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THE LATE MR. E. W. RATHBUN.

Mr. Edward Wilkes Rathbun, president and general manager of The Rathbun Company, of Deseronto, Ontario, was on November 24th called to his last resting place. His death was due to heart trouble, following a somewhat prolonged illness. The management of the numerous and varied associate industries of which he was the head was a vast undertaking for one man, and his health in late years had become greatly impaired by too strict attention to business. By some of his acquaintances it is said that he was the victim of overwork.

Thus endeth a most useful life. From his boyhood days Mr. Rathbun was engaged in the building up of Canadian industries. The loss sustained by his death is felt throughout the Dominion, while he will be especially missed in the town of Deseronto and its vicinity. One has said of him that he belonged to a class of men who have done much to develop this young country industrially while helping to raise it to a higher plane of civilization. He was a captain of industry, and although of foreign birthright had become a true Canadian through long residence in this fair land. He was a public spirited man and a firm believer in the future greatness of Canada, and was on many occasions influential in promoting public improvements.

As a lumberman Mr. Rathbun stood in the front rank. Commencing operations when the lumber business was in its infancy, his hand guided the destiny of a most extensive saw-milling enterprise into channels of success. Not content with simply sawing the logs into lumber, he in early life took steps to establish associate industries, so that the lumber might be further manufactured and all the refuse of the mills utilized to the greatest possible extent.

Deceased was born at Auburn, N. Y., in 1842, and was the eldest son of the late H. B. Rathbun, the founder of Deseronto. He was educated in New York, and received his business training there in the house of Storm, Smith & Company, East India merchants. In 1861 he took charge of his father's enterprises at Millpoint, Ont., near where Deseronto now stands. The firm name was then H. B. Rathbun & Company. In 1884, by special act of parliament, it was changed to that of The Rathbun Company, and Mr. Rathbun became its president and assumed the complete management of the concern. The company under his

direction became the pioneer in many industrial enterprises in Canada, including the roller process floor mill.

The lumbering and wood-working operations of The Rathbun Company have grown wonderfully, until to-day the company owns about 550,000 acres of timber lands under Government license, 60,000 acres of deeded timber lands, and 7,750 acres of timber rights only. Mr. Rathbun's policy has always been to conserve the timber, and his economical lumbering methods have been held up as an example to

Gravenhurst, the company operate at the former place a sash, door and blind factory, car works and charcoal plant, the latter consuming much of the waste timber from the mills. The Bay and Quinte Railway and the Kingston, Napanee and Western Railway were also built and are owned by the company, chiefly for the purpose of transporting their forest products. The company have branches at Oswego, N. Y., London and Glasgow, Toronto, Napanee, Kingston, Gananoque, Picton, Belleville, Campbellford, Lindsay and Brockville. The

Canadian Portland Cement Company, whose works are at Marlbank and Strathcona, is controlled by the Rathbun Company. Of these many enterprises Mr. E. Walter Rathbun, eldest son of deceased, is now the acting general manager.

The subject of our sketch was a prominent member of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association and an influential factor in inducing the Ontario Government to adopt the manufacturing clause respecting timber which has proved so beneficial to the province.

The late Mr. Rathbun was Mayor of Deseronto from the time it was incorporated till last year. His whole business career has been identified with the upbuilding of that town, and as his business prospered the town grew. Last year he was instrumental in having canal tolls abolished on the waterways near his town. He held many important positions and at the time of his death was vice-president of the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, of Toronto, and a director of several other corporations. In politics he was an independent Liberal and in religion a Presbyterian, and for many years a trustee of Queen's University, Kingston. He is survived by Mrs. Rathbun and a family of seven

children, E. Walter, Harold McMurrich, Marvin and Adrian Rathbun, Mrs. C. A. Masten, and two unmarried daughters, Misses Pansy and Marjorie. His three brothers predeceased him.

NATIONAL WHOLESALE LUMBER DEALERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the National Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, held in New York on November 12th, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Washington, D.C., the first Wednesday and Thursday in March, 1904. Full arrangements have not as yet been made, but all details have been left with the executive committee, who have power to act in the matter. The secretary of the association is Mr. F. E. Perry, 66 Broadway, New York City.



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President and General Manager of The Rathbun Company, Deseronto, Ont.

to be followed by his confreres. He endeavored to educate the public as to the value of practical forestry and never missed an opportunity of emphasizing the necessity of protecting the forests from fire. His sentiments in this regard were well known, and in 1897 he was one of five who composed a commission appointed by the Ontario Government to report upon the subject of restoring and preserving the growth of white pine and other timber trees upon lands which were not adapted for agricultural purposes or for settlement. Many of the recommendations contained in their report have since been adopted by the Government.

Besides the large saw mills at Deseronto and