

MEN OF THE TIMES

E. B. EDDY

"Serve yourself, would you be well served, is an excellent adage." — MILES STANDISH.

ARE there any of our readers to whom this name is unfamiliar? Is there anyone in Canada of the age of ten years and upwards who has not heard of E. B. Eddy of Hull, the great matchmaker, the owner of the mammoth woodenware factories, the king of the lumber trade of the Ottawa? As well might we ask, is there anyone in this country a stranger to the use of matches?

Mr. E. B. Eddy was born in Bristol, Vt., in 1827, and comes of the historic Mayflower stock, being a direct descendant of that doughty warrior but luckless wooer, Miles Standish. His wife, to whom he was married in 1846 is a native of the same town, and is the grand-daughter, on her father's side, of John Arnold, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. Mr. Eddy came to Canada and settled in Hull with his wife and family, in 1851. He began making matches there in a small way in 1854, and from that modest beginning have arisen the immense factories, mills, store-houses, offices, lumber yards, etc., etc., that cover scores and scores of acres, comprising nearly the whole water front and water power on the north side of the Chaudiere Falls, from a little below the C.P.R. bridge down the river to opposite Nepean Point. In 1856 he added the manufacture of pails, tubs, washboards, etc., to his then growing business. In 1858 he went into lumber, bought large tracts of timber lands, put up huge saw mills, planing mills, sash and door factory, and box factory.

In 1873, 1874 and 1875 when commercial disaster

wrecked so many strong houses, he did not escape injury, the whole lumbering industry being utterly prostrated. As times improved again, his business increased, so that when in the fall of 1882 a terrible fire totally destroyed some \$250,000 worth of his mills, factories and plants, it still left him with two saw mills and not less than \$150,000 worth of factories, plant and supplies to go on with, and hold his trade together till he could retrieve. As an illustration of his coolness, courage and promptness to

meet an emergency, we give the following—one of a hundred similar characteristic anecdotes of him that could be told by many of his intimate friends. The night the mills were burned, Mr. Eddy was in Quebec, and was awakened to receive a telegram from his office at Hull, to say that all his mills and factories on the west side of Bridge street were on fire, others endangered, and asking what should be done, and when he should return. Without a moment's delay he telegraphed back: "Put out fire, clear up debris, prepare to build. I'll be home to-morrow." Thirty years' work swept away in one night would have disheartened most men, but with Mr. Eddy the disaster was hardly allowed to interrupt business. There was practically no stoppage of his business, certainly



MR. E. B. EDDY

there was no damper on his pluck and energy. Rebuilding began before the burnt works were cold. All calls for goods were supplied, and in less than six months two enormous new stone saw mills, a large stone box factory, stone pail and tub factory, stone planing mill, sash, door and blind factory, magnificent stone offices and spacious stone warehouses, machine and blacksmith shops, etc., etc., stood in place of the former wooden buildings. Tramways were laid, two locomotives were bought, and in May, 1883, the whole