

FOR THE DOMINION MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS.

ON THE ROAD.

BY "RAMBLER."

THE little "rambling" which the writer did during the first month of the new year was attended with many difficulties, some of which—in the shape of snow-banks—were well-nigh insurmountable. Starting out for London one calm, cold morning, he found himself before noon in the midst of a blinding snow storm, which continued with but slight intermission during the remainder of his trip. A brief outline of the information gathered will be found in the succeeding paragraphs:

LONDON.

A half day, no matter how actively employed, is much too short a time in which to note or attempt to describe the changes and improvements which are going on among the manufacturing industries of this prosperous city of the west. A glance is sufficient to show, however, that progress is being made along every line, and that the city is fast attaining the prominent position which the enterprise of its citizens destines it shall occupy. It is now a great railway center, and the excellent shipping facilities afforded by the Grand Trunk Railway, which branches out from this point in all directions, has done much to induce the locating of manufactories here. A few remarks concerning some of the leading manufactories to be found here are subjoined. Many others of not less importance must necessarily be left for another occasion.

MESSRS. STEVENS & BURNS.

One of the largest and apparently most prosperous manufacturing establishments in the "Forest City," is that of Messrs. Stevens & Burns. This business, which was established in 1871, has grown very rapidly, and now requires for its manufacturing operations several extensive blocks of brick buildings. The manufactured articles produced are of great variety, in wood, iron and brass, embracing engines and threshers, boilers, saw and shingle mill machinery, lathe and bolt cutters, traction engines, valves, boiler feeders, lubricators, etc. The ground floor of the establishment is devoted to heavy iron-working machinery, part of the second floor to light iron and brass-working machinery, the balance being used by the wood-workers. The third flat is occupied as a paint shop and drying room. The several departments are separated from each other by fire-proof doors. In passing through the shops in company with Mr. Burns, the writer's attention was directed to the largest brass castings ever turned out. They consisted of two sleeves for the pistons of the new pumping engines for the Hamilton water works, now in process of construction by the Osborne-Killey Co., at Hamilton. These sleeves, of phosphor-bronze, were 22 inches in diameter, 18 inches deep, and weighed 240 pounds. Messrs. Stevens & Burns are manufacturing all the brass valves, etc., required for the new pumping engines. The firm were the first manufacturers in Canada of the Ball system of electric light machinery. They are making a 12 horse-power traction engine, driven both from front and hind wheels, which they claim will draw from 15,000 to 20,000 feet of lumber over any ordinary road. On one of the upper flats "Rambler" was shown the novel invention of a Mr. Townsend, a Canadian who now holds a position in India with the East India Company. The invention consists of a vehicle wheel designed in such a way that the tire can be set without heating. This is done by driving the spokes upon an inclined plane by means of a screw-nut. The British army in India, which transports its stores in carts, has suffered great loss and trouble from the effects of the extremely hot climate, which causes the wheels of the carts to shrink and fall to pieces. The army authorities have intimated to Mr. Townsend that if he can construct a cart wheel which can be successfully used in India, they will give him an order for as many as the army requires. Mr. Townsend, having accomplished the object, is expecting an order for something like 10,000 carts. Messrs. Stevens & Burns being old friends of the inventor, have been entrusted with the right to manufacture.

MESSRS. E. LEONARD & SONS,

the well-known manufacturers of engines and boilers, have a fine building filled with fine machinery, and report business good, an improvement being especially noticeable the last few months. On a future occasion "Rambler" hopes to have the pleasure of presenting to readers of the MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS a complete description of this large and well-appointed concern.

LONDON MACHINE SCREW WORKS.

A very profitable half hour was spent at the above establishment, which is one of the fruits of the National Policy. Under the old tariff the Canadian market for machine screws was supplied entirely by American man-

ufacturers. In 1879, however, Frank Curtiss Jr., who had been engaged with his father in the business for a number of years in the United States, crossed over to the Dominion, and started the manufacture of machine screws in a small way at London. After a time, he sold out to Mr. John Morrow, but later on, at Mr. Morrow's request, again entered the business as a partner, the firm name being John Morrow & Co. For several years, owing to the fact that iron manufacturers were experiencing dull times, and American manufacturers of machine screws had lowered their prices 25 per cent. to Canadian buyers for the purpose of getting rid of their surplus stock, the new enterprise in which Messrs. Morrow & Co. had embarked grew but slowly. Last year, however, an improvement set in, the result of which has been that they have doubled their output and facilities for manufacturing within the last twelve months, and are starting the new year with very encouraging prospects. The firm manufacture all the machinery required for their business, and by this means effect a considerable saving.

LONDON MACHINE TOOL CO.

A visit to the above establishment, and a chat with its genial manager, Mr. Yates, revealed the fact that, as in the case of the other industries mentioned, it is enjoying a period of business activity and prosperity greater than ever before in its history.

MESSRS. ESSEX & BAILEY.

These well-known manufacturers of brass valves and other kinds of brass goods for use by manufacturers, state that they have been working overtime for the last two months, a thing they have never had to do before during the seven years they have been in business. About a week previous to the writer's visit, they dispatched to Quebec a shipment of goods which weighed four tons. They employ on an average from 20 to 30 workmen. Regarding the effect of the tariff upon their business, the firm state that while it gives them protection against the American manufacturer, the competition among home manufacturers is such that the Canadian consumer gets his goods at American prices and discounts.

BRANTFORD.

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-glee" was Robbie Burns' experience. It proved to be "Rambler's" also. He went to bed with the determination to catch the early train next morning and reach Brantford in time for breakfast. His intentions, however, were not carried out. With the assistance of the porter he awoke all right, and reached the train exactly on time, but that was as far as he got—at least for some time. A train which left London shortly after midnight for St. Thomas, drawn by two engines, had not been heard of five hours later, although the distance between the two cities is less than fifteen miles. On this account "Rambler's" train did not start, and after waiting impatiently for an hour or more, he got on board another which had ploughed its way through from Sarnia, and started for Brantford via Harrisburg. These circumstances over which he had no control, and which for a time balked even the efforts of the G. T. R. authorities, left him only time to call on a couple of the most prominent firms in the machinery line in Brantford.

THE WATEROUS COMPANY.

The Waterous Engine Works Company, as it is now called, is one of the old "stand-bys" among Brantford manufacturers. The company is, in spite of its age, as vigorous and enterprising as ever. Its shops and offices are scenes of busy activity, and the various kinds of machinery manufactured there finds a market in almost every part of the world. The Company have recently invaded the United States, having removed the Winnipeg branch of their business to Minneapolis.

H. W. PETRIE.

This gentleman, with whose name machinery users have become familiar through the advertising columns of the MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS and the daily press, is among the youngest and most enterprising business men of this young and enterprising city. Starting life as a mechanic, he gained a thorough knowledge of machinery, which has been of good service to him since starting business as a manufacturer and machinery broker. From small beginnings his business has developed, until it is now one of the largest of its kind in Canada. Mr. Petrie, finding his present quarters too small, contemplates erecting a large three-storey building next spring which will give him the increased accommodation which he requires.

GALT.

This substantial and prosperous old town has just added to its other progressive features gas and the electric light. To the citizens, who have been accustomed

for so many years to the feeble flame of the kerosene lamp, one is about as much a novelty as the other. There is an old saying that "it never rains but it pours." It has been so in the case of Galt. The people have been trying for years to obtain gas for their streets and public buildings, but without success. Finally, an electric light company was formed a few months ago, which obtained the Galt Milling Co.'s building, and put in the machinery necessary to light the town by electricity. They had scarcely commenced operations, however, when a manufacturer of gas visited the town and asked permission to lay pipes and to establish gas works there. This permission has been granted him, and thus between the rival companies the town will be flooded with light, and that, too, at reasonable cost. The electric light company is under the management of Mr. John Gourlay, formerly a partner in the firm of Cant, Gourlay & Co. He states that the company are at present running 80 lights, using the water power in connection with the old mill for generating the electricity. He estimates that it requires about one horse power for each light. The gas company is also supplying an excellent light.

THE FLOUR MILLS.

If wheat is as scarce throughout Ontario as it is in the neighborhood of Galt, a substantial rise in prices may be looked for shortly. The Todd Milling Co. and Messrs. Cranston & Scrimger both complain of the difficulty they experience in getting a sufficient supply of wheat to keep their mills in operation. The Todd Milling Co.'s large mill, an illustration of which appeared in the MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS for December, is turning out 350 barrels of flour per day. The quantity of wheat required to keep it running steadily is very large, and under present circumstances, hard to obtain. Mr. Todd has almost concluded that there is a scarcity of wheat in the country, and that they may by and by be compelled to shut down or run short hours. It is his opinion that most of the wheat, above what is required for home manufacture and consumption, has already been exported from the Northwest, so that Ontario millers need not count on a supply from that quarter. "Rambler" is rather inclined to believe, however, that a good deal of wheat yet remains in the country awaiting a rise in price.

GALT BRASS FOUNDRY.

A comparatively new industry in Galt is the brass foundry started there five years ago by Messrs. H. & G. Dakin. The firm manufacture all kinds of engineers' and plumbers' supplies, and are hoping for quite an increase of business as the result of the introduction of gas into the town.

PARKIN & CO.

This old and reliable firm of file manufacturers, who make their bow through the advertising columns of the MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS this month, report business brisk. Mr. Parkin was for many years in the employ of Messrs. Jowitts & Son, the well-known English file-makers, which, together with the excellent testimonials which Messrs. Parkin & Co. have received from leading manufacturers throughout Western Ontario, is a sufficient guarantee as to the quality of their work.

AN OLD ESTABLISHMENT.

Scott's planing mill and wood-working establishment is one of the oldest concerns in this town of industries. It was established in 1831 by the father of Messrs. W. & F. A. Scott, the present owners. The factory, which is supplied with a complete set of wood-working machinery, manufactures sash, doors, blinds, and other materials required for the building trade. From 15 to 20 hands are employed. The factory is run by both steam and water power, and requires 30 h. p. for its operation.

COWAN & CO.

A call at the works of the above company, found Mr. Thos. Cowan, like many others in the manufacturing line, anxiously speculating as to the effect of the forthcoming elections upon the National Policy. Mr. Cowan, as is well known, is a firm believer in protection to home industries, and has done valuable service in the furtherance of that idea. The firm have added considerably to the size of their establishment during the past year, and report orders plentiful.

NOTES.

The extensive manufactory of Messrs. Goldie & McCulloch, is doing a brisk trade in most departments.

Messrs. Shurley & Dietrich, saw manufacturers, report business good. They lately received a large order from Australia.

Messrs. Royal & Percy, file makers, announce their intention of erecting a new building shortly, and adding steam power.