



Begin-
nings

THE Harris side of the present firm originated in 1857, when Alanson Harris moved into a little old shop in Beamsville, in the Niagara Peninsula, and, with a company of five men, began to manufacture revolving hay-rakes. This enterprise was the outcome of the achievements, a few years before of Elder John Harris, Alanson's father, in inventing and making wooden horse-drawn hay-rakes on his farm, in the village of Mount Pleasant, in Brant County.

Here again, early in the history of a business, there appears the inventive, organizing son. It was John Harris, son of Alanson, grandson and namesake of the original inventor, and a natural mechanic and inventor himself, who at the age of twenty-one, in 1862, gave the necessary momentum to the Beamsville business. He extended the "line" of the Harris firm to include mowers, hand-rake reapers, root-cutters, clover-threshers, corn-shellors and plows.

The plow of those days was a crude implement made entirely of cast iron with the exception of the handles. The plow-bottom, at that time, was given no polish in the factory, and before the share and mould-board could receive a good finish the farmer himself had to find a convenient sand pile and draw the plow through it.

Expansion

Ten years after the appearance on the scene of John Harris the firm of A. Harris, Son & Co. moved to