

This firm manufactures all kinds of machinery and executes marine repairs of all classes. It specializes in steering gears and windlasses and cargo winches and spring buffer.

Timber and Other Industries.

A firm of timber merchants and saw-mill proprietors in a big way of business is that of James Sheppard & Son, whose plant and mill are located on King Street. Mr. A. W. Sheppard is the proprietor and Mr. H. H. Sheppard the manager. Large stocks of timber for all purposes are always carried, and the business gives employment to about 100 men.

The fact that the Quebec, Montreal and Southern Counties Railway Company has its main repair shops at Sorel constitutes a very welcome addition to the industries of the place. Mr. A. L. Currie is the superintendent of these shops where about 100 men are employed.

On King Street the Patent Grates Company has a cast-iron foundry which gives employment to about 35 men. Mr. H. Hurtubise is the manager of this foundry.

At the Mausean Shipyards, on the St. Joseph de Sorel side of the Richelieu river, hauling, repairs and new constructions are undertaken. The employees number around 30, and Mr. A. Beaudet is the manager.

Mr. H. Beauge, general contractor and manufacturer of doors, sashes, etc., is putting up a new mill which should give employment to some 50 men.

The Loughborough Mining Company, which dresses mica and ships it, employs around 200 hands.

An old-established firm in Sorel, and one with a very high reputation, is that of Duhamel Freres, tanners and boot and shoe manufacturers. Mr. Philippe Duhamel is the president, Mr. Joseph Duhamel the vice-president, and Mr. Oscar Duhamel the secretary-treasurer of this concern which employs about 60 men and about 15 women and girls.

Firms in the Clothing Line.

The largest industries in Sorel being heavy ones, they naturally demand male help. But, fortunately, in order to bring about the necessary balance, as between male and female labor, there are in the city a number of other industries which afford employment to women and girls. For instance, there is on King Street the factory of the Firestone Clothing Company, of which Mr. F. Firestone is the proprietor. This company manufactures clothing and employs about 100 hands.

Then there is the Popular Shirt Company's factory on Queen Street, where shirts are manufactured and which employs around 200 hands. Mr. A. Langlois is the president, and Mr. Oscar Paradis, the secretary of this Company whose products enjoy a very enviable name for excellence.

A new plant in the clothing line is being put up and, in fact, is nearly completed, on Provost Street. This is the factory of the Co-operative Raincoat and Garment Company, which is a subsidiary of the Montreal Waterproof Company which, in its turn, is said to be the second largest concern of its kind in Canada. Mr. M. Cummings is the president. The Company has put up, on a lot where an old saw-mill formerly stood, a modern two-storey factory of brick with hardwood flooring throughout, with offices, a large boiler room and a fire-proof vault. The three last named are separate from the factory. The building has not yet been quite completed, but it has been found possible to start manufacturing. The Company expects to employ some 200 hands and means to devote special attention to the recreational side, by means of the provision of a room for amusements, and a library for its employees. The products will be waterproof clothing and English gabardines, and the expectation is that something like 1,000 garments a week will be turned out.

Pulp Mill Going Up.

Great interest is being taken in Sorel over the big pulp mill which is to be immediately erected on King Street. It is generally felt that the erection of this mill will prove a very valuable addition to the industries of the city which would be none the worse for an increase of diversification, from which viewpoint it is hoped that the establishment of this pulp mill will prove to be the forerunner of many other industries, the promoters of which, when selecting a place where in to locate, might well bethink themselves of Sorel. One understands that the mill in question will be built on the unit plan, and that some 250 persons will be employed in the first unit, and another 250 in the second unit and so on. Mr. J. H. Dansereau, of Montreal, is the power behind this project. It is believed that the building of the pulp mill will be followed, later, by the establishment of a paper

mill, and the idea naturally arouses enthusiasm in Sorel on account of the fact that this would mean the provision of remunerative employment for a very large number. The site for the erection of the pulp mill is believed to have been granted free.

Inducements to Locate in Sorel.

For the Sorel Board of Trade, of which Mr. Alfred Beauchemin is president and Mr. L. P. Tremblay secretary, is always willing, in concert with the municipal authorities, to do everything that is possible to smooth the path of any industries whereof the establishment in Sorel is contemplated. Tax exemption is granted in all such cases, and there is always a distinct possibility of the grant of free sites, of which many desirable ones are, one understands, available right now.

Labor is relatively cheap and abundant in Sorel while the fact that the majority of workers own the houses in which they live says much for its contentment and stability.

As regards transportation and shipping facilities, Sorel is served by the Quebec, Montreal and Southern Counties Railway, while the C. P. R. affords a service from Berthierville, which can be reached via the ferry, four times a day. Further, there is the service of the Canada Steamship Lines available.

The Sorel Light and Power Company, of which Mr. J. J. Lafreniere is president, Mr. Z. Courchesne secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Joseph Simard, general manager, not only lights the city admirably, but also supplies the electric power required by its various industries. As regards both service and price, this Company meets with a good deal of commendation from manufacturers and others. The power that it distributes is Shawinigan power, and the certainty of a continuity of service is not the least of the inducements which should appeal to manufacturers on the look-out for a desirable location.

A Solid Business City.

A place of good, sound, steady business is Sorel. Testimony to its solidity is to be found in the fact that, in the last quarter of a century, there has been no financial failure among Sorel store-keepers.

There are two firms of wholesale grocers in the city—that of C. Labelle & Co., which is, also a wholesale hardware concern, and which was established in the sixties, and that of Trempe & Fils. There are also two department stores, both on King Street,—one belonging to C. O. Paradis, and the other to D. Finlay & Son,—and both of them are up-to-date in every respect. The hotel accommodation is plentiful.

Sorel is governed municipally by a Mayor and six Aldermen. The present Mayor is Mr. W. G. Morgan, while Mr. J. G. Paulet is the city treasurer, and Mr. A. O. Cartier the city clerk. The gas and water are municipally owned. The municipal tax rate is \$1.50 per \$100 and the school rate, 60c per \$100.

Mr. P. J. A. Cardin, M.P., and Mr. Maurice Peloquin, M.P.P., represent Sorel in the Dominion House of Commons, and the Quebec Legislature respectively.

A Place with a History.

Sorel is a place with a historic interest. In the year 1642 the Fort of Richelieu was erected on the site where Sorel now stands by M. de Montmagny. This fort was demolished by the Indians, and, in 1665, it was reconstructed by M. de Saurel from whom the present city takes its name. In 1672, Louis XIV conceded to M. de Saurel the seigniorial rights and, in 1792, the burg of Saurel (as it then was) became a municipality under the name of William Henry. In 1848, the privilege of choosing municipal representatives was conferred upon it by Lord Elgin. Ten years later, it was lighted with gas. In 1860, a special charter was granted to it restoring its old name but spelling it **Sorel** instead of **Saurel**. The aqueduct was built in 1872, and, ten years later, the market was put up. In 1889, Sorel became a city.

Educational and Social Features.

There are two Catholic churches in Sorel—St. Peter and Notre Dame—and an Anglican church—Christ Church. There are both Catholic and Protestant elementary schools; the Convent Congregation Notre Dame; the Academie du Sacre Coeur; the Mount St. Bernard College; and the Hospital. There is also a night school of engineering in the city.

Banking facilities are furnished by three banks—Molsons Bank, the Banque d'Hochelaga and the Banque Nationale.

Boating, yachting and bathing—all these sports are freely indulged in at Sorel in the summer. There is a capital yacht club—the Club Nautique—with a first-rate club-house. The membership of this club numbers 150 and Mr. George Beauchemin is the Commodore.