

REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREAT NOVA SCOTIA INDUSTRY

Interesting Narrative of the Genesis and Rise of the Corporation of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Ltd., with Its Works Covering 45 Acres, and Employing 1,200 Men, and an Annual Output of More Than \$3,000,000---Pen Pictures of Two Captains of Industry, Curry and Rhodes.

AMHERST, April 2.—One of the most absorbing chapters in the industrial history of Lower Canada is that which tells of the persevering onwardness of the Rhodes, Curry firm of Amherst, N. S., now one of the most important concerns in all manufacturing Canada.

HISTORY OF THE ENTERPRISE The history of the corporation of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Ltd., of Amherst is one of peculiar interest, not only to the people of the Maritime Provinces, but to those throughout Canada and the United States, the products of the Company being marketed throughout the length and breadth of these two countries.

ITS REMARKABLE GROWTH Commencing as a small partnership, more than a quarter of a century ago, with a few hundred dollars capital, in a plant that covered about one quarter of an acre, employing about 12 men and having an annual output of about \$20,000, it has developed into one of the leading industrial incorporations of Canada, with assets exceeding three million dollars and a plant occupying forty-five acres of land in the centre of the most progressive town in the Maritime Provinces.

BRANCHES OF THE BUSINESS. The business of the corporation consists of two distinct branches, the one under the supervision of the Vice-President, Mr. Rhodes—being devoted exclusively to the erection of private and public buildings and the construction of public works, while the other—under the personal management of the President, Mr. Curry—is devoted to the manufacture of railway cars. In connection with these two branches, the Company carries on an extensive woodworking factory and planing mills, equipped with the most modern machinery, in which are manufactured the finest fittings and furnishings for its cars and buildings, as well as for its extensive wholesale and retail trade.

THE START AT AMHERST. In the summer of 1876, Mr. Curry, who had rapidly advanced to a position of prominence as Superintendent of important branches of the Carson City car works, came East for a visit and much needed rest, and together with Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes and their young son, Edgar N., came to Nova Scotia. While in Amherst, they were impressed with the splendid opportunity offered for manufacturing an building and in April, 1877, Mr. Rhodes and family returned to Amherst and during the same summer Mr. Curry, who had in the meantime resigned his position at Carson City joined Mr. Rhodes. A shop 30 X 50 was leased from Mr. Wm. Holmes, on Church St. and thoroughly equipped with the then modern machinery. The late Bayard Dodge, of Amherst, and Mark Curry, a brother of Nathaniel, were taken into partnership, the firm name being Rhodes, Curry & Dodge. Some important local contracts were secured and the new business had a prosperous summer. With a splendid outlook for the future, but in November of that year, fire swept their building and plant completely out of existence, the only thing saved being several car loads of valuable pine, standing at the railway. This was at-

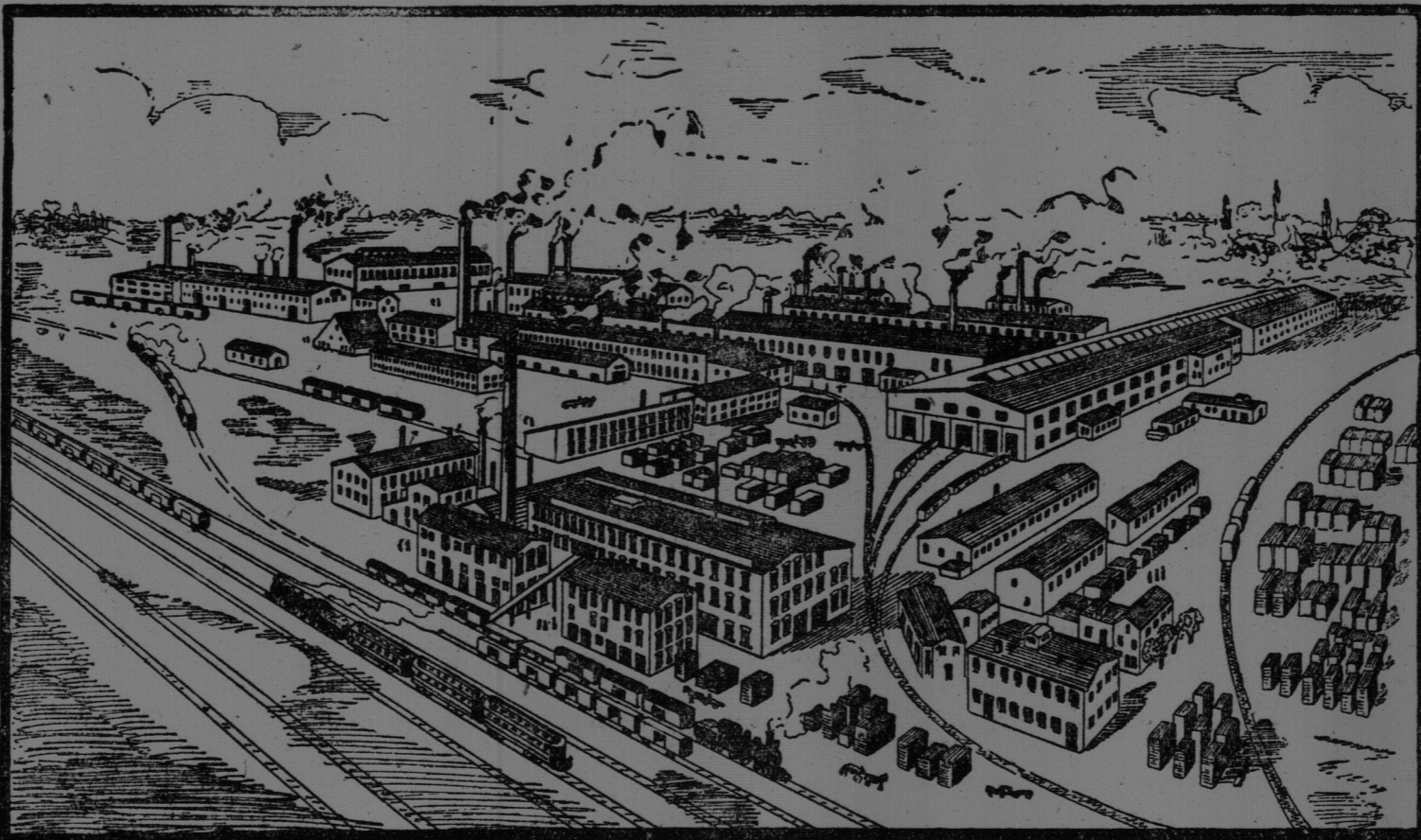
terwards stored in a building in the rear of what is now the F. A. Cates block, and during that winter a fire, which originated in and destroyed the Masonic Hall, also destroyed the warehouse in which this pine was stored. In neither case was there any insurance, consequently the firm's loss was a total.

THE FIRM WAS REORGANIZED. After the November fire, Mr. Dodge withdrew from the partnership and the

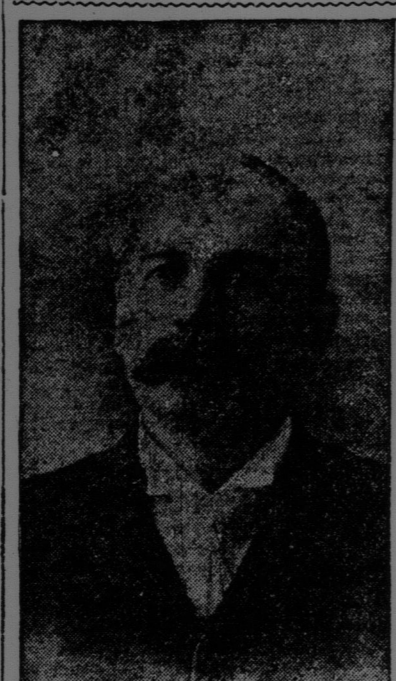
successful completion of this College and the superior quality of the work turned out from the new factory fully demonstrated to the public the ability of this young firm to accomplish anything they undertook, and their advancement from this time forward was rapid. This was shortly afterwards followed by large contracts throughout Canada and Newfoundland. In June, 1882, another disastrous fire swept the buildings and plant out of existence, together with all their contents, including main materi-

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View of the Present Works of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Ltd., at Amherst.



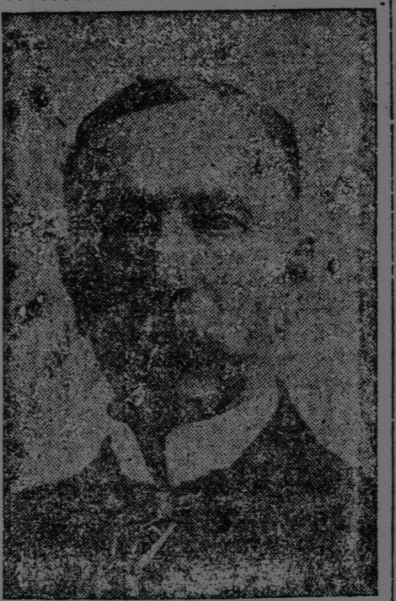
MR. NATHANIEL CURRY, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Ltd.

al manufacturing for their many outstanding contracts, as well as materials to be supplied to outside contractors. Amherst was not then equipped as now with a splendid water supply and an efficient fire company, but the work done at that time by an improvised bucket brigade will long be remembered.

THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT. From this new factory, which is still in operation and is colloquially known as the "Woodworking factory" and in which thousands of men have since been employed, there has been sent out some of the finest bank fixtures, church and public building furnishings and house fittings to be seen in Canada. Again the work was pushed forward, new territory invaded, con-

proved important factors in the extension of their immense business. In 1906, the combined output of these two branches, exclusive of their building contracts, was over a quarter of a million of dollars.

ESTABLISHED TRADE CONNECTIONS. The success of the Car Building Department was assured by the fact of its early establishment by the Harris Company, and the knowledge acquired and experience gained by Mr. Curry during his connection with one of the leading Car manufacturing establishments of the United States, where he was Superintendent at the time of his removal to Amherst. The firm of James Harris and Co. was established in 1838 and was, perhaps, one of the first concerns to construct rolling stock in Canada. The Dominion Atlantic Railway has still in commission its first-class passenger car built by the Harris Co. in 1867. The cars built by this concern and its successors have been of the highest grade and have been regarded by the management of the various railways to which they have been supplied as having established a standard, unsurpassed in workmanship, finish and material.



MR. NELSON A. RHODES, Vice President of the Rhodes, Curry & Co., Limited, Amherst.

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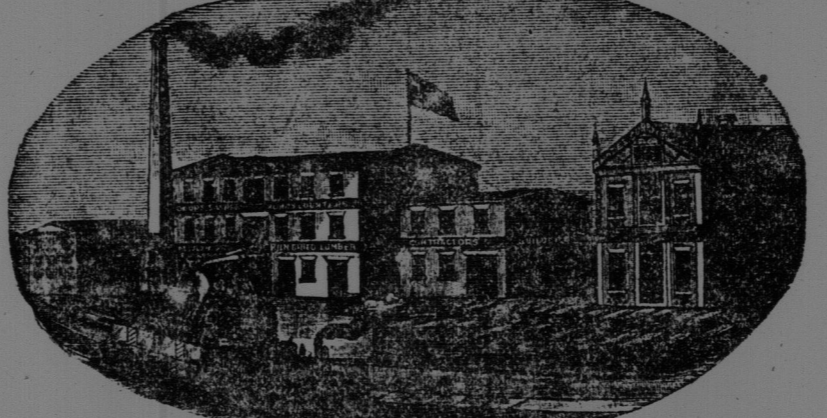
BENEFITED BY EARLY ESTABLISHMENT. At the time the car business was taken over by Rhodes, Curry and Co.,

the experimental stage had been passed. A large business had already been established by the Harris Company. This, together with the knowledge of trade requirements and the experience and skill of the employees and officers, enabled Messrs. Rhodes and Curry to take hold of the business, to further develop it and make it a large dividend earning enterprise.

THE PLANT IS COMPLETE. All the component parts of cars from the smallest and most intricate casting to the heavy iron work, so necessary for strength and durability, consisting of wheels, axles, castings, malleable forgings, and brasses are now manufactured on the premises, while wood work for the inside and outside finish of the finest passenger and tram cars, as well as that used in the construction of freight cars, are the product of the Company's own mills and factories.

While the management has been proceeding with the expansion of the plant by the addition of new buildings, care has been taken to avoid the possibility of any serious conflagration. With this in view, the Company has its own fire fighting equipment, thoroughly equipped with all modern fire fighting appliances, operated by a fire brigade, composed of its employees, thoroughly organized and drilled. This, with the patent roofing and complete system of automatic sprinklers installed throughout the works and a full water supply, erected to obviate the risk of loss by fire and the cost of insurance to a minimum. In this respect the management has benefited by the experience of former years, and every endeavor has been made to make a large fire impossible. In addition to the Company's own service, the town of Amherst has an excellent fire fighting department.

ENLARGED FACILITIES. In addition to the output of passenger cars, tram cars and snow ploughs, the works have a daily output of about fifteen freight cars. This capacity is being constantly increased, and it is expected that in the near future, it will be almost doubled. The outputs of the Company include the Intercolonial Railway, Canadian Northern, Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific, Quebec and Lake St. John, Dominion Coal Company, Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, Dominion Atlantic Railway, Halifax and Southwestern, and in fact nearly every line in Canada. The Company has also built electric cars for the Halifax, Montreal and St. John Street Railways. As present it has sufficient orders to keep



RHODES, CURRY & CO'S WORKS AT AMHERST IN THE EIGHTIES.

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