

tensive contractor with the Grand Trunk Railroad in the manufacture of hand forged engine axles, etc., such being his business relation until 1860. That year witnessed his arrival in Toronto, where he entered upon the contract with Frank Shanley, C.E., to keep the roadbed in repair on the Northern Railway from Toronto to Collingwood, with works at Aurora, later at Argus and finally at Barrie. From 1865 until 1869 he did similar work for the Northern Railway carshops at Toronto, retiring in 1870.

John J. Main pursued his education in the Public Schools of Montreal, Aurora, Argus and Barrie, and at the age of thirteen years put aside his text-books to learn the more difficult lessons in the school of experience. He was apprenticed to the machinist's trade at Newmarket, under Samuel Sykes, being bound for a term of six years. His duties were of a varied nature, necessitating his rising in the morning at four o'clock, getting up steam in the shops and afterward taking his turn at the machines during the day until six o'clock in the afternoon. Nine months were thus passed, when, feeling that the life was too strenuous, he ran away, stealing a ride on a farmer's wagon to Toronto, where his parents were then living. After relating his story to his father he was sent back to his employer with a letter that if the boy's statement were true to cancel the indenture, and if not to give him a good thrashing, and put him back to work. When Mr. Sykes read the letter he said he guessed the boy had better go. Following this he again entered upon an apprenticeship in the boiler-making department of the old Northern Railway engine shops, and when he had completed a term of five years he engaged with his father on the contracts of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce and Nipissing Railroad. During his apprenticeship with the Northern Railway he also received three years' technical training in the old Mechanic's Institute, and thus equipped by comprehensive technical as well as practical training he entered upon an active career in the line of mechanical pursuits, advancing steadily step by step to his present position of prominence as a representative of industrial life in Toronto.

In 1872 Mr. Main went to the United States, where for two years he followed his trade of boiler making. In 1874 he was married in Canada,