

twenty-two at the commencement of his duties, was the acting head of the business.

Transfer
to Toronto

The year in which the Harris firm made a successful invasion of the west, 1879, the Massey Company transferred their entire plant to Toronto. This removal was a result of the need for more central transportation facilities both for raw material entering the works and for finished products passing out. It was necessary to be in closer touch with what was then the financial centre of Canada, and it had also become a modern necessity to place large industrial plants at strategic points for the employment of labour. This is not an argument for the concentration of industry in large centres of population at the present time, but merely a reflection upon conditions that existed forty years ago.

The Massey Manufacturing Company employed about 150 men at this time in all departments. It secured for its new premises a large part of what was then the Exhibition grounds, where each year was held the old Industrial Exhibition—more recently the Canadian National Exhibition at which the Massey Company's exhibit, for many years has been a familiar feature, conspicuous for its originality and excellence. Two years later the firm absorbed the plant of the old Toronto Reaper and Mower Company, an acquisition which practically doubled its output.

