



Commercial Limerick (from Dublin, Cork & the South of Ireland ...)

LIMERICK.

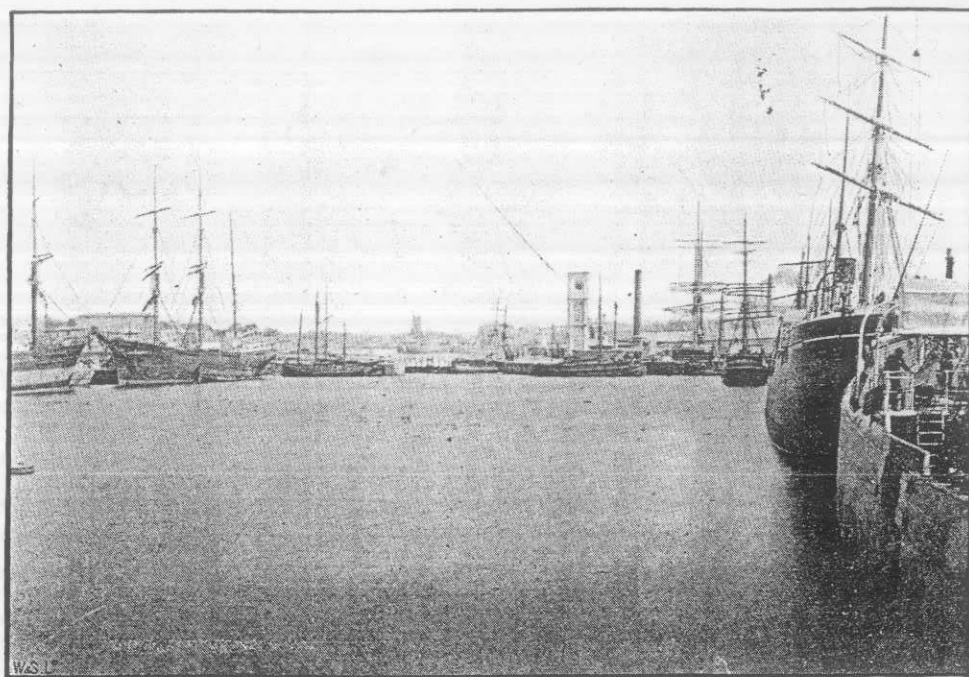
9/4 1892
15 R.

OCCUPYING the banks of the Shannon as it broadens out into a long sheltered estuary or arm of the Atlantic, Limerick is placed to the best advantage. On the west it commands the sea and has had a good share of the shipping trade, for which it has excellent harbourage and docks. On the landward side it commands the west and centre of Ireland both by rail and by the navigation of the canal to Loch Derg, Athlone, and the Grand Canal.

Like "all Gaul," Limerick is divided into three parts

warehouses and so broad the quays; so neat and trim a street of near a mile which stretches before you." Here, too, a fine residential neighbourhood has arisen.

For stirring history and marks of antiquity Limerick can vie with any place in the Emerald Isle; it is even stated to have been possessed of a Mayor eight years before London. At the western extremity of the Thomond Bridge rests the pedestal surmounted by the stone on which, if tradition be an honest woman of her word, the "Treaty of Limerick" was signed just two hundred



From Photo by Lawrence.

DOCKS, LIMERICK.

by the Shannon and the Abbey Rivers, but is linked together by various bridges, of which the handsome and costly Wellesley and the historic Thomond Bridges are the most notable. The most ancient section of the City is English Town, occupying the island; on the Clare side lies the Irish Town; and the best part is a modern extension called the New Town, or, more properly, Newtown Pery.

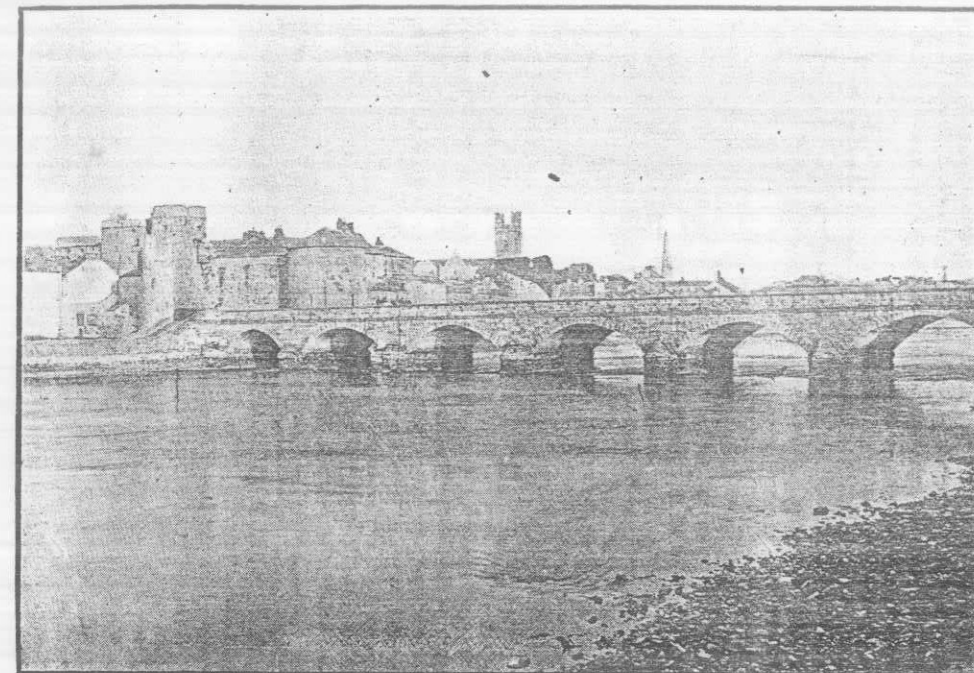
"In walking through the New Town," says Thackeray, "you are at first half led to believe that you are arrived in a second Liverpool, so tall are the

years ago. Around this stone has long raged a heated controversy, the question in dispute being whether the treaty was violated; that is to say, whether the article was kept which stipulated that the Roman Catholics were to enjoy the same religious privileges as in the time of King Charles II., and to be secured against persecution.

King John's Castle, at the other extremity of Thomond Bridge, raises aloft its antique turrets and towers, and carries the meditative spectator back to the days, in 1210, when King John took possession of the place and fortified it. It has sustained "a deal of

battering and blows from Danes, from fierce Irish kings, from English warriors, Elizabethans, Crom-

wellians, Jacobites, King Williamites." As every one knows, Limerick was the last stronghold of King James, and, in spite of the fatal day at the Boyne, refused to surrender to King William, and succeeded in resisting the besiegers till in 1691 the "Treaty of Limerick" was made, of which we have spoken.



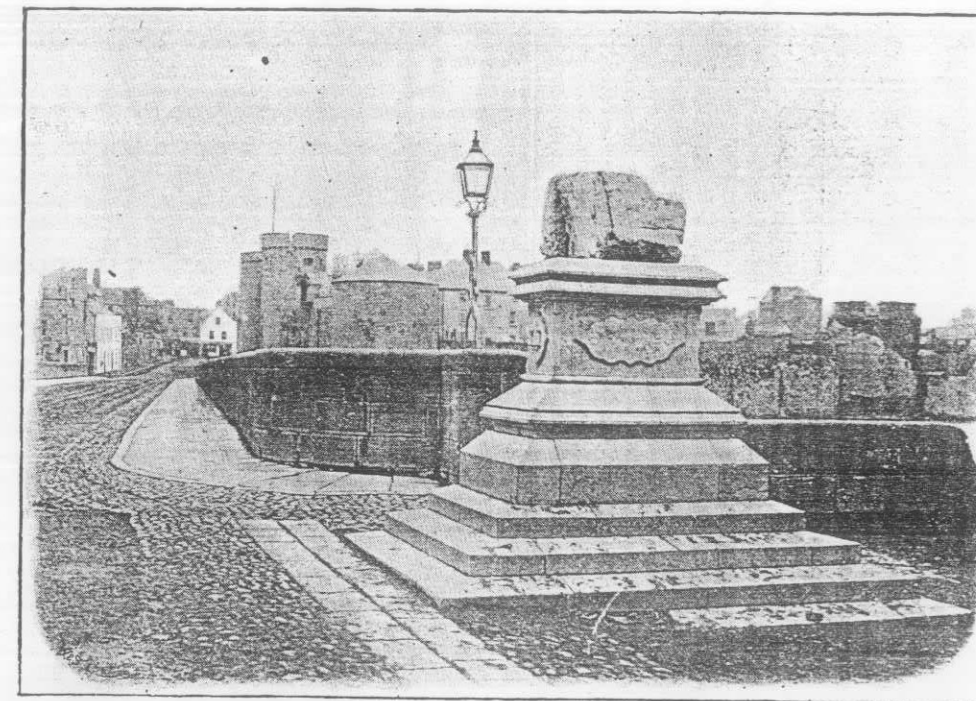
From Photo by Lawrence.

THOMOND BRIDGE, LIMERICK.

Chief among the City's buildings stands the Cathedral, placed in English Town, and remarkable, among other things, in that it is not cruciform, but simply consists of three aisles. Within are chapels and tombs of considerable

interest, and the whole is crowned by an imposing tower, whose fine peal of bells is associated with the following legend: "The founder of the bells, an Italian, having wandered through many lands, at last, after the lapse of long years, arrived in the Shannon one summer evening. As he sailed up the river, he started at hearing his long lost bells ring out a glorious chime; with intensified attention he listened to their tones, and when his companions tried to arouse him from his ecstasy they found that he had died of joy."

Commercially, Limerick is one of the most active centres and ports

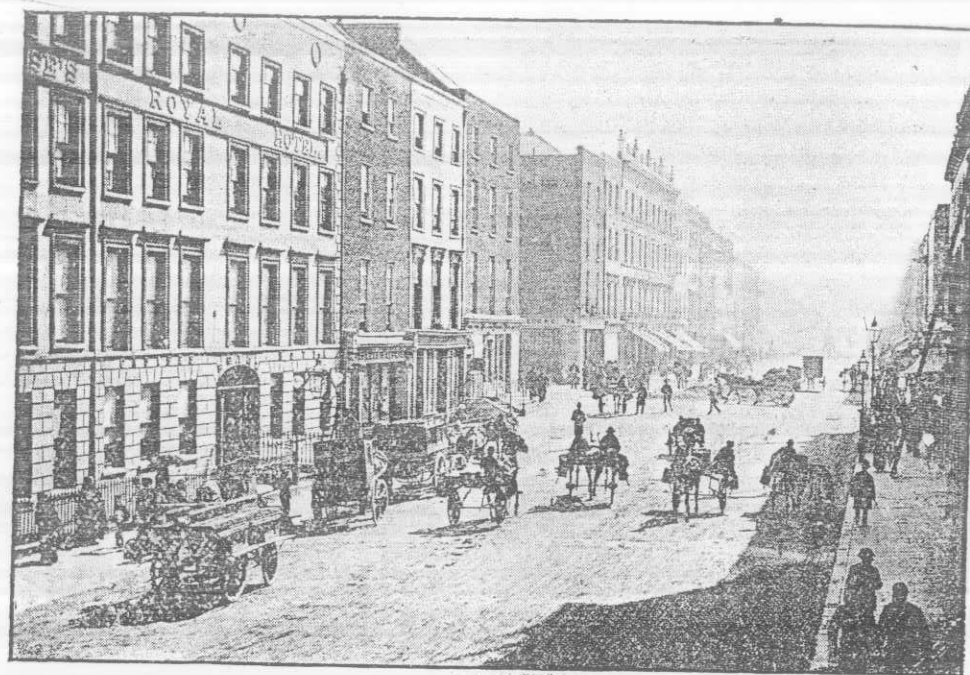


From Photo by Lawrence.

TREATY STONE, LIMERICK.

in Ireland. Its lace has been famous in distant markets. Its flour mills have suffered severely from

the bacon market supplied by the City on the Shannon. It has also a fair reputation for its distilleries, tanneries



From Photo by Lawrence.

GEORGES STREET, LIMERICK.

American competition. But even America—and the writer has seen pigs turned into sausages in less than no time in Chicago—cannot improve upon the methods by which pigs are killed and hams cured and

clothing factories, and condensed milk companies. And in better times, well employed, it is capable of still greater prosperity.

Some of the minor establishments, too, are not

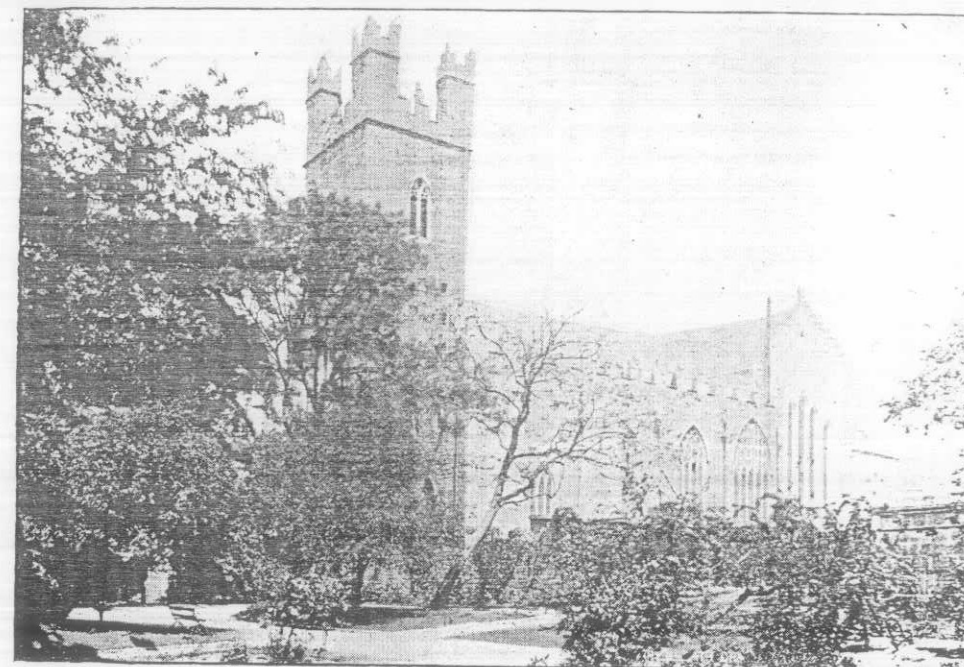


From Photo by Lawrence.

DOMINICAN R.C.C., LIMERICK.

undeserving of the considerable patronage they enjoy during the tourist season, especially from the large body of American friends who annually visit the scene of such momentous historical annals as are traced—as though in blood—in the records of the City. The brief space

interest that no necessarily brief literary production, however eloquently worded or profusely illustrated, can hope to rival. We proceed, then, to exemplify those mercantile concerns of the district whose energetic and capable administration, supported by praiseworthy



From Photo by Lawrence.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK.

at our disposal is now exhausted; and our few remarks upon the history and character of the place have, after all, been only of a fragmentary and superficial character. It is to be hoped that the actual charms and reliable traditions of Limerick will invest the locality with an

integrity and sound commercial methods of trading, have raised their proprietors to conspicuous local eminence, and added not inconsiderably to the prosperity of the City and to the enhancement of its industrial, social, and municipal well-being.

W. J. SHAW & SONS, Ham and Bacon Curers, Garryowen Factory, Limerick.

A VERY considerable share of the importance attaching to the historic City of Limerick at the present day is directly attributable to the pre-eminent position she occupies in connection with the bacon and ham-curing industries, which constitute, as exemplified by Limerick's leading establishments, perhaps the most successful departments of commercial enterprise to be met with in the South of Ireland. The house of Messrs. W. J. SHAW AND SONS, from its long and honourable standing and the enormous magnitude of its operations, especially demands the attention of the historian of Hibernia's modern industries, and it is with sincere pleasure that we record in these reviews the impressions that a recent visit to the Garryowen Factory enabled us to form. This great house, which, we believe, might justly claim to be the second largest bacon curing establishment in Europe, was founded in the year 1831 by the late William John Shaw, Esq., the descendant of an ancient County Down family. From its earliest inception to the present hour the progress and development of the business have been little less than phenomenal, and in the firm's establishment to-day we find every facility afforded for the slaughter and subsequent curing of no fewer than one hundred and fifty thousand pigs per annum. The great factory of the firm has a frontage on Mulgrave Street of 250 feet, and the building covers the space between that thoroughfare and Roxborough Road, a distance of 400 feet. The factory is in proximity to the railway, from whence there exists direct communication by means of a siding. There, as well as throughout the Limerick and Waterford railway system, may be seen the specially constructed railway waggons, all which waggons are legibly marked with the name of the firm. These waggons were made at the well-known Stableford Works, and Messrs. W. J. SHAW & SONS' business is the only firm in the kingdom in this trade that can lay claim to these advantages. The floorage space readily admits of the manipulation of three thousand porkers per week, an enormous number, the significance of which it is difficult to realise all at once. The killing proceeds at an enormous rate; science and skill combined have in this branch, as throughout the factory, worked wonders. As an example, in ordinary times this work commences at 6 a.m. and lasts until 9 a.m., by which time some 400 to 500 animals are daily operated on—an average of over two per minute. For the purposes of slaughter the pigs selected are ranged in a number of pens, and are driven thence one by one along a narrow passage, which terminates at the place of execution. Directly the animal approaches the spot it is seized, passed head downwards along a stout iron bar, and immediately receives its *coup de grâce* before it has, probably, realised the fact of its suspension in mid-air. The body is swung along the iron bar, and should the carcase be reserved for the English market—in which case it is technically known as a "Bacon"—it is transferred to the singeing house, where, after about fifteen seconds of exposure to a strong heat, the hair is readily removed. The animal is then subjected to a thorough "douching," which renders the skin perfectly clean and agreeable. The removal of the interior organs constitutes the next process, and this operation is performed with a rapidity, yet a thoroughness, only possible after long and con-

stant practice. In the case of what are called "Berwicks"—a smaller pig which forms the staple supply for Irish consumption—the preliminary treatment of the dead carcase is somewhat different. "Berwicks" are not singed, but immediately conveyed after slaughter to an immense tank of boiling water, which loosens the hair and renders easy its removal by scraping. The body is next decapitated and the carcasses conveyed to the refrigerating chambers to be cooled by an improved process, the invention of Mr. A. W. Shaw, and of which he, in conjunction with a Liverpool gentleman, is the sole patentee. This system has been proved by experience to be the most perfect in existence, and Messrs. SHAW'S establishment is the only one in the world where it is in operation. The refrigerating chambers are vast stone-paved vaults, and here, in the semi-obscurity, are hanging what can only be described as legions of carcasses. And when we pause to think that this volume of food is constantly being translated to other departments, we wonder where the millions on millions of porkers represented can all go to. Our attention is directed to a wainscoting, and we notice at our feet a perfectly appreciable stream of cold air rushing in and mingling with the warmer atmosphere in and amongst the cooling carcasses, and warm air, in ascending, attracts to itself all impurities, and next comes in contact with a number of pipes containing brine at a low temperature. Here the air becomes cooled again, and re-descends to repeat the process, and the impurities already alluded to are attracted by, and attach themselves to, the piping, forming there a visible filmy deposit. We see here how the scientific mind can utilise a simple but invaluable natural law, producing a refrigerated chamber with a perfect circulation of air, which performs a work hitherto and elsewhere still less well done by complicated and expensive processes.

We now proceed to inspect the department where are situate the refrigerators that keep the brine at the required temperature, for, be it noted, not an ounce of ice is used in the establishment beyond what may be required for packing purposes, and that ice is made on the premises. From here we pass into a lofty chamber, where we see two enormous cylinders by the celebrated firm of Pontifex & Wood, of Merton, in Surrey, and Shoe Lane, London. These refrigerators, named "The Zetland," in honour of His Excellency the Earl of Zetland, who visited the premises some time since, are the largest of their type in the world—perfect triumphs of mechanical and engineering skill. They are filled with hydrated ammonia, from which the water is subsequently extracted, and, the pure ammonia occupying the same space as when hydrated, intense cold is generated. This comes in contact with the brine pipes, which perform the wonderful work previously described. In an adjoining building are other two refrigerators, named appropriately "Boreas" and "Avalanche," the makers of which are Messrs. Sideley and Co., of Liverpool, so that any temporary stoppage of one installation would in no wise interfere with the regular conduct of the various processes. In the engine room we find a pair of double-action horizontal engines of 80 h.p. by the celebrated Limerick firm, H. Lee and Sons; and when we mention that in machinery alone there is represented a value of £10,000, some idea may be formed

of what space compels us to lightly glance at. The carcasses being thoroughly cooled—a fact which their firmness renders apparent even to the most inexperienced—are conveyed to the pickling rooms, where, in company with thousands of others, the portions are "cured" on the most scientific principles. Into these "chambers of death" no daylight penetrates, and here science comes to the aid of the large body of workmen who operate in this department. Electric lighting is resorted to as a cooler medium of illumination, and the introduction of this force for the purpose has been most satisfactory. The portions intended for the Saxon palate are packed in canvas after having been branded, and are dispatched in their "green" state. English buyers prefer to receive the goods in the undried condition, as it can more easily be dried and smoked to suit the requirements of the English market. The more fastidious Irish palate prefers the choicer middles of the dainty "Berwick," and to cater to this important class of buyers Messrs. W. J. SHAW AND SONS make a speciality of their renowned brand of "Mild-cured Breakfast Bacon." In the curing of hams the most skilful efforts of the operators are necessarily put forth. The hams having lain in salt for a considerable time are taken out and passed through the hands of workmen who cut, pare, and shape them. We have it on high authority that a workman can make a very indifferent, unpromising looking ham into a most shapely, seductive joint; or, should he be unskilful, it may leave his hands more unsaleable than before. The razor-like knives are used with lightning rapidity and a neatness almost artistic in its finish. The hams are taken from the ice houses to kiln-like chambers, some thirty feet high, crossed and re-crossed at intervals from within a short distance from the floor to the ceiling with iron spiked racks. The green hams, cured with salt and appropriate spices, are suspended on these spikes, and the chamber heated from beneath. The combustibles fill the chamber with a dense smoke, which imparts the delicate brown colour so grateful to the eye of the epicurean connoisseur. When this operation is completed the goods are practically ready for the market. The heads are conveyed to pickling tanks, whence they ultimately issue to provision merchants throughout the kingdom. What is termed the "offal" (surely a misnomer, by the way, when its feeding qualities are considered) is now largely utilised by the firm in the manufacture of such dainties as sausages; while such items as kidneys, liver, heart, feet, and cuttings find a ready market in the English metropolis and the large provincial towns. The lard produced is the pure fat of the animal. The lard refinery is a newly erected structure, from whence rails are laid down which run to the railway siding. A remarkable feature of the entire establishment is its cleanliness and freedom from objectionable sights. The blood, for example, as it leaves the carcase, flows into specially constructed vehicles, and is at once carted to a distance from the factory, thus avoiding anything objectionable to the sight as well as any noxious effluvia. Most of the immense supply of water necessary to cleanliness is obtained from seven springs in the vicinity of the factory. Here is a once disused quarry, which forms part of Messrs. W. J. SHAW AND SONS' property. Looking south we perceive the county prison, built from stone

drawn from this quarry. The seven springs provide a plentiful and abundant supply of water. The supply forms a miniature lake, while an additional supply has recently been obtained, with the permission of the Corporation, from the firm's cooperage works, situate some 300 yards distant. Some years since, at the time when additional water was wanted, Mr. Shaw, in order to confirm the scepticism of a scientific mind, engaged the services of a so-called water finder—who was held in high repute in Wiltshire and adjoining counties—who, by means of a divining wand, claimed the power of discovering the spot where water would be found. On this occasion all he discovered was a magnificent bed of trap rock, the most unlikely place possible for finding water. The boring extended to a depth of 400ft., and was carried out at a cost of £800, in return for which a magnificent disc of adamantite trap, some 8 inches in diameter, serves as a sole relic of the water finder's divining powers. Wheresoever we direct the enquiring eye throughout this mammoth establishment we find the evidences of marvellously perfect equipment and admirable administration. From the magnificent suite of offices down to the ice-cold vaults and outhouses we see the electric light installed. On the upper floor is a miniature railway running from various parts of the building to an opening, beneath which is the railway siding. There are lifts to every floor, while telephonic communication to an exceptionally complete extent has been established. The Limerick factory of the firm is under the management of A. W. Shaw, Esq., J.P., while his elder brother, James Thompson Shaw, Esq., controls the London office, situate at 39, King William Street, E.C. The Cork branch of the business is carried on under the supervision of Charles H. Gubbins, Esq. (brother-in-law of the former gentlemen), while branch offices of the firm are located in every important town of the United Kingdom.

We cannot refrain, ere concluding, from acknowledging the courtesy extended to us during our visit by the gentleman who acts as secretary to Mr. Shaw, and who is well known as the author of a pamphlet on Technical Education—a difficult subject to tackle, but one which such symbols as A.B., LL.B., and T.C.D. surely justify him in undertaking. Of Mr. A. W. Shaw we need only remark, for the information of non-residents in the South of Ireland, that he is Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, a consistent Liberal in politics, occupies the Presidency of the Protestant Home Rule Association, and is eminent as a writer and a debater on all topics or social problems that affect the well-being of the country. He also takes the warmest and most active interest both in sport and athletics. As a breeder of pigs he has no equal in the kingdom, and his literary contributions on the subject of improvement in the breed of native stock have elicited the warmest admiration of the most competent judges. We can only add to an already more than usually extended review that Messrs. W. J. SHAW AND SONS' magnificently organised and ably administered industrial concern exemplifies the marvellous progress and development of Irish industrial operations when directed by men able to bring to bear upon their efforts enterprise, capital, experience, judgment, and thorough honesty of business purpose.



THE CONDENSED MILK COMPANY OF IRELAND, LIMITED,
Lansdowne, Limerick.

LIMERICK, one of the great food centres of the United Kingdom, with its proportionately great industrial population, its cosmopolitan trading connection, and its undeniable right to be ranked among the premier manufacturing cities of Ireland, can boast of few industrial enterprises more conducive to human well-being than is exemplified in the great and ever-growing concern indicated at the head of this sketch. The circumstance of a Condensed Milk Factory being established within the limits of the United Kingdom is one upon which the Empire has good grounds for self-congratulation. We have been far too ready in the past, out of the superabundance of our national wealth, to patronise industries while oblivious of the demands of unemployed labour at home, as well as negligent of the possible productions of many of our national sources of supply. Not, indeed, that in the particular circle of industry under notice there has been no attempt made previous to that of the CONDENSED MILK COMPANY OF IRELAND, LIMITED, but no successful attempt. Three times by different Companies the manufacture of condensed milk was attempted at Mallow, but without permanent success, while at various times within the last quarter of a century several English Companies have succumbed to the difficulties inherent in a business

of this special nature. These difficulties, apart from the large capital necessary to launch and work such an enterprise on an adequate scale, centre in the practical part of the business—the vast organisation required for its exploitation, and the special science, knowledge, and experience required in producing an article that will keep good for years, under all conditions, in every part of the world. That the CONDENSED MILK COMPANY OF IRELAND, LIMITED, and its branches have been the pioneers in the path of success may excuse us for entering into some details of the origin and progress of a Company of such national significance, which for the past ten years has placed within reach of the consumer an article which altogether transcends the much-vaunted and expensively advertised productions of Switzerland and other foreign centres of milk condensation.

About thirty years ago a very young man landed in Limerick from Canada, and entered as an apprentice an important business devoted to the oil, colour, drug, and cement trades belonging to an uncle of his. (Under the auspices of this house took place the banquet to Smith O'Brien, immortalized by Thackeray in his poem, "The Banquet by the Shannon Shores.") The young apprentice rose eventually to the position of manager of the concern, and, we suppose, on the ground of the process of evolution designated as "The survival of the fittest,"

became ultimately sole proprietor. Retaining the old title of J. P. Evans & Co., general merchants, the new proprietor, Mr. Thomas Henry Cleeve, with characteristic energy, rebuilt the Thomas Street premises, and acquired the central buildings in George Street, now universally recognised as the *locale* of the leading depôt for agricultural implements, seeds, and manures in the South of Ireland. Mr. Cleeve now invited his younger brothers from Canada to join him, and, possessed of ample resources of capital and business experience, turned his attention to the project of developing the condensed milk and creamery business, whose present consummation has won for him such an enduring celebrity in the South and West of Ireland. About the year 1881 Mr. Cleeve, impressed with the enormous amount of money paid annually to Americans, Frenchmen, Danes, Swiss, &c., for such articles as milk, butter, &c., and aware that there is no country in the world better adapted for the production of such commodities than Ireland, wrote a pamphlet showing the advantage to be derived from production in large and uniform quantities, which *brochure* he had distributed among the dairy farmers of Munster. Practical in everything, and suiting the action to the word, Mr. Cleeve, acting in conjunction with his four brothers and two other gentlemen, acquired the premises known as the *Old Ship Yard*, standing within the City on the bank of the Shannon, and launched the enterprise of the CONDENSED MILK COMPANY OF IRELAND, LIMITED. The initial difficulties surrounding the venture were not small, and these were accentuated by the opposition of contingent interests threatened thereby, and the usual music of the "croakers" who belong to the "dog-in-the-manger" confraternity. Mr. Cleeve and his colleagues, however, "pegged away," and steadily popularised his ideas and theories among the farmers and dairymen until they perceived that it was their interest to abandon the older methods and identify themselves with the fortunes of the new concern. The adoption of methods ensuring absolute cleanliness was made essential from the first, and to the present time the Company and its numerous supporters have not ceased to pay the warmest idolatry to this first principle. The working of this vast organisation of the Company is in this and other important respects a model, and the Royal dairies themselves can show nothing better in any point of view.

The Limerick factory of the Company, apart from its extent, is one of the finest in the world, and represents in its cost for buildings and equipment a sum of almost £100,000. The limits of our present sketch preclude the possibilities of so descriptive an account of this vast establishment as its importance unquestionably merits, but it is due both to the Company and our readers that at least a faint idea should be conveyed regarding the processes of an industry so universally affecting all classes of the community. The milk reaches the factory direct from the cow by special arrangement with the various carrying agencies, and is delivered on the factory platform without contamination of any kind. Skirting the platform on one side is a large tank, into which the milk is at once strained, and is thence conducted by block-tin pipes to two large specially manufactured vats, where it is heated to a

given temperature. It next passes into three condensers, in which it boils for a fixed period, and is led through several taps (which run horizontally from the bottoms of the condensers) into round tin cans, which, when full, are placed in tanks of iced water revolving by a system of cogwheels. When cool the milk is packed into the familiar tins and hermetically sealed, to be afterwards distributed to all parts of the earth. Some 60,000 such tins are daily packed during the season, demanding the milk of more than 10,000 cows, affording employment to an immense number of hands, and representing an expenditure of wages in Limerick of quite ten thousand pounds per annum. The benefit to the farming classes, who receive an enhanced price for their milk, cannot easily be represented in figures. All labour is paid for by result, and in the thirty dairies now working in Ireland Mr. Cleeve's model has been followed with the happiest results, both as regards method and equipment.

This brings under our notice another branch of the business—the production of perfectly pure butter; and we need hardly say that "Cleeve's Creamery" is a brand holding the very first position in the home markets. There are several very interesting departments of the factory, but none more so than that devoted to the manufacture of tins, where a mechanical equipment of the most improved type enables the Company to turn out the twelve millions of tins required for their annual output. The steam engines are of the finest class, and are fed by four steel Galloway boilers. Each department is under the control of one of the brothers, and the scrupulous care with which cleanliness is maintained gives the factory quite a distinct character. The Company have also in full operation a large factory at Mallow, and are opening another at Carrick-on-Suir presenting much the same pleasing features as the parent establishment. The dairy section is carried on under the titles of "The Limerick Dairy Co." and "The Munster Dairy Company."

The London offices of the CONDENSED MILK COMPANY are at 69 and 70, Mark Lane, E.C.; the Liverpool offices—22 and 22A, Sir Thomas's Buildings, Victoria Street; while the Limerick offices are at No. 131, George Street.

The public value and importance of such an enterprise as the one we have thus too briefly reviewed in the preceding lines cannot readily be overestimated. When we consider the claims of millions of babies and sucklings to whom milk is the naturally ordained source of strength; when we contemplate the earnest longings for a refreshing draught of milk that proceed from the weary soldier on the march; when we remember the case of those who "go down to the sea in ships and have their business on the great waters," and recognise that to each and all of them the generous lacteal fluid is more or less a prohibited thing, save in condensed form; and when, moreover, we recognise the fact that home industries demand from every true patriot a preferential support at his hands, we are grateful for the existence of such an enterprise as that under notice, and confess ourselves confident of its able administration, solicitous as to its continued success, and sanguine as to a vastly extended and splendidly enhanced sphere of future industrial operations.

CANNOCK AND COMPANY, LIMITED,

Wholesale and Retail Drapers, Merchant Tailors, Cabinet Makers, and Upholsterers;

Carpet, Curtain, and General Warehousemen; Limerick.

In selecting for this sketch the magnificent temple of commerce which supplies a monumental example of the well-won fruits of Irish commercial enterprise in the City of Limerick, we need offer no apology to our readers for introducing to their notice the colossal undertaking which, under the title of Messrs. CANNOCK AND COMPANY, LIMITED, has achieved a reputation of national importance and a popularity which can only be measured by the immensely successful proportions it has attained during the extended period of its active existence. The history of this notable house dates back to its inception in the early part of the present century, when the business was founded by Messrs.

and head of the great house of Clery and Co., Lower Sackville Street, Dublin, and Mr. James Moriarty Tidmarsh, J.P., and was continued by these gentlemen with ever-increasing success until 1877, when it was converted into a limited liability company, trading under the title of CANNOCK AND COMPANY, LIMITED. The firm's magnificent premises in George Street are incomparably the most attractive, spacious, and, from every point of view, the most excellent business house in Limerick. It surpasses in architectural grandeur, in extent of area, in convenient arrangement of sections and departments any establishment of the kind in the province of Munster, its noble and graceful



Cumine, Mitchell, and Co., Woollen Drapers, this firm being subsequently succeeded in 1850 by Messrs. Cannock and White, and later the title was altered to Arnott, Cannock, and Co., at the head of which was the present Sir John Arnott, D.L., of Cork, with whom was associated the late Mr. George Cannock. After some years' prosperous trading Sir John retired from the firm, and Mr. Cannock was joined by the late Sir Peter Tait, a man of considerable foresight and commercial ability, whose munificent acts as a local public man are remembered with gratitude to this day by the people of Limerick. In 1869 the business was purchased by Mr. J. Clery, J.P., the present chairman of the Company

clock tower rising to an altitude of 180 feet. The clock and bells were made and erected in 1888 by the well-known firm of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston (formerly Gillett and Bland), of Croydon, London, who also made the large clocks at Sligo Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral (Dublin), and other important horological works in Ireland. The clock is what is generally known as a Westminster (or Cambridge) chime clock; that is to say, it strikes these chimes every 15 minutes in addition to striking the hours. The two terms "Westminster" and "Cambridge" are synonymous as applied to clocks, and, as a matter of fact, the "St. Mary's, of Cambridge," is the original

term for these chimes, although, through greater prominence given to their music since they were introduced into the Westminster Clock Tower, they are more generally referred to as "Westminster Quarters" in these present times. The bells upon which the hours and quarters are struck at Messrs. CANNOCK'S are five in number, and of the following weights, notes, &c.:—Bell No. 1 (smallest); note, E; weight, 3cwts. 2qrs. 21lbs.; diam. at mouth, 26 inches. No. 2; note, D; weight, 4cwts. 3qrs. 21lbs.; diam. at mouth, 28 inches. No. 3; note, C; weight, 5cwts. 1qr. 6lbs.; diam. at mouth, 30 inches. No. 4; note, G; weight, 7cwts. 3qrs. 14lbs.; diam. at mouth, 37 inches. Hour Bell; note, F; weight, 11cwts. 2qrs. 2lbs.; diam. at mouth, 41½ inches. Total weight of the bells, 33cwts. 1qr. 8lbs.

In all properly made turret clocks the weight of the hammers to strike the bells is regulated by the weight of the bells themselves. The reason for this is that, unless the hammer bears a certain proportion to the weight of the bell, it will not bring out its full tone. This proportion is within the discretion of the makers to some extent, but it is generally acknowledged that, to bring out the proper tone of a bell the hammer should weigh 1/10th that of the bell for the hours, with a somewhat modified figure for the chimes. Thus we find at Messrs. CANNOCK'S this rule has been well sustained, the weight of the hammers being:—18, 20, 22, 28, and 35 lbs., respectively. These hammers are kept continually "off" the bells by a powerful steel spring, which is borne down momentarily by the weight of the hammer falling upon it, but regains its normal position directly the bell is struck, and prevents any jarring during vibration.

The clock is now furnished with four dials, a new one having been added by Messrs. Gillett & Co. at Christmas. Each dial is six feet in diameter, and glazed with best opal glass, which has the advantage of equally diffusing the illumination behind it, a property not possessed by other species of glass. Each centre part is backed with cast-iron ribs to protect the glass from being blown in by high wind. The dials are made of iron, cast in one piece, and painted gilt as shewn. The hands of each dial are made out of stout sheet copper, which are stiffened by means of brass run in at the back, which thus prevents them from being blown about, and enables them to keep their position on the face. The hands are also balanced, inside the tower, to preserve their equilibrium.

From the principal entrance in George Street

the visitor passes northwards through the immense range of warerooms, in which are displayed with effective taste the latest fashions in costumes, silks, millinery, mantles, furs, artistic furniture, etc., a total distance of 288 feet; the entire floor area of the establishment occupying the enormous aggregate of 39,360 square feet. Upwards of 300 sale assistants, clerks, and workpeople are employed in the various departments of this mammoth business, in addition to a large number of female hands engaged in the fabrication of the beautiful Limerick lace, a speciality for which this firm is celebrated. Adjoining the wholesale and retail departments, and communicating therewith by means of double iron doors, is the cabinet factory, in which a staff of first-class workmen is employed in the manufacture of high-class furniture, which for artistic design and finish, durability and value, bears favourable comparison with the finest productions of the leading London houses. To sum up the comprehensive resources in detail of Messrs. CANNOCK'S gigantic establishment would, we fear, be impossible within the brief limits allotted to this sketch, and we must therefore be content to indicate the leading features of their principal departments in addition to those already mentioned. These include woollens, prints, hosiery, gloves, handkerchiefs, haberdashery, ribbons, laces, shoes, silks, cloaks, shawls, flannels, calicoes, perfumery, carpets, hats and caps, bespoke tailoring (a noted speciality), ready-mades, furniture, underclothing, etc., etc. In conclusion we may state without exaggeration that Messrs. CANNOCK AND Co. are fully entitled to the designation of Universal Providers in its broadest sense;—the babe from its entrance into the world, and in its progress through the various stages of life to its final exit, may here find every requirement for personal comfort or adornment, and every article of house furnishing, from which peer or peasant may make suitable selection. Brevity is essential in a review of this character, otherwise we should find emphatic pleasure and satisfaction in dealing more fully with the undertaking and operations of this admirably organised concern, which, under the skilful administration of its able managing director, Philip R. Toppin, Esq., whose personality is inseparably associated with its signal success, the Company is in the unique position of being able to declare at the end of the financial year that the item in their balance sheet headed "Trade Creditors" is represented by the word *nil*, or in other words that they did not at that date owe a single penny for goods supplied.

J. P. EVANS & CO., Chemists, Druggists, Drysalters, Seed and Agricultural Implement Merchants, Limerick.

We have already in these industrial and historical reviews had occasion to comment in favourable terms upon the splendid spirit of commercial enterprise which marks more than one important department of Limerick's industrial activity. The eminent and old-established house, indicated at the head of this sketch, in a special manner exemplifies the high degree of development to which certain of the Limerick firms have attained as the result of close adherence to specific lines of policy, in which enterprise, strict commercial integrity, and undeviating submission to certain soundly defined principles of action have been the chief operating influences. The great house of Messrs. J. P. EVANS AND Co. dates back in its foundation to the year 1821, when the nucleus of its present enormous success was laid by the gentleman whose name still survives in the trading designation of the firm. Mr. Evans was succeeded by Mr. Journeaux, who controlled affairs until twenty years ago, when Mr. Cleeve, the present sole proprietor, took over the administration of the establishment. The principal premises of the firm are situated in George Street, and comprise one of the largest and most attractive commercial depôts to be met with in the City. The building comprises an elegantly constructed block, possessing a frontage of just one hundred feet, and a similar rearward extension. The façade is rendered especially pleasing and attractive by reason of the exceptionally lofty plate-glass windows, in

which are displayed many of the specialities with which the name of the firm is inseparably associated throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom. Entering the magnificently spacious and sumptuously appointed interior, the first department that confronts the visitor is the drug department, which occupies the central position of the emporium. Here will be found an array of specialities the mere enumeration of which would be impossible in these pages, but which have been set forth—greatly to the public advantage—in a delicately printed little catalogue, which the people of Limerick would do well to possess, and occasionally peruse, for the sake of the invaluable medical, hygienic, and general information it contains. In addition to a vastly comprehensive stock of medicinal preparations and patent medicines of the most popular kind, Messrs. J. P. EVANS AND Co. deal in all descriptions of proprietary articles and toilet requisites, and it would indeed be difficult to name a well-known preparation in any of the foregoing departments that has not a place on the shelves or in the warehouse of the firm. Turning our attention for a moment to the left-hand side of the drug

department, we find the paint, oil, colour, and varnish warehouse, stocked to repletion with every variety of goods essential to the art student or decorative artist. To the right of the drug warehouse is a showroom devoted to the display of lamps, and a more varied and chaste selection we have never inspected outside the City of Oxford, which, by common consent, is admitted to be the leading centre for the display of these elegantly designed goods. Passing round by the immense oil stores, whose capacious tanks hold many thousands of gallons, we approach the large and handsome glass-enclosed managerial office, from whence a complete view may be obtained of every portion of the warehouse. We may from this point of view either pass to the rear and inspect the wholesale seed department, which is entered from Sarsfield Street, or, after passing upstairs and inspecting the counting house and Mr. Cleeve's private office, may once more reach our starting point by passing through the retail seed shop, where the fittings and stock may be said to harmonise in elegance and excellence with every other department of the premises we have inspected. We choose the latter

alternative, as we desire to say a few words concerning the agricultural implement and seed warehouse of the firm situate at 48, Thomas Street. This emporium comprises a spacious four-storey building having a twenty-seven feet frontage and a rearward extension of no fewer than one hundred and fifteen feet. The basement

of these premises is used for the storage of all the leading brands of artificial manures. The stocks held on the ground floor and upper portions of the building are of remarkable magnitude and variety; indeed Messrs. J. P. EVANS AND COMPANY have organised a complete emporium of agricultural, horticultural, dairy implements and utensils, and innumerable other specialities which it would be idle to designate and particularise in the brief space left to us. The magnificent warehouse in Shannon Street and Howley's Quay is devoted to the firm's oil, colour, glass, and cement stores, of which vast stocks are held in addition to the goods held at the George Street warehouse already referred to. We might fill many pages with a review of this great mart and of its extraordinarily varied contents, representing a money value of many thousands of pounds; but we can do only scant justice to the establishment, and shall therefore content ourselves with the remark that Messrs. J. P. EVANS AND Co. have drawn together in their several warehouses what is probably the largest and most comprehensive assortment of goods in the several sections referred to to be found



in the United Kingdom. We may add that these goods, selected with care at the very best sources of production, are offered to the public at the lowest prices consistent with their genuine excellence. In conclusion we may remark that, in the various departments of Messrs. J. P. EVANS AND Co.'s business, a staff of over 100 hands are employed, and between these and the esteemed principal relations of the most cordial character subsist. Indeed,

Mr. Cleeve enjoys great personal popularity among all who know him, and among the many evidences of his active and prominent life, in connection with the commerce of Limerick, will assuredly be noted the magnificent rank to which his house has attained not merely in the industrial annals of the City, but also in those of the great Empire of which this rising commercial centre forms an integral part.

HARRISON LEE & SONS,

Millwrights, Engineers, Smiths, Boiler Makers, Brass and Iron Founders, City Foundry, Limerick.

Telegraphic Address:—"LEE FOUNDRY, LIMERICK."

AFTER sixty years of continuous and uninterrupted prosperity, the eminent Limerick house of Messrs. HARRISON LEE & SONS possesses every claim to be considered as occupying a place of notable precedence in the branch of productive activity of which the City Foundry constitutes a leading representative in this part of Ireland. As successors of the well-known founder, Mr. Harrison Lee, his two sons—Messrs. Samuel Edward and Richard John Lee—have, by the adoption of modern machinery and accessories in every part of their works, rendered the City Foundry a splendid embodiment of mechanical and operative efficiency. The extent of space devoted to its operations is considerable, and it would be scarcely possible to find at the present time an undertaking which more closely approaches the ideal of modern perfection in resource and technical completeness than that now controlled by Messrs. HARRISON LEE & SONS.

A large portion of the premises comprises the brass and iron foundry (the latter producing castings up to ten tons in weight); the forge; the engineering section; the turning, fitting, and erecting shops; the boiler makers' shop; the pattern makers' shop; the boiler and engine houses; and the drawing, private, and public offices; all of which are arranged and appointed in the manner best calculated to sustain with precision, and also to accelerate, the whole operations involved in an industry comprehending many different branches of work and yielding an extensive output.

The fine range of machinery comprised is propelled by a first-rate steam service, and, among the more notable appliances here in use, mention may be made of numerous self-acting, screw-cutting lathes; self-acting planing, shaping, slotting, boring, and drilling machines; bolt and tube screwing machines; emery wheels of various kinds; punching and shearing machines; boiler plate bending rolls; sheet iron and tyre bending rolls; band and circular saws; improved blowers for cupolas and forges; large steam hammer; and several powerful cranes capable of dealing with heavy lifts. The visitor to the City Foundry will find many interesting evidences of the past undertakings and present importance of the house in the immense series of patterns with which the pattern lofts are replete, these representing the accumulations of more than half a

century. In the showroom there are presented various illustrations of the class and character as well as the magnitude of the undertakings upon which Messrs. HARRISON LEE & SONS engage. The firm here indicate a splendid capacity of production. There are shown excellent examples of engines which the firm make up to 25-horse power, and of hydraulic presses which they produce up to a capacity representing a working pressure of three tons to the square inch. Both products have attained a wide and satisfactory demand. A fine pair of coupled horizontal engines of an indicated 80-horse power, which the firm supplied to one of the largest bacon-curing establishments in the City, illustrating the adaptability of their manufactures to that branch of local activity, while equipments of hydraulic presses, furnished to the leading tobacco manufactories in Limerick, may be regarded as exemplary of the skill with which this house has endeavoured to provide for the requirements of another local industry not less prosperous or important than that of bacon curing. Both classes of machinery have been brought as near as possible to modern perfection as it is nowadays possible to attain, and it is a matter for congratulation that tobacco manufacturers and bacon curers alike have here close at hand the means of procuring, economically and at all times, machines that are nowhere rivalled by any British or Irish manufacture in respect of precision and finish. As indicated, Messrs. HARRISON LEE & SONS do not confine themselves exclusively to this class of production, but are equally successful in the manufacture of everything which can be expected to fall within their operations as Millwrights, Engineers, Boiler Makers, Smiths, and Brass and Iron Founders. They command the services of a staff of seventy hands, and hold themselves in readiness to carry out and complete the most urgent order with which they could be entrusted. In reference to the personal qualifications of the partners of the house, it need only be added that they are members of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, London, and impart to their entire operations all the results gained from many years' assiduous study of, and practical experience with, the several sections of industrial activity that have become embraced in the work of the large and widely-known concern they now control.

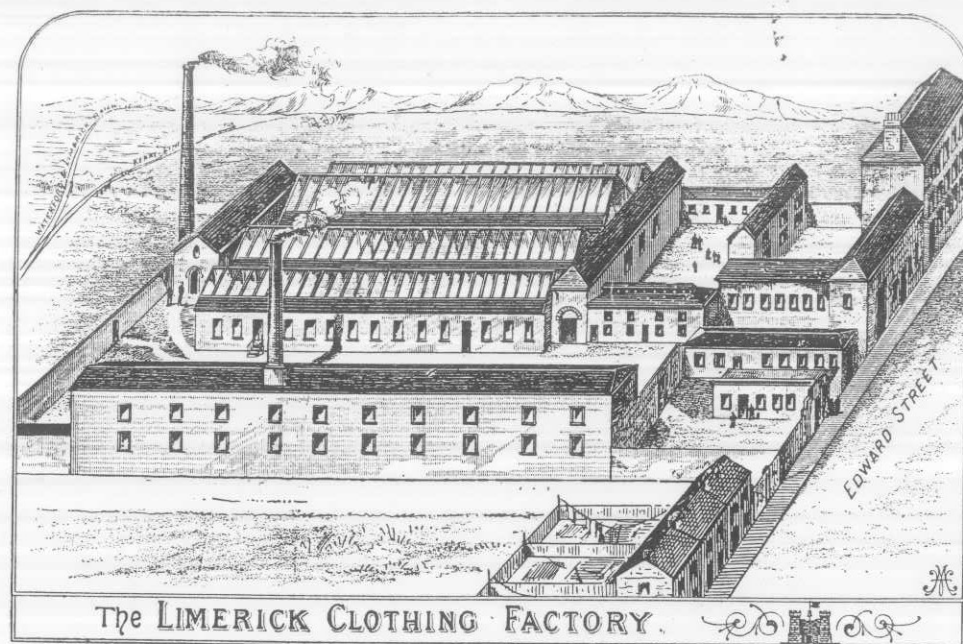
THE LIMERICK CLOTHING FACTORY, LIMITED.

Telegraphic Addresses:—"DISPLAYED, LIMERICK;" "DISPLAYED, LONDON." Telephone No. 45.

London Office—VAUXHALL BRIDGE HOUSE, PIMLICO, S.W.

This establishment is justly considered one of the principal sights of this City, and, by the courtesy of the management, is always open for the inspection of visitors. But few, if any, clothing factories in the kingdom equal it in magnitude, while it stands unique as an Irish industry, both as to the area covered by its buildings as well as in the number of operatives employed. The premises, originally built for a militia barracks, were secured by the late Sir Peter Tait upwards of thirty years ago, who, with rare foresight, saw that, as far as the Army was concerned, the days of tailor-made garments was doomed, and that, by a sub-division of labour, immense economies were possible. His munificence justly entitled him to the honour he obtained of three times occupying the office of chief magistrate of

be appreciated after seeing the operation. The pattern, or diagram, is marked on the top layer, and the endless band knives follow the lines and divide the block without the slightest difficulty. From this building we pass into the machine room, of which our illustration (reproduced from a photograph) gives a very inadequate representation, as it has been impossible to give a correct idea of the immense size of the room, which is upwards of 300 feet in length and nearly 100 feet in width, roofed in three bays, and lighted by a continuous skylight in each bay. The floor is occupied by five long tables, extending the whole length of the building, with wide gangways between. Upwards of 200 sewing machines are at work, requiring a small army of several hundreds of attendants as basters,



the City. But few of the original buildings are now in use, as practically the premises have been rebuilt to render them more suitable to the purposes of the business, and will well repay a visit.

The entrance, beneath a noble archway, introduces us to the court containing the offices, a spacious and convenient building. A second archway leads to the premises of the factory proper. The first factory building we enter is over 300 feet long and about 40 feet wide, and is devoted—first to the reception of the raw material; secondly, rooms for packing (by hydraulic power) and trimming the garments; and, finally, the cutting room. This room contains seven powerful steam cutting knives, each capable of cutting 672 pairs of trousers in a day. The facility with which a pile of cloth, from 20 to 80 layers in thickness, can be dissected with absolute precision can only

be appreciated after seeing the operation. The pattern, or diagram, is marked on the top layer, and the endless band knives follow the lines and divide the block without the slightest difficulty. From this building we pass into the machine room, of which our illustration (reproduced from a photograph) gives a very inadequate representation, as it has been impossible to give a correct idea of the immense size of the room, which is upwards of 300 feet in length and nearly 100 feet in width, roofed in three bays, and lighted by a continuous skylight in each bay. The floor is occupied by five long tables, extending the whole length of the building, with wide gangways between. Upwards of 200 sewing machines are at work, requiring a small army of several hundreds of attendants as basters,

machinists, button-hole makers, finishers, and pressers. Over 700 operatives are engaged in this one room in the production of military garments only. All the machinery is driven by steam power, and, to minimise the risk of accident, the main shafting is all carried in tunnels beneath the floor. Full attention has been given to ventilation, and, notwithstanding the large number of persons in the room, the air is never offensive. The engines and boilers occupy a building at one end of this human beehive, while rooms at the other are devoted to pressing and repairing shops. The old tailor's goose is conspicuous by its absence, and is replaced by gas-heated irons worked by a system of levers operated by the foot, giving the maximum of pressure with the minimum of exertion. The engineers' shop is replete with all the modern contrivances for repairing machinery.

Almost the whole of the work done is paid for by piece, and to such an extent is the division of labour carried, that no fewer than 36 different payments are made for the making of certain military garments.

The next room visited is the cap and helmet factory. Here all descriptions of caps and helmets are produced, about fifty persons, male and female, being employed. The wooden blocks upon which the head-dresses are shaped are first covered with a cotton lining, and this, having been smeared with a solution of india-rubber, is covered with layers of cork, also treated with the solution, and the whole well amalgamated by repeated hammering with a wooden mallet. The cloth cover, also coated on the inside with india-rubber, is then drawn over the whole, and, after the helmet has

to the concern. It is now managed by a committee of the hands, under the control of the manager, and any profit derived is returned to the employees by being handed over to the provident fund.

Perhaps the most potentially important department is the last to be visited. This is housed in a long two-storied building, and is devoted to the manufacture of civilian clothing both for the classes and the masses. The ground floor contains a very large and varied stock, both of ready-made clothing and of cloth suitable to all purses. The manager is doing all in his power to popularize Irish cloth in Ireland, and so far his efforts have met with marked success, this department being patronized alike by peer and peasant. The upper floor of this department is a miniature of the large



been trimmed to shape, bound round the edge with leather, and, its metal ornaments attached, it is ready for issue to the army, police, volunteers, or post office, as the case may be. A separate engine and boiler serve this room with heat and power.

The next department to be visited is devoted to providing those of the operatives, who wish to avail themselves of it, with wholesome food at a minimum cost. This room is capable of seating about 200, and is opened for breakfast, dinner, and tea. Although the hours worked do not necessitate, under the Factory Acts, any allowance of time for meals, except dinner, the operatives are allowed to break their work for the two other meals if they so desire. This refreshment room was begun by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, and has proved an immense boon

room before described, and fitted with steam-power sewing machines and gas pressing irons. Anyone visiting this department must be impressed with the superior sanitary conditions which prevail, as compared with those under which our clothing is usually manufactured in the squalid, unhealthy houses of the operative tailors of the East End of London, or the still more unhealthy workroom of the sweater.

In order to increase the outlet for the goods manufactured by the Company, retail establishments are being acquired in various towns in Ireland, where you can obtain from a suit of ready-made clothing at prices which are really astonishing, or be measured by experienced first-class cutters, and in either case receive the benefit in price of the system of sub-division of labour, which has been brought to such a state of perfection.

While, obviously, the commercial element must take precedence in the mind of the head of such an immense concern as this, the social side is not overlooked. A large room is devoted to, and fitted up for, a theatre and concert room, and is capable of seating some 400 audience. Here, at intervals, dramatic and musical performances are given by the employés themselves to crowded audiences. Other rooms are devoted to reading, games, and recreation. Lastly, the management has set itself to solve the problem of provision for old age and infirmity, which question is now exercising the minds of some of our ablest statesmen. All persons throughout the whole establishment voluntarily subscribe, *pro rata* to their wages, to a benefit fund, and steps are being taken to utilize the capital so obtained in forming and working a co-operative store, the money so used bearing a fixed rate of interest, which, with half the profits of the working of the society, go to form a fund for provision in old age and incapacity. The remaining half, being returned to the purchasers, practically repays the voluntary tax in the wages. Thus everyone employed has a direct inducement to support the store, as well as having a direct interest in the Company, as the surplus capital of the Benefit Fund is invested in the Debentures of the Company. It is

J. N. RUSSELL & SONS, Corn and Maize Millers, Limerick.

Telegraphic Address:—"RUSTLE, LIMERICK."

A VERY prosperous and representative branch of Limerick's trading activity is illustrated in the operations of the firm of Messrs. J. N. RUSSELL & SONS, who control one of the largest undertakings of its kind in Ireland, and in whose hands the Irish milling industries of the past half-century have received enormous and almost exceptional development. This eminent concern was founded in 1810 by Mr. John Norris Russell, who was a large timber merchant and ship-builder previous to the inauguration of these very extensive Corn Mills and Stores, which his successors have so ably forwarded in mercantile importance and noteworthiness. On his death the business was directed by his four sons—Messrs. Francis William Russell, Thompson Russell, Richard Russell, and Arthur Russell—and at the present time it is carried on by his grandsons, Messrs. John Norris and Edmund Russell, the former of whom, especially, has evinced a vigorous interest in its more recent developments. The Roller Mills at Newtown Pery present a most extensive structure, having a lofty elevation of nine stories and a depth of nearly 200 feet. In these mills alone there are about nineteen sets of rollers for flour grinding and fifteen pairs stones for maize, the entire operations being accomplished by machinery of first-rate capabilities propelled by a steam engine of 350 horse power. This work is supplemented by the two well-equipped mills of Lock and Corbally, situated near the City, enabling the firm, with such magnificent resources to maintain at all times facility for regular production equivalent to the pressing

calculated that, with practically no diminution of income, the operatives will themselves provide a sufficient competency at an earlier age than that contemplated in the Government Pension Scheme. A second fund provides a substantial money payment on the death not only of the subscriber, but of any near relative of the subscriber. The aim of the manager is to induce the operatives to carry out all schemes of self-improvement themselves, in which he gives them all the assistance in his power.

The present Company was established under the Limited Liabilities' Acts, in London, and obtained the premises in 1884. The number of persons employed is close upon 1,000, and is by far the largest employment-giving establishment in the City or in the South and West of Ireland. The registered offices of the Company are at Vauxhall Bridge House, Pimlico, London; and the Board, under the chairmanship of G. H. M. Ricketts, Esq., C.B., include Messrs. James F. G. Bannatyne, D.L., T. A. Ferguson, and O. Wallace, J.P., all of the City of Limerick. The managing director is Mr. E. Taylor, of London, who took over the control of the business in Dec., 1889, and who has since that date increased the number employed by one half, and practically reorganised the whole business.

exigencies of the far-spreading trade which the superior merits of their grain supplies have contributed to cultivate. In the course of any single week they control an output of some hundreds of tons of maize, a commodity of which they are the largest grinders in the kingdom, while their stores in connection with the mills are close by the side of the River Shannon, a position tending to facilitate the transport of merchandise both as regards the reception of grain and its constant export to various parts. These stores form a range of buildings nine stories in height, and the magnitude of their supplies is well provided for by additional stores at various parts of the City. The firm occupy a fine suite of offices, and all transactions of the house are under immediate personal direction, the depôts of the business being at the following places:—Askeaton, Bruff, Caherciveen, Castletown, Dingle, Ennis, Gort, Kilrush, Kenmare, Listowel, Nenagh, Newcastle (West), Rathkeale, Tipperary, and Tarbert. It is due to the eminence of the Russell family to add here that they have from time to time occupied and fulfilled with acceptance various public offices and positions in the City. Mr. J. Norris Russell, who is practically at the head of the business, is well known and highly esteemed in this district, where he has evinced much interest in the advancement of its commercial activity, and has become identified creditably with the progress of the great section of Irish commerce that is so well typified in the undertaking which this brief sketch has brought under notice.

FLAVIN & COMPANY,

Provision Merchants and Italian Warehousemen, 133, George Street, Limerick.

THE thoroughly characteristic and representative branch of the Irish trade, in which the above-named house has gained considerable noteworthiness, is one that has at all times flourished successfully in Limerick, and, during the past fifteen years, Messrs. FLAVIN & COMPANY have elicited a very large proportion of that support which the observance of all the superior phases of high-class provision trade never fails to cultivate. The success of the house is no doubt due also in a great measure to its forming the agency in Limerick for the productions of the celebrated ham and bacon-curing firm of Denny, and it speaks well for the established popularity of those much-demanded commodities that their disposal among large and well-developed connections constitutes a principal feature of the trade transacted by Messrs. FLAVIN & Co. With due regard for the modern methods of shop display, the firm have rendered their establishment one of the most attractive in the City. The conspicuous corner position of the premises and the commanding glass frontage—several windows of which face Sarshfield Street and George Street, leading to the Quay—together with the highly artistic manner in which the various goods are submitted to inspection, enhance the bright and effective appearance of the establishment, to which the aspect of the interior, with its marble and other appointments, appreciably adds. Nothing which could increase the

very inviting appearance of the house as a first-class provision emporium is omitted from its appointment, and many features of attractiveness are observable in each item and department of a stock that literally teems with the most tempting comestibles which regular daily consignment and exceptional private resources can secure.

Besides the various hams, bacon, lard, sausages, and shoulders, there are choice specialties in butter and cheese; also in jams, sauces, and pickles; and in a variety of tinned goods, including salmon, lobster, sardines, beef, and collared meats, all of which bespeak the highest standard of purity and quality. The immense stores adjoining the establishment afford an evidence of the ample resources maintained by the firm in response to the developments of a trade which manifests continuous expansion. The whole operations of the business illustrate the liberal and economical principles upon which it is organized, and, as a highly popular depôt of family supply, the establishment forms a noteworthy example of a concern promoted to serve the public interests, and representing the trade of the provision merchant and Italian warehouseman in a manner acceptable to the large community for whose requirements Messrs. FLAVIN & COMPANY so satisfactorily cater. We would also wish to draw particular attention to their constant supplies of fresh fish daily from Lower Shannon.

WILLIAM NELSON, Family Grocer (The William Street Tea Warehouse),

61, William Street, Limerick.

FEW establishments in Limerick more efficiently and successfully combine the features of both wholesale and retail trade than the well-known house conducted by Mr. William Nelson, of 61, William Street. As "The William Street Tea Warehouse," it sustains a character for pure and fragrant tea that is by no means of yesterday's origin. It is the accredited centre of a first-class family grocery trade, and retains the favour of influential and steady connections, whose support has been gained by honourable and liberal dealing, and whose favour is still preserved by adherence to that principle. In point of attractiveness the establishment has much to commend it to the notice of the public, appointed as it is in the appropriate modern style, and with that care and taste in external arrangement which tend to render its well-laid-out stock thoroughly inviting. Two large plate-glass windows are made fully available for display, and the great depth of the interior admits of such ample counter accommodation as is necessitated by a constant and busy trade. There are notable evidences of departmental method in the arrangement of groceries on one side and provisions on the other, while the warerooms and stores at the end are similarly arranged, the back portion being lighted from the roof, and the gallery, by which it is surrounded, being

appropriated to the storage of dry goods. In every part of the establishment there are examples of good and careful fitting, and probably the most interesting feature of the house is the manner in which the genuine, fresh condition of all goods is carefully preserved. We have already alluded to the superiority of the proprietor's teas, from which the above title is appropriately derived, and it is only necessary to add that, in every other branch and section of a comprehensive stock, there are embraced home and foreign comestibles, in every degree acceptable to the tastes and needs of the large community for whom Mr. NELSON so well caters. It is beyond the scope of this brief sketch to enumerate the many specialties that have become identified with the progressive trade of this emporium. Customers have at all times the fullest assurance that no inferior goods of any description whatever are kept in stock, and for this reason—apart from Mr. NELSON's judicious tact and enterprise—the house has become a very popular centre of an Italian warehouse trade; and it speaks well for the ability of the principal that, despite all forms of modern competition, it commands a high name and character in local commerce, to the attainment of which its conspicuous position in a leading and busy thoroughfare of the City has to some extent contributed.

JAMES KIDD, Tea, Coffee, Colonial Produce Merchant, and Family Grocer,
Nos. 3 and 103, George Street, Limerick; and Church Street, Ennis.

ONE of the most interesting examples of great commercial progress based upon high character and long establishment is afforded by a review of the business traditions and transactions of the eminent house named at the head of this sketch. During the whole of its twenty years of establishment the concern has manifested steady and systematic signs of development, the accumulations of which find ample scope within the large and excellently appointed establishments where the trade of the house is now concentrated. In the magnificent premises situate at 103, George Street, there are many impressions of the suitability and convenience afforded, and the large warehouse accommodation at the rear offers unexampled facilities for the preservation of a most extensive and valuable stock. Emboldened by such successes, and desirous of affording further outlet for the continuous development and extension of his trade, Mr. JAMES KIDD opened a branch establishment at No. 3 in the same street for the further development of the family grocery trade. The latter is now probably equivalent in importance to that of the principal concern. The entire enterprise has been splendidly organised, and the undoubtedly genuine value which Mr. KIDD's first-rate business methods and commercial influence can readily secure have raised the concern to a rank of distinct local pre-eminence. In groceries and provisions the stock held may be described as thoroughly representative of the produce of the best home and colonial markets. Mr. KIDD makes a speciality of teas, and in this department he at all times endeavours to excel in quality as well as being moderate in price. His aim has been to select teas which have real merits in the cup, and to his credit, be it said, that he makes no secret of his refusal to blend

with scented teas, such as capers, etc., which are at once "cheap and nasty," but prefers to deal in high-class genuine teas possessing flavours natural to themselves, and which give off that fragrance in the cup which no mixture of flavourless Congous and artificially scented teas can command. Particular attention is devoted to the management of the coffee department. Care and judgment are exercised in the selection of the various qualities, which are the choicest and best procurable; they are roasted to perfection and ground on the premises, the greatest care being taken to fully develop the strength and aroma. The superiority of his general grocery goods, jams, and jellies, and the liberality of the prices have already secured connections of great value; and it is a natural outcome of such care that the ramifications of the business cover a wide area. An exemplification of this is afforded by a further extension of Mr. KIDD's already large field of operations to Ennis, where he has recently opened a splendid branch establishment in Church Street, and which, conducted on similarly efficient lines to that above described, gives every indication of gratifying future development. Large consignments of goods are sent to all parts of the surrounding counties, and the entire business has been established in a position of commercial distinction and importance only attainable by the foresight and unrelaxed enterprise that continue to be brought to bear upon its organisation and management. A perfect system of speedy and regular delivery and distribution is effected by means of the proprietor's own vans, and to the credit of Mr. KIDD we need only add that his business, in all its details, has attained a position of prosperity beyond reach of the competitive aspects of any modern stores or other trading corporations.

J. LAIRD & CO., Pharmaceutical Chemists and Druggists, 118, George Street, Limerick.

THE influential house indicated at the head of this brief notice dates back in its foundation to the year 1833, when it was founded by Mr. Macadam, to whom Mr. J. Laird, L.P.S.I., succeeded some thirty years ago. The spacious and handsome shop, known as the "Medical Hall," has an exceptionally fine plate-glass frontage, the massive and lofty window being well and tastefully dressed. The interior is fitted up in a very superior style with elegant, yet substantial, counters, show cases, and other appropriate appointments. The various departments are replete with a large and comprehensive stock of goods, which includes a most extensive assortment of drugs and chemicals of well-attested quality and purity, all the best known patent medicines and proprietary articles, a valuable stock of surgical instruments and appliances, sick-room and hospital requirements, sanitary preparations, deodorizers and disinfectants, a very choice selection of perfumes, fancy soaps, sponges, ivory and tortoise-shell

hair brushes, combs, and toilet requisites of every description. The whole of the stock is of exceptional quality, no inferior ingredient finding a place on the shelves of the establishment. Dispensing of medicines forms a special feature of the business. Physicians' prescriptions are accurately compounded, only the most experienced assistants taking part in this highly onerous department of the profession. For the convenience of patrons the firm keep on duty, at all hours, a duly qualified assistant in view of every emergency and for the preparation of medicines. A branch of business in which Messrs. J. LAIRD AND Co. largely engage is the preparation of medicines specially adapted to cattle. Those who have used in their stables "Laird's Golden Blister" and "White Oil Blister" speak of both preparations in unqualified language of praise; and the very extensive demand that exists for these and kindred preparations indicates a wide public appreciation, and denotes the extreme efficacy of the medicines in question. The business in every department receives

the direct personal attention of the proprietor, and is conducted throughout with marked ability, energy, and enterprise, no effort being spared to meet the convenience of customers in the prompt and accurate execution of orders. As an evidence of the firm's enterprise, we may note that in the matter of prices Messrs. LAIRD AND COMPANY fully realize the truth of the Latin expression, "*Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.*" Well, we have only congratulations in these days for the business house that, after fifty years of successful operation, realises the fact that we change with the

changing times, and that has the courage to boldly enter into the spirit of modern competition with a full determination to maintain its prestige as the fittest to commercially survive. We conclude this review of an interesting establishment with the remark that Mr. J. Laird is well known and highly respected in Limerick, and his long professional and practical experience and genial courtesy secure for his house the confidence and support of a very extensive and influential patronage. Telephone connected with all the leading merchants in the City.

DAVID BEGLEY,

Wholesale Grocer; Tea, Wine, and Brandy Importer; Spirit and General Merchant.

Office and Retail Warehouse:—36, William Street.

Wine Vaults:—1 and 2, High Street. Wholesale Stores:—28, High Street.

Bonded Warehouse:—Mardyke, Limerick.

THE enterprising spirit and business capacity so long characteristic of the mercantile community of Limerick have been eminently displayed by Mr. BEGLEY since assuming control of the business carried on at the above addresses. He became proprietor in 1869, previous to which Mr. BEGLEY was for ten years carrying on business in Wickham Street, and, owing to the extension of business there, necessitated his removal to the present more commodious premises; but the enterprise is of much older date, having been carried on, in fact, from the year 1814. The William Street premises have a good frontage and a large rear extension. One side of the shop is devoted to office purposes, and the other to the grocery and general domestic supply trade. To the rear is a retail spirit department, grocery stores, tea-blending room, and dry goods stores for the general and wholesale trade, and below are the cellars and bottling stores. The house does a first-class order and family trade and a wholesale business,

attended to by two travellers, extending throughout Munster and Connaught. The chief departments are those dealing with teas, which are under the personal superintendence of Mr. BEGLEY, and deal mainly with fine China teas, coffees, cocoas, sugars, confections, W. and R. Jacob & Co.'s and other biscuits, chandlery, spices, jams, jellies and tinned goods, sundries, J. J. and Son's and other whiskies, wines in wood and bottle, brandies, rum, gin, &c., and cordials. All the brandies and wines are imported in cask as far as possible and bottled on the premises. The business is well organised, and has largely extended under Mr. BEGLEY's enterprising and judicious management. Aiming at supplying the best of everything at the lowest possible prices, he has succeeded in winning, in both the retail and wholesale departments, a wide and valuable support. As a thorough business man he is highly esteemed in Limerick, and holds an influential place in trade and business circles.

GEORGE McKERN & SONS,

Printers, Commercial Stationers, and Account Book Manufacturers,

113, George Street, Limerick.

THIS representative business was founded so long ago as 1807 (and we might state is the oldest in Munster) by Mr. George McKern, was carried on by him, and afterwards by his sons, for many years, and is now the property of the founder's granddaughter and grandson. The firm's premises are well suited to the trade, and comprise a spacious and handsome shop, extensive storerooms, and a fully-equipped executive department. The stock displayed is of a high order, and embraces all kinds of plain and fancy private stationery, commercial stationery, and the numerous incidentals of the trade. The printing works are situated underneath the premises, and extend to the side and rear; the

bookbinding departments are on the second floor, and afford employment to a large and expert staff. The printing house is replete with the best machines, type, and other appliances, and undertakes every class of work. In the higher grade of letterpress, we notice that the firm has printed and published several volumes; *inter alia*, Fitzgerald and McGregor's "History of Limerick," 1827; "Limerick and its Seres" (Dowd); Meredyth's "Historic and Descriptive Guide to St. Mary's Cathedral;" Will's poem, "Kilkee;" and H. B. H.'s "Holiday Haunts on the West Coast of Clare." Under its present management, we are sure its commercial interests and high reputation are certain to be steadily advanced.

McMAHON, DAY, & CO., The Medical Hall, 135, George Street, Limerick.

Chemists to the Queen by Special Appointment.

THE MEDICAL HALL of Limerick, occupying one of the most favourable and conspicuous positions in that City's leading thoroughfare, and controlled under the firm title of Messrs. McMAHON, DAY, AND CO., is a long-recognized leader of pharmacy trade in that district, and commands the distinction due to its lengthy and uninterrupted existence of more than a century. From its foundation by Mr. McMahon down to the present time, its management and proprietary have been retained in the hands of the one family, and it has been conducted on eminently respectable principles, from which there has never been any deflection. With due regard to the requirements of modern business display, the firm have from time to time adopted every artistic improvement tending to render their house conformable with the distinctly high-class trade of which it is the centre, and, externally as well as internally, it presents many attractive characteristics highly creditable to the liberal, artistic taste of the principals. The three-storey elevation has afforded ample scope for decorative enrichment, and, besides the several armorial and other designs that are carved thereon, the appearance of the Royal escutcheon imparts considerable dignity to the establishment, and appropriately emphasizes the firm's special appointment as Chemists to the Queen. The plate-glass windows are models of beautiful fitting, as the interior is exemplary of methodical arrangement. The appointments are principally of rich mahogany elaborately carved, while the

counters, show cases, and other details of furnishing are all in accordance with the prevailing aspect of refinement; and the appearance of the house is appreciably enhanced by a tessellated floor rich in colour and pattern, upon which various items of statuary on pedestals are neatly and tastefully disposed. To prevent interruption or irregularity, and to ensure the especial care of the principals, the compounding department is placed at the far end, and this arrangement is found thoroughly favourable towards maintaining the accurate preparation of prescriptions, a branch of responsible work which the firm have long taken under their special charge, and have at no time committed to inexperienced assistants.

In all other respects, the Medical Hall evidences a resource commensurate with the needs of the urgent and always-growing trade with which it continues to be favoured. In surgical appliances, chemicals, drugs, patent medicines, proprietary articles, and toilet requisites the firm hold exhaustive supplies of every specific, the worth and merit of which public appreciation and medical testimony have alike tended to endorse; and they support a character for the supply of medicines in whose purity and efficacy the utmost reliance may be placed. They illustrate the modern drug trade on a very sound and capable basis, and receive the unreserved patronage of a city and suburban *clientèle*, whose support is founded on the liberality and attentiveness of the firm and the eminent *prestige* which years of honourable trading have meritoriously earned.

P. MCCARTHY & SONS,

Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, and General House Furnishers, 38 and 39, George Street, Limerick.

ONE of the leading houses engaged in this department of commercial activity in Limerick is the old-established firm of Messrs. P. MCCARTHY AND SONS, cabinet makers, upholsterers, and general furnishers, whose fine emporium at 38 and 39, George Street, will well repay a visit of inspection from our readers. The business was originally established upwards of sixty years ago by Mr. Peter McCarthy, who continued the trade for an extended period, and was subsequently joined in the proprietary by his two sons, of whom Mr. Stephen McCarthy is now the sole representative. The premises occupied by the firm in George Street form one of the most attractive features of that thoroughfare, comprising handsome and commanding establishment, with imposing front elevation four stories high, and large plate-glass windows, displaying, with effective taste, a splendid selection of artistic and elegant designs in cabinet work, tapestries, and art furnishings. The interior forms a magnificent showroom, 150 feet deep by a width of 40 feet, which is utilised for a high-class exhibition of costly cabinets, sideboards, mirrors; dining

and drawing-room, hall, and library furniture in the newest designs and of finished workmanship; every description of art hangings and other decorative materials; choice carpets, rugs, and mats; and a comprehensive assortment of furnishing requisites in great variety. The upper floors are also devoted to the display of large quantities of bedroom suites and for the purpose of stock rooms, warehouse, etc., the whole of this portion of the premises being used for the business. In connection with the establishment are extensive cabinet works, in which a large number of skilled artisans are employed in the various manufacturing departments. The firm has also large showrooms and stores in Cecil Street, in which is stocked a well-selected assortment of the best secondhand furniture of every description. A very extensive business is done by the firm, whose ample resources enable them to fulfil orders of any magnitude, from the equipment of the artisan's cottage to the furnishing of a nobleman's mansion on the shortest notice; and, in addition, Messrs. McCarthy also enjoy a widespread connection as undertakers, auctioneers, and valuers in Limerick and the surrounding districts.

H. L. STEWART, Manufacturing Jeweller, Watchmaker, and Optician,
104, George Street, Limerick.

ONE of the most attractive establishments in George Street, Limerick's most fashionable business thoroughfare, is that of Mr. H. L. STEWART, the high-class Art Goldsmith, Jeweller, Silversmith, and Watchmaker, the business having been established by the father of the present proprietor about a quarter of a century ago. The premises occupied by Mr. STEWART comprise a splendid shop with spacious frontage, the plate-glass window affording every accommodation for the attractive display of the magnificent stock. This consists of ladies' and gentlemen's gold and silver watches, and an elegant assortment of silver and electroplated goods, including a variety of waiters, trays, fish knives and forks, dessert knives, lock-up spirit frames, salad bowls, revolving cover dishes, fish carvers, saltcellars, cruet frames, toast racks, *entrée* dishes, kettles and stands of the newest patterns, both quite plain and splendidly chased, engraved, and embossed. There is also a large stock of jewellery of artistic design and superior workmanship, comprising brooches, bracelets, chains, diamond crescents and stars for the hair; dress and other rings composed of pearls, rubies, emeralds, opals, sapphires, diamonds, and other gems. The interior of

the establishment is fitted with appointments of a superior description, and the goods are arranged for inspection with conspicuous taste and judgment. A much-appreciated speciality of the house is the large selection of novelties in *bijouterie*, and the constant succession of the same. Articles specially suited for wedding, christening, and birthday gifts, as well as presentation and prize plate, form an attractive feature of the stock, careful attention being devoted by the principal to this branch of the business. The repairing department supplies another important detail, skilled and competent workmen being retained for the execution of repairs to watches, chronometers, plate, and jewellery, and the re-arranging and re-mounting of gem ornaments of every description. The connection of the house includes the leading families of the City and county, as well as many of the aristocracy of other parts of Ireland, and the courtesy and attention of the principal, who personally superintends the establishment, has been recognised by a satisfactory and ever-increasing amount of popular and well-deserved support. We may add that Mr. STEWART also successfully controls a branch business at Church Street, Ennis.

ROBERT HANNA,

Tea Dealer and General Family Grocer, Manufacturing Confectioner,
121, George Street, Limerick.

A WORK and business of some considerable importance among the representative concerns of Limerick has been conducted since 1868 by Mr. ROBERT HANNA, who successfully combines the operations of a manufacturing confectioner with all the dealings of a high-class Grocer and Tea and Fruit Importer. During twenty-three years of active and progressive business, Mr. HANNA has brought to bear thereon everything which the introduction of a sound plant and the extension of his resources could secure towards promoting the interests of the large and influential family *clientèle* for whose requirements he purveys. The establishment itself is a fine commanding feature of the George Street thoroughfare, in which it occupies a very favourable position, and presents thereto a large plate-glass frontage. The interior is well appointed, the counters extending over a considerable depth, and the shop, warehouse, and accessories are all upon one level, thus accelerating the routine of a busy trade, and enabling the proprietor to obtain an immediate oversight of the various departments. The whole premises present an exceptional length of about 300 feet, and are proportionately broad, the sugar-boiling or sweet factory at the rear affording an interesting example of the completeness with which this self-contained industry has been organized apart from the general business.

All the usual appliances are fully represented in operation, and with the aid of a staff of practical confectioners, thoroughly experienced in every branch of the trade, Mr. HANNA maintains a constant output of superior sweets, the various kinds of which have already attained popularity.

The grocery department of the business is presented on a very attractive scale, and there are show cases for the proper display of all the better-class dainties and domestic specialties comprised within the proprietor's large and embracing stock. Everything requisite for better-class tables is fully represented, and particular reference may be made to the extensive supplies of English and foreign fruits regularly imported by the proprietor, and including large consignments of apples from the leading orchards at home and abroad. Such an establishment as Mr. HANNA's may be regarded as in every degree acceptable to the ideals of a good family grocery emporium where goods of noted freshness and purity are always obtainable, and for this reason requires no form of written endorsement. The liberal and satisfactory terms of dealing observed have at all times formed a marked feature of the establishment, and, as one of the thoroughly representative centres of trade in this City, it owes its commercial distinction entirely to the gentleman who has guided its affairs from the very outset.

O'DEA'S PROVISION STORES, 43, George Street, and Cecil Street, Limerick.

SOME two years ago Mr. O'DEA opened this fine provision stores, and the success he has achieved has more than fulfilled his expectations. It may be taken for granted that, when any branch of the supply trade is specialized, the public will be the gainers, and the above establishment fully illustrates the axiom. The warehouse is splendidly fitted, in the latest metropolitan style, with marble counters, tiled walls, tessellated floors, and the neatest of appointments. One side is devoted to such comestibles as jams, pickles, spicery, sauces, tinned and preserved goods; and the other to hams,

bacon, eggs, tripe, Cork drisheen, etc. We noticed *inter alia* Shaw's and Lunham's famous hams and bacon; splendid creamery butter; home and foreign cheese; fresh sausages and pork. To the rear and in the basement are extensive stores, the general equipment of the business speaking plainly the spirit of the management. Mr. O'DEA personally supervises the whole, and shows a courtesy and prompt attention to his customers that might advantageously be imitated in many quarters. We need hardly add that the trade of the house is still rapidly extending.

JAMES FLYNN, Cruise's Hotel, Limerick.

It seldom falls to the happy lot of the industrial historian to be called upon to write the interesting annals of a commercial institution, possessing a history the outlines of which are so carefully recorded in strict chronological sequence, as has the famous hostelry in the City of Limerick known at the present day by the title of "Cruise's Royal Hotel." This famous house of entertainment dates back over a period of exactly a century, and as we write these lines, the Hotel proprietary and patrons may be celebrating—as they are certainly entitled to—the first centenary of a house that has held a well-earned fame through many a trying year of Irish national upheaval; and to-day it stands as a striking testimony to the splendid commercial results that are attainable by well-directed business effort—results which make themselves as apparent in the administration of a Hotel as in the more complicated operations of the largest factory. The founder of the Hotel was Mr. Bourne, who for a period of twenty-one years very capably conducted the business. In the year 1812, the establishment—then known as the "Royal Mail Coach Hotel"—passed into the hands of Mrs. Moriarty, who carried on the business for a further period of twenty years. At this time, the "Royal Mail Coach Hotel" had acquired a very high reputation as a coaching establishment, an old steel-plate engraving being still extant which represents the coach entrance gate as occupying the present site of the fine portico by which admittance is gained to the modern hostelry. Succeeding Mrs. Moriarty in the proprietorship, Mr. Cruise held the Hotel for a period of thirty years, and during this gentleman's administration it may be said that the nucleus of the *prestige* enjoyed at the present time was laid. Mr. Cruise, by an energetic and painstaking management, raised the tone and character of the house to a high point of eminence, and visitors to Limerick from all parts of Great Britain and the United States of America found their comforts so satisfactorily catered for, that the ancient designation of the house seems to have faded in the public memory before the more complimentary title generally bestowed upon the establishment by those who had enjoyed the privilege of sojourn under its hospitable roof. And so the "Royal Mail Coach" as a title gave place to "Cruise's," a name which the present proprietor has wisely continued. Mr. Cleary was the next occupier, and this gentleman

controlled the establishment down to the year 1883, when the Hotel passed into the hands of Mr. JAMES FLYNN, who, since his assumption of the control, has not only greatly extended the premises by important additions and enlargements, but has enhanced the value of the connection, by his able and judicious administration, to a degree that places this establishment in the forefront rank of first-rate Irish family and commercial hotels. "Cruise's Hotel" is advantageously situated; indeed, in this respect, it has no rival in the City. From each window a panoramic view of great interest is obtainable, prominent features in the landscape being the Clare Mountains in the distance, and, nearer at hand, Thomond Bridge and the beautifully-turreted Castle of King John. The Hotel is a large and handsome building of pleasing appearance, and contains a spacious entrance hall, large dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, a number of private sitting-rooms, commercial room, and no fewer than one hundred and fifty bedrooms. The Hotel also contains several bathrooms, billiard-room, reading and smoking-room, spacious kitchens, the usual domestic offices, and all the accessories of a large and thoroughly organised establishment. The house throughout is furnished in a superior style, the attendance upon visitors being accelerated by the recent addition of a complete service of electric bells. A marked and impressive feature is the perfect order and cleanliness of the entire establishment, while the comfort of visitors is enhanced by the ready and polite attention of a large and efficient staff of servants. The Hotel is very ably conducted by Mr. FLYNN, who possesses the advantage of thorough experience, derived from his connection as steward with several first-class clubs, and he spares no effort to ensure the comfort of his guests. Both the excellence of the *cuisine* and the superior character of the wines and spirits contribute, in association with the very moderate scale of charges adopted, to render Cruise's Hotel a most desirable place of sojourn, either for a long or short period. In concluding this brief review, we must not omit to mention that Mr. FLYNN is at present engaged in endeavouring to again give facilities to the increased travelling public by placing on the Upper Shannon a well-appointed steamer, to enable visitors to Limerick to visit the magnificent scenery on this beautiful, but hitherto much-neglected, route.

GOODWIN & CO., Glass, China, and Lamp Merchants,

64 and 65, William Street, Limerick.

DATING back in its foundation to the year 1838, this fine old business was established by Mr. Robert Goodwin, uncle of the gentleman who at the present time controls the destiny of the house. The premises occupied by Messrs. GOODWIN AND CO. comprise a magnificent five-storey warehouse having a frontage of 60ft. and lofty plate-glass windows, in which are displayed to exceptional advantage the exquisite goods of the house. The interior is fitted up in a very superior style, and well arranged for the display of the large and varied stock. The premises also contain extensive storage accommodation, together with wholesale packing and storage department, offices, and every convenience for the effective working of an immense business. The stock comprises a magnificent assortment of china; dinner, breakfast, tea, and dessert services in Wedgwood, Doulton, Worcester, Crown Derby, and other ware; and a great variety of toilet and chamber services. The display of glassware includes a choice selection of cut glass decanters, wines, tumblers, salts,

flower stands, centre pieces, etc. Amongst the ornamental articles are some rare and costly examples of Royal Vienna, Dresden, Hanoverian, Sèvres, Hungarian, Capo di Monti, and other classical art potteries, representing every conceivable variety, of design, with exquisitely painted panels by the most renowned artists; also vases of colossal, medium, and bijou proportions very beautifully painted and decorated; superb plaques, *déjeuners* in elegantly lined *déuis*, dessert and coffee services; besides an infinity of figures, candelabra, mirrors, brackets, groups, and other *objets d'art*. The trade of the firm, both in the wholesale and retail departments, is of a widespread and steadily increasing character, and a very brisk business is done over a large district. Mr. Goodwin, the principal of the concern, possesses the advantage of long and thorough experience. He is well known and highly respected in Limerick, and by his spirited enterprise has secured and retained his valuable and ever-augmenting connection.

WILLIAM LLOYD,

Wine Merchant and Grocer, 106, George Street, and Cecil Street, Limerick.

THIS old-established and celebrated house was founded over thirty years ago by Mr. W. LLOYD as a high-class grocery store. By his able and energetic management, and by his straightforward methods of dealing, the founder soon brought the business into creditable prominence, and it has since maintained a place of distinction among the leading concerns of its kind in the City. Mr. LLOYD occupies at 106, George Street, fine, handsome premises, having a corner situation and an exceptionally prominent double frontage. The shop has an immense rearward extension with separate goods entrance in Cecil Street. The interior is spacious and perfectly appointed, all the fittings being of a very superior character; and the departments for groceries having an ample counter space, the entire fixtures may well be described as exceedingly convenient. Every facility is afforded for the holding of very large and comprehensive stocks, which may be stored and kept in a superior condition in the fine warehouse of the establishment. Indeed, we have seldom had the pleasure of inspecting a more carefully planned, more commodious, or more effectively organised grocery stores. Mr. LLOYD supplies every description of family groceries, including many choice specialities in teas, coffees, etc., and he keeps splendid stocks of Italian warehousemen's sundries, all carefully selected from the best sources. In all its branches the business is of a distinctly first-class character, every item, either of grocery or Italian goods, being invariably of the choicest quality, and the patronage of the house is drawn almost exclusively from the best families in town and country.

Mr. LLOYD also controls a separate and distinct

business in the old-established house of Peter O'Brien, founded nearly a century and a half ago as a wine and spirit emporium. The premises are commodious and replete with a stock including the most renowned brands of wines and distillations of Irish, Scotch, and Continental spirits to be met with in Limerick. The comprehensive wine list issued by Mr. LLOYD evidences the possession of stock that could not fail to excite the enthusiasm of the true *connoisseur*, including as it does in sherries:—Montilla, Manzanilla, Amontillado, Vino de Pasto, Oloroso, Romano, Amoroso, and finest old brown. In ports all the leading shipments are represented, including some very superior old, dry, Cockburn's; also a selection of finest old port bearing Sandeman's *imprimatur* as an adequate guarantee of excellence. The clarets held by Mr. LLOYD include Medoc, St. Julian Chateaux Listrac, Citran, Palmer, Lagrange, Larose, Leoville, Lafite, Latour, and Mouton. There are also some magnificent vintages of still hocks, Carlowitz, Madeira, Moselle, and Burgundy; while the brands of sparkling champagne include—"Ayala dry," Giesler's; Heidsieck's Dry Monopole; Perrier, Jouet, et Cie; Ruinart Père et Fils; Moët and Chandon; G. H. Mumm & Co.; Pommery and Greno; and Ackerman Lawrence. We need hardly say that, with such a stock as we have indicated, the patronage enjoyed by Mr. LLOYD in the wine and spirit department of his business is of the most influential and aristocratic character.

Mr. LLOYD devotes his personal attention to all the affairs of the business, and directs the operations of both establishments in a manner which indicates his possession of both the ability and resolution to fully maintain the prestige and repute of one of Limerick's most thoroughly representative mercantile interests.

Z. M. LEDGER & SON, Booksellers and Stationers,

27, George Street, Limerick.

Not by any means the least of Limerick's many attractions to visitors are found in her splendid array of business establishments, many of them of the highest class; and among these select "temples of trade" there are some whose peculiar characteristics render them interesting in a special and irresistible degree to artistic and cultured minds. To this class belongs the book and stationery house of Messrs. Z. M. LEDGER & SON, situate, as everybody knows, at 27, George Street. The business carried on here was founded as far back as the year 1821, its founder being Mr. Z. M. Ledger, the father of the present head of the concern. The handsome window affords ample facilities for the display of suitable exemplifications of the exhaustive stocks held, and constitutes a landmark for a large circle of the *élite* of Limerick, who for promenading purpose find George Street a desirable business rendezvous. The interior of the premises is devoted to the accommodation of a splendid stock of new books by all the standard authors past and present; and this stock is doubtless one of the largest and most select in this part of the kingdom. During the past few years Messrs. Z. M. LEDGER AND

SON have been very generally recognised as the leading firm of Limerick booksellers, being patronised in this branch of their comprehensive business by the most aristocratic among the resident and visiting population of the City; and a ramble through the beautifully appointed premises furnishes us with tangible evidence that amply justifies this eminent reputation. The roof-lit showroom at the rear of the sale shop is most elegantly and artistically appointed, and is arranged for the exhibition of a superb collection of fancy goods of the highest class. A very large stock of commercial and general stationery is held, including all the requisites of the country house, the private study, the college, and the school. The business administration is all that could be desired, the affairs being entirely under the personal supervision of the principal. The success which the house has achieved in modern times is not merely well deserved, but is the practical outcome of the high favour and unreserved confidence in which Mr. Z. J. Ledger, the principal, is held by the wide and influential circle of patrons who give their continued and valuable support to this carefully conducted establishment.

J. & G. BOYD, LIMITED, Wholesale Druggists;

Seed and Implement Merchants; Tea and Fruit Importers; and Manufacturing Confectioners;

11 and 12, William Street, Limerick.

THE vendors of such an array of important commodities as are indicated in the above-mentioned heading to a necessarily brief business review must, for obvious reasons, receive a distinguished place among the industrial institutions of the City of Limerick; and, in giving an account of the rise, development, and present commercial position of the house of Messrs. J. AND G. BOYD, LIMITED, we lay before our readers a striking illustration of what can be achieved in the domain of Irish industrial advancement by sound business methods, indomitable perseverance, and application well directed to a desired end. This eminent concern was established in the year 1848 by Messrs. JAMES AND GEORGE BOYD, the former of whom died in 1884, to the intense regret of every citizen of Limerick.

The concern, although originated under comparatively humble circumstances, has, from its earliest inception, experienced an unremitting expansion, until it has now blossomed into one of those mammoth enterprises the very description of which, in anything approaching to detail, baffles the skill of the most experienced reviewer, and necessitates literary compression even where every fact and feature connected with the house is full of absorbing interest. The magnificent premises occupied by BOYD'S, LIMITED,

comprise a large block of buildings in William Street, having an elevation of five stories to the front, and connected by passages to large three-storey building at rear in Denmark Street. The ground floor forms a commodious sale shop, splendidly arranged and heavily stocked with a large variety of the goods in which the Company deal. Roughly estimated, these include teas, coffees, groceries, Italian goods, spices, fruits; tobaccos, perfumery, and toilet requisites; drugs and patent medicines; oils and colours; lamps, stationery, seeds, cements; garden and agricultural implements; wire and steel fencing and dairy appliances; and utensils of every description. Entering two porticoes by the spacious right portico from the street, the visitor reaches the drug and oil retail department. Here will be found a stock embracing every description of druggists' requisites, patent medicines, dye stuffs; chandlery, colours, varnishes, oils; brushes and decorative tools; and appliances of every imaginable kind.

Opposite this department, and fitted up in every respect with equal appropriateness, is the seed department, indicated by a fine window display, in which a wealth of ferns, grasses, and other vegetable products vie with a magnificent array of artificial wreaths and goods of a kindred nature. And the mention of the

Company's seed trade affords us an opportunity of animadverting upon the too frequent practice of importing seeds from England and Scotland that could be procured by farmers and gardeners both better and cheaper from such local seed merchants as Messrs. J. AND G. BOYD, LIMITED, whose vast purchasing powers enable them to enter the markets of the world and purchase at the lowest terms for cash.

The tea, grocery, and Italian goods departments next invite attention. Here the equipment and appointments are all that could be desired, and, in the rooms utilized for the blending of teas, the Company possess the most efficient and improved apparatus known to the trade. Tea blending is carried on by a specially competent and experienced staff with great care and the most satisfactory results. In the Italian goods departments will be found all the usual items of a high-class emporium, a large trade being effected in these delicacies and comestibles.

The agricultural implements constitute an important feature in Messrs. BOYD'S business, every class of appliance being fully exemplified in the showrooms devoted to this department. The stock of oils held by the Company is probably the largest to be met with in

the South of Ireland. As manufacturing confectioners, too, an immense trade is carried on, the confectionery works at rear of the building being constantly in full operation.

The space at our disposal is too limited to admit of a full description of the various departments, but we are compelled to admit that it has seldom been our good fortune to inspect an establishment so perfectly organised in every detail, and so effectively administered by the capable presiding executive. A vast business is carried on by the Company, its connections extending over nearly every part of the kingdom. The directorate is composed of gentlemen possessing undoubted business qualifications; the chairman of the Company is George Boyd, Esq.; Messrs. P. B. Robinson and W. Christy are directors; while the managing director is Wm. Holliday, Esq., a gentleman who entered the establishment a quarter of a century ago as an apprentice. To the untiring energy of these two gentlemen, and to the constant personal supervision exercised over each and every department of the business, may be attributed the present magnitude and standing of a house which, if we mistake not, has yet to reach the zenith of its fame and prosperity.

MICHAEL EGAN,

Wine and Spirit Merchant, 9, 10, and 11, Patrick Street, and Ellen Street, Limerick;

and 62 and 63, Great Tower Street, London.

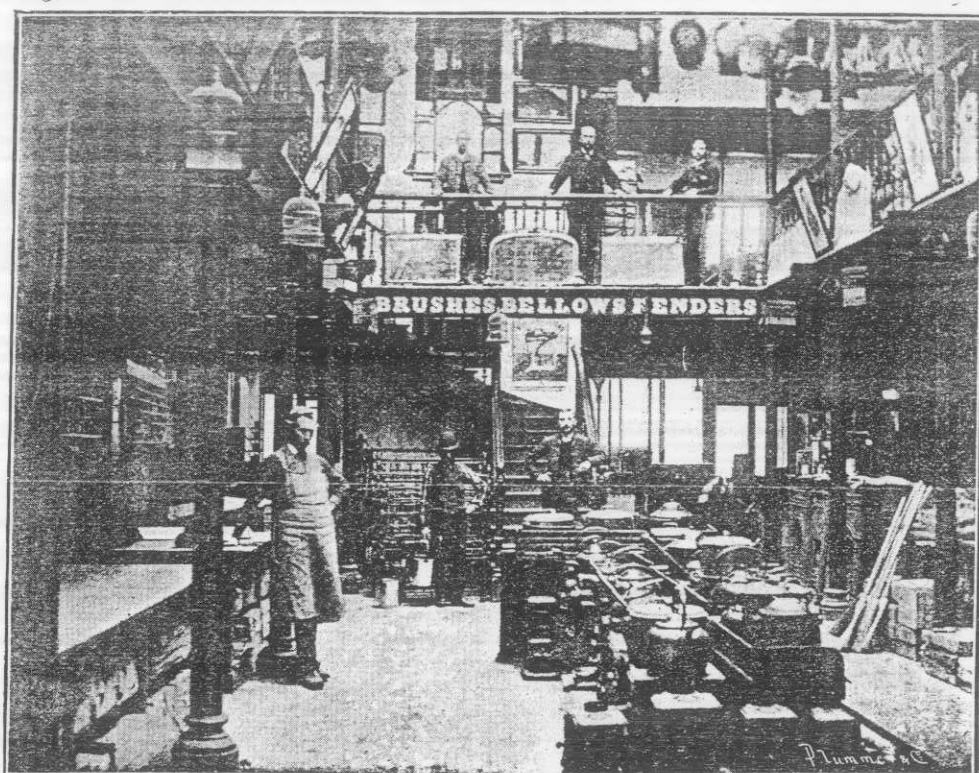
THE spirit and enterprise so characteristic of the large wholesale houses of Limerick are admirably exemplified in the large and influential business which, for a period of thirty-five years, has been conducted by Mr. MICHAEL EGAN as a Wine and Spirit Merchant. This largest and certainly handsomest commercial edifice in the town has been specially built to meet Mr. EGAN'S business requirements, and they constitute one of the most complete and extensive wholesale grocery and wine and spirit warehouses in the kingdom. Apart from the magnificent ground floor and upper storeys, the cellarage must be pronounced of unsurpassed excellence of construction and convenience of arrangement. The warehouse is heavily stored with groceries and provisions of all kinds, including teas of the finest growths, of which large stocks are held, the accommodation for this class of goods being of the very best kind. The handsome offices are on the ground floor, while a magnificent staircase conducts to the upper floors, which are utilized for the general storage of the smaller classes of grocery goods, and which are admirably arranged in separate departments. Here will be found all the innumerable articles that enter into the requirements of the grocery

and purveying trades. Superior quality is Mr. EGAN'S first consideration in all these goods, and the house enjoys a splendid reputation for the reliable quality of its various articles. The stocks of wines, spirits, ales, stouts, and mineral waters, both as regards magnitude and excellence of quality, are quite unrivalled in Limerick, this department of commerce constituting an exceptionally important element in the business operations of the house. Taken as a whole, Mr. EGAN'S establishment is one of the most complete of its kind we have ever visited, and all the modern conveniences of a great wholesale and retail grocery, purveying, and wine trade are here supplied to assist the progress of the business and facilitate the rapid execution of the largest orders with the utmost precision. We need hardly say that a trade of great magnitude is controlled, the connection extending over a considerable portion of the South of Ireland. All the affairs of the business receive the direct personal supervision of the proprietor, whose energy, judgment, and profound knowledge of the several trades engaged in tend to the continuous extension of the immense commercial operations controlled, which have necessitated their opening a more central office in Great Tower Street, London.

P. D. BOURKE & CO., Wholesale Warehousemen, Limerick.

It would be difficult to indicate in the annals of Irish commercial enterprise a more striking example of successful and well-established business operations than those which have distinguished the lengthened and prosperous career of the old and well-known house of Messrs. P. D. BOURKE & Co., Wholesale Warehousemen, whose connections with the trading interests of Limerick extends back to the commencement of the present century. The history of the firm dates its origin in the year 1809 to a Mrs. McArdle, by whom the business was established in a house standing upon old Baals' Bridge, and was continued there until the

developed the scope of the business by adding new departments and cultivating the wholesale trade. This policy he successfully continued until his early death in 1857 at the age of 42; and subsequently it was persevered in with wonderful energy and ability by the late Mrs. P. D. Bourke, who succeeded to the control at her husband's demise. From that time until now the business has been still further extended, and, in consequence of its steady expansion, Mrs. Bourke in 1865 removed to more central premises on the site of the splendid warehouse which now forms the firm's establishment. From 1857 to the time of her death in



demolition of that ancient structure, when it was removed to 3, Rutland Street. At this address the late Mr. Patrick D. Bourke served his apprenticeship to the son of the above-named lady (Mr. Philip McArdle), and, by diligence and business aptitude, attained successively to the positions of manager and partner, the title assumed by the firm being "McArdle & Bourke." Finally, upon the death of the senior partner about forty years ago, Mr. Bourke became sole proprietor, adopting the title which has since been associated with the house. This gentleman, with characteristic energy and enterprise, rapidly extended and

1888 Mrs. Bourke proved herself an exceptionally able, clear-sighted, and valuable head of the business, and we cannot close this portion of our sketch without paying a passing tribute to the virtues of this lamented lady, whose memory is still held in grateful esteem by all classes of citizens, and whose familiar figure will long be missed in its ministering visits to the alleys, garrets, and cellars of the City. In 1883-4 the firm secured the interest of the adjoining premises in William Street, and commenced building operations on the fine warehouse now occupied by them. This comprises a spacious basement with concrete floor, a splendid

ground floor, and a gallery on the level of the first floor, supported on ornamental iron columns, constituting in completeness of arrangement and excellence of design one of the finest warerooms in the City. The building is lighted from the roof, which forms an immense skylight, and at night is well illuminated by Siemen's and other regenerative gas burners. The total dimensions of the building are over 100 feet in length, with a frontage of 45 feet, affording spacious accommodation for the working of the various departments of the business.

It would be impossible, within the space at our disposal, to do adequate justice to the varied items which constitute the immense stock held by Messrs. P. D. BOURKE & Co., who have made it their very lifelong study to secure for their customers every article which could possibly be brought into harmony with their leading departments. These embrace worsted and trimmings; hardware, cutlery, and many items of ironmongery; gunpowder and ammunition; stationery and lapping paper; school requisites; R.C. Prayer Books, beads, etc.; foreign and home-made fancy goods; tobacconists' sundries; jewellery, etc.; fancy soaps, oils, and perfumery; shoe findings, etc., etc. In its comprehensive variety alone the stock is well

worth a visit of inspection, its wide range including such extremes as needles and kitchen ranges, iron bedsteads and scarf pins. An immense volume of trade is controlled by Messrs. BOURKE in their various departments, their establishment enjoying a widespread connection, ranging far beyond local limits. Under the active and energetic management of the present head of the firm, it has attained a position of eminence amongst the business houses of Ireland, amply justified by its time-honoured reputation for uniform standard of quality and value, which has been the distinguishing characteristic of every article supplied by the firm since its foundation.

In conclusion we may add that Mr. Patrick E. Bourke is widely known and esteemed in City circles; is the present High Sheriff and a Town Councillor of Limerick; an enthusiastic Nationalist and Home Ruler; and, in the recent split in the ranks, declared from the first on the side of the majority of the Irish party, taking care, however, in his position as chairman of the local branch of the Irish National Federation, that no language or action of his should further embitter the position or wound the feelings of those to whom he is politically opposed.

JAMES McMAHON,

Garryowen Saw Mills, General Cooperage Works, and Coach and Van Factory,

William Street and Sexton Street, Limerick.

MR. McMAHON's large and finely-equipped establishment forms one of the chief industrial centres of Limerick, affording employment to about one hundred, and turning out a variety of manufactures. The business has been carried on by the family for over a century, having been founded by the grandfather, and continued by the father of the present enterprising owner. The premises cover a large space of ground, and include saw mills, turning shops, cooperage, wheel and carriage works, all furnished with the newest labour-saving machinery, together with very extensive timber yards well supplied with home and foreign logs and trees. The fine modern plant for every species of sawing, turning, cooperage, and packing-case operations is the remarkable feature of the place, and indicates the progressive spirit and enterprise characteristic of the proprietor. The cooperage factory turns out a great variety of articles for trade, house, and farm

purposes and for the provision and butter factories, and does a large business in the supply of tubs, firkins, and boxes for the butter trade. The saw mills are equal to log, band, and circular sawing of all descriptions, and the turning department to everything in the line from a ladder pin to a mangle roller, not to speak of builders' turnery. The coach and van factory is the latest development, and has already given a good account of its capacity, but is the natural outcome of an original department all along engaged in wheelwright work. Altogether the concern is one of the most complete and self contained to be found anywhere, and its old-established position and high reputation do great credit to the skill and go-ahead spirit for which the industrial circles of Limerick have been famous. We may add that power is supplied by a fine steam-engine of 40-h.p., and that Mr. McMAHON, apart from his business qualifications, is an expert in the trades represented and the soul of the enterprise.

JOSEPH CARMODY (late P. Hogan),

Bacon Curer and Bacon Importer, Upper William Street, Limerick.

AN important and old-established representative of that bacon-curing industry and trade which has attained such excellent development in Limerick is presented in the business of Mr. JOSEPH CARMODY, of Upper William Street, whose name has been long associated with the output of superior hams and bacon, and whose present flourishing trade represents the results of some forty years' continuous and well-directed enterprise. The concern was founded by Mr. Hogan, and from first to last has maintained a favour consistent with the high qualities of everything supplied. It is still the acknowledged centre for genuinely fine goods in the lines above indicated, and continues to adhere consistently to the meritorious standard of purity and merit upon which the reputation of the house is so securely established. For the purposes of the business the premises are excellently adapted, possessing the advantage of a prominent corner position and comprising a very neat one-storey structure at a suitable part of the thoroughfare. The interior extends over a considerable depth to the rear, where there are smoking and drying houses and every desirable practical facility for the successful conduct of all the operations common to the

ham and bacon-curing industry. There is also ample stabling accommodation with yard and accessories, and the delivery and transport of merchandise is thereby satisfactorily accelerated. While Mr. CARMODY imports large quantities of American bacon, devoting scrupulous consideration for the best obtainable qualities only, he also engages in the curing of Irish bacon, and the best proof of the excellence of his productions is presented in the fact that they find a constant demand in London, to which they are being constantly exported, and are nowhere in greater favour than in the home markets, where the results of first-class bacon curing at all times command appreciation. Among old-established connections of a good class, Mr. CARMODY pursues vigorously a trade that has of recent years developed importantly. Attentive consideration for their requirements, combined with a liberal regard for economy, tends to preserve the sound commercial relations that have long existed between this house and its constituents, and we have every reason to affirm that the business remains undiminished in trading support, and represents the best features of the industry in a manner equal to its contemporaries.

JOSEPH CARMODY,

Wholesale Baker and Confectioner, Brunswick Street Bakery, Limerick.

THERE is no more important branch of productive industry in connection with the staple food of the people than that represented in the City of Limerick by Mr. JOSEPH CARMODY, wholesale baker and confectioner, who has recently acquired the old-established business conducted for many years by the Riche family in Sarsfield Street. The premises are centrally situated in the best part of the City on the banks of the Shannon, and in immediate proximity to the Quays, presenting undeniable advantages for the prompt delivery of flour, etc., from the vessels in which these commodities are imported. The building is of handsome proportions and of attractive appearance, the ground floor being devoted to the retail department, with well-fitted offices on each side of the entrance. In the rear is the extensive bakery, designed on the most improved modern principles, and containing ten ovens and every appliance for facilitating the production of large quantities of high-class plain and fancy household bread, confectionery, cakes, scones, crumpets, and other goods of a similar character. The

bakery is noteworthy for the scrupulous cleanliness observed in the various processes of manufacture, every precaution being taken in the perfection of the sanitary arrangements, in order to ensure the absolute purity and wholesome quality of the productions of the firm. The other premises include commodious stabling for twenty horses, and spacious stores possessing capacity for 3,000 bags of flour, the average quantity required to meet the demands of the extensive trade done by the proprietor. The business is almost exclusively confined to the wholesale, the proprietor enjoying a widespread connection throughout Limerick and its suburbs, a number of well-appointed vans being daily engaged in the delivery of goods to the principal retail shops in the locality. The services of a staff of twenty-eight experienced bakers are employed in the bread-making and confectionery departments, and, in addition, many other hands are employed, there being in all over fifty hands retained for the working of the business, which is unquestionably the largest and most important of this description in the district.

JOSEPH SACE, Hairdresser, Hair and Perfume Manufacturer,

119, George Street, Limerick.

THE trade and calling of the perfumer and hairdresser is eminently represented in Limerick by Mr. JOSEPH SACE, whose well-known business—commenced in Cecil Street in 1885 and transferred to the above address two years ago—now constitutes one of the most popular among the City's fashionable centres of trade. The rapid advancement of the house in the favour and support of its now numerous patrons is largely, if not almost entirely, due to the consideration with which the interests of a large circle of ladies and gentlemen are anticipated, and the skill with which the principal and his expert staff illustrate every branch of that art in which Mr. SACE has already acquired some considerable distinction. Previous to commencing business in Limerick Mr. SACE acquired the Diploma of Honour at Brussels in 1884, and was the recipient of the first-class Diploma of London in 1885. In devising all kinds of fashionable and stylish *coiffures* in the latest and most attractive modes, and in the manufacture of ornamental hair fringes and plaits, Mr. SACE has given evidence of exceptional artistic taste; and as a manufacturer, also, of various popular perfumes, has developed an industry in which there is ample scope for the exercise of that special proficiency he has already evinced in other departments of the hairdresser's and perruquier's art.

The establishment in George Street is a fine example of the modern and high-class hairdressing depôt, being of spacious dimensions and appointed

with all the luxuriance of the Metropolitan saloons. The front portion exhibits a large stock shown to the best advantage, and embracing French and English cosmétiques, brushes, crimping and curling irons, toilet sponges, bandeaux, wigs, and a series of the latest designs in fancy pins and combs from Paris. Behind are the private hairdressing apartments, fitted with settees, fine marble shampooing stands, and mirrors; and further to the rear are the ladies' rooms, including reception and operation rooms, all appointed on a scale of elegance acceptable to the most fastidious, and manifesting those numerous phases of cheerfulness and comfort which ladies are ever ready to appreciate. The latest improvements in hairdressing machinery are here adopted, and it would be difficult to find any detail of appointment detracting from the general appearance of completeness which characterises the house. It is evident that no expense has been spared in rendering it suitable to the tastes and requirements of its *habitués*, and to these attractions may be added the genial courtesy and attentiveness of Mr. SACE, who endeavours to afford the utmost satisfaction to the numerous City and suburban connections, among whom his establishment has become a favourite rendezvous.

Since the above review was written the whole of Mr. JOSEPH SACE's premises have been completely destroyed by fire, a brave and much-regretted fireman losing his life. They are being reconstructed on a more elaborate scale.

BENNIS & SONS,

Wholesale and Retail Family Grocers and Italian Warehousemen,
30, George Street, Limerick.

THE leading establishment whose address stands above is one of the best in Limerick, and commands a long-established and valuable trade. The business was originated in 1844 by Mr. J. Alexander, to whom Mr. J. F. Bennis, the principal of the present firm, succeeded in 1856. The shop is one of the features of George Street, and extends back a hundred feet. The fittings are excellent in taste and convenience, and the stock superb. To the rear is another large general warehouse. The main specialities are high-class groceries, tinned and preserved provisions and fruits, spicery, table comestibles, Italian goods, and home and foreign fruits. A select family trade of large volume is done, alongside which an important wholesale connection is catered for. The business is ably managed by the partners in person, and enjoys a vigorous prosperity.

The senior member of the firm is agent for the popular National Provident Assurance Association. As an example of its unequalled advantages, the estimated cost of £100, payable at 60 or death, whichever comes first—age 25 next birthday—is as follows:—First 5 years, at £2 18s. 8d.—£14 13s. 4d.; second 5 years, at £2—£10; third 5 years, at £1 8s.—£7; fourth 5 years, at £1—£5; fifth 5 years, at 16s.—£4; sixth 5 years, at 7s.—£1 15s.; seventh 5 years, at 4s.—£1; total cost, about £43 8s. 4d.; or 6s. 2d. per quarter, which is about half the cost of other Companies. For estimates for other ages, and forms of insurance at little more than half the usual cost, and in the A.I. office, apply to Mr. J. F. Bennis, who, with his sons, enjoys a widespread popularity and esteem, and is consulted as the highest authority from all parts of Ireland as to the best offices and form of insurance to adopt.

WILLIAM CHRISTY & SONS,

Carriage Builders, 58, George Street; and Shannon Street, Limerick.

THIS concern now carried on by Mr. Christy has represented the coach-building trade of Limerick for many years, and was first established by Mr. Thomas Quinlan, in 1799. Mr. Christy succeeded to the business in 1855, and, from that until the present time, has advanced the interests of that branch of industry with notable enterprise.

To the original works in Shannon Street the proprietor added the extensive establishment known as "Phayer's Coach Factory," subsequently carried on by Mr. Johnson, of Cork, from whom Mr. Christy purchased it in 1868. It comprises a substantial building well situated in George Street. The showrooms are capable of accommodating a large number of carriages

and traps; the work embodying all the modern improvements.

The Shannon Street factory is large and spacious. It forms a square block of three stories, and its extent and capabilities, taken together with the immense yard adjoining, are such as to afford the most ample provision for a large and thoroughly representative coach-making industry, together with a department for timber drying.

Mr. Christy's staff of competent workmen turns out work in the most fashionable style, together with durability and beauty of finish. He sends carriages to all parts of the Kingdom and the Colonies. We must say few citizens of Limerick are better known and more deservedly esteemed than Mr. Christy, who has so long presided over this business.

M. CUSACK, House and Ecclesiastical Painter; Decorator; and Importer of

French and English Paperhangings; Decorative Material, &c.;

49, George Street, Limerick.

No review of the representative business houses of the City of Limerick would be complete without including some mention of the eminent house of Mr. M. CUSACK, of George Street, which unquestionably ranks among the principal decorative establishments in this part of the kingdom. The business was originally established by Mr. CUSACK in Cecil Street, Limerick, twenty-eight years ago, and since that period a very prosperous and extended connection has been established on the firmest basis. Twenty-two years ago the exigencies of an ever developing business necessitated removal to more extensive premises. These comprised a handsomely appointed sale shop and showrooms on the ground floor, at rear of which are commodious workshops and warehouse, the former thoroughly equipped with every modern appliance calculated to facilitate the operations of the business. The showrooms contain a splendid and extremely varied selection of all possible kinds of wall papers from the best houses at home and abroad. All the newest and most expensive designs may here be inspected under the most favourable conditions, from the very neatest thing in border or

dado, the quaintest creation of Japanese fancy, or the most florid of Lincrusta-Walton decorations down to the cheap but ever popular patterns that have been familiar in kind on the walls of modern drawing and dining rooms for nearly a generation. Mr. CUSACK undertakes to satisfy the most fastidious fancy; and is prepared at any time to supply papers suitable for the decoration of the reception rooms of a palace or family mansion, or the quiet and cosy sitting room of the cottage with equal satisfaction in every case. The business both in paper-hangings and decorative materials generally is largely of a wholesale character, the connection lying largely among painters, decorators, builders, &c., &c., whom Mr. CUSACK supplies with all possible kinds of decorating material. Mr. CUSACK also controls, with the valuable aid of his son, a splendid business on similar lines at 66½, Grafton Street, Dublin, where a most aristocratic connection is enjoyed. In both centres of industrial and commercial activity the business is conducted with great energy and enterprise on the part of all concerned, the steadily increasing patronage being a substantial proof of the general satisfaction given in all parts of the kingdom.

W. & C. McDONNELL, Margarine Manufacturers, Limerick.

Telegrams:—"McDONNELL, LIMERICK;" "BALLADRY, LONDON."

It is specially pleasing to note in these pages the introduction of new and flourishing industries into Ireland and to give prominence to the firms whose enterprise is responsible for such a salutary advance. Messrs. W. AND C. McDONNELL belong to this class, and have instituted in Limerick a margarine business which has grown by "leaps and bounds." The firm, however, is not of yesterday, the older section of the enterprise, dealing with butter, bacon, and corn, having been founded so long ago as 1820 by the father of the present enterprising owners. Of these the export butter trade is still carried on very largely, but is now overshadowed by the importance of the margarine manufacture. Messrs. McDONNELL were the first Irish firm to embark in this business, and the resolution and enterprise with which they fought their way on the market against foreign competition and the initial difficulties must render them doubly proud of their great success. The firm have very suitable premises, facing Thomas Street, covering a great space, and

equipped with the best modern apparatus for producing margarine of the first qualities. Into the various processes of the manufacture we need not enter here; suffice it to say the purest materials are used, the best methods followed, and the most absolute cleanliness observed throughout. The demand grows from day to day from the chief English and Scotch buyers as well as the home houses, and, considering the special quality of the article, it would be difficult to forecast the future limits of Messrs. McDONNELL's business. A large number of hands are employed, and the neighbouring farmers find a valuable market for their milk, forming an interesting crowd as they surround the receiving department of the factory morning by morning. Both partners are accomplished business men, trained to trading on a large scale, and possess every qualification and ample resources to give a distinguished account of themselves in the by no means distant future. "More power to ye!" will be the wish of everyone interested in the industrial development of Ireland.

L. SOMMERFIELD, Tailor and Habit Maker, 115, George Street, Limerick.

An eminent centre of fashionable and high-class trade in Limerick is presented in the establishment of Mr. L. SOMMERFIELD, whose business, commenced six years ago, has obtained a prominence in tailoring and habit-making work worthy of the superior phases of that industry which its operations serve to illustrate. In accordance with the important standing attained, the establishment is one of the attractive business places of George Street, and its heavily-stocked departments indicate how completely the varied tastes of a large *clientèle* have been anticipated with the view of affording the greatest possible facility for selection. The cloths are submitted to inspection and choice under the conditions of handsome appointment, and the two large plate-glass windows by which the frontage is enhanced, the mirrored fittings, and the cutting and fitting rooms behind all exemplify the standard of first-rate taste with which the house has been rendered suitable, elegant, and well arranged. The workrooms at the rear are commodious apartments, conveying a general aspect of neatness, ventilation, and comfort; and here a staff of

skilled tailors, specially engaged for their acquaintance with the high-class branches of the trade, operate under a system of personal supervision which secures the sound finish, excellent fit, and correct fashionable style which are the leading features of all Mr. SOMMERFIELD's work. The cloths made up are all of the best class absolutely, and embrace the newest and most "taking" things of the day in Scotch tweeds, West of England, and habit cloths. The trade of the house is entirely the highest class of bespoke tailoring in this City, and is conducted on the lines best calculated to serve the requirements and meet precisely the tastes of large connections among the better class. In Limerick and its surroundings Mr. SOMMERFIELD retains the favour of appreciative customers both ladies and gentlemen, whose acknowledgment of his courtesy, attentiveness, and liberal terms is fully requited in the unvarying consideration devoted to their interests; and on that account the house constitutes a leading and representative centre of the sartorial art in this City, where everything fashionable and superior commands at all times ready and unreserved recognition.

THOMAS HASSETT, Builders' and House Furnishing Ironmonger,
9, George Street, Limerick.

IN reviewing the flourishing commercial undertakings of Limerick a portion of our space may fairly be claimed by Mr. HASSETT's fine establishment at the address above. Opened three years ago, its advancement and completeness are remarkable, testifying plainly to the knowledge and ability brought to bear by Mr. HASSETT in forwarding the interests of the business. The shop, which extends a hundred feet to the rear, is very spacious and complete, showing splendid lines in ironmongery and house-fitting goods. This assortment is supplemented by a heavy stock distributed in the show-rooms and store-rooms of the establishment, and including everything incidental to the light and heavy branches of the trade. Among the specialities particular notice is merited by the grates and ranges, chimney-

pieces, stoves and fire-place furniture, fine cutlery, tools, American novelties, lamps, plated ware and table equipage. The section devoted to the building trade contains all the latest brass and steel fittings, superb tiled hearths, baths, &c. Bar iron and steel, iron and tin plate, and corrugated and galvanized goods are also largely carried. On the executive side several departments—turners', smiths', gas fitters', plumbers', hot and cold water engineers'—have been organised, and are manned by a skilled staff, so that Mr. HASSETT is able to estimate for, and undertake work on, the most favourable terms. We need not say that the credit of this success belongs to the enterprising proprietor, who is admittedly one of the best business men of this old and flourishing City.



WEXFORD.