they purchased the land at the south-west intersection of Duke and Frederick streets, where they built their present extensive works, which are of brick, three stories high and cover an area one hundred and thirty feet square. They are specially designed for the business, and are well equipped throughout with every appliance necessary in the manufacture of large quantities of goods, and give constant employment to about two hundred persons.

Philosophy teaches that a man cannot lift himself by his bootstraps; but William Christie has demonstrated the fact that a fixed purpose unwaveringly adhered to can elevate a man from a very humble position in life to become loved and respected by the whole community for his integrity and sterling worth, and to attain an enviable prominence as a most valuable member of society, entirely through his own exertions. It is said of Mr. Christie that his acute sense of smelling has always been so discriminating that he could tell without any other inspection whether any of the great variety of goods being prepared in his establishment were or were not up to his required standard.

Of pleasing personal appearance, and kind and genial in his manner, Mr. Christie is a favorite with all who are admitted to his friendship; and none love and respect him more than those who are in his employ. His generousities are proverbial, but they are unheralded to the world; for even his left hand knoweth not what his right hand doeth. He is actively alive to all that concerns the welfare of Toronto and Canada. He takes great pride and special interest in the success of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition; and he is an active member of the Toronto Board of Trade. Of course he is a member of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association, and has been one of the executive committee of that association for years.

ROBERT MITCHELL.

ROBERT MITCHELL, the head of the firm of Robert Mitchell & Co., brass founders, Montreal, and proprietors of the Montreal Brass Works, was born at Prestonpans, Scotland, about eight miles from Edinburgh, in 1821. He learned the trade of a brass founder and steam-fitter in Edinburgh, afterwards removing to Glasgow, where he worked about eight years in the Globe foundry. While working in this foundry Mr. Mitchell accepted an offer of a three years' engagement to come to Canada to conduct the business of the old-established house of