

Price 6d.

KIDDERMINSTER

In 1903



Industrial
Number

OF

The
Kidderminster
Shuttle

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in 1903**

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The Kidderminster Shuttle

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A REVIEW

OF THE

CARPET TRADE


HAVING PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
THE KIDDERMINSTER, STOURPORT, AND
BRIDGNORTH MANUFACTORIES



Introductory


In these days much is said and written about England's supposed industrial decay. An undue appreciation of foreign industries, and a like depreciation of our own, seems to have become a mania. Expert Commissions are sent to other countries to see wherein England is eclipsed; a large portion of the British Press has apparently found a mission in recording the excellence of foreign methods, processes, and products; and worse than all—there seems to be an unprecedented readiness on the part of many of our manufacturers to carry the flag of truce to their Trans-Atlantic rivals. Unfortunately, the pessimism which has infected the manufacturers has spread to the great body of British consumers, who have during the last few years purchased increasing quantities of foreign products which in quality or price have no advantage over our own.

This publication is an attempt to stimulate an interest in home manufactures, and to show that at least one of our great trades is still, after an unbroken history reaching over centuries, vigorous and progressive; that the thorough and conscientious methods which of old marked the British master and man, and which first gained for British made goods their world-wide pre-eminence, are not yet worn-out; and that both personal interest and national welfare are best served by buying our own products. In our review of the Carpet Trade we refer particularly to the industry as it is in Kidderminster and the neighbouring towns of Stourport and Bridgnorth, these towns forming the centre of the trade in England. By thus narrowing the field of observation we have made room for details, and we are therefore enabled to present in the following pages complete descriptions of those of our carpet factories and allied industries which have done the most to maintain the high quality of British fabrics.



Geographical Location


There is an old adage to the effect that no flat country ever reared a great man. Though not true literally the saying is figuratively true. It is but illustration of the truth that no great achievement is brought about without the overcoming of great obstacles. Those industries which enjoy peculiar natural advantages deteriorate or disappear when richer fields are discovered elsewhere, while those which thrive in spite of natural disadvantages are invariably distinguished by a high character which no competition can overcome. Kidderminster is a case in point. Situated in the valley of the Stour, 18 miles south-west from Birmingham, 106 miles south-west from Manchester, 125 miles north-west from London, and 82 miles north-east from Bristol, the nearest seaport, it is remote from those centres which nature has apparently designed to be the scenes of industrial or commercial activity. The surrounding country, which is noted only for picturesque beauty and the fertility of its soil, is devoid of coal; the water power and water transportation are wholly inadequate for the requirements of large manufacturing enterprises; but one railway penetrates the district; and in short there are no apparent advantages of either geographical position or local environment. Since, therefore, the district of which Kidderminster is the centre has no extrinsic advantages, the pre-eminence it has achieved in its chosen industry must be the result of the intrinsic merits of its weaves,—a conclusion supported by the experience of many years.



Early History

From its earliest history Kidderminster has been a community of weavers; its manufacturers and artisans readily adjusting themselves to changing methods and fashions. As early as the year 1334 the industry had become so important that it was subjected to Government regulations. So largely have the loom and the shuttle absorbed the inventive genius and patient skill of its people that other industries have been in former years almost ignored. Richard Baxter said: "My people were not rich, but there were very few beggars, because their common trade of stuff weaving would find work for them all, men women and children, that were able."

Broadcloth, Woollens, Bombazines, Crapes, Poplins, Silks, and CARPETS have at different times had equal attention. During the Tudor and Stuart periods our weavers seem to have placed cheapness above quality, and sometimes—judging from the severe governmental restrictions framed specially for Kidderminster,—above business integrity. In Shakespeare's time "Kidderminster stuff" was used in the theatres as hangings, whence the allusion in an old play, "And Kidderminster did the stage adorn." The poet Shenstone, in the time of Queen Anne, writing of the work of some poetaster, says "Thy verses, friend, are Kidderminster stuff, And of them you've measured out enough."



Modern Carpet Weaving

Modern Carpet Weaving may be said to have begun in this immediate vicinity about 200 years ago, and for several generations past the weaving of all other kinds of fabrics has been practically abandoned here. In 1749 a Kidderminster manufacturer brought to this country from Tournay a skilled weaver, with whose assistance was constructed the first Brussels loom used in England. Within a few years the making of Brussels had become an important industry, and almost every succeeding decade from that time to this has witnessed its increase. Axminsters, Wiltons, Saxonies, and other fabrics were subsequently introduced, and in every case the process of manufacture has reached the highest stage known in the art of weaving.

Factory Buildings and Equipment

The casual visitor to this district can scarcely believe that the carpet industry is an old established one. On the contrary, almost all of the factory buildings have an air of newness. As a matter of fact a very large proportion of the buildings have been erected within the last thirty-five years, and alterations and enlargements are almost constantly being made. One of our leading firms has just completed the addition of new weaving sheds and mills which in extent are equal to their whole factory as it was fifteen years ago. The factory equipment represents all that is best in machine construction, the inventions of the last few decades having made it hopeless for an ill-equipped plant to meet the keen competition of to-day. The photo-engravings in the following pages will give the reader some idea of the equipment and construction of some of our modern factories.

Environment

In the Carpet industry the conditions under which the operatives work is a matter of great importance. This is the golden age of King Microbe, who must rejoice at the deference paid him. Products of iron and steel may be fashioned in his strongholds, yet they carry no contagion with them; but he asks for nothing better than free transportation over the world in a bale of carpet. Carpet manufacturers in England are under the most stringent rules and restrictions as to the sanitary and hygienic conditions of their works, while it is well known that many Eastern carpets are made in prisons and hovels where no particular value is attached to cleanliness. A stroll through one of the Kidderminster, Stourport, or Bridgnorth factories will convince any impartial observer that, although perfection may not yet have been reached, the lighting, heating, ventilation, and general regard for the health and comfort of operatives, and for the cleanliness of the product—are not surpassed anywhere.

But environment has a yet wider meaning. In an industry such as carpet-weaving the product is affected by the conditions under which people live, as well as those under which they work. And in this regard every one who attaches a due regard to cleanliness and health must admit that English carpets are not subjected to anything like the unwholesome influences that prevail in other countries, from which we import too many "priceless weaves." During the past ten years Kidderminster's population has remained practically stationary, being now about 25,000; and yet during that period the limits of the town have considerably extended, and a great many cottages for the use of operatives have been erected, showing that greatly increased home comforts, cleanliness, and decency are the general rule.

It may be thought that too much importance has been attached to environment, but such can scarcely be the case. Although the old hand-processes have been largely replaced by machinery, there is still room for human fingers to make or mar, and the figured carpet that emerges from the loom must bear the impress of those who designed and fashioned it.

Quality of Kidderminster's Carpets

Amongst a certain section of the British public there is a tendency, of which the remarks made by Lord Curzon in a recent speech are a sign, to praise Oriental carpets at the expense of those made in this country, and to say that the latter do not compare with the former in design, and more especially in colour. That unfortunate phrase of his, "Flaming Brussels," which succeeded in setting Tottenham Court Road by the ears, is only a foolish and out of date libel; it stands on a par with the idea held by some would-be connoisseurs—that no modern carpet, British or Oriental, can compare with the antique ones for beauty of effect and general harmony of colouring. With regard to this theory an interesting statement, which seems to be well authenticated, recently appeared in the papers—that there was an established method of catering for such people in some Eastern towns by laying a new carpet in a public place for a few days or weeks; this rapidly adding many years to its age, and improving its value accordingly. Without disparaging foreign manufacturers, it is safe to say that in every grade and quality the buyers of carpets get better value for their money in British than in foreign made articles. Furthermore, every variety is made here—Ingrain, Tapestry, Art Squares, Brussels, Deep Pile Wiltons, Seamless Chenille Squares, Axminsters of various grades and qualities, including some fabrics almost indistinguishable from Eastern carpets in appearance, and finally hand-made carpets in superb quality, that can be made in any sizes and shapes. It is a point worthy of notice by those who are apt to praise foreign, and particularly Oriental, productions at the expense of British, that after all, the finest Oriental carpets that can be seen in London to-day are almost invariably the product of cheap Eastern labour and British brains. That is to say, most of the best dealers in Oriental carpets send out their orders to the East with minute particulars as to the designs and colours they require.

But, of course, there are other foreign carpets offered in this country than those from the Orient, for, owing to the free import policy of this country, the British manufacturer has to compete with the surplus production of countries such as the United States, Germany, France, and Austria. At least one of these countries encourages its own exports by a rebate system, which enables foreign goods to be put on the British market at cost prices, or even less.

The British manufacturer, while possibly grumbling at a Free Trade policy and the longer hours and easier conditions of manufacture enjoyed by many foreign makers, has to meet this competition as well as he can, and make the most of the advantage left to him of being on the spot, thus being better able to cater for the general tastes and special requirements of British buyers. This circumstance is at any rate in his favour—that experience has shown that those carpets, the surplus production of foreign countries, that are "dumped" down and sold at any price in this country, having been necessarily made hurriedly and cheaply, give less satisfaction than goods made by British manufacturers specially for the home market.

A Word in conclusion

And why should not British-made carpets, of which those produced in Kidderminster and its immediate surrounding district represent in design, colouring, texture, and finish the highest form, retain their old-established prestige? For seven centuries the finest artistic talent, the highest mechanical genius, the greatest executive ability, and the best labour expended here, has been devoted to some phase of the art of weaving. Every one born here is cradled in a loom. Instinct, supplemented with training, is further enhanced by the great improvements recent science has made in all productive processes: and in no industrial centre in the kingdom are modern methods and ideas more largely used.

[Much of the information contained in the foregoing was kindly supplied by several of our leading carpet manufacturers and designers,—notably Mr. R. S. BRINTON and Mr. F. J. MAYERS.]

RICHARD SMITH & SONS

THE CARPET MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED,

Offices and Warehouses :

78, Mill Street, KIDDERMINSTER.

Works :

Mill Street, Park Wharf, Imperial Works, Brussels Street, Coventry Street,
Mill Lane, Hall Street, Hill Street, KIDDERMINSTER.

London Warehouse :

33 & 34, Warwick Lane, and 4, Paternoster Square, (off Newgate Street, E.C.)

MANCHESTER :--25, Dale Street.

GLASGOW :--36, North Frederick Street.

MELBOURNE :--The Strand, 152-154 Elizabeth Street.

CAPETOWN :--P.O. Box 1104.

CONSTANTINOPLE :--P. Schild, Stamboul.

MANUFACTURERS OF

The Crompton Axminster

VICTORIA AXMINSTER.

PATENT AXMINSTER (in piece and Seamless Squares).

WILTON AND BRUSSELS CARPETS AND SQUARES.

WALK, TWILL & DUTCH CARPETS & RUGS.

PATENT AXMINSTER RUGS AND MATS OF ALL KINDS,

Seating, Rugs, and Mats for Church, Railway, Ship Saloon and Hotel purposes.

WING RUGS AND MATS.

BEAM RUGS AND MATS.

CORRIDOR RUGS AND BILLIARD SURROUNDS.

LEGATONS: "Smithsons," Kidderminster.

REGIONAL TELEPHONE: No. 8, Kidderminster.

" " " " London, 446, Holborn.

Glasgow (Corporation) No. 5069.

Morton & Sons,
The Carpet Manufacturing Company Limited.

Offices and Works: **Kidderminster.**
NEW ROAD,

++++	LONDON WAREHOUSE: 35 and 36 Warwick Lane,	++++
////	Newgate Street, E.C.	++++
++++	PARIS " " 149 Rue Montmartre.	++++
////	LONDON " " The Strand, 152-154, Elizabeth Street.	++++
++++	CAPETOWN: P.O. Box, 1104.	++++
////	ALEXANDRIA & CAIRO: Messrs. Kortenhaus & Hammerstein.	++++

Manufacturers of
BRUSSELS, WILTON,
AND
ROYAL AXMINSTER
Carpets and Rugs.

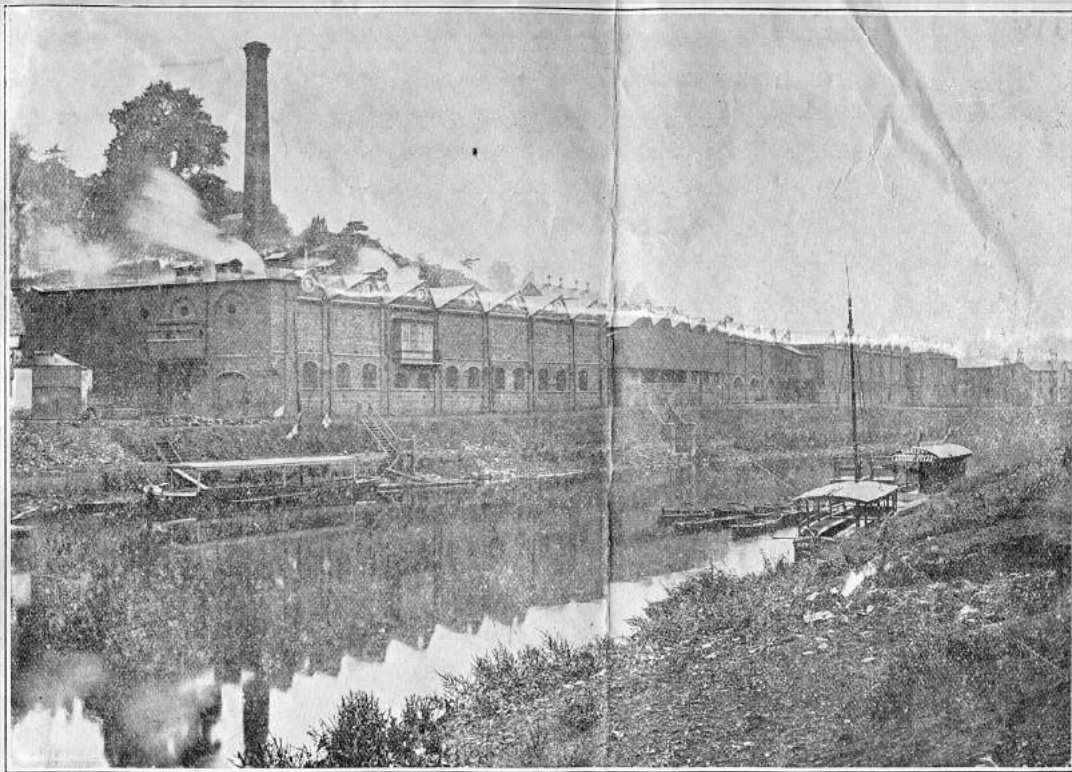
TELEGRAMS *1/2*" Velvets, " LONDON.
" " Mortons, " KIDDERMINSTER.
CABLEGRAMS *1/2*" Velvets, " LONDON.

TELEPHONE Nos. 1—Kidderminster, 48.
London, 519 Holborn.

A.B.C. Code used, 4th Edition.



Carpets and Rugs



MESSRS. H. & M. SOUTHWELL'S WORKS, "THE FRIARS," BRIDGNORTH.

H. & M. SOUTHWELL, LIMITED BRIDGNORTH

One of the best known Firms in the
English Carpet Trade

The carpet manufacturing business now carried on by Messrs. H. & M. SOUTHWELL, LIMITED was established early in the last century by Mr. Josiah Southwell, the father of Mr. T. Martin Southwell, the present chairman. It proved a successful attempt to introduce a new industry into Bridgnorth, and during the period of nearly a century in which the business has been carried on, it has remained the only carpet manufactory in the quaint old Shropshire town.

So far as the personnel of the business is concerned, its history has been uneventful. From the date of its establishment until a comparatively recent date it remained in the hands of members of the same family, who are still actively engaged in the business. Twelve years ago the firm was converted into a Limited Company, the present Directors of which are Mr. T. Martin Southwell (Chairman), and Messrs. Edmund and W. Lascelles Southwell, W. H. T. Hardings, and W. Westcott.

A notable, and by no means the least commendable, feature of H. & M. Southwell's business has been, and still is, the ever cordial relations existing between employer and employed. At several periods four generations of one family have been employed in the mills at the same time, a circumstance which is possibly unique in the annals of the carpet trade in England.

We have already referred to the introduction of the industry into Bridgnorth. For some years after the establishment of the business the work was carried on in a few scattered buildings, both the premises and equipment being naturally of the crudest kind as compared with those now in use. In 1820 the first building was erected on the present site, where a number of hand looms were operated. In 1857-8 the first power looms were installed.

It may not be generally known that the present factory buildings were erected on the site of a Franciscan monastery, hence the name of the factory "The Friars." The site is as admirable as it is picturesque and pleasant, having a long river frontage and adjoining Friars Street, with, in spite of frequent enlargements, still further space available for future developments.

There is, however, to-day no evidence of antiquity in or about the factory. All of the buildings are of the most modern construction, as may be inferred from the excellent river-side view of the works we present herewith. Of recent years a number of very extensive additions have been made to the factory buildings, and still further enlargements are in contemplation.

The mechanical equipment is in keeping with the general construction and arrangement of factory buildings, comprising the latest and most approved looms and appliances known to the trade. In all the productive processes progressive ideas have been adopted, every method or device which can lessen the cost without impairing the quality being used. In the past few years machine dyeing and many other improvements, including patented machinery, have been added, and a complete system of electric lighting has been installed in all the departments. From what has been said as to the change in the character and extent of the buildings and mechanical equipment, the gratifying growth of the business may be readily inferred. Fully five hundred and fifty operators are now given constant employment.

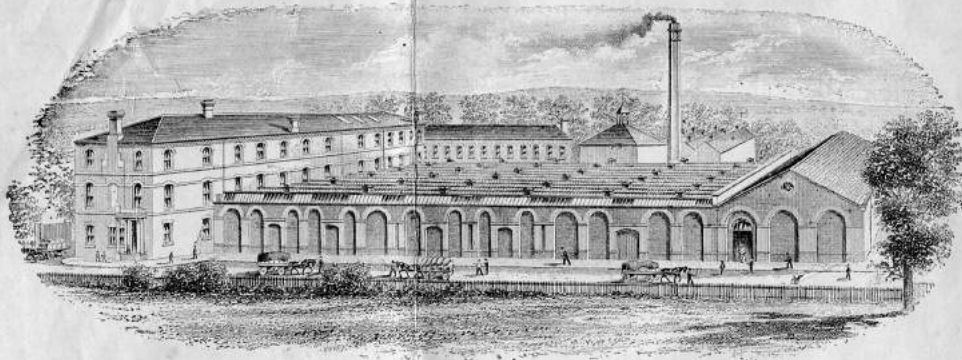
When the industry was originally established Brussels, Venetians, and other carpets were made. To-day the company is mainly concerned in the manufacture of Brussels, Wiltons, Saxonies, and Axminsters in many special qualities. They employ a large staff of designers, both at Bridgnorth and in London, whose efficiency is largely responsible for the high reputation the company's product has gained in the markets of the world.

It is but just to state, however, that the marked success which has attended the company's efforts has been as much the result of business integrity as of business enterprise and acumen. During the entire history the firm's carpets, of whatever weave, have represented the highest stage of manufacture, as regards the material entering into them, the conditions under which they are made, and the care given to every process. In their fidelity to the thorough and honest methods which have gained for British-made goods their pre-eminence throughout the world, the company has exercised a most wholesome influence in the English carpet trade generally.

Messrs. H. & M. Southwell's makes of carpets have not only long enjoyed a high reputation in England, but in practically all the markets of the world their excellence is recognised. At a number of international exhibitions, notably at London in 1862, and in Paris in 1878 and 1900, the company's products gained highest awards for excellence of texture and design. A number of travelling representatives, both in this country and abroad, are kept on the road with more than average success.

In keeping with the plan of this publication we have not attempted a detailed description of carpet weaving, as carried on in Messrs. H. & M. Southwell's factory. The purpose of the series of brief articles presented in these pages, and in which we feel it a pleasure to refer to this company, is merely to point out the general advantages and achievements of the carpet manufacturers of this district. Our purpose also precludes an extended comment on the personnel of the company. We, cannot, however, refrain from alluding in a word to the high esteem in which all of the Messrs. Southwell are held, both in the trade generally and in the community in which their works have meant so much to the industrial classes. In addition to maintaining a very flourishing industry they have taken a prominent part in every movement calculated to advance the higher interests of their town and district.

Carpets and Rugs



SEVERN VALLEY MILLS, STOURPORT.

Messrs. THOMAS BOND WORTH and SONS, Limited, Stourport

Manufacturers of High-grade Carpets
and Rugs

In referring to the extensive carpet works operated by Messrs. THOMAS BOND WORTH AND SONS, LIMITED, and known as the "Severn Valley Mills," we shall not attempt to be in the least technical. Although carpet weaving is one of the most primitive of industries, it is at the same time one of

the most highly developed, and its bibliography is sufficiently interesting and abundant. In keeping with the plan of this issue we shall merely point out the part the Severn Valley works have played in the industrial life of this section and shall suggest a few of the peculiar features which have given them their importance.

The business was established in 1850 by the late Mr. Thomas Bond Worth, with whom were associated his brothers, Messrs. William and Joseph Worth. The founder had the advantage of a natural as well as an acquired aptitude. He had been familiar with the carpet industry from his youth, his father, Mr. William Henry Worth, having been a member of the well-known firm of Butcher, Worth, and Holmes. Mr. Thomas Bond Worth was himself connected with the above firm for a number of years, before establishing the business to which this brief article is devoted. In 1866, after successfully carrying on the business in conjunction with his brothers for sixteen years, he withdrew and started a factory of his own, the present works being the outgrowth of that venture. In 1896, upon his decease, his sons, Messrs. E. B. and R. B. Worth, became the managing directors, and the company was made into a limited company at the same date.

Like the majority of the carpet factories which hold a prominent place in the trade that of Thomas Bond Worth & Sons Ltd., represents the continuous growth of a number of years. The first factory buildings were on the site now occupied by the Anglo-American Tin Stamping Works, one half mile from their present location. The original buildings would be lost in those now in use, while the machinery, equipment, and methods have undergone a like progressive evolution.

During the entire history of the factory there has never been an enforced cessation of the industry, although it has naturally suffered to some extent from the periods of depression which have proved so serious to many carpet manufacturers throughout the kingdom. In fact, the factory buildings have been frequently enlarged and improved, particularly in recent years, and

they to-day embody the most modern and most approved ideas in construction and arrangement. Since 1896 a new dye-house, one of the largest and finest in the country, and a complete Axminster mill have been added, besides a number of less important structures. Several years ago a large mill was also purchased at Stroud, in Gloucestershire, and devoted principally to the manufacture of rugs. We present herewith an excellent engraving giving a general view of the "Severn Valley Mills" at Stourport. The engraving, however,

while giving a fair general idea of the works, does not show several of the more recent additions.

In the numerous extensions to the buildings, the object was not only to permit of the manufacture of an increased quantity of carpets, but also to better the conditions in which the artisans perform their work. The management have always realised that in the production of high-grade carpets, it is essential that the work should be performed in sanitary, comfortable, and cleanly surroundings, as in every form of work the individuality of the artisan is indelibly stamped on the product of his hands.

The present premises at Stourport occupy approximately five acres of ground, a large part of which is under roof. Adjoining the enclosed premises the company owns a considerable tract of vacant land, which is held in reserve for further extensions should they be necessary. Both at Stourport and at Stroud the factories have a decided advantage in that their environment is all that could be wished, being in both cases surrounded by the open fields. In this respect the works are much superior to many in this and other carpet manufacturing centres, as factory buildings are frequently so crowded among other buildings as to materially interfere with the comfort of the operatives, and to retard the work in its transition from stage to stage.

The above consideration suggests a phase of Thomas Bond Worth & Sons' business to which the members of the company might not care to allude, but of which we feel privileged to speak. We refer to the unusually cordial relations existing between employer and employed. During the entire history of the industry the head and the hands have effectually co-operated, a condition which the present managing directors are maintaining, the result being that the proprietors obtain from their workers the best results of which they are capable.

At the present time the company employ in the "Severn Valley Mills" and elsewhere nearly five hundred hands, and upwards of 120 looms are kept going full time. Owing to the large space covered

by the various buildings every process is allowed ample room, with a resulting economy of time and labour. During our recent inspection of the factory, in the course of which we were shown through most of the departments, we were greatly impressed with the excellence of the arrangements, and with the size, lighting, ventilation, and general cleanliness and order of every room—a statement which we have made only after the comparison with the other principal factories in the section.

As is well-known to the trade, Thomas Bond Worth & Sons, Ltd., manufacture all kinds of Brussels, Wilton, and Axminster carpets, and chenille rugs and squares, the latter, as we have stated, being made principally at Stroud. They employ their own staff of designers, whose efforts have been largely responsible for the favour which the company's carpets have met in the markets of the world. They also employ their own travelling representatives who regularly visit the leading centres of this and other countries, and resident representatives are retained in London, Manchester, Bradford, and other cities throughout the world. The company's export trade is considerable, particularly in Canada and Australia.

While Thomas Bond Worth & Sons have been equally successful in the manufacture of all kinds and grades of carpets, they have made for some years a special feature of the manufacture of the best second quality Brussels. For general purposes—particularly for cleanliness and therefore healthiness—a well-made Brussels carpet cannot be excelled, particularly when the price is brought within the reach of the average purchaser. In putting on the market a thoroughly well-made, serviceable, attractive and cheap Brussels, the company has been of great advantage to the English buyer, who for the sake of economy has been too prone to use the inferior and unsanitary carpets imported from German, Belgian and Eastern factories.

Since the purpose of this brief article precludes an extended personal reference, we can add but a word to the personnel of the company. The present managing directors, Messrs. E. B. and R. B. Worth, are both young men, and both have been practically brought up in the business of which they are the head. They have brought to the business an unusual degree of progressiveness, which is evident, even to the casual observer who is privileged to inspect their factory. They are quick to adopt new methods and ideas, whenever they are found to have any value, as may be readily inferred from the success with which the keen competition of recent years has been met.



Carpets and Rugs



Messrs. **WOODWARD, GROSVENOR, & Co., Ltd.**
The Stour Vale and Worcester Cross Mills

In 1850 the carpet industry of Kidderminster was in a bad way. The era of prosperity which the town had so long enjoyed seemed doomed. The power loom had been invented, and, like the railway engine which ruthlessly swept thousands of existences out of its way when it appeared on the high road of England to monopolise the carrying trade, it threatened to ruin the hand-loom weavers of whom there were numbers in Kidderminster, and who had hitherto lived in times of uninterrupted prosperity.

But now the power-loom had come. Small manufacturers and cottage weavers alike were at a loss to meet the danger that was threatening them. To fight the power-loom seemed insane, for to compete with it would be impossible; to buy it was equally impossible to people who had no capital—at any rate, not sufficient capital. What were they to do?

Things were looking black indeed for Kidderminster—for the trade means Kidderminster,—when the late Earl of Dudley, then Lord Ward, came to the rescue of the industry. Being one of the largest land-owners in Worcestershire, residing in the neighbourhood of the town, and having a number of interests in the borough, he was anxious to assist the trade, if he could, and to see the industry remain in its prosperous condition. Accordingly he invited a number of manufacturers to discuss the state of affairs with him, and the outcome of the meeting was that he erected the Stour Vale Mills,—still popularly called Lord Ward's sheds, in perpetuation of his name—with a range of weaving sheds for power looms. The sheds were leased to Mr. William Grosvenor (father of the present head of Messrs. Woodward, Grosvenor & Co.), and his friend Mr. Joseph Kiteley. These two gentlemen supplied the steam power, and sublet various sections of the mills to seven of the local carpet manufacturers, and considering the risk and responsibility involved in the enterprise, certainly deserved the right of sharing with the noble lord the credit of being instrumental in resuscitating the staple trade of Kidderminster. For this co-operation with the manufacturers proved the turning point in the development of the industry, and Kidderminster was able to meet competition. As time went on, trade expanded.

Among the original tenants was the old-established firm of Henry Woodward and Sons. The Woodward Family had had a very long association—dating back to the eighteenth century—with the carpet trade, and with Kidderminster. Some very early designs for carpets, several of them over one hundred years old, are still in the possession of the firm, and were shown amongst other interesting matters to the Chinese Ambassador, when he visited Kidderminster a few years ago.

In 1864, the existing partners (the brothers Henry Toye and George Gower Woodward) dissolved partnership, and the plant and effects of the firm were transferred to Messrs. H. T. Woodward and G. W. Grosvenor trading as Woodward and Grosvenor. Mr. Grosvenor, now the head of the business, was the only son of the gentlemen mentioned above, and thus began his business career as a young man of 18 years of age.

The manufacturing plant at Stour Vale Mills, taken over by the new firm, comprised only 14 Brussels looms, and about 50 hands in all were employed. Gradually—as the other manufacturing tenants left the Stour Vale Mills for various reasons (generally to occupy premises of their own)—Woodward & Grosvenor absorbed

the whole of the premises, and finally purchased the property from the Earl of Dudley.

During the first twenty years the progress of the firm was rapid; looms were continually being added, and although the Stour Vale Mills cover an area of several acres, even this extensive accommodation became too small, and in 1883, just before the death of Mr. Woodward, the firm entered into the possession of the very fine buildings at Worcester Cross. Whilst the Brussels and Wilton continued to be made at the Stour Vale Mills, the Worcester Cross premises accommodate the offices, designing studios, and show room, with the large Axminster weaving sheds and packing and dispatch rooms immediately at the rear.

In 1890 the business was converted into a limited liability company, as Woodward, Grosvenor and Company, Limited, Mr. G. W. Grosvenor becoming chairman and managing director. It is under his regime that the company has been able to successfully meet the severe competition at home, and a severer competition abroad.

Excepting that the manufacturing is carried on in two works, instead of one compact building, one might justly regard either of them as a model mill. Most of



MR. G. W. GROSVENOR, D.L., J.P.

the departments are fitted with the latest plants, all buildings are lofty, light and airy; and much consideration is given to the comfort and well-being of the workpeople. It is this latter point which is perhaps most readily noticed by a casual observer: the feeling of content shown by the workpeople. The development of industrialism has a tendency to kill sentiment and sentimentalism. Steam power and the congregating together in factories of large numbers of workpeople are not favourable to the continuance of patriarchal relationship between master and servant, and in its place are often substituted the mere business relations of employers to employed. Yet even to-day a friendly feeling may exist between "master and man," and it is the evidence of that which one meets on all sides, that is the most interesting feature of these works. Girls who sing at their work; young men who feel a friendly respect towards their employers; older men who started here as boys, saw the trade grow step by step, and take now an absorbing interest in the work, the success of which they helped to establish; old men of seventy or eighty who will tell you how it used to be in the carpet trade and what they used to do "long before young master

was born"—all this seems in strange contrast to the hissing of the steam, the whirring of the spindle, and the clanging of the looms; but it proves that the lives of the workpeople may be made comfortable even under modern conditions of work, and without in the least relaxing that discipline without which no modern factory could be carried on satisfactorily for a day. The oldest veteran in the carpet trade of Kidderminster, a man of eighty-seven years of age, is still working here in a department where some old-fashioned rug looms are still kept on by Mr. Grosvenor to find suitable employment for some of the oldest hands. Another one has been in charge of the starching room for over sixty years, and there are quite a number of men with forty and fifty years' service to their credit. Facts like these let us understand the relationship that exists here between employer and employed, and which honours master and man alike.

To deal now with the departments themselves; we are attracted at Stour Vale Mills, after a walk through the storehouse, where tons upon tons of woollen, worsted, jute, and cotton yarn, raw, washed, or coloured, are stored (each kind by itself in large cribs) by the dye-house with its fine modern plant. The yarns are dyed here in large vats, and are then dried in the large "Partridge" patent dyeing machine—invented by S. S. Partridge, who was formerly in the firm's employ as foreman of the building department. This machine, in which steam pipes and ventilating fans combine with marvellous effect to dry the yarn wholesale in far less time and in a softer condition than was possible before, is now in use in numbers of other spinning and carpet mills.

From the dyeing machine the yarn goes to the store rooms for coloured yarns, where an immense stock, with a bewildering number of shades, is kept. Every shade is separately labelled and numbered, the numbers corresponding with the register kept by the head-dyer and the weaving shed manager.

Yarn winding, from hank to bobbin, is done by machinery, tended by women and girls; and the starching and winding of the linen and cotton threads for the warp and weft or carpet backing is performed in like manner.

In the Brussels weaving shed a large number of Jacquard looms day in, day out, weave hundreds of yards of carpets, of beautiful colours and designs, partly for the home markets, partly for Canada, South America, Australia, and other countries. Tastes vary in various countries, and to please all tastes, if possible, the firm requires a large staff of designers who in conjunction with some of the leading public artists are responsible for the large selections of designs—now over 7,000—which have been woven at these mills. All the cards which have been stamped for the Jacquard from the designs, are classified and stored away, and can be promptly procured at any time a demand may spring up once more.

The carpets having been woven, they are passed on to the finishing rooms. Here any fault in the weaving is corrected, and after having been measured in an automatic measuring machine, and passed their final examination at the hands of expert examiners, they are taken to the stock room, from where in due course they go to adorn, perhaps, the library of a Park Lane mansion, the parlour of an estancia in South America, or the best room of a farmer on a lone station in Canada.

The manufacture of Axminster carpets was commenced by the firm in 1883, and year by year their weaving plant was increased till it has reached its present important dimensions. Readers know probably that, whereas the colours in a Brussels



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carpet are limited to about a dozen, there is practically no limit to the number of colours employed in an Axminster carpet. In fact, as many as 58,000 yarns are sometimes required to complete a single design. Axminster carpets take up double the time which is required to make a Brussels, and they are more elaborate and more expensive. They have become extremely popular, and those manufactured here receive their full share of the trade. The firm make several classes of their own in Axminsters, the Aristo, the Serato, the Imperial, and quite a new make, a heavy Turkey Axminster, which is protected by special patents. They are, practically, the only sole makers of the celebrated Royal Axminster, for which also they use a special loom invented and patented by themselves, and are the second largest manufacturers of Axminster carpets in Kidderminster.

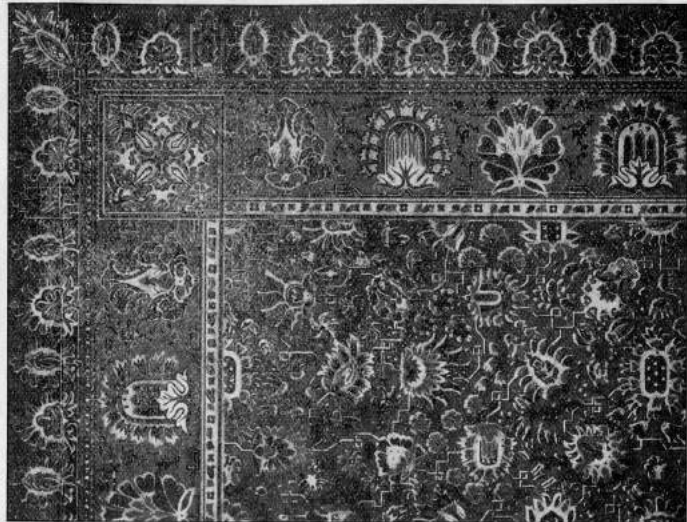
The process of weaving Axminster carpets is exceedingly interesting, but too technical to allow of an adequate description here. The results, however, are very beautiful, especially some of those of Oriental design, which we had an opportunity of inspecting. When woven, they have to submit to an elaborate toilette—in various stages, and much after the fashion of that of Brussels and Wiltons—and all that is wanting for the Axminster to fulfil its destiny is the order sent in by a traveller or by one of the many agents whom the Company employ in various parts of the world.

In the carpet industry of Kidderminster the influence exercised by the firm of Woodward, Grosvenor and Co., Limited, has been of a particularly distinct character. They were closely connected with the revival of the trade in the fifties and the way in which it was brought about, and ever since they have striven to set a standard not only in the quality of the goods manufactured, but also in the conditions under which they are manufactured. The personality of Mr. G. W. Grosvenor, the Chairman, is felt in every department of the large concern, and expressed in its firmly established position in the carpet industry of the country, and the excellent relationship between him and his work people.

Another commanding personality in this interesting concern is that of Mr. Henry Mountford, who began his career in the carpet trade with the older firm of Henry Woodward and Sons, and transferred his services to Woodward and Grosvenor when the new firm started. He went to London to take charge of that branch of the business early in the seventies. Mr. Grosvenor took him into partnership some years before the conversion of the business into a Limited Company, and Mr. Mountford has continued as Managing Director in London, where his energy, tact, and ability have wonderfully developed the trade of the firm.

In conclusion, we must refer to the wider circle in which Mr. Grosvenor has contrived to earn unqualified respect. He has been Mayor of the Borough three times, in 1882, 1892, and 1897. He is a member of the Town Council, and has been Chairman of the School for Science and Art Committee for 18 years. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County in 1886, and an original member of the County Council, and Chairman of the Technical Education Committee of that Council for the last 12 years. He is a Magistrate for the County of Worcester and Borough of Kidderminster. Some years ago, in recognition of his many high qualities, and the services he had rendered, he was presented by his friends with a magnificent portrait in oil of himself.

Mr. G. W. Grosvenor lives at Broome House, a charming old country residence near Stourbridge.



SKETCH OF A CHLIDEMA CARPET.

THE CHLIDEMA CARPET Co., Ltd. Green Street.



The history of the Chlidema Carpet Company is bound up with one of the most interesting chapters in the development of the carpet industry. Whilst not among the largest manufacturers, it was from these works that came one of the epoch-making inventions in the industry, and this History of Industrial Kidderminster may serve to place in its proper relation to the carpet industry the important part which the Chlidema works have filled in its evolution.

The firm was established originally by Mr. Hy. Fawcett, in partnership with Mr. Winnall, and carried on for some years as Winnall and Fawcett; afterwards Mr. Winnall retired, and the firm name was changed to Henry Fawcett and Co. In 1887 a private company was formed under the name of the Chlidema Carpet Company, Limited, Mr. Henry Fawcett becoming the first managing director.

In 1882 the invention which caused the radical change in the carpet industry was brought out and patented in this country and United States of America.

Our readers know—or for the benefit of those who are not versed in technical detail we will state—that all designing at that time was done by two designs, one for the body of the carpet, the other for the border. It follows that when the borders were fitted to the square body they had to be cut at the corners and sewn, showing four thick seams. To use more technical language the mitreing, as it is still done, is clumsy and wasteful in two senses. For not only does a carpet, manufactured on the three-quarter Jacquard, look clumsy and cause waste to the manufacturer, but also not being perfectly even it is not pleasing to the foot, and it is, owing to the protruding seam, sooner worn out, thereby causing waste to the buyer.

The second objection to the "mitreing" system is the false shading it causes. As only one border is designed it follows that when fitted three of them will of necessity run reversed to the body. Consequently, as the light falls upon the carpet, all four borders show a different effect, and three of them different to the body.

These were the principal objections to the making of Wiltons, as was then general. Every one saw the false shading in Wiltons, every one knew the marvellous effect of Oriental carpets—which are all hand made, and show, therefore, a perfect colour scheme throughout—the wide looms

not being then in general use, and with the 2-3 Jacquard it appeared impossible to obtain different results.

Then came this invention. It was the story of all important inventions over again. It was so simple that it was a wonder that no one had ever thought of it before. However, no one had. But of such importance was the invention regarded in the trade that six prominent firms applied for, and obtained from the Chlidema Works, a license to work the invention on their looms. The patent has now been expired several years, and there is now no further restriction for any manufacturer to adopt this invention, yet there can be no doubt that it was one of the most important steps made in the development of this industry and its results in their industrial, commercial, and aesthetic bearings were found to be of the most far-reaching nature.

The invention is in brief, a compromise between art and manufacture. It occurred to the management of this firm that all objections—the wastefulness, the rapid wearing out, owing to clumsy and protruding seams, and the false shading could be remedied by devising a different method of designing. Instead of the "two-design system" they had by way of experiment made five separate designs, in addition to that for the body, one each for the right and left side, one each for the right and left corner, and one for the top and bottom. When the pieces had been woven according to these designs the effect was entirely as anticipated; instead of the thick seamed mitreing there were seamless medallions, the corner squares shown in our illustration, and the shading like that in Oriental carpets perfect throughout, because of the pile running the same way.

The invention was a great achievement, and was immediately recognised as such. Though giving to carpets greater value, by perfecting the shading, and prolonging their lives, the invention actually tended to make carpets manufactured on this principle cheaper, owing to the prevention of waste, and the reduction of more than half of the expense of making up. In 1885 this was awarded the highest medal for carpets in the Inventions Exhibition, thus becoming officially recognised as the most important invention in the carpet industry of that day.

The demand for Chlidema carpets grew enormously, and continued to do so for many years. Eventually, owing to the lapse of the patents in the ordinary course, trade in Chlidemas came to a more even level, but the firm has ever remained



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amongst those who have a sustained demand for their goods, and whose orders continually keep the works employed to their full extent.

The word *Chlidema*, which was invented by Mr. Fawcett, and registered in 1883, has now become a recognised trade term for carpets made on this principle.

Mr. Henry Fawcett died in 1891, and after a short interregnum Mr. J. T. Johnson, who had for many years been connected with the firm, became managing director, Mr. John Barker becoming secretary and works manager. The other director is Mr. C. W. Oldland, who is in charge of the London office and warehouse.

The works at Green Street are not dissimilar from other carpet factories. There are the same yarn and worsted stores, dyehouses, winding and weaving sheds, finishing and dispatch rooms, the only difference between it and some others being perhaps the sense felt in every department of perfect system and order; and one goes away with the impression of having seen a large piece of machinery in which every little part moves in perfect unison with all others.

JOHN E. BARTON & SONS

Manufacturers of Best Grade Carpets and Rugs

The carpet manufacturing business now carried on under the firm name of Jno. E. Barton & Sons, in Vicar Street, has had a long and interesting history. Although the firm name has been changed several times, the business itself has been carried on continuously for upwards of 150 years, having been established about the middle of the eighteenth century. The Barton family first became identified with the business as active partners in 1852, when Messrs. Jno. E. Barton and T. Crane became the proprietors. After Mr. Crane's decease, in 1865, Mr. Jno. E. Barton carried on the business alone for twenty years, and upon his decease in 1885 his sons, Messrs. Everard and Charles Barton, became, and still remain, the sole partners.

After Mr. Barton became a partner in 1852 very extensive additions were made to the buildings and to the mechanical equipment and processes, and the firm was one of the first in Kidderminster to adopt steam power, which gave to carpet weaving an impetus which is still felt. Prior to the use of looms operated by steam much of the weaving was done in cottages, where conditions could be nothing like so cleanly and sanitary as in the modern factory.

In 1856 a large building was erected on the site which still forms a part of the premises in Vicar Street, and the most approved machinery and appliances were installed, the factory at that time, as today, embodying the best methods and ideas known to the art of weaving. The mechanical equipment now includes 54 power Brussels and Wilton looms and 35 Axminster hand looms. From time to time subsequently other buildings were added and existing ones enlarged. That portion of the factory which faces Vicar Street now has a frontage of 173 feet, and comprises two substantial four-storey buildings, which include the offices and extensive display rooms; while in the rear are the weaving sheds, dye rooms, &c., the premises extending back to the river.

Jno. E. Barton & Sons manufacture Brussels, Wiltons, Chenille Axminsters, and all kinds of rugs and squares, although they confine themselves to the best quality. The firm's carpets have not only gained recognition throughout the trade generally, but at several international exhibitions they have been awarded medals. At the exhibitions in London 1851, Dublin 1865 and 1872, and Melbourne 1880, they gained special recognition.

The history of the firm is in many respects an epitome of the carpet trade as it

has been carried on in Kidderminster for the past hundred years. During a recent visit to the factory we were taken through the spacious show rooms, and were shown a number of pieces of carpets which were made at different times, dating back for one hundred years. Among the fabrics shown us was one of special interest—a rug woven in 1814, and designed to commemorate the peace presaged by the victory of the allies over Napoleon in that year. Other pieces of much greater beauty, though not, perhaps, of equal historic interest, were those which were exhibited at the London Exhibition in 1851. In design, texture, finish and colouring, the latter represent the highest stage of weaving. The colouring, which after the lapse of fifty years seems remarkably fresh, is particularly noticeable, affording a striking comment on the thoroughly honest and enduring work which was once so characteristic of all British made goods, and which, we are pleased to say, is still characteristic of the products of this firm. The show room also contains hundreds of patterns which mark the ever varying changes in the public taste, the variety of design and colouring being almost bewildering.

As we stated in the preface to this issue, we have been privileged to refer to those of our carpet manufacturers who have done the most to bring and keep the trade to a high level. In this respect Jno. E. Barton & Sons are deserving of special comment.

THE VICTORIA CARPET COMPANY

Makers of Carpets for the Million

The most interesting, and one of the most extensive and best established departments of the carpet industry is the manufacture of tapestry and velvet pile carpeting. The ingenious process invented by Mr. R. Whytock, of Edinburgh, has been the means of bringing articles fit for the most refined and fastidious within the reach of all classes of the community, and a sketch of the industry, which is represented in Kidderminster by the Victoria Carpet Company, will no doubt be of the utmost interest to our readers.

The firm which has been the means of establishing this industry here was formerly located at Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire. Urgent reasons, however, such as the difficulty of procuring a sufficient amount of skilled labour, necessitated a removal, and in 1899 the Victoria Carpet Company began to gradually transfer their plant to the mill in Green Street which they now occupy and where so far their operations have been most successful.

Tapestry carpeting is a combination of the two arts, printing and weaving. It entails more supervision than the making of Brussels, for instance, much more intricate and varied machinery, and makes greater demands upon the scientific and practical knowledge of those engaged in this industry. The result is that whilst a good tapestry carpet is hard to distinguish from a Brussels carpet, the cost, owing to the ingenious process, is less than half; for whilst in the Brussels fabric five, six, or more threads are used, only a single thread is required in the tapestry carpeting.

The preliminary process does not vary greatly from that used in the Brussels and Axminster carpet manufacture. The yarn, as it is received from the spinner, is first scoured, hung on poles, and put into the sulphur chamber, where it is thoroughly purified. It is then wound on bobbins, and from these transferred to large printing drums, which constitute the pivot, as it were, of this industry. Being carried round and round these drums, sometimes to the length of many miles, the yarn, according to a pre-arranged design, is coloured step by step, half an inch at a

time, by means of a traversing wheel charged with colours and running at the bottom of the drum. The thread when uncovered will be found to be marked in as many places as there were coils exactly as indicated on the design paper, whereon the pattern is painted in small squares, each square being equal to one stroke of the colour pulley.

After the threads have been streaked with colour they are taken off and placed in a chamber, where the dyes are fixed by the action of steam. After having undergone a cooling process, received another bath, and passed the sorting room, they go to the setting department, where they are arranged by a number of skilful hands in setting frames, according to the squares of the design paper, to constitute the warp of the projected web. It is curious to notice here that whilst tapestry carpeting may be regarded as the highest development, technically speaking, of the industry, it has by its very scientific completeness brought about the supersession of the machine without which its sister manufactures would be helpless, namely, the Jacquard.

In the weaving room we see now the wonderful results of this brilliant invention. Dozens of looms turn out miles of carpets, which have almost exactly the appearance of Brussels, Wilton, and even Axminster pile, without entailing half or even less than half their cost. These tapestry carpets have a rich corded appearance, they have the same looped surface, which is caused by inserting a series of wires between the foundation and the superficial yarn, and afterwards withdrawing them. They also show, when desired, the rich, soft appearance of Wilton carpet. To produce the elastic pile of Wiltons, the wires—similar to those used in making Brussels carpets,—are furnished at the "outer" end with a sharp knife, which, as it is withdrawn, cuts the loop into a pile.

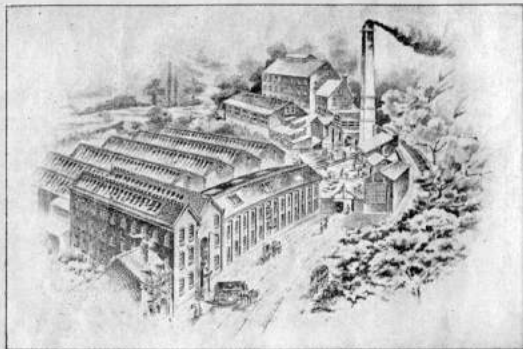
From the weaving sheds the carpets go to the various departments, such as the shearing room, the sewing room—where they are seamed by machine or by hand,—until eventually they arrive in the store and packing rooms, from where they go partly to satisfy home consumption and partly abroad—to almost every country under the sun.

The advantages of the tapestry carpeting over others are, that the looms are much simpler, occupying only one-third of the space in length of the Brussels looms; they do not require the vast number of bobbins of the Brussels loom, and their colour scheme, owing to the ingenious method of treating the yarn we have described, is illimitable. The artist, in designing for Brussels carpets, is confined to five or six colours; here any desired range of colours is available, and the result is that the colour scheme is more varied and more pleasing than in most Brussels.

The Tapestry carpet forms the medium between the odorous oilcloth and the luxurious high-grade carpet. As a nation's cleanliness is said to be measured by the amount of soap it consumes, so its standard of comfort will be shown by the extent to which carpets become general. Since Whytock's invention the desire for comfort—which is difficult to define, but is felt in a carpeted room—may be gratified by everyone. Owing to a number of able manufacturers, of whom the proprietors of the Victoria Carpet Company are among the leading representatives, rivaling with each other, the tapestry carpet of to-day, as manufactured here in Kidderminster, represents the highest development attained in the carpet industry. It is little more in price than oilcloth or linoleum, but is a carpet—and the difference between this and the malodorous floor covering means comfort or the absence of it.



Carpets and Rugs



GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWNSHEND MILLS.

Messrs. JELLEYMAN & SONS Townshend Works

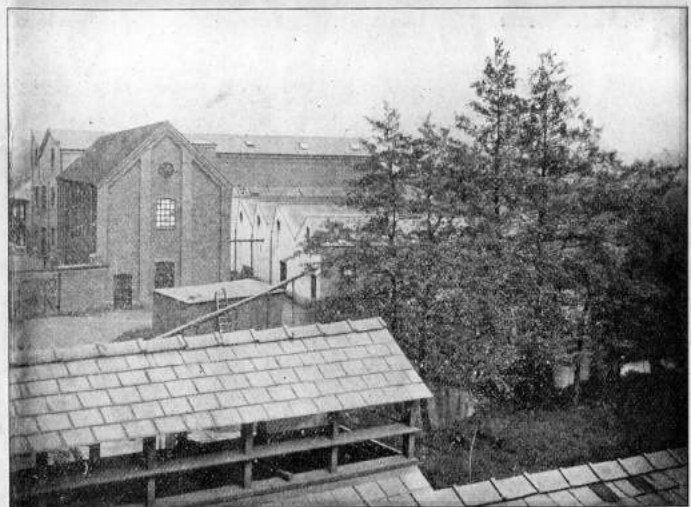
It would be difficult to find in this district a prettier spot on which to build a factory than that occupied by the Townshend Works, at the north end of the town. Nestling on the slope of the elevation on which stands the Infirmary, to anyone approaching them from Mill Street, they are completely hidden from view. Sheltered on three sides by trees, with the Stour slowly circling its way through the grounds, they present a pretty picture of rural scenery fit for the brush of a painter.

But the sites of "beehives of modern industry" are not chosen for their artistic effects. The peaceful calm of the landscape is broken by the whirring of numberless wheels, and the incessant clanging of machinery; for this rural spot is the home of the Townshend Works, one of the foremost manufactories of Axminster, Wilton, and Brussel carpets, and chenille rugs, of which enormous quantities are made here annually.

The important position which the firm of Messrs. Jelleyman and Sons hold in the carpet industry is due chiefly to their extremely progressive policy. Not only were, in consequence, the works considerably enlarged in 1890, and important additions made since then, but the main result has been that the firm has gained, in the manufacture of Axminsters in particular, a reputation which is not inferior to that of anyone.

Axminsters are either "chenille" or "Royal" Axminsters. The former take their peculiar name,—"chenille," or caterpillar,—from the appearance of the weft, which, as we will see if we pull to pieces a bit of the carpet, consists of a continuous string of fur—suggestive of a hairy caterpillar indefinitely extended. The process of weaving the fur is very interesting. As soon as the design, carefully and clearly printed on proper ruled paper, is received from the designer, each horizontal row of points is numbered on the margin left for the purpose: all the odd numbers running up one side against every other row, and all the even numbers up the other side against the alternate rows. The design is then cut into slips. This necessitates very durable design paper being used, and most firms use a paper which consists of three thicknesses, the middle one being cloth.

These slips are then passed to the weavers who, on the weft loom, weave a sort of webbing which reproduces the design as it appeared when the narrow slips, into which it had been cut, are placed end to end in the order in which the marginal numbers ran.



MESSRS. JELLEYMAN & SONS' TOWNSHEND WORKS.

The weaver commencing with the first slip of the design selects a shuttle of yarn matching the colour of the first point; this is shot across the loom, and tied in with the warp threads; then the colour of the next point is selected and so on, point by point, until the whole of the design has been "read off" and woven into the web.

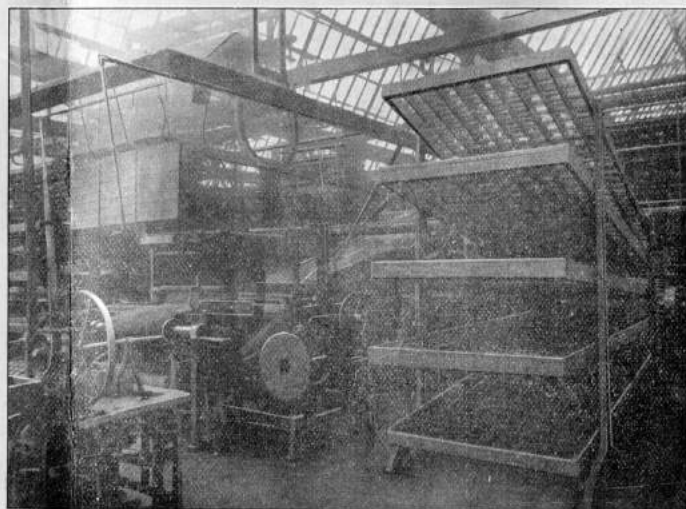
This is now taken to a machine where a series of knives cut it into longitudinal strips of fur; the same machine, acting on the knowledge of one of the well-known properties of wool, treats the strips with moisture and heat, and forces them to assume the exact shape which it is desired they should take. What was a moment ago a piece of beautiful cloth when it entered the machine, is now numberless coils of caterpillars, made of wool, and rejoicing in all the hues of the rainbow.

The second stage in the manufacture of the "Chenille Axminster" takes place on the "setting" loom and is exceedingly simple. The chenille is wound on spools and set into the warp, being "thrown" or "carried" from right selvedge to left, and from left to right alternately throughout the length of the carpet.

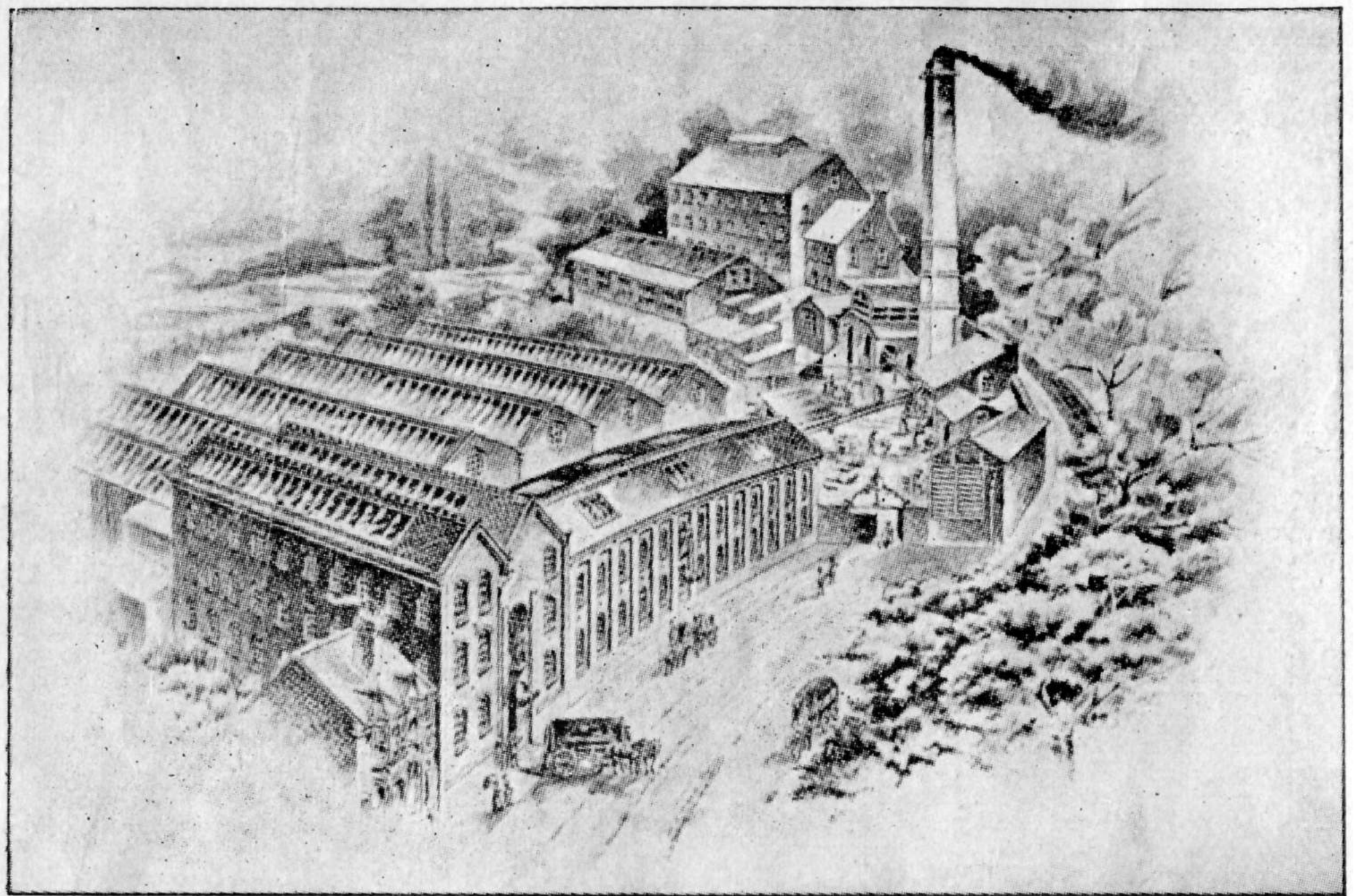
The importance of this branch of carpet manufacture lies in the fact that the chenille loom affords great latitude of quality. It is adaptable to most qualities of material and to coarse or fine "pitch." The result is that they have become extremely popular, and the quantity manufactured at the Townshend Mills annually is very considerable.

The other class of Axminster carpets which this firm manufacture is the "Royal," the process of manufacture of which we have described in a previous article. But whilst the procedure is not dissimilar to that obtaining in other factories, the results are often much superior, on account of the scrupulous care which is bestowed on the making, and on account of the beautiful designs, for the production of which the talent of most of the leading carpet designers is called into service.

The same remark applies to the Brussels carpets manufactured by this firm. Whilst they cannot for a moment claim to compare with the Axminster, yet for positions where a strong, cleanly carpet is wanted, capable of standing hard wear, and in which the colours are as "fast"



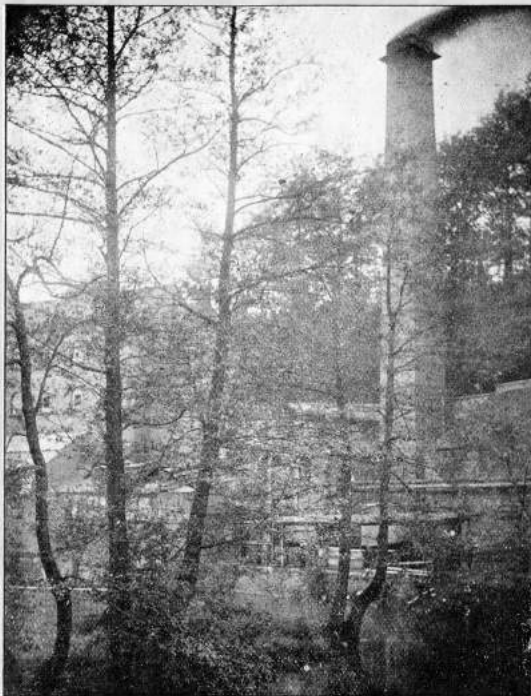
AN INTERIOR VIEW, TOWNSHEND WORKS.



Townshend Mills



Carpets and Rugs



as one can reasonably expect, there is no carpet to equal Brussels. Viewed from an artistic standpoint, while it is true that it cannot give the softness and richness of Axminster, it is none the less true that its possibilities of vulgarity in colour are much more restricted. It lends itself most naturally to the refined designs and quiet, simple colourings, and it is here that the work done by this firm compares to such advantage with some makes of Brussels, a cultured taste and a happy choice in selecting designs having combined to gain for them the high reputation which they now hold.

The firm of Messrs. Jelleyman and Sons consist of Messrs. F. F. Jelleyman and his two sons, Mr. F. J. R. Jelleyman and Mr. S. F. Jelleyman. They share among them the management, and the credit of having placed their works into that prominent position which they now occupy in the carpet industry in the country.

ANOTHER VIEW OF MESSRS. JELLEYMAN AND SONS' WORKS.



HIGH STREET, KIDDERMINSTER,—SIXTY YEARS AGO.

CARPET WEAVERS' ASSOCIATION

One of Kidderminster's Most Useful Organizations



The Carpet Weavers' Association was founded in 1866, under its first title, "The Kidderminster and Stourport United Brussels Power Loom Carpet Weavers' Friendly Society." In 1868 this title was altered to the "Power Loom Carpet Weavers' Mutual Defence and Provident Association," by which it has been known up to the present time.

The Committee carried on the business of the Society for some time at the Vine Inn, Horsefair; but in 1870 they took up their quarters at 28, Church Street, in a room they rented from the Workmen's Club, and remained there until 1887, when they transferred the business of the Association to their present office at 105, Mill Street.

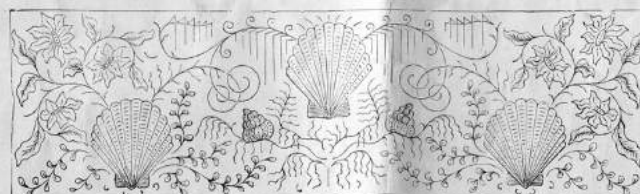
Although the original idea was to establish a Trade Defence Association, the Society very soon took up what is termed Friendly Society work. In 1867 we find they were paying accident and funeral benefits; in 1868 they commenced sick pay; and in 1877 it was decided to pay superannuation claims. At the present time the Association has 85 members upon the superannuation list, most of them men who took part in founding the Society. The Society gradually added to the number of benefits to its members until, at the present time, we find that out of an income of £1,934 18s. 5d. for last year £1,645 9s. 5d. was paid for friendly society benefits, subscriptions and donations.

The following figures, showing the amounts paid for benefits to the sick and disabled, for superannuation and for funerals, may convey some idea of the work done by the Society since its formation:—

	£	s.	d.
Sick Pay	19,890	17	10
Superannuation ...	10,600	9	6
Funerals	6,353	9	2
Total.....	£36,844	16	6

In addition to these figures various and considerable sums have been applied to other useful purposes.

The amount spent in trade disputes, we are pleased to say, has been but small as compared with the above figures. Of late years disputes seem to have been avoided, to a considerable extent, by the adoption of conciliation. The Carpet Weavers' Association's affairs have been capably administered, and both the officers and the great body of the members represent the thrift and intelligence of our industrial class. The Society has held, and still holds, a very important place in the town's industrial life, and has consistently laboured to advance the interests of both employer and employed.





Carpet Designers



F. J. MAYERS and G. H. WOODHOUSE

Associates of the Society of Designers

All art is conditioned by the material in which it is expressed. The limitations to the artist arising from this source are amplified in applied art; and for the decorative artist, such as the designer of carpets, there exist difficulties which are the cause that carpet designing has been comparatively neglected, and that it is still shunned for those very reasons by many eminent designers.

That no designing can be good apart from the knowledge of the material in which the design is intended to be carried out, is a truth seeking recognition. In curtains, tapestry, and carpets, (more particularly, perhaps, the latter), almost the first requirement for a designer is to have an intimate knowledge, not only of the material but of the many intricate processes of manufacture which the wonderful development of the carpet industry has brought about, and of which on the preceding pages we have endeavoured to give a complete description.

Property of Messrs. R. SMITH & SONS.

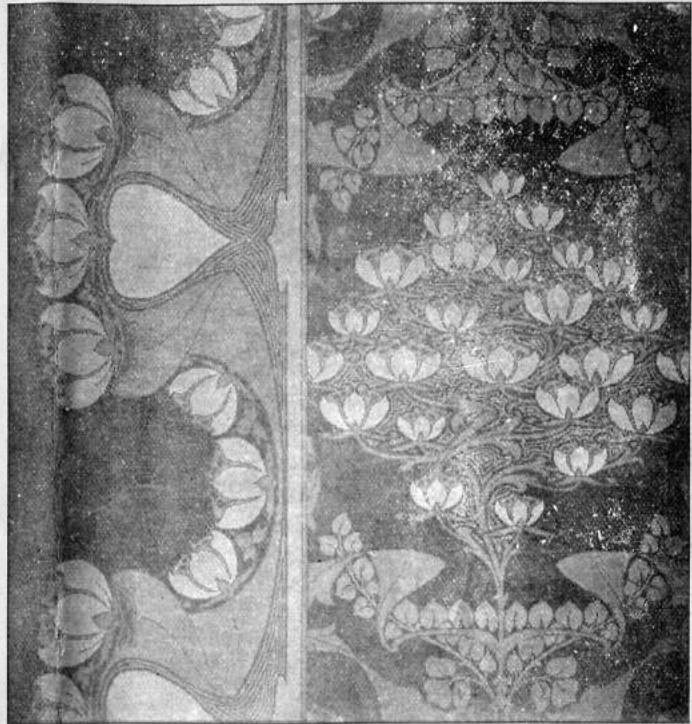


Mayers & Woodhouse.

The artist who designs for manufactured goods works under peculiar disadvantages. The salesman has no pretensions to be a Maecenas, but only to sell. His demand of the decorative artist is for such art as will help him to dispose of his goods. The keen rivalry existing between the cultured nations has tended to bring this aspect into prominent relief, and decorative art is apt to be made subservient, or perhaps a slave, to the market, and only a few individualities are powerful enough to resist this tendency of being obliterated by the commercial exigencies.

Of the designers in Kidderminster Mr. F. J. Mayers is *facile princeps*; and as this town is the most important centre of the carpet industry, and as his designs are largely sought for in England and abroad, the enviable position which he holds in

Property of Messrs. J. E. BARTON & SONS.



MAYERS & WOODHOUSE.

decorative art will easily be seen. To equip himself for that place he has had the advantage of a most varied experience in the designing of carpets.

Apart from School of Art work his experience began with a few years' training in a private designer's studio; after that he spent about three years on the staff of one of the leading carpet firms of Kidderminster, in order to gain an intimate knowledge of the requirements of the manufacturer, and following that he spent a year or two in Paris, studying French decorative art, and designing the while exclusively for English firms. On his return to England

in 1889, he opened a studio in Kidderminster.

"At that time," we are quoting from *The Artist*, "designing had not been brought under the influence of the Renaissance of decorative art. Excepting the carpets of William Morris, very few designs would have fulfilled modern artistic requirements. Mr. Mayers studied to modernise and to add what style and originality might be practicable to the prevalent style, and a great deal of the improvement that has since become noticeable may be traced to him."

Property of Messrs. MORTON & SON.



Mayers & Woodhouse.



Carpet Designers

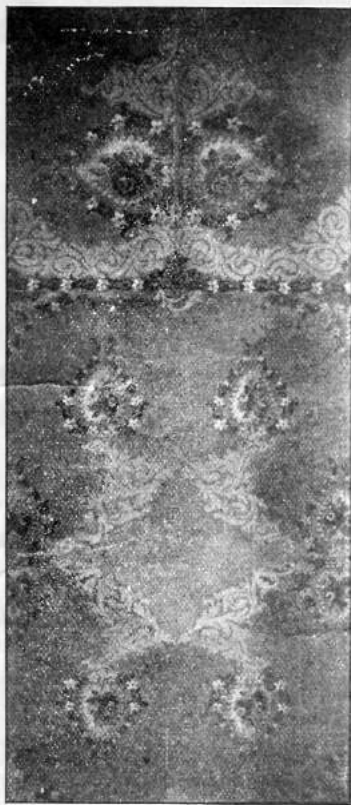


"His work soon extended so much that he thought it advisable to take a partner, and he was joined in 1892 by Mr. G. H. Woodhouse."

Mr. Woodhouse's training was mainly in the studios of two of the leading Kidderminster designers, supplemented by School of Art work. He has always been closely connected with the manufacture of carpets, his father having for many years the management of what was then an important firm. Mr. Woodhouse also spent some little time under his father, acquiring technical knowledge of the manufacture.

The artistic partnership of the two has been productive of excellent results, enhancing the prestige of either collaborator. It would be difficult to ascribe any design issuing from their studio solely to one or to the other; both partners generally share more or less the responsibility for each design.

Property of Messrs. COOKE, SONS, & Co.



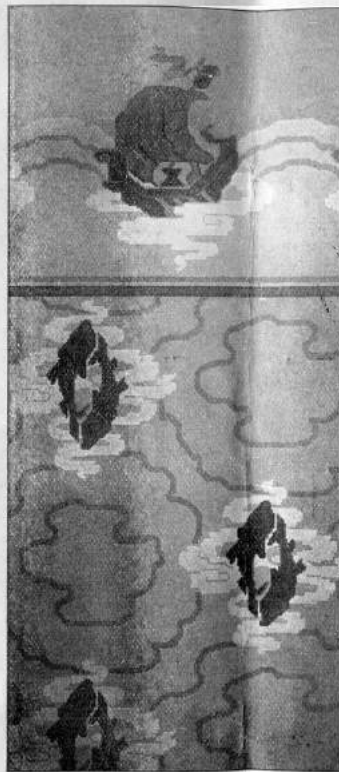
Messrs. Mayers & Woodhouse

The designs of which we give illustrations have been selected to show various styles, but being engravings they cannot even inadequately convey an idea of the general effect which the originals present.

Mr. Mayers, who is a member of the Council of the Society of Designers, also an associate, (as is his colleague, Mr. Woodhouse), may be regarded as the leader of the modern English school of carpet designing, and his work in designing, lecturing, and writing, has resulted in enriching to no small degree the decorative art of England.

Mr. Mayers and Mr. Woodhouse have gathered together an exceptionally fine art library and spare no study to keep themselves well abreast of the art movements at home and abroad and closely acquainted with the finest works of decorative art of all periods.

Property of Messrs. TOMKINSON & ADAM



Messrs. Mayers & Woodhouse

Mr. Mayers and Mr. Woodhouse have recently entered into an agreement with Messrs. Arnold, Constable & Co., of New York, whose position in the carpet and decorative world is so universally recognised, by which all their Axminster, Wilton, and Brussels designs for the United States are exclusively reserved to that firm. This agreement, of course, in no way interferes with Messrs. Mayers and Woodhouse's relationships in all other countries.

GEORGE LEES

Carpet, Rug, and Tapestry Designer

Mr. George Lees, who has long been known as one of Kidderminster's most capable designers, acquired his technical training and professional knowledge here. He is one of the oldest-established designers in the trade, having been engaged in his calling for thirty years or over.

He had the advantage of a natural artistic talent, which was carefully cultivated. He was one of the most proficient students in the old School of Art, where he gained several highly valued prizes for excellent work, among the prizes being not fewer than nine medals, and one national medallion. In his home may still be seen a number of very handsome paintings which he has executed at various times.

In the course of his professional work as a designer he has been directly connected for a number of years with several of our largest carpet factories, although in recent years he has not restricted himself to any one factory. He has supplied a number of the principal manufacturers in England and on the Continent with his designs, which have gained wide recognition. He does his own travelling, making frequent visits to the leading factories, and he has twice visited the carpet centres of America, where his work was fully appreciated. In the course of

Continental and American tours he invariably picks up new ideas which he turns to good account. In his studio in Woodfield Crescent we were shown some very pleasing effects in figure and colour, his own productions comparing very favourably with the best designs we have seen elsewhere.

Mr. Lees is a member of the Society of Designers, which he assisted in organising, and of which he was appointed chairman at the first meeting held in Kidderminster. He was also for some years contributor to the "Bradford Technical Journal," to which publication he submitted a number of designs for curtains, tapestries, and other fabrics, these designs eliciting favourable comment from all sources. In his personal relations, as well as in trade circles, he has always enjoyed the highest standing, and we take this opportunity of congratulating him upon his long and successful services.

J. MILLER PERRIN

Designer of Carpets and Rugs

The business carried on by Mr. J. MILLER PERRIN, designer, is one of the oldest of its kind in Kidderminster, having been established and for a long period carried on by his father, Mr. Edward Perrin. For many years Mr. Edward Perrin was widely and favourably known in the carpet trade of England and the Continent, and he succeeded in securing a wide connection which sufficiently attests his ability.

Three years ago the subject of these lines succeeded to the business, since when he has fully sustained its high reputation. He designs all kinds of Axminster, Brussels and Wilton carpets and rugs, and his connection includes the principal manufacturers in the kingdom. He does his own travelling, making frequent successful visits to the English, Scotch and French factories.

Mr. Perrin's office and workrooms are in the Commercial Buildings, where he has ample accommodation for a large staff. He at present requires a force of ten assistants. His premises are conveniently arranged and admirably lighted.

Wm. WINBURY

Designer of Carpets, Tapestry, and other Fabrics

Mr. Wm. Winbury, to whom we can but briefly allude in this notice, belongs to the older school of carpet and tapestry designers, having been engaged in his present calling for a period of over thirty years. During all of this time he has remained in Kidderminster, where he was apprenticed, and where his services have long been recognised.

Mr. Winbury gives equal attention to designing all classes of carpets, although he has achieved some of his greatest successes in what are known as chintz and French scroll designs. He includes among patrons the leading carpet manufacturers throughout the kingdom, whom he frequently visits personally.

Mr. Winbury is an artist by natural temperament as well as training. He was one of the most successful students at the old School of Art, at which institution he was for some years one of the instructors. He has executed a great many water-color paintings of more than usual merit. He has been particularly successful in painting still life from nature, his work in this line having gained him several awards of merit.

We were permitted to see some of these designs and paintings during a recent visit to Mr. Winbury's studio in Yew Tree Road, and we feel privileged to bear testimony to their excellence.



Carpet Designers



DAVID CAMPBELL

Associate of the Society of Designers

Art is a matter of temperament. Its methods of expression are for ever changing. Conventions alter as each artist seeks new interpretations of nature and of the imagination—"the well springs of artistic life"; and from these reviving streams flow continually new harmonies, new inventions, and re-combinations, taking form and colour according to the temperaments which give them birth.

Whilst, as we have shown in the foregoing articles, there are great difficulties

Among decorative artists, or that section of them who design for carpets, Mr. David Campbell fills a unique place. He does not owe his position to the teaching of any particular school, but rather to the combining of a number of circumstances which working upon his own natural bent have placed him, as it were, in a class entirely by himself.

His father was one of the leading designers of his day, who spent most of his time with the famous firm of Templeton, of Glasgow. He removed afterwards to Halifax, and whilst studying there under him, Mr. Campbell received that impetus which has brought out to the full his individuality in designing. At the time of his apprenticeship there existed in Manchester a big steam carpet beating works to which importers sent their most precious Indian and Turkish carpets to clean them from the desert sand with which they were laden. Whenever a batch of particularly excellent Oriental carpets had arrived, Mr. Campbell, who already had a natural penchant towards Oriental effects, was fortunate enough to have the privilege of studying these examples of what perfect carpets should be. And what could be more beautiful? "One has never learnt all their secrets, discovered all their half-hidden beauties and surprises or fathomed all their suggestions. In

But even an artist with a strong individuality and style entirely his own does not easily spring into prominence while engaged solely with one firm, and until Mr. Campbell was able to design for the whole carpet trade his work remained comparatively unknown. Then came his day—the market found him out. The designs executed by him for some of the manufacturers had touched the public taste; and now demands for his designs come from Germany and from America, as well as from the home country. The public was delighted by the rich glow of his colour schemes and the suggestive "waviness" of his designs; and he has thereby been placed unmistakably in a position of great influence.



Designed by Mr. DAVID CAMPBELL.
Manufactured by Messrs. Tomkinson & Adam.

which set a limit to the power of the decorative artist, his opportunities for displaying his individuality are many, and the more, the stronger the individuality he possesses. Given a knowledge of capabilities of the manufacture for which he designs patterns, and an acquaintance with its processes, he will then possess an amount of freedom and power that nothing else can supply; his individuality will have full play, and his opportunities for advancing his art will be unlimited.



Designed by Mr. DAVID CAMPBELL.
Manufactured by Messrs. Woodward, Grosseuer & Co.

their way of conveying suggestions beyond what is actually expressed, they are veritable poems. In perfect harmony with the essentials of an ideal carpet as regards plan, colour, and treatment, and without in the least invading pictorial domains, they succeeded in weaving vivid suggestions of the life around them—incidents of the jungle, flower-strewn fields—mysterious forests—mythical imaginings, etc.—into perfectly appropriate ornaments. Their charm draws us insensibly into dreamland, it is the spell of poetry reaching us through forms and colour." Such was the school in which he studied the harmony of colours, and which inspired his work with Oriental imagination.

Meanwhile he had come to Kidderminster, working first in the designing room at Brintons, and joining afterwards Mr. Bennie, when the latter separated from Brintons, and starting part of the works as a distinct concern, under the title of John Bennie & Co. When the two works eleven years ago re-amalgamated, Mr. Campbell established himself in his own studio.



Designed by Mr. DAVID CAMPBELL.
Manufactured by Messrs. Tomkinson & Adam.

While Mr. Campbell does not exclude the designing of any style for Brussels, Wilton, and Axminster carpets, it is in effects which are influenced by Oriental conceptions—Indian, Persian, Turkish—that he has established a style and class of his own. There is in his designs an equality of rich harmonious colours throughout, and some of them are such perfections of colour harmony that we regret the limitations of printing make it impossible to let the reader share in their beauty.

Since the time when James I. made a grant of £2,676 towards the establishment of the carpet industry in England, the progress it has made forms one of the most interesting chapters in the industrial and artistic evolution of England. Then French artists and craftsmen were imported to teach the English the manufacture of tapestry and carpets; to-day, however, Britain is far a-head of either France or Germany, particularly in the standard of design. Decorative art has of late years made vast strides owing to the high conception that British designers have taken of their art. The Institute of Designers, of which Mr. Campbell is an associate, has done much useful work in advancing the public knowledge of the merits of this branch of artistic enterprise, but the chief credit for giving to British decorative art the first place among cultured nations will always belong to the individual efforts of those who are endowed with the true artists' temperament, and who have elevated the craftsmans' work to the dignity of an art.



Designed by Mr. DAVID CAMPBELL.
Manufactured by Messrs. Tomkinson & Adam.



Carpet Designers



Messrs. HUTTON & ALLEN

Designers of Axminster, Brussels and
Tapestry Carpets, Rugs, Damasks, &c.

But few firms connected with the carpet industry in Kidderminster have made more gratifying progress, or have taken a higher stand than has that of Messrs. Hutton and Allen, artists and designers. Through the courtesy of the members of the firm we were recently given some very interesting information concerning the building up of their extensive business, to which we take great pleasure in referring. This brief reference, however, should begin with an apology for its inadequacy, as it is difficult to convey in a few lines an accurate impression of a business requiring so thorough a technical knowledge and artistic skill as that of carpet designing.

In 1890 Mr. W. J. Hutton, the senior member of the firm, first engaged in the business of carpet designing on his own account. Before this date he had served an apprenticeship at the business, having been associated with a local designer for seven years, acquiring a detailed and varied knowledge of the work. When he opened his own studio it was without influence or prestige, and his success depended entirely upon his ability to execute work of sufficient merit to attract the attention of carpet manufacturers.

The growth of the business is the best comment on its character. After seven years Mr. Hutton, wishing to extend his business, invited Mr. Chas. A. Allen to join him, and in 1897 the amalgamation of these two designers took place, from which date the business has been known

use of two large workrooms in High Street, where practically all their work is executed. Their High Street rooms deserve at least a passing notice. They are admirably lighted, comfortable and well arranged, affording every facility for the staff.



Designed by Messrs. Hutton & Allen
WILTON STAIR DESIGN.

As must have been inferred from the number of assistants employed, Messrs. Hutton and Allen have, during the past few years, executed quite a wonderful number and variety of designs, and their fertility and resourcefulness do not seem to have been impaired. It may safely be said of them, and without disparaging others, that during this period they have produced a greater number of distinct designs than any other designer in Kidderminster, and probably as many as any one in the kingdom. All of their designs are catalogued in accordance with a carefully arranged system.

During our visit we were shown numbers of designs produced during the past few months, while several others were in progress, and being prepared for the coming season. The collection contains many strikingly beautiful designs, by reason of the fine harmony of colour and treatment of shades, some designs containing as many as forty distinct shades. Unlike many designers, Messrs. Hutton and Allen do not confine themselves to any one class



Designed by Messrs. Hutton & Allen
"CHRYSANTHEMUM" AXMINSTER DESIGN.

as above. Mr. Allen, like the senior member, had served a long apprenticeship under very favourable circumstances, having for seven years been associated with one of the most capable designers in Kidderminster. During this period he spent nearly a year in Paris, where he became familiar with the best productions of English and Continental designers.

A further idea of the growth of the business may be gained from the increase of the staff required. When Mr. Hutton first engaged in business on his own account it was but with one boy as an assistant. To-day the firm employs 14 assistants, many of whom are capable and well-trained draughtsmen, which is the largest staff engaged by any public designers. The original studio was one small room; to-day, in addition to a studio in Plimsoll Street, the firm makes

or grade of design, but seem to be equally competent in every kind of work pertaining to their calling. In the comparatively small selection shown us we noticed from beautiful designs in few colours great achievements and productions suitable for the finest Brussels and Axminster carpets that can be woven on any loom.

As is well known even to those not technically familiar with the carpet industry, artistic talent is of little service to the designer unless it be supplemented with a practical knowledge of weaving. Carpet designing is a peculiar combination of art and utility. An effect pleasing perhaps in itself would be utterly worthless unless designed with a thorough technical knowledge of both loom and quality for which it is intended. Messrs. Hutton and Allen have been particularly fortunate in their patronage from carpet manufacturers, and during the past few years they have executed designs for all the leading manufacturers in Great Britain and on the Continent. Small "models," beautifully executed, were shown us of their designs, such as are submitted to the manufacturer for certain fabrics.

Mr. Hutton is well known personally to many of the leading carpet manufacturers in England and Scotland. His technical



Designed by Messrs. Hutton & Allen
AXMINSTER DESIGN.

skill is supplemented by an invariable courtesy, and an unusual business tact and judgment.

Mr. Allen occasionally visits the firm's Continental patrons.

The general direction of the firm's affairs is assumed by Mr. Hutton, the senior member, and to his judgment and progressiveness much of the success is to be attributed. Mr. Allen does the larger part of the designing, his work showing great artistic talent and a thorough knowledge of his art. He has a fine eye for colour and effects, combined with beautiful drawing and draughtmanship. He has also taken high honours in other branches of art, such as book illustration, and Black and White work in general.

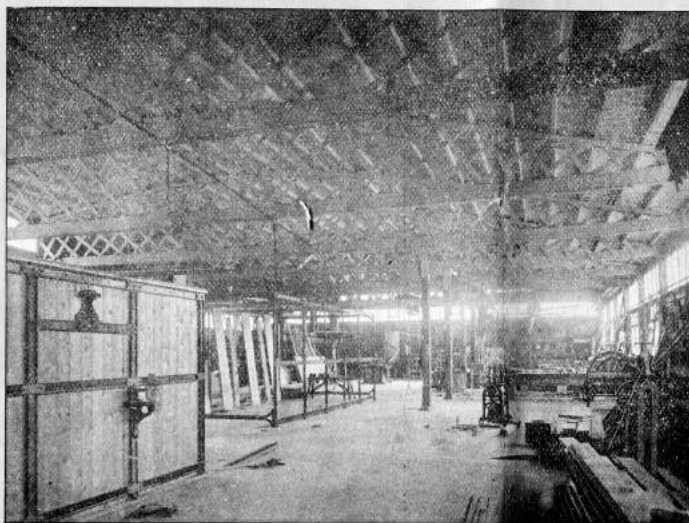
Both members of the firm are members of the Society of Designers, an organisation comprising all the leading designers in the country, and whose efforts are to advance the interests of Arts and Crafts in this country. We have but to add that in their personal as well as business relations they have gained the undivided regard of all who know them, and we take pleasure in adding our endorsement to that they have received from so many sources.

Accompanying this notice are several engravings which give some idea of the excellence of Messrs. Hutton and Allen's work.



Designed by Messrs. Hutton & Allen
"ROSE" BRUSSELS CARPET DESIGN.

Drying Machinery



INTERIOR VIEW—MR. S. S. PARTRIDGE'S WORKS

S. S. PARTRIDGE

Inventor, Patentee, and Manufacturer of Drying and Dyeing Machines

Whilst papers scare the public with harrowing tales of the American invasion and the impending doom of British industry and trade, and manufacturers and merchants view with more or less concern the danger of American competition, it is assuring to find that although the American tariff legislation of recent years has practically closed the United States' market to them, Kidderminster manufacturers have not only held their own in the commerce of the world, but have actually increased their trade.

No little credit is due from this to manufacturers; for the American carpet industry has made enormous strides during the last decade or two. The best brains have been pressed into its service, not always American, and often hailing from Kidderminster; vast capital has been readily supplied for carrying on the trade war; inventions were bought up right and left; and that as a result America has become a formidable competitor cannot be open to any doubt.

Yet, well equipped as is the American carpet industry in the way of dyeing, drying, etc., to a Kidderminster man belongs the credit of having invented a machine which is regarded as superior to the best American drying machine that with the assistance of unlimited capital and boom has been put on the market.

Mr. S. S. Partridge, who is the inventor, is essentially a practical man, having been foreman of the building department of Messrs. Woodward & Grosvenor for twenty-four years. Being of an observant mind, and possessing that practical knowledge resulting from an intimate acquaintance with mechanics, it appeared to him that the work done by the existing drying machines was out of proportion to the amount of labour expended and steam used. Watching the drying of yarn on the line, he had noticed the simultaneous and alternating action of the sun and the wind, and this suggested to him that if it were possible to create similar actions mechanically, any such machine would be more effective, because more natural.

The outcome of his experiments was a machine which was patented and put on the market as Partridge's Patent Hank System Machine for drying worsted, woollen, cotton, and linen yarns, clothes, hosiery, etc. Although the inventor only commenced to build on his own account in the beginning of 1901, he has already supplied over thirty of these machines to manufacturers in Kidderminster and the North, among them several repeat orders.

The action of the machine is exactly as anticipated by Mr. Partridge; for the heat being supplied by steam passing through pipes, and the air being forced into the machine by fans, yarn can now be dried in a softer and more natural condition than was possible in the ordinary stoves.

The drying machine, of which we give here an illustration, is seventy feet long, has three tiers, and carries at a load 1200lbs. of cotton. It weighs seven tons, and has three sets of trays, weighing in all one ton. It is driven and worked by a six horse-power engine, and its capacity for drying is 5,000lbs. of cotton per day.

Its superiority over other machines lies in this:—Each single pack of yarn can be dried in its own temperature. Those versed in the trade know the difficulty with under-side and over-side yarn. As here the control of each pack is at the will of the operator, it can be treated separately either with air or steam, and that difficulty becomes thus non-existent.

The next point in favour of the "Partridge" over other systems is that, whilst the former uses less steam pipes than American makes, it does considerably more work, and though its initial expense is below that of others, and though its working costs less, it dries more yarn, and dries it better than American and other machines.

The third distinguishing feature of the "Partridge" drying machine is its new motion. By an improved system of turning the drying of the yarn is greatly increased, for, being turned whilst drying on the pole, the air and heat can continually reach every part of it, an advantage which will be found to possess particular value in the drying of cotton and fine worsted yarns.

Mr. Partridge is also a maker of Axminster carpet drying machinery, and yarn-dyeing machinery, for dyeing yarn in the hanks, all of which are considered improvements upon existing systems. Mr. Partridge is also a manufacturer of trolleys, creel frames, and in fact any requirements of the carpet trade.

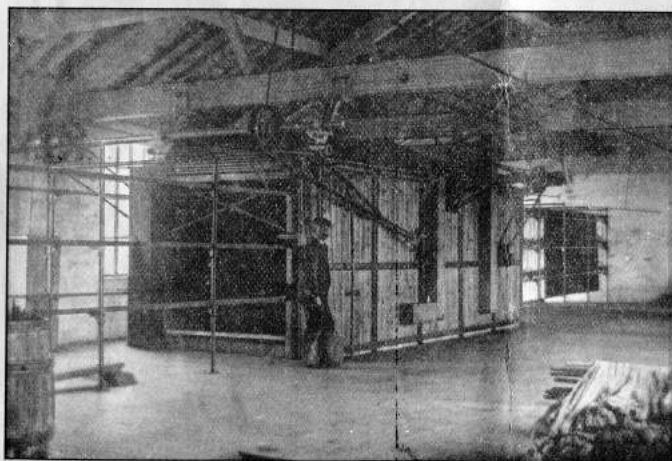
When Mr. Partridge commenced to manufacture there was no lack of orders for his machines, and he is selling them as fast as he can turn them out.

The dyeing machine, to describe it in brief, is made in two sizes, to dye 60lbs. and 120lb. per load; and it will dye all classes of woollen, worsted, cotton, jute, and linen yarns. It is so simple in action that one man and a boy can easily attend to two or three machines. The tank is made of good sound pitch pine, and, if desired, can be made with bevelled sides, whereby from 15 to 20 per cent. of liquor is saved.

The driving of the machine is so arranged that a number can be driven off one line of shaft, so that no belting need be worked in the dye-house; or if it is not possible to place a number of them in line, they can be made to drive with double straps and worm gear. It should be mentioned that Mr. Partridge was the first to put this kind of gearing to this machine.

The machine is the cheapest in initial cost, and cheapest in maintenance; and it has no small or intricate parts but can be easily and cheaply replaced. Its working power is equal to that of any one in the market, and, considering all its advantages, it may be said to be superior to all other makes.

Mr. Partridge issues two circulars, which contain photographs and full descriptions of either machine, and further a list of manufacturers who are using machines made at his Comberton Hill Machine Works. What we, in the "Illustrated Issue," have been chiefly concerned with, has been to investigate the merit of his inventions. To stand ahead in his work of all competitors, English or American, is one of the proudest positions a man may hold, and we are glad to see that it is a Kidderminster man who is leading in this branch of industry.



DRYING MACHINERY MANUFACTURED BY MR. S. S. PARTRIDGE

Drysalters & Chemists



Ald. GEO. HOLDSWORTH, J.P., C.C.
The Mayor of Kidderminster

The most interesting character study in the pages of this Illustrated History of Modern Kidderminster is that of Mr. GEO. HOLDSWORTH; firstly, because it is that of the "first citizen" in the town, and, secondly, because it is the biography of a self-made man. To the fact of being a practical dyer Mr. Holdsworth ascribes his success in life; as such he was able, when he established himself in business, to demonstrate the various processes of dyeing in the carpet and other textile trades, and to advise the best dyes and chemicals suited for the various materials. Like numbers of our successful men he began in a small way. He moved to the premises he now occupies twenty-seven years ago, and is now at the head of an extensive drysaltery and chemical business, doing an important trade in all the weaving centres in England and Scotland, and having many business relations with the United States.

By way of showing the position he holds in commerce we quote the following short biography from an American trade paper, "The Carpet and Upholstery Trade" issued at Philadelphia, the centre of the American carpet industry:—"He was born at Halifax in 1845. When a boy, working in a spinning mill near Bradford, he was rescued from a fire which destroyed a building. At fourteen he was learning to weave at E. Firth & Sons', Heckmondwike. He next became a dyer at Henderson & Co.'s, Durham, where his brother, Samuel Holdsworth, was the manager of the Brussels Department. Here he remained seven years, and then became second dyer at John Crossley & Sons." He came to Kidderminster in 1868, and was married in 1870 to Miss Jean Paton, daughter of the late William Paton of this town, a sturdy Scotchman, who carried on a successful printing business, and who was in many other respects a remarkable man. One of his sons, Mr. David Paton, was a well-known designer in the States.

Mr. G. Holdsworth has been a member of the Town Council for twenty-five years. He was elected a Poor-Law Guardian in 1884, and in the following year he had the honour of being appointed Mayor of the Borough, in the fortieth year of his age. On the same day—and we believe this constitutes a record in English municipal life—his brother Samuel, whom we mentioned above, was elected Mayor of the ancient city of Durham. In that year the Indian and Colonial Exhibition was held in London. A section of that body was coming down to Kidderminster, and

His Worship, together with the Town Clerk (James Morton, Esq.,) went up to London to make final arrangements, so as to give the visitors a proper reception. At the last moment, however, the matter fell through, but in recognition of the trouble the Mayor took, he was presented by His Majesty the King (then Prince of Wales) with a beautifully designed diploma. At the close of his mayoralty Mr. Holdsworth gave to the Corporation a handsome silver-gilt mace.

In 1886, he was elected a member of the School Board. He was also recommended by the Town Council to the Lord Chancellor for the office of justice of the peace for the borough, but declined the nomination.

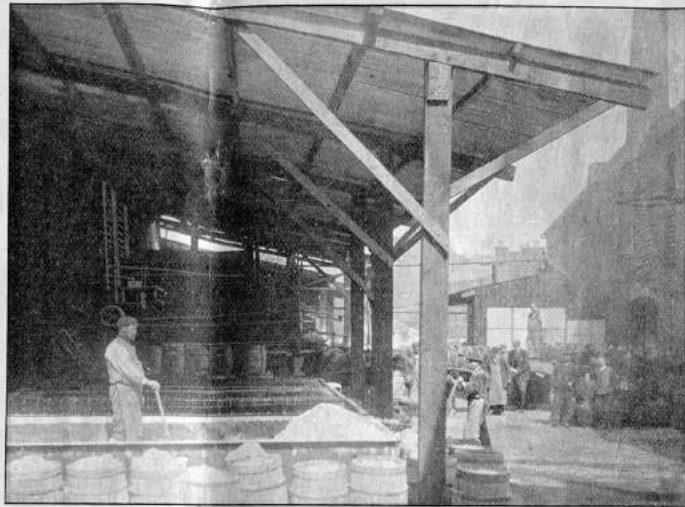
After retiring from the Mayor's chair, Mr. George Holdsworth brought about an important change in the Municipal representation of the borough. Being divided formerly into two wards with nine members for each ward, owing to his efforts the borough was re-divided into six wards, each represented by three councillors. This change was a municipal innovation of great and far-reaching results, tending as it did to a truer representation of the will of the burgesses than had been possible under the old system.

In the religious and philanthropic life of our town Mr. George Holdsworth has

always filled an important part, being a prominent member of the Wesleyan congregation. Having a large amount of musical taste and ability, he takes delight in performing on the organ, and displays no mean proficiency, having been for fifteen years organist at the above-mentioned Church. A very fine instrument occupies a prominent position in the library at Springfield House, his private residence. He is also an interesting lecturer. Having visited Italy, and particularly Rome in 1880, he has on many occasions lectured on the subject of Rome to interested audiences.

In 1900, he was again elected a member of the School Board, and in 1901 he was unanimously elected a member of the Worcestershire County Council.

A keen and intelligent man of business, with an eager desire for the service of his fellow townsmen, imbued with a deep sympathetic feeling, broad and tolerant in his views, large-hearted and generous to a degree; such is, to sum up, the character of the subject of this sketch, and his many high qualities are felt by everyone who comes into touch with him. For the second time, his fellow-townsmen have bestowed upon him the honour of electing him to be their Chief Magistrate, and we trust that for many years he will be spared to continue a life of usefulness to his fellow men, and full of honour to himself.



MESSRS. B. HEPWORTH & Co.'s WORKS

B. HEPWORTH & Co., Ltd.

Kidderminster's Chemical Factory

The science of chemistry forms an important factor in almost every kind of manufacturing nowadays, and in the carpet industry chemistry has become its most potent handmaid. The discovery of aniline dyes alone has brought about the most far-reaching revolution in the art of dyeing, and every day expert minds are bent upon making discoveries by which the range of colours or purity may be wider extended.

Intimately connected with the carpet industry, not only in Kidderminster, but throughout England, is the firm of B. HEPWORTH AND COMPANY, LTD., and a sketch of the growth and extent of their business will be of much interest to our readers, illustrating as they do the possibilities which are opened to energy combined with scientific knowledge and practical experience.

The firm was established by Mr. Benjamin Hepworth, the chairman of the present company, thirty-six years ago in

Yorkshire, and it commenced to trade in Kidderminster in 1881, first at a place in Callow's Lane. The demand of a growing trade soon necessitated the acquisition of much larger accommodation for manufacturing purposes, and the works were transferred to their present location in Coventry Street.

Here the company have every facility for manufacturing practically any quantity which the market may demand, and how large their trade is can readily be seen when we mention that of one chemical alone the firm manufactures thirty tons a week. As the Illustrated Issue is concerned with the object of investigating and showing the relative importance of the various industries carried on in Kidderminster, and the high position which all of them combine to give to our town in the commerce of the country, we cannot obviously here give details of the processes by which the chemicals are made, particularly when we see the variety of the articles manufactured, but we must content ourselves with mentioning that the company manufacture goods from



Agents and Merchants



household soaps for scouring purposes to any mordant required in the dyeing trade. They are large makers of ammonia for pharmaceutical purposes, they manufacture a household cream ammonia and liquid ammonia, both of which are universally appreciated by housewives for their exceptional efficacy in scouring, and they further are, we believe, the largest makers of sulphate of soda, a chemical used in dyeing as a "leveller," that is, an agent, which, acting as a "restrainer," makes aniline dyes go on the yarn "evenly." The company also manufacture indigo extract, another chemical used in dyeing, and to come back to ordinary life turns out annually enormous quantities of washing soda and soda crystals.

The works in Coventry Street cover an area of over 56,000 square feet, are fitted with all modern appliances, and give employment to a large number of men. Laboratory, works, and counting house are under the personal supervision of the managing director, Mr. B. Hepworth, who has during twenty years of unremitting energy seen the trade under his control outgrow local importance and take its place amongst the leading chemical factories in the country.

Mr. Hepworth's abilities have, apart from business, found ready recognition in municipal life. He was elected in 1890 as one of the Liberal candidates for the Baxter Ward, and is now an Alderman. A successful man in business, respected by all who come in contact with him, he is representative of our best type of citizenship.

ABRAHAM NUTTER

Commission Agent

Mr. A. Nutter, who has been established on his own account since 1896, has had a remarkable career. He started his connection with the spinning trade when eight years of age; was manager of a department at twenty; after holding several positions he came to Kidderminster on January 1st, 1885, as manager for Watson Brothers. Here he remained for eleven years. Altogether he has spent fifty-six years of his life inside factories.

Since 1896 he has created a commission agent's business and holds at present the following agencies:—London Assurance Corporation Fire and Life Office; the Accident Insurance Co., Limited; Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Office; the Clydesdale Chemical Company; Caktine Boiler Fluid, the best and safest detergent on the market; Raines, Porter, and Seddon, Hull, tallow and oils of all kinds, greases, paints, varnishes, "Yorkshire" Belt Composition, etc.; I. Foulds and Son, Keighley, tanners, curriers, main driving belts, single and double of every description; "FXL" combing leathers, drawing and spinning rollers leathers, etc., etc.; R. and J. Dicks' Balata belting, the best belting for dye-houses; C. E. Needham and Brother, Sheffield, mill furnishers in all its branches, tools of every description and all requisites in engineering; D. C. T. Gray and Co., Dundee, Jute yarns, canvas of every kind for packing and baling, wool sheets, flour and malt bags, seed bags, etc.; William Haigh, Cleckheaton, manufacturer of ropes for main driving, single and double loop cotton spinning and twisting bands, dye bands, tapes, tubular band, twines, etc., etc.; J. and J. Dunlop, Bradford, wool comb makers, circles, fallers, etc., etc.

Mr. Nutter's office is at 28, Church Street, and at Vincent House, Holloway Road. In spite of his years he is as energetic as ever, and he is universally respected.

Mr. WILLIAM CHADWICK

Spinner's Agent, Manufacturing Chemist, and Drysalter

The advantages offered by an industrial centre like Kidderminster to men possessing enterprise and ability are proved by the number of firms existing here who during the past twenty or thirty years have grown to large proportions. Among the foremost is that of Mr. WILLIAM CHADWICK.

Commencing originally on July 3rd, 1875, as a commission agent for the sale of worsted, woollen, jute and cotton, he increased his trade year by year until he does now a large turnover as a spinner's agent, yarn, waste and hair merchant, and manufacturing chemist and drysalter.

His office and stores are where was formerly the old carpet factory of Dobson, at the Callow lane end of Church Street. Having been properly apprenticed to his trade—and having the privilege of attending afterwards the Manchester Exchange, he possessed an advantage—by his intimate knowledge of the textile trade, which soon showed results in the growth of his connection.

He gradually took up a number of important agencies, and he represents now the following firms:—the Farbwerk Muhlheim, for Kidderminster, Birmingham and Walsall; the Linen Thread Syndicate (which controls the thread trade of the world), for the Kidderminster district; Alexander Bros., Kilmarnock, for worsted yarns; Hugh Alexander & Son, Barrhead, Newsome & Spading, Limited, Dewsbury, and R. Swire & Sons, Ravensthorpe, for Axminster Yarns; and J. N. Kyd & Co., Dundee, for Jute.

A large space of his stores is given up to the trade in waste, of which Mr. Chadwick exports a large amount annually to America and Germany.

The chemical works, owned by Mr. Chadwick, are located at the Sling, in the premises formerly occupied by Messrs. Tomkinson & Adam, and covering one acre of ground. They were established by him twelve years ago, and are, as regards being laid out economically and being worked advantageously, among the most proficient of the kind in the district.

The chief manufacture is that of "glaubersalz," commonly called sulphate of soda. The system of gaining this from salt cake, and nitre cake, the by-products of other chemicals, is much the same as in other chemical works. The cake is dissolved, and alkali is added to neutralize the acid and assist the crystalizing.

The whole of the business is controlled by Mr. William Chadwick himself, ably assisted by Mr. Davies, who has been with him 18 years. Mr. Chadwick devotes a great deal of his time to outside interests. He has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Council of the High School for Girls, a member of the Council of the School of Art and Science, and he was for five years Churchwarden of the Parish Church, during the time of its restoration. He is, withal, one of the most esteemed citizens of the town.

H. W. BROOKES

Yarn Agent and Merchant to the Carpet Trade

Mr. H. W. BROOKES has been connected with the carpet industry for upwards of twenty-five years, formerly as manager for one of the leading firms, and as an agent for various firms since 1899, when he was appointed the local representative for Cox Brothers, Ltd., owners of the Camperdown Jute and Hemp Works, Dundee. Besides jute yarns he sells worsted and woollen yarns, linen and cotton, loom cards, sago flour, alum, paper spools and bobbins, leather belting and pickers, glue, size, and a number of other materials used in the carpet trade.

He has an office and large warehouse at 5, Vicar Street.

E. COOPER AND SON

Manufacturers and Factors of Carpets and Upholsterers' Wools

The economical methods of modern times are shown in the increasing use made of apparently waste materials.

The above business was commenced in 1876, by the present head of the firm, Mr. E. Cooper, for the purpose of dealing with the waste materials produced from the manufacture of carpets, and for over a quarter of a century has met with unbroken prosperity. It was commenced in a small way, each year adding to its extent and volume. In 1885 it was found that larger premises were necessary, and the business was removed to its present location in Park Lane. At this place the firm occupies a large brick building, containing all necessary machinery, and affording ample room for storage.

As the business itself suggests, Mr. Cooper obtains from our local carpet manufacturers waste materials, which he sorts and classifies according to grade and character. The bulk of this material is, with the aid of special machinery, manufactured into wools suitable for upholsterers and saddlers, whilst other qualities are sold for spinning into yarns for the carpet and woollen trades. The firm also deals in all classes of carpets and rugs, special attention being given to carpet sewing and planning for the trade.

Associated with Mr. E. Cooper is his son, Mr. T. J. Cooper, who first became identified with the business in 1886, and upon whom its active management now largely devolves. It is but just to say that these gentlemen are deservedly esteemed, and we feel that no further comment of ours can add to the regard in which they are held.

F. L. BROOM & Co. (Mill Street)

Manufacturers and Merchants

The business carried on by Mr. F. L. Broom in Mill Street was established by the late Mr. Samuel Broom some 33 years ago in Park Lane. Mr. F. L. Broom joined his father 30 years since, and on his father's death took over the business, buying the present premises from Mr. Allen Minifie shortly after, and has had the satisfaction of witnessing its continuous growth. The Company manufacture large quantities of saddlers' drummed and mattress wools, rugs and mats; a speciality being the cheapest serviceable beam rugs and mats in the trade. The Company also does a large Merchandising business, having active agencies in London, Bristol, Dublin, and other centres. The Mill Street premises are commodious and well arranged, and were a few months since extensively altered to make room for additional plant. The business is entirely under the personal direction of Mr. F. L. Broom.

R. LINECAR

Carpet Planning and Fitting

This business is mentioned because it represents the last link in the long chain of processes the wool has to undergo after leaving the sheep's back until it has become transformed into a beautiful Wilton, Brussels, or luxurious Axminster carpet. His qualification for making numbers of pieces of carpet make one harmonious whole, R. Linecar acquired whilst foreman for 25 years in the finishing rooms of two local works. In this line there is no work he has not done to the satisfaction of his employers, and he is sent for from all parts of the country, even from London, to fit carpets requiring special care and attention. He has laid throughout with carpets some of the biggest mansions and hotels in the country.



Public Schools



KIDDERMINSTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

KING CHARLES I. SCHOOL

One of the Best Educational Institutions in
Worcestershire

In referring to the educational life of Kidderminster and vicinity we take special pleasure in describing, however inadequately, the King Charles I. Grammar School in Bewdley Road. Although this institution is one of the oldest in this county, it is at the same time one of the most progressive, representing in its equipment curriculum and methods of teaching the most modern and approved ideas.

The school was formally granted a charter by King Charles I. in 1636, although even at that date it had been in existence for many years. The management is now vested in twelve governors, who include some of the most prominent people in the county.

Since environment is of vital importance, particularly with the young, it may be well to refer to the school buildings and their surroundings. Situated in spacious grounds on the outskirts of the town, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Kidderminster Station, and two miles from Bewdley, the school has the advantage of accessibility, while permitting the freedom and cheerfulness of the country. As may be inferred from the accompanying engraving, the school building is an exceptionally attractive and substantial stone structure. Its interior arrangements and furnishings are in keeping with its imposing exterior, the lighting, ventilation, heating, and all sanitary arrangements having been well provided for.

The playgrounds, which comprise $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres in one tract, are carefully laid out, forming what is probably one of the most pleasing private grounds in the district, and one of the finest school properties in the Midlands. The sub-soil—a most important point for health—is gravel and sandstone, while the drainage and water supply are most satisfactory.

The exceptional facilities afforded for out-of-door exercise and recreation have led the principal to make special provision for physical training. Drill and gymnastic exercises are taught by a military instructor, and excellent cricket and tennis grounds have been provided, as well as five courts. All pupils are encouraged to make judicious use of the playgrounds.

The course of study is that usual in a school of this character. All modern subjects are given particular attention, the purpose of preparing boys for the practical work of later years being kept steadily in view.

There is a Preparatory Class for younger boys, distinct from the rest of the school.

In all grades and in all classes thoroughness is made a special feature. The fees both for day boys and boarders are very moderate, owing to the excellent endowment.

Since extended personal mention would be out of place in this brief notice, we can but add a word as to the principal, Rev. H. de B. Gibbins, L.D., M.A., to whose excellent management the school's gratifying condition is largely due. He was formerly senior scholar of Wadham College, and University Prizeman, Oxford, and gained his experience as Modern Side Master at Nottingham School, and as Head Master of the Liverpool College Grammar School. He is thoroughly devoted to the high work in which he is engaged, possessing those mental and personal traits which are of the greatest service in the development of younger minds.

QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HARTLEBURY

An Old Established and Progressive
Institution

Those who follow the progress made in educational life in recent years will be interested in the history of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Hartlebury. This remarkable institution is deserving of more than passing mention, as after an existence of several hundred years it is still thriving and progressive.

Although this school is of great antiquity the exact date of its establishment is unknown; its name, however, was derived from the fact that in the year 1560 Queen Elizabeth granted it a charter. From that date until the present time the school has exercised a very appreciable and wholesome influence in the educational life of this section. The school is now affiliated with the County Council, who have in many ways contributed valuable aid. The school has the advantage of an accessible and attractive situation in the ancient village of Hartlebury, on the Great Western Railway, three miles from Kidderminster, and ten miles from Worcester. From buildings and play grounds, which occupy a beautiful position on the slope of the Waresley Hill, may be

obtained a charming and extensive view of the Bishop's Castle and park, and of the valley and hills beyond. Owing to its considerable elevation above the surrounding country, and the excellent natural drainage thus afforded, the institution has had a very remarkable immunity from the various epidemics and sicknesses which have so often been serious drawbacks to otherwise excellent schools.

In this connection, mention should be made of the play-grounds, which not only afford ample room and possess unusual scenic beauty, but are also carefully laid out and are kept in the best condition. Provision has been made for the school football, tennis and cricket teams, and physical recreation is made a prominent feature. For some years there has also been maintained by the pupils a Cadet Corps, which has been brought to a high state of efficiency. This Corps is regularly instructed in military tactics and evolutions by a competent drill instructor. Experience has proved that military training is not only an excellent aid to physical development and manly deportment, but that it inculcates those habits of punctuality, promptness and obedience which are so valuable in after life.

While the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School buildings possess but little architectural beauty, they are convenient and well arranged. The black-boards, desks, apparatus and general furnishings are modern and of the best character. Both day and boarding pupils are accepted, the latter not only having the advantage of a comfortable and well regulated home, but close association with the principal and faculty. The entire environment is of the most helpful character, being free from the distractions of the city, while affording sufficient opportunities for social pleasures.

In no one respect have modern times more noticeably benefited the world than in increasing the opportunities for obtaining an education. They have brought a no less improvement in the character of the education given, utility, as well as mere culture, being made a principal consideration.

The entire school course comprises Religious Knowledge, English, Latin, French, and German, History and Geography, Arithmetic and Mathematics, Natural Science, Drawing and Vocal Music. Boys may also take up shorthand, mechanical drawing and similar studies. In the preparatory department especial attention is paid to the ground-work of a good English education. Special facilities are afforded for the study of the sciences and art, the Kidderminster School of Science and Art supplying instructors for special classes.

The thoroughness of the teaching is apparent from the success achieved by the pupils in gaining scholarships at the Universities and from their subsequent career at those institutions, where a considerable proportion of pupils have gained honours in various subjects. It is gratifying to add that a still larger proportion have throughout active and useful lives reflected credit upon the school in which they received so much of their training.

Mr. E. W. Hopewell, the principal of the Queen Elizabeth School, seems to possess those personal characteristics which are essential to a good teacher. He is filled with enthusiasm for the work in which he is engaged, and it is evident that he has the rare faculty of inspiring both his assistants and his pupils with the same spirit. He has a strong personality, which must be unconsciously imitated by those under his charge.

We take this opportunity of acknowledging Mr. Hopewell's courtesy in permitting us to inspect the buildings and equipment of the school.



Public Schools.



WOLVERLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

One of Worcestershire's most successful Schools

Wolverley Grammar School, situated in the charming village of Wolverley, two miles from Kidderminster, may be said to be both an old and a new institution. Founded in 1620, it has for nearly a century been a prominent factor in the educational life of the county, although it is only within the past three decades that it has been distinguished by a very unusual growth.

It was originally endowed by William Sebright, who placed at its disposal the income from various local properties and from land in the city of London. In 1829 large and commodious buildings were erected for the purpose of carrying out the founder's scheme, although these buildings are now devoted to other purposes. In 1877 the school was reconstituted under the Endowed Schools Commission, and the present head master appointed in January, 1878. At that date the school had almost ceased to exist, but two pupils being in attendance.



VIEW OF THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Under the present head master's direction the school has more than regained its old prestige, and from two pupils the number has increased to one hundred and twenty. This remarkable increase, which has been continuous, necessitated frequent enlargements and improvements, with the result that the buildings used are now capacious, thoroughly modern, and well equipped.

In 1881, Bury Hall, a large house in an excellent situation, was acquired, where extensive alterations and additions were made, including bath room and lavatories adjoining a large playground. Bury Hall is the residence of the head master and has accommodation for 59 boys. In 1891 new School Buildings were erected, including large school room, class room, dormitories, lavatories, &c., with every modern sanitary improvement. In 1897 additional lands and buildings around Bury Hall were purchased to add to the accommodation, including large gymnasium, play room, chemical laboratory, &c. In 1902, Woodfield, a large modern mansion, with extensive grounds, was purchased and adapted as a Boarding House, and placed in charge of an experienced Assistant Master, and a commodious Sanatorium has been built in the grounds of Bury Hall. Still further additions are in contemplation.

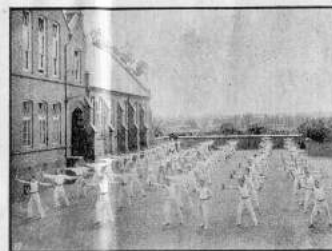
The situation of the school is excellent, being on a hill just without the village, and commanding charming views of the picturesque surrounding country. Special provision has been made for games and out-of-door recreation, the school in this respect being peculiarly favoured. The river Stour, which flows at the foot of the hill on which the school is situated, affords ample facilities for bathing and boating, and all boys are taught to swim. The tennis, cricket, and football grounds, and the gymnasium, are all that could be desired, and that they are well used is evident from the distinction the pupils have gained in their contests with the competing teams from other institutions.



BOYS BOATING

The school is open to both day boys and boarders, ample provision having been made for the latter. The dining room, the dormitories, and the bath rooms and conveniences are after the most approved plans. Great care is taken for the health and comfort of pupils, as it is borne in mind that in every judicious system of training the physical must precede the mental. The head master and his staff keep in close touch with the pupils in their studies, their games, and their home life, stimulating by example as well as by precept.

The course of instruction at the Wolverley Grammar School includes all the usual branches of grammar school education, and comprises Scripture, Latin, French, Greek, German, Mathematics, Chemistry, English in all its branches, Book-keeping, Mensuration and Land Surveying, Drawing, Music, and Pitman's Phonography. For boys desiring to learn the organ, the Vicar and Churchwardens allow the use of the excellent instrument in the Parish Church which adjoins the school. The school is a centre for both Cambridge Local and College of Preceptors' Examinations. Pupils are prepared for the Universities, Public Schools, the Legal and Medical Professions, and for the examinations of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. The Cambridge Local certificate is accepted in lieu of the Preliminary Law, Medical and Pharmaceutical Examinations. Special prizes are awarded to boys who distinguish themselves in the Local or other examinations.



BOYS DRILLING

A special feature is made of that education which trains both the head and hand, a photographic studio, &c., having been provided. Every opportunity is given for the cultivation of any peculiar talent or worthy natural bent, and individual tastes and preferences are considered as far as may be without interfering with the general work of the school.

Although the great majority of the boys do not fit themselves for the learned professions, and therefore do not remain at school long enough to produce striking results, a number have gained notable successes at the various Universities. In all cases thoroughness is insisted upon, the discipline thus imparted being not less valuable in after years than the actual knowledge gained. The head master, Mr.

John Elliot, B.A., Trinity College, Dublin, twice Prizeman and formerly Assistant Master at the Durham Grammar School, and Mathematical Master at Weymouth Collegiate School, is assisted by a staff of four Resident and five Visiting Masters.

The governing body of the school consists of Local Magistrates and other gentlemen; the Vicar of Wolverley, Representatives of the higher Educational bodies, the County Council, the Founder's Family, and the Chapter of Worcester Cathedral.

Mr. Elliot, the head master, has had charge of the school for twenty-five consecutive years, in which period he has witnessed its transformation from a very small and unimportant to a very prosperous and progressive institution, and it is but just to add that in this gratifying change he has been the most important factor. He will be pleased to give further and detailed information upon request, or



INTERIOR OF SCHOOLROOM

a handsome illustrated Prospectus will be posted to any desired address upon application. We congratulate Mr. Elliot upon the large measure of success that has attended his efforts, and we feel assured that under his direction the school will maintain the high standard and position to which he has brought it.

RUSHMORE COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

Rushmore College for Girls and for Junior Boys is a Boarding School, maintained on family principles, with well defined methods of tuition and training. It is in a very healthy and pleasant situation on the Bewdley Road.

FARFIELD SCHOOL KIDDERMINSTER

The Misses Minifie conduct a very successful school for girls, with an equally successful department for boys, who are prepared for the Grammar Schools, receiving a thorough grounding in English subjects, including Shorthand and Book-keeping, and also Latin, French, and German, special attention being paid to Class Singing, Conversational French, and Calisthenics. In addition to the School Classes there is an advanced Painting Class for Ladies, held on Saturdays, when every description of Painting is taught, and in the Summer there is Outdoor Sketching.

The School is pleasantly situated, commanding a view of the Malvern hills, and is in one of the best parts of the town. The buildings and grounds are well adapted to their purpose, being only four minutes' walk from the Station, and conveniently near to all residents in the town.

We take great pleasure in endorsing the Misses Minifie's work, and we trust they will continue to receive the patronage their exceptionally well conducted school deserves.



Public Schools



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, LIMITED

An Excellent Day and Boarding School

This is the leading educational institution for girls in the town and district. It was formerly a private school conducted by the Misses Ridley and Bennett, who laid the foundation for what has become a prosperous and progressive establishment.

Fifteen years ago a Limited Liability Company was formed under the auspices of a number of the leading gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

The dominant idea in the minds of those who formed the Company was the provision of the means for giving higher education, the earning of dividends being a secondary consideration. Extra accommodation was provided as necessity arose. Special facilities for both physical and mental training have been added from time to time, and now, while providing an unusually complete course of instruction, those who have been responsible for the school's high standing have the satisfaction of seeing it placed on a sound financial basis. The average attendance is now one hundred pupils, some of whom are boarders. There is an excellent boarding house in connection with the school, and this, as well as the class-rooms and school buildings generally, is made as comfortable and as healthful as can be. The site could scarcely be surpassed, being in one of the highest and most attractive parts of the town.

The ordinary course of instruction includes divinity, reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, English grammar, composition and literature, history, geography, French, German, Latin, elementary science, drawing, class singing, plain needlework, laws of health, and domestic economy. Lessons in instrumental music, solo singing, dancing, gymnastics, chip carving, cookery, and art needlework are extras. The studies pursued in each class are carefully graduated. In the lower Forms a thorough grounding is aimed at, and in the Upper the work is arranged to meet the requirements of the Cambridge Local Examinations, so that, if desired, the girls may enter for these without pressure; but the examinations are not compulsory.

The musical instruction is under the charge of experienced and competent teachers. A pupil taking any instrument is admitted free to the theory classes, and a class for orchestral practice is held weekly at the school. Drawing is taught through all the classes. Fifty of the more advanced pupils attend the Kidderminster School of Art, and receive instruction in drawing, shading, and painting. They are prepared for the annual examinations in connection with the Board of Education, London, and the Cambridge Local Drawing Examinations.

A special feature is made of physical training. A spacious gymnasium of the most modern type has recently been added which is fitted with the most approved apparatus for Swedish gymnastics. This department is directed by a lady trained and certificated by Madame Bergman Osterberg, of the Physical Training College, Dartford Heath. All pupils not physically unfit are expected to take the gymnastic course and to join in the school games, and in order that as far as possible every pupil may do so, the fee for gymnastics has been fixed at a merely nominal sum. Beside the gymnasium there are well-kept recreation grounds, and the girls have been no less distinguished in games than in study—a feature fully appreciated by all who believe that only strong nerves and a healthy body can give value to mental and moral culture. All who have inspected the school bear testimony to the excellence of the work, the high standard maintained in it, and the healthy *esprit de corps* which prevails among the pupils.



"THE MOUNT" LADIES' COLLEGE, CLENT

"THE MOUNT" LADIES' COLLEGE

CLENT

An Admirably Conducted School

"The Mount" Ladies' College, Clent, is pleasantly situated in one of the most beautiful spots in Worcestershire, an extensive view of the surrounding country being obtained from the school buildings and playgrounds. Within easy distance of the school are charming secluded walks, affording pupils the means of indulging in healthful and elevating recreation. We present herewith an engraving of the school building, from which may be gained some idea of its attractive appearance and picturesque surroundings. Since this photograph was taken, however, a new wing was added to the building, and other alterations have been made.

The course of instructions include both the elementary and advanced studies, including the languages, music, and art, and the terms are moderate and inclusive.

Special provision has been made for boarding pupils, who are given the benefit of a refined home and the close association of the Principal and her assistants. Miss M. E. Davis, the Principal, who seems to be a teacher both by temperament and training, was formerly Head Mistress of Wordsley High School. She is assisted by a staff of trained and highly certificated English governesses and visiting professors.

While thoroughness is a marked feature, care is taken to avoid pressure and overwork. Special attention is paid to the physical well-being of pupils, who are encouraged to use the gymnasium, swimming pool, and croquet and tennis lawns. The food and general hygienic conditions are also considered as of primary importance.

We take pleasure in commending the School to those who realise the importance of careful early training, and who appreciate the aids to culture afforded by beautiful surroundings and a refined home.

W. TAYLOR, B.Mus. Oxon.

Mr. W. Taylor was born at Kidderminster in 1832, was Organist of St. John's Church 1849—1868, and the Parish Church since 1868; he is also Hon. Borough Organist.

His son, Mr. R. A. Taylor, F.R.C.O., is Deputy Borough Organist, and Organist of Hartlebury Parish Church. Both father and son occupy a prominent place in the musical life of the town.

W. GRIFFIN

Teacher of the Pianoforte and Organ

Mr. W. Griffin, formerly of Comberton Hill, and now at 48, Lorne Street, is very widely known in Kidderminster as a successful teacher. The reputation which he gained in Birmingham during an experience extending over fourteen years he has succeeded in maintaining here, as evidenced by the great number of pupils who have profited by his unique method of instruction. He does not teach after one approved "pattern," as is the manner of many teachers, but makes a point of studying the individuality of each pupil, to which he then adapts that method of instruction most suitable for it, and most promising of success. He can show the best kind of recommendations—those from parents of the pupils whom he has taught. He has the name of being particularly successful with those most difficult to teach, children and backward pupils.

Mrs. Hallen-Farmer and Mrs. Hallen-Phillpot

Middle School, 118, Mill Street,
KIDDERMINSTER

For over thirty years the above School has been favourably known to the inhabitants of Kidderminster. The School is well managed on sound and practical lines, and has been passed as efficient by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. Particular attention is paid in the training of girls for business pursuits. The following special subjects are also taught: Point lace making, painting on velvet and satin, pianoforte, banjo, guitar, autoharp, and American organ.

A Preparatory School is held at 16, Summer Place, Blakebrook, under the same management.

A few little boys are also prepared for the Grammar School.

REUBEN JENKINS

Wholesale School Stationer

This business was established in 1882 by Mr. R. Jenkins, who saw that there was an opening for a book store, dealing in particular with educational literature, school books and school stationery. Today these book stores are the recognised centre for the supply of books for schools and scholars, and the demand which had formerly to go to Birmingham, is now fully met with in a local establishment.

The "New Book Stores," as they are called, are situated at 15, Mill Street, and



Printers Stationers



occupy three large rooms on the ground floor of the premises. A business catering specially for the scholastic requirements of the district must of necessity carry a large stock, and we find, therefore, the shelves filled with hundreds of the standard books required in the various schools. There is a separate department for school stationery, and the stock of books and pamphlets dealing with educational questions is the most comprehensive in the town and is continually being added to.

Whilst educational literature is here specialised, other fields are not neglected, and one can find at the "New Book Stores" as large a selection of novels, books of travel, or scientific works as any where in the district, and the selection is kept up-to-date by daily parcels from London publishers.

Bookbinding is a department that goes of necessity with a large book stores, and the work done here is distinguished by solidity and moderate charges.

Mr. Jenkins has now been well known to many of our readers for many years as the sole agent in this town for Royal Worcester Porcelain. His stock in high-class porcelain is the largest in the district, and connoisseurs of china will find here a selection extensive enough for most tastes and purses. He has also a plate licence, and does a considerable trade in silver goods.

Messrs. G. T. CHESHIRE & SONS

The Noted Shop for Stationery

The premises now occupied by Messrs. Cheshire and Sons are a landmark in the district. The quaint structure is one of the oldest buildings; two Roman grindstones were found in the yard adjoining it, and an old oaken door, dated 1674, still forms the entrance to the printing office of the firm, and is visited and inspected yearly by numberless antiquarians.

The house was first used as a stationer's shop in 1839, and taken over by Mr. G. T. Cheshire 32 years ago. In 1900 he took into partnership his two sons, Mr. S. T. and Mr. A. Cheshire. Additional shop and store room was acquired, the printing plant was much enlarged, the total accommodation increased to treble its original size.

It was then that commenced the growth of the firm's business. Besides having a most extensive stock of stationery, the firm has now departments for bookbinding, account book manufacturing and relief stamping, a large printing office capable of dealing with any kind of work required from a modern printing establishment, and a gold lettering press room.

The great variety and the extent of the stock is surprising, and from it the firm are able to fill any order given to them on terms equal to any that Birmingham houses could offer.

Messrs. Cheshire and Sons have the local depot of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and offer amongst other specialities a 5s. leather bound edition of the Poets for 2s. 9d. A handsome view book—the only one published—of the district at one shilling, post free 1s. 3d. They also hold the greatest variety of Local View Postcards, and it is here only that the Geographical Cycling Map Postcard can be obtained. Offices and schools supplied on best terms. A large stock of browns and wrapping papers and paper bags kept.

The success of the firm is due to an extremely progressive and able management. All the goods are of the best quality; the stock is always up-to-date; the prices are generally much below those obtaining elsewhere; three good reasons for the extensive patronage which this business is receiving throughout the district.

Mr. THOMAS BROOKE

A Successful and Progressive Printer

Mr. Thomas Brooke has been well-known in Kidderminster's business circles for upwards of twenty years, having established his present business in 1884. He succeeded to the business formerly carried on by the late Mr. William Paton, with whom he had been associated as an apprentice and journeyman.

He occupies convenient premises in Pitt's Lane, requiring the use of a two-storey building. His shop is provided with modern presses, and with the latest styles of type, to which fresh accessions are constantly being made.

Mr. Brooke executes all kinds of commercial printing, large and small orders being given equal attention. We take pleasure in commending him to all into whose hands this notice may fall, as we feel assured that in both price and quality his work leaves little to be desired.

E. P. SHEPHERD

Bewdley's Leading Printer, Stationer and Photographic Dealer

A business which has had a successful history of nearly a century scarcely needs commendation at our hands; it is, however, deserving of mention in this issue, and we take special pleasure in referring to it.

The business carried on by Mr. E. P. Shepherd at 11, Load Street, Bewdley, came into his possession two years ago, although he had managed it for the previous twelve years. Since purchasing the business he has not only maintained the high reputation it has always enjoyed from the date of its establishment, but he has been fortunate in maintaining the character and the extent of its trade.

Mr. Shepherd does all kinds of printing and bookbinding, and is capable of filling any order on the shortest notice. He receives and fills orders by post, and to those who are not familiar with his work, we would state that for quality and price it leaves little to be desired. In connection with his printing establishment he carries on hand a very extensive line of stationery, art goods, photographic views, Goss's china, etc. He also conducts a lending library, which comprises the latest and most popular novels, books, newspapers and periodicals obtained to order. We feel assured that under Mr. Shepherd's direction the business will continue to enjoy its old established and honourable prestige.

E. ROLLINGS

Owens the Largest Wholesale and Retail Newsagent's Business in this district

The newsagent's, stationery, and tobacco shop at 43, 44 and 56, Oxford Street, has been established for over fifty years, twenty-one of which it has been in the hands of the present owner, Mr. E. Rollings. The two shops at 43 and 44, Oxford Street, together with that at 56, Oxford Street, constitute, as few people may know, the largest business of its kind, wholesale and retail, within a radius of twenty miles, excluding Birmingham. It has been built up by sheer hard work, and is maintained in its present prominent position by unremitting energy and attention.

Mr. E. Rollings, who may be looked upon as one of Kidderminster's successful men, has had no other help towards success than work. He has been a weaver in the town for twenty-five years, and has only recently given up the trade he has been following for so many years. His extensive newsagent's business in Oxford Street is the tangible result, however, of years of active work and capable management, and he deserves special mention in this record of Kidderminster's successful men of business.

J. C. GOODALL

Bewdley Road Circulating Library

The newsagent's and stationer's business at 66, Bewdley Road, was established some years ago, and was acquired in 1899 by Mr. J. C. Goodall, who has made it popular throughout that district. He is a bookseller, stationer, has a circulating library with an extensive selection of books and magazines, and supplies every newspaper and periodical that may be asked for.

He does also a good trade in tastefully printing, visiting and private cards, and is open to undertake any other kind of printing or bookbinding that may be entrusted to him. The prompt and careful attention given to every order, and his moderate charges, have secured for him a wide circle of customers.

J. B. BEASLEY

The Comberton Hill Stationery and Fancy Repository

After having been carried on successfully at 33, Comberton Hill for many years, this business was acquired five years ago by Mr. J. B. Beasley, who at once began to extend it by adding several new features and greatly enlarging the stock so as to be able to supply the demands of the steadily growing district.

It has now an extensive stock of fancy goods of all kinds, stationery of every description, and a selection of all the leading morning and evening papers and weekly and monthly magazines, which are regularly supplied to customers. Mr. Beasley has also added as a special department a Circulating Library with a very good selection of books, and he is further an agent for the Perth Dye Works.

Mr. Beasley has just published a special view album of Kidderminster and district, containing 29 views, at a shilling, and he has a large stock of view postcards and new goods of every description.

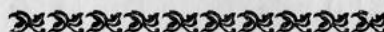
J. McCOY

Newsagent, Stationer and Tobacconist

A small, but growing newsagent business is that at 68, Blackwell Street, which was taken over by Mr. J. McCoy six years ago. It is the most up-to-date and important one in that district, and is making steady progress.

Mr. McCoy sells plain and fancy stationery, but his speciality are Catholic papers, and he has a good stock of Catholic hymn books, prayer books and other devotional literature.

His shop has recently been entirely renovated, and is now one of the most attractive in that district.



RICHARD BAXTER'S PULPIT



Co-operative Society



The Kidderminster Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited

A Brief History of a Prosperous and Progressive Organization

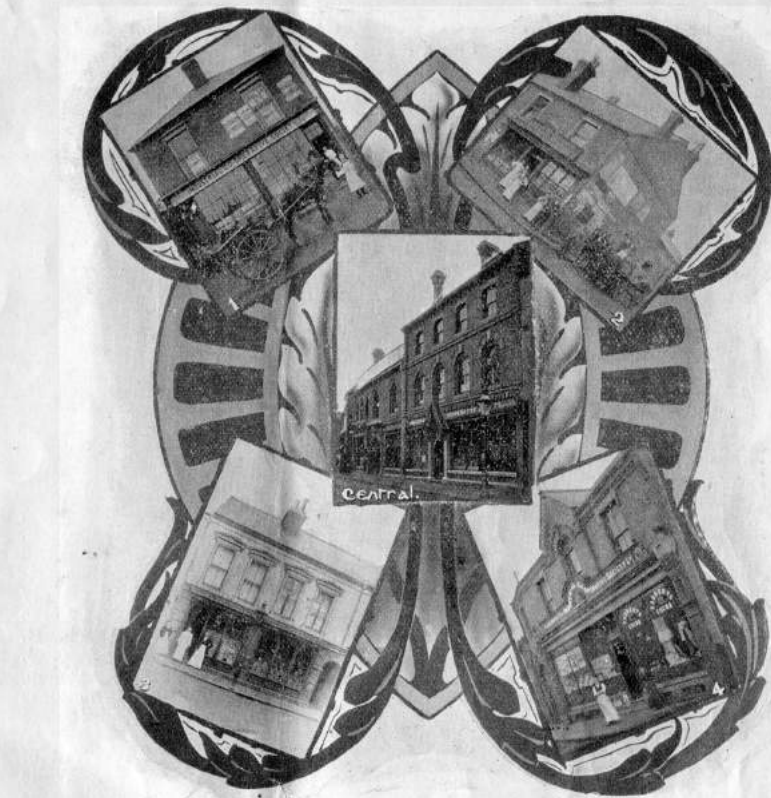
On September the twenty-ninth, 1865, one hundred and twelve men, principally representing the industrial class, met together and agreed that a Co-operative Society should be formed in Kidderminster. Upon enrollment each paid one shilling, these sums forming the nucleus of the present capital. The first headquarters of the Society were in a small rented cottage in Pitt's Lane, and the stock consisted of a very limited supply of groceries and provisions, attended to by the Committee after working hours. This was the origin of the first Co-operative Society ever established in the Birmingham district.

The most ardent advocates of co-operation could scarcely have anticipated the remarkable growth which has been, and still is, the distinguishing feature of the Kidderminster Industrial Co-operative Society's business. Within a year from its establishment the headquarters were removed to larger premises in Worcester Street, these premises now forming a small portion of the central stores. In 1876 a branch shop was opened in Cookley; in 1877 a second branch was established in Bewdley Street, Kidderminster; in 1878 a third was opened in the Horsefair, Kidderminster; and in 1880 a fourth was opened in Stourport. Through the courtesy of the Society we are enabled to present herewith an excellent engraving showing the attractive front views of the Central Stores and the four branches.

The Society to-day owns in freehold all of the buildings and premises required in its business, besides owning practically all Lion Square, which of itself forms a valuable estate, and the horses, delivery vans, boats for carrying coal and other property. The Central Stores, which occupy a modern and substantial three floor brick structure extending through from Oxford Street to Worcester Street, have a frontage of 120 feet, and a depth of 112 feet, affording a total floor area of 40,000 square feet. This building, in addition to containing a number of departments for the storage or display of merchandise, also contains the necessary offices and accounting rooms, and a large hall for the general meetings. The several branch shops, though of course much smaller than the Central Stores, are not less well furnished and equipped, giving evidence in every department of watchful care and discriminating judgment.

As we have stated, the Society began business with a small stock of groceries and provisions. From time to time were added other departments, which now include a bakery, butchery, drapery, boots, tailoring, men's outfitting, and coals. Each department is as complete as though it were an exclusive business, and all are progressively managed.

The Society's bakery, which was added in 1877, and which occupies a portion of the building devoted to the Central Stores, may be cited as an illustration of the manner in which the various departments are conducted. This bakery, which occupies a total floor space of 3,000 square feet, and requires the services of eight employees, is in point of equipment the most modern and complete in the district. It is provided with three "blocks" of steam ovens of the most approved construction, and with patent mixer. The latter which contains upwards of one ton of dough at a time, thoroughly mixes the flour and water and kneads the dough without bringing it in contact with human hands—one of the most cleanly and hygienic arrangements ever devised for the preparation of food products. The bakery at present uses 130 sacks of flour



KIDDERMINSTER I. C. S. CENTRAL STORES AND BRANCHES
No. 1—Cookley; No. 2—Bewdley Street, Kidderminster; No. 3—Horsefair, Kidderminster; No. 4—Stourport.

weekly, producing nearly 10,000 four pound loaves of bread, besides a quantity of cake.

The large volume of business done by the Society's bakery suggests an interesting contrast. On February 10th, 1866, was adopted the following minute:—"Agreed that a sack of fine flour and one of seconds be purchased from Garlick's, Goodwin's, and Corbett's." One sack! and to-day one hundred times that quantity are used each week. The same difference is shown in every department, as may be inferred from the following random figures:—In 1866 the Committee performed the actual duties of the business, while to-day the Central Stores and the several branches tax the time and energy of over seventy employees in all; then, as shown by the first quarterly report and balance sheet, the capital was £208 os. 6d., the sales £303 9s. 10½d., the net profit £11 4s. 1¾d., and the dividend 9d. in the £, while, according to the last published quarterly report and balance sheet (March, 1903), the total capital was £39,306 11s. 2½d., the sales were £15,256 7s. 6d., the net profit £1,704 6s. 4d., and the dividend 2s. 3d. in the £; the Society has now a membership of 2,500, with a reserve fund of £1,700; it has invested with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, of which it is a member, and with other co-operative societies, £8,500; and has advanced to members for building purposes £17,659.

From the extent to which the Society's business has grown may readily be inferred the advantages it offers, not only to the members, but to all patrons. All commodities are purchased in large quantities and for cash, thus making it possible to secure the most favourable terms, which ultimately accrue to the benefit of the consumer. The experience of several decades has proved that the large syndicate establishments which maintain branches in the various towns throughout the kingdom, cannot offer the consumer either better quality or lower prices than may be obtained from the Co-operative Society;

while the latter not only successfully meets all fair competition, but retains in the community, and for the most deserving class in the community, the profits arising from the business itself.

The Kidderminster Industrial Co-operative Society has been fortunate in combining a very unusual degree of progress with a safe conservatism. It has adopted a number of unique features which are valuable from both a financial and educational standpoint. Among these may be mentioned the Penny Savings Bank Department, inaugurated in 1880. The Penny Savings Bank has now depositors to the number of 1,900, with deposits aggregating £1,406, the highest single deposit being £20. This feature has already met with great success, though its full value can only be appreciated when the habits of thrift and economy thus inculcated have borne their fruit.

The interests of the members of the Society are carefully safeguarded in every way. It is controlled by special Act of Parliament, and according to the provisions of this Act the rules must be approved by the Registrar. The books are also regularly examined by auditors, and are at all times open to the inspection of members, the auditors being elected annually, each member of the Society having a voice in the election. The Society also publishes a quarterly balance sheet, which sets forth in detail the work of the Society during the quarter, with profit and loss account, and balance sheet of liabilities and assets. The interest and dividend are paid quarterly. It is but just to add that for nearly forty years the members of the Society at large, and the officers and committees, have worked together with the greatest harmony, and that there never has been a serious disagreement.

Aside from what it has accomplished, which is a great deal, the Society deserves praise for what it stands for. The beneficent principle of co-operation is no longer a theory, but a condition; and the gradual widening of the application of



Grocers



MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

the principle is due not to learned essays and debates on co-operation, but to the actual joining of hands. Starting with a merely nominal capital, with no prestige, with no assurance of success, and with a membership drawn almost wholly from the working class, the Society has not only built up a business second to none of its kind in Kidderminster, but in doing so has brought together hundreds of people through mutual interest, has promoted habits of thrift and economy among those who most need to practice them, and has returned to members frequent substantial profits.

Fortunately, the committees of management have been composed, almost without exception, of men of high integrity as well as of proved business tact and ability. The present president, Mr. Major Mills, is one of the original charter members; the secretary, Mr. H. Paget, has served as

an officer or committeeman for many years; Mr. G. Allbut, the general manager, Mr. A. Gilbert, the cashier, and Messrs. F. Perkins and A. Evans, auditors, have had a long experience in their various departments, for which they are peculiarly qualified. The remaining members of the committee are:—Messrs. W. Bibb, R. Durrance, H. Lowe, J. Bristowe, T. J. Randle, E. Stradling, W. Drake, J. Kemp, and Wm. Shutt. The Society's solicitor is Mr. Ellis Talbot, and its bankers are Lloyds Bank, Limited.

Accompanying this article are portraits of the members of the Committee. While the purpose of this Industrial Issue precludes all extended personal comment, we cannot refrain from paying these gentlemen our tribute of praise for the splendid work to which they are devoted, and the upright and progressive manner in which they are carrying it on.

MEREDITH BROTHERS

Family Grocers and Italian Warehousemen

Among the many businesses which have been portrayed in the pages of the Illustrated Issue, that of MEREDITH BROS. is one of the leading concerns. Not only does the firm own one of the handsomest buildings in the town, but they have also by means of an exceptionally progressive policy made uninterrupted progress, unaffected even by the competition of the large "combine" shops, and firmly establishing the reputation of a store where almost everything may be obtained in excellent quality and at moderate prices.

The firm was established over 120 years ago, and after a hundred years of steady progress came into the hands of its present owners, Mr. Joseph Meredith and Mr. Wm. Lawrence. Whilst these two gentlemen religiously maintained the principle which had made the business successful, they adopted every method that might increase its usefulness and popularity, and to-day the shop has grown into modern stores so complete as to be superior to any similar business in the Midlands, not even excepting Birmingham.

A visit to these stores will come as a revelation to most of our readers, for only recently has the whole of the building been transformed into a large store, directly after the model of the American emporiums, as far as enormity of stock, attractive display, and facilities for choice are concerned. In addition to this the firm guarantee that they sell the best quality of goods only, and that they effect a saving for the customer of from 15 to 25 per cent. over retail dealers. They also deliver goods purchased from them free of charge, and pay carriage to those

districts where they do not deliver by their own vans.

Tea is the first and most important department. Possessing the experience of many years, and dealing in large quantities, and the blending upon which so much depends being under the personal supervision of a member of the firm, they can naturally offer to their customers value that it would be difficult to obtain elsewhere. Coffee is bought with the same care and discrimination, and imported direct from the most noted plantations. Their machinery for roasting is perfect; it is driven by electricity, and retains the aroma and strength of the coffee to a marked degree.

The next department comprises groceries, French and Italian goods, fancy fruits, etc., and the provision stores contain the choicest selection of bacon, ham, cheese, and butter to be found in the Midlands. There are further departments for green and dessert fruits, for fancy goods of every description, for brooms and brushes, for high-class ironmongery, for perfumes and toilet requisites, for wines, spirits, ale, stout, British wines, cider, and mineral waters, and for patent medicines.

There are eleven stores in all, besides the large shop on the ground floor, and every department is as complete as it is possible to make it. All goods are attractively displayed on shelves and tables, and may be singly examined by the intending purchaser. The idea of making "shopping a pleasure" has been carried out to its highest perfection, and the result is seen in a trade which is steadily increasing.

The firm has further a perfect system for collecting orders, under which every town and village within a radius of ten miles is regularly visited by a staff of travellers, orders being delivered on the following days. The scheme is fully

explained in the comprehensive catalogue which is issued by the firm twice a year, and which contains a mass of information for the use of customers.

In the space at our disposal we have had to be content to give but the merest outline of this large concern, and our readers must ascertain for themselves the perfection to which the "stores" principle has been carried. We are pleased, however, to mention specially the great abilities of the heads of the firm, Mr. J. Meredith and Mr. W. Lawrence, who have provided the town with its most attractive and most important retail business.

Mr. SAMUEL ALLEN

The S.P.Q.R. Store

The stores which bear the mystic name of S.P.Q.R. were established by Mr. SAMUEL ALLEN in 1884, and what was then a very modest shop has grown to-day into one of the leading businesses of the town.

After having served his apprenticeship and spending in all eleven years in gaining experience, he opened a shop at 21, Coventry Street, taking as his trade principle that of small profits, quick return, he soon commenced to create a considerable trade. His policy of giving the utmost value for money was readily appreciated, and in 1892 the trade had so much increased that he enlarged his premises to double their original size. Other alterations were made, as necessity demanded; an old and once well-known hand-loom factory was converted into a commodious warehouse, and to-day the S.P.Q.R. stores are amongst the best in the district.

Owing to the relentless competition, there is for the successful management of a business more keenness of judgment and a more extensive knowledge required in the grocery trade than in any other. That Mr. Allen possesses both, is shown by the record which his business possesses, and the success of his policy to attract a large sale by being content with small profits, appears firmly assured.

S. F. WESTWOOD

To Mr. S. F. Westwood, whose place is at 86, Mill Street, must be given the credit of conducting one of the neatest grocery and provision shops in Kidderminster. Although his shop is by no means so large as some, it gives evidence of excellent judgment in its fittings and arrangements, and its scrupulous cleanliness is deserving of special notice.

The shop contains a general line of groceries, teas and provisions, all of which seem to have been selected with great care. Special provision has been made for the better class trade, for whom the highest grade of edibles has been stocked. Special features are made of bacon and ham, butter and cheese, and teas, which cannot be excelled anywhere.

Mr. Westwood has the advantage of a favourable location for the family trade, his being the only shop in the vicinity. Deliveries are made to all parts of the town and the surrounding country. We feel sure that a continuance of his present careful and capable methods will meet with continued success.

J. PARKER

Groceries and Provisions

Ale and Porter Dealer

Drapery Stores

10, Dudley Street, Kidderminster



Grocers



EXTERIOR OF MR. JOHN FINDON'S SHOP

JOHN FINDON

Controls a large Tea, Coffee, and Provision Merchant's Business

This business, which belongs to the leading in the town, was established 76 years ago, and passed after the death of the late Alderman John Findon into the hands of the present proprietor and his brother, who carried it on jointly for ten years. In 1896 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Alfred Findon taking separate control of the large coal merchant's business to which the firm had also succeeded, and Mr. John Findon becoming sole proprietor of the wholesale and retail grocery and provision trade, which under his careful management has grown into a concern of considerable importance.

To assist him in the successful conduct of his business in the face of a competition which is severer in the grocery trade than in any other, Mr. John Findon appears to have had the advantage of an excellent experience in every department of his business. Whilst most grocers are nowadays merely distributing agents for the goods bought of a number of large wholesale houses, this house blends its own Teas, roasts its own Coffee, and does all that work which ensures that their goods are always fresh, and their quality, in consequence, irreproachable. It is in fact the high standard of all the goods sold that has enabled the business to force itself into its present important position.

The premises occupied by Mr. John Findon cover an area of over 3,600 square feet, and from cellar to ceiling every inch of space has been utilised for storing or packing purposes. The handsome front shop, of which we give an illustration, is fitted up in modern style—or shall we say improved modern style—for we noticed that at the back of the counter there is a second or working counter, used, as the name implies, for dealing with the orders given by customers. Overlooking the shop are the offices.

After passing the receiving-room, where all goods delivered are carefully inspected and checked, they are distributed to the various departments, and in the capacious cellars we saw hundreds upon hundreds of cases full of tinned goods and fresh fruit and meats. Butter is also stored in these cellars, as well as a large quantity of cheese, especially "Cheddar," of which the firm makes a speciality.

Here also we find a machine for washing and drying pudding fruits; also a large coffee mill, both of which are driven by a Crossley gas engine. The provision department attracts special attention; there is a separate room for drying bacon by hot air, and in store-rooms are large quantities of home cured Wiltshire and Canadian bacon and hams, ready for sale.

We come now to the sugar store, pass the "bottled beer and cordial" store, the wine cellar, with its bins full of wines of all countries and vintages, and a large store for bottling ale and stout, possessing a capacity for dealing with a hundred dozen per day. There are further tea, corn, paper, and general store-rooms. Whilst all of them are important, the principal attention is given by Mr. John Findon to the tea blending room, where a number of superior teas are blended under his personal supervision; and the coffee roasting room, where coffee is roasted and ground daily, so that the many patrons of the business can always have it perfectly fresh.

The stores over the shop are mostly used for storing packed goods, and the neat way in which ground rice, semolina, castor sugar, &c., is made up in specially manufactured linen bags, deserves mention.

Mr. John Findon holds a number of valuable agencies, in cask ale, for Allsopp's, Ind Coope's, and Showell's; and in bottled ale and stouts, besides those mentioned, for Barrett's family ale, Oak-hill and Oatmeal Invalid Stout, Bass's India Pale Ale, Whitbread's Ale and Stout, and Wrexham Lager Beer. He further is agent for W. & A. Gilbey's wines and spirits, and to complete the variety which he offers to all tastes, he sells Wheatley's Hop Bitters.

In teas, besides his own favourite blends, he has agencies for Mazawattee, Nectar, Salmon's, Ridgway's, and Priory, and as regards cocoa, he sells besides a number of leading brands, a cocoa packed specially for him—Findon's Pure Cocoa—which is as much thought of by many customers as those with a more sounding name.

Mr. John Findon publishes every month a "Household Journal," which is distributed gratis among customers and those intending to become customers. It is a well-edited little magazine, with 14 pages of good reading matter, including a short

story, anecdotes, hints for the house, fashion sketches, and cookery recipes. It gives further detailed information about the goods sold by this house, and forms altogether one of the neatest and most unobtrusive price-lists we have seen.

For the convenience of customers and intending customers, Mr. John Findon has established a system of delivery by his own vans. Travellers call in town and country for orders; the goods are delivered in the town daily, and the country orders are executed and delivered on special days, according to the journey.

Mr. John Findon, who devotes the whole of his time to the business, finds his reward in seeing his extensive trade steadily increase, demanding now the employment of ten assistants. His enterprise and his abilities have made him known as one of our leading men of business, and for his rectitude he is universally respected.



B. L. GRIFFITHS

Family Grocer and Wine and Spirit Merchant

The grocery business, owned by Mr. B. L. Griffiths, and situated in Swan Street, belongs to those few firms in this line of business who have not only held their own, but have also made steady progress against the fierce competition of the "multiple-shop firms," that is, those firms who, backed up by enormous capital, can open shops wherever they please, and can afford to undersell any competitor. The reason for such success—against such heavy odds—may be easily found in the different way of management. Knowing that the volume of his trade depends upon the reputation which he is able to create and to maintain, the proprietor gives his closest attention to every detail of his business; everything is bought in carefully selected markets, of the best quality, and on terms which enable him to retail to his customers goods, the value of which could not be bettered anywhere, and a comparison with others will often be greatly in favour of the articles sold here, both as regards quality and price.

For the convenience of his customers in town and country Mr. Griffiths has arranged a number of rounds for the prompt delivery of orders. Besides the daily deliveries in the town there are regular rounds every four weeks to Chaddesley, Bewdley, Blakedown, and Cookley and Wolverley respectively, including, of course, all intermediate points and places in the neighbourhood of these rounds. Orders are also, when desired, solicited at customers' houses.

Mr. B. L. Griffiths is also agent for Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey, wine importers and distillers, and he keeps all their well-known blends of spirits and vintages of wines in stock. For the information of those of our readers who are farmers or gardeners it should also be mentioned that he keeps an extensive stock of garden seeds in season.

The business has been established since 1830, and has been owned by Mr. B. L. Griffiths since 1879. Under his management it has grown from a small beginning to the important position it now holds.



Bakers and Confectioners



EXTERIOR OF MESSRS. J. FEHRENBACH & SON'S SHOP.

J. FEHRENBACH & SON

A High-class Confectioner's Business

The progress of our town, and the district of which it is the centre, is best illustrated by the rise of a number of businesses, which from a modest beginning have grown to such importance as to make them rank with any similar concerns in the country.

The business of J. Fehrenbach thirty years ago was not what it is now. It was founded by the head of the present firm in Bridge Street, was removed six years later to Coventry Street, and from there it was transferred, four years ago, to the splendid premises in High Street, which were bought by Mr. Fehrenbach to provide room for the remarkable extension of the trade which, under his capable direction, had taken place.

Everyone in the district knows "Fehrenbach's" nowadays. They are the leading bakers and confectioners, their tea rooms are one of the chief places of resort in the town, and are patronised by visitors from near and far, and as caterers their reputation is equal to that of any firm.

The shop, at the top of High Street, of which we present an illustration, is one of the two or three business premises in the town which are fitted in an almost luxurious style. The mahogany counter and fittings, the elegant furniture and drapery—everything combines to convey the impression that no money has been spared to make it in point of elegance and comfort perfect.

The three tea rooms are furnished in an equally dainty and elegant style, in keeping with the intention of the firm to have an establishment that should be equal to the best.

The workrooms and the bakehouse are a study in hygienic improvements and scientific baking. They are lined throughout with glazed tiles, which are washed often, so that not a speck of dust can accumulate, and the bakehouse is fixed with a patent heat trap oven, manufactured by Cox & Son.

The advantage of this oven is first, that the fire place is not fixed in the bakehouse, but that the firing is done from the back of the oven, at the rear of the bakehouse. This prevents effectually

the mixing of any particle of ashes or coal with the dough. The distinguishing feature of this oven from others is that it consists of two parts, the oven proper (the heat trap) and a large iron plate, moving on wheels, and which, when put into the oven, forms the bottom of it. The advantages of this movable drawplate are obvious. The work of filling it with loaves can be done more expeditiously, because it is filled outside the oven, and it is infinitely purer than the old system, for it can be cleaned thoroughly before each baking. The oven will bake 100 quarter loaves at a baking, and almost the whole process of making bread and cake is done by machinery.

There is a separate oven for baking cakes, several workrooms, and a three-storied flour warehouse. The ground area exceeds 2,400 square feet, and the regular staff numbers sixteen hands; and 2,000 eggs are used weekly for the making of cakes.

To define the position the firm hold in high-class catering we will only mention two instances. They were entrusted to cater for a three days' garden party in connection with the Coronation festivities, which was attended by 2,000 guests, the refreshments consisting of tea, fruit, and ices; but they were said to have excelled themselves on the occasion of the reception given by the Mayor and Corporation to Sir Chih-Chen Lo-Feng-Luh, the Chinese Ambassador on the occasion of his visit to this town and its industries.

There were 100 guests present. The menu consisted of two soups, four entrees, nine removes, seven sweets, and five desserts, besides the wines, and was a triumph in highest-class catering.

We have before us an elaborately printed price list, which gives a bewildering array of all the dainty cakes and dishes that are supplied by this firm, and those of our readers who may not have visited this establishment will find there a variety of bride, birthday, and other cakes (with names and distinguishing traits which are beyond the descriptive power of a mere journalist) which it would appear impossible to excel.

In 1898 Mr. Fehrenbach took as partner in the business his son, Mr. Frank C. Fehrenbach, upon whom since then much

of the active management of the firm has devolved. The record of their firm is a striking proof of the success that may be achieved where an expert knowledge of the trade is assisted by an unusual amount of business ability.

D. YATES

A Well-known Baker and Confectioner

The business of which Mr. D. Yates is the proprietor is old established, having been founded in 1854, and has, for many years, held a high place in public favour. Previously to coming into possession of the business Mr. Yates served his predecessor as a journeyman, thus becoming familiar with the requirements of his patrons. In 1886 he erected his present convenient premises in Mill Street. Here he has capacious ovens and every facility for turning out daily a large quantity of his bread, cakes, pies, confections, and other products.

He gives attention to all kinds of baking, personally overseeing everything on the premises. His bread and cakes are equal to any that can be made, being invariably palatable and wholesome. Fresh orders are delivered on request to any part of the town at any hour.

His pork pies are noted for their unusually high quality, and are known throughout the United Kingdom. Mr. Yates has received and filled frequent orders for them from Ireland, Scotland, London, Birmingham, Torquay, and other places—a sufficient evidence of their unequalled quality.

ALFRED COX

The New Hygienic Bakery

Mr. Alfred Cox, whose two shops are at Comberton Hill and George Street, has had an exceptional opportunity of making himself proficient in his trade. Coming from a family of bakers—who have been in the trade for over one-hundred and fifty years—he became, after having served his apprenticeship, baker in the Commissariat, where he underwent a thorough training in baking on the most scientific principles, receiving on his discharge an Army Master Baker's Certificate.

Mr. Alfred Cox established himself in Kidderminster ten years ago, first in George Street. Making it from the first a principle to use nothing but the finest flour, the demand for his bread soon spread to such an extent, that he took over the premises at Comberton Hill, in which he carries on a baker's, confectioner's and wholesale self-raising flour business.

The shop on Comberton Hill enjoys the advantage of one of the best trade positions in the town, situated as it is just opposite the theatre. The bakehouse at the back is conducted on modern principles, and its hygienic arrangements are excellent. It is lined with glazed bricks throughout, and as the ovens are fired from the back, it is impossible for any dust or ashes to mix with the dough.

Besides his own make of bread, for which he has earned a great reputation, he is sole agent for Carr's Malt Bread, which is by many regarded as the ideal brown bread. For his own wholemeal bread Mr. Cox claims that it is absolutely pure, baked without the use of any flavouring ingredients, that it is more easily digested, and that it contains high nutritious value.

He is justly famed for his bridal and birthday cakes, and has also of late added the purveying of boiled ham, tongue, and beef a-la-mode. Tastes differ in everything, and it is impossible to place any particular shop before all others, but it may be said about this business that as regards knowledge of the trade by its proprietor, ability of management, and high standard of the goods sold, it is not behind any other.



Bakers and Confectioners



A. WRIGHT

Manufacturing Confectioner

The wholesale confectioner's business at 5, Blackwell Street, owned by Mr. A. Wright, is well known, not only in Kidderminster, but throughout the district. Having been established for many years, it was acquired in 1897 by its present proprietor, who, by introducing modern methods of manufacturing, at once commenced to improve the quality of his goods, and to largely extend its connection amongst retail confectioners.

Mr. A. Wright, who personally supervises the business, manufactures every description of sweets and sweetmeats, best known amongst which are his bottled sweets, caramel toffee, and "home-made butters," as they are called in the trade. Their reputation lies in the fact that not only in the process of manufacture the most scrupulous regard is given to every means of ensuring cleanliness and wholesomeness, but also that they are made from material which is guaranteed to be absolutely pure. The result is that the goods made here find a ready sale, and that the connection which Mr. Wright is building up is steadily increasing.

Besides his own makes Mr. Wright does a large wholesale trade in the products of other manufacturers, stocking chocolate and sweets of all the best makers. He has several wholesale and sole agencies for the district, the most valuable among them being one for the famous Mackintosh's toffee, for Kop's Ice Cream Powders, and for Barker and Dobson's sweets and toffee.

If this business cannot compare in size with the large firms in this trade, it can easily claim that the goods manufactured here are not inferior to those of the more pretentious makers, and it is, therefore, gratifying to find that the proprietor's efforts to produce a good and wholesome article are meeting with general recognition.

Mrs. A. E. DAY

High-Class Wholesale and Retail Confectioner

Mrs. A. E. DAY, whose bright and attractive shop is located at 23, Victoria Buildings, Park Butts, has been favoured with an unusual degree of success. A little over a year ago she succeeded to the above firm, the business at that time having a very limited patronage. She at once widened her connection by adopting progressive methods, altering the premises, brightening the shop, and adding materially to the stock from time to time. At the present time it may be truthfully said that she has one of the neatest and most inviting confectionery shops in Kidderminster.

Mrs. Day carries a complete line of all grades of confectionery, including such well-known and popular sweets as Cadbury's, Cailler's, Rowntree's, Mackintosh's delicious toffee, Lindsay's and Low's celebrated Dundee sweets, Tom Smith's, of cracker fame, and other high class makes. Since assuming charge of the business she has added a line of biscuits, including Huntley & Palmer's, Hughes's, and Lindsay & Sons. During the present summer she will also introduce several new American drinks, which in London and the larger English cities have rapidly sprung into favour.

She does both a retail and wholesale trade, the latter being confined principally to the town. Owing to the extent and variety of her stock, her favourable location, and the close attention she has given to the business, we may confidently predict a continuance of her success, which is wholly deserved.

F. GRANT

A well-known Baker and Confectioner

The business of which Mr. F. GRANT is the head has been familiar to the public for many years, having been established in 1861 by the late Mr. W. Chamberlain. The present proprietor succeeded to the business six years ago, since when he has fully maintained its high standing and increased its volume. He has the advantage of a favourable location at 4, Mill Street, and his premises are amply large and well arranged.

Mr. Grant is a general baker and confectioner, all his goods being made on the premises. A special feature is made of his noted fresh pork pies, German sausages, cooked ham, and a-la-mode beef, which are served in his lunch room or delivered to order to any part of the town at any hour. He also handles Bass's bottled ales, and Guinness's stout, and all kinds of wines for consumption on or off the premises. He gives his entire time and attention to the business, and all orders, whether for large or small quantities, are given prompt attention.

ALFRED POTTER

Wholesale and Retail Manufacturing Confectioner

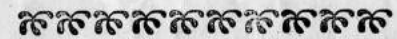
The business carried on by Mr. ALFRED POTTER, at 99, Blackwell Street, has been in existence for over 20 years, although it has only within the past few years been brought prominently into public notice. Nearly three years ago Mr. Potter bought out the business, and at once adopted a vigorous and progressive policy, and the volume of trade has since been multiplied several times.

While nearly every one in Kidderminster and the surrounding country has seen Mr. Potter's attractive and well stocked retail shop in Blackwell Street, few have been privileged to inspect his wholesale manufacturing works. His premises are

quite extensive, comprising a number of separate apartments, including the sugar boiling and store rooms.

He manufactures all kinds of sweets, several skilful confectioners being employed constantly. The purest and best materials and flavours obtainable are used, and great care is taken to insure uniform high quality. A special feature is made of bottled sweets, which are very attractively put up, and for which Mr. Potter has gained a wide reputation. In addition to manufacturing largely on his own account he is agent for the most celebrated confectioners in the market.

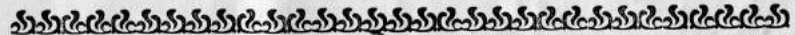
Since taking hold of the business, he has not only gained a very gratifying local patronage, but he has also secured a connection in all the surrounding towns and villages. He makes frequent visits to Bewdley, Stourport, Bridgnorth, Kinver, Droitwich, Bromsgrove, and other places, where his sweets are growing in popular favour. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, he attends in the markets at Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth respectively. An important factor in the growth of the business is the invariable high quality of his sweets which, price considered, cannot be excelled by any manufacturer in the district, and to his very gratifying progress we may safely predict a continuance.



Rates Collected

The following comparative table shows the aggregate amount received from all rates levied for Borough purposes during the past five years.

	Borough Rate		General District Rate		Water Rate	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1898...	6071	0 0	11902	5 7	4863	8 1
1899...	6400	0 0	12930	7 5	5076	15 4
1900...	6600	0 0	13059	5 10	5148	17 8
1901...	6900	0 0	13706	13 0	5007	10 3
1902...	7100	0 0	13383	11 11	6116	4 3



Health

A comparative table showing birth and death rates in Kidderminster for the past eight years.

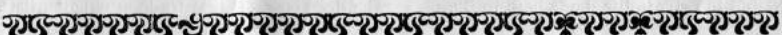
	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Av.
BIRTH RATE ...	25'48	24'56	24'68	22'72	22'84	24'00	25'18	25'18	24'33
DEATH RATE ...	18'88	15'92	17'08	15'76	17'44	21'68	20'08	17'53	18'04



Meteorological

A fair idea of Kidderminster's climate may be obtained from the following figures, which, compare favourably with those for many of the noted health and pleasure resorts throughout the country.

	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Mean average for 1902.
HIGHEST RECORDED TEMPERATURE	97°6'	84°0'	87°2'	89°6'	90°2'	84°5'	47°2'
LOWEST " "	22°0'	25°0'	13°0'	13°8'	15°0'	18°9'	
RAINFALL (INCHES) ...	20'87	16'22	21'00	25'49	17'87	17'49	
NUMBER OF RAINY DAYS ...	169	160	162	187	166	169	





Chemists Herbalists



Mr. MAURICE SMITH

Ph. C., M. P. S., F. S. M. C.

PHARMACIST, Photographic Chemist, and Qualified Optician

Mr. MAURICE SMITH, of Oxford Street, holds a high position in our professional life, not only by reason of having taken the highest degree that may be obtained in pharmaceuticals, but also by having added considerably to the dignity of his profession since he has been established here.

His scientific attainments, combined with exceptional opportunities for gaining experience, qualified him for a successful career. After having been with Giles Schacht & Co., Clifton, and subsequently several years head dispenser with Messrs. Savory & Moore, Chemists to the Queen, with both of which firms he had enviable facilities for acquiring practical knowledge, he established himself, seven years ago, in Oxford Street, where he has gained the record of being one of our most successful professional men.

During the last few years Mr. Smith has added to his establishment the business of an optician, and here again he has attained another exceptional qualification, having been elected a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, a degree which carries with it the Freedom of the City of London. As a pharmacist, so as an optician, Mr. Smith possesses the highest qualification for dealing with any work that may be entrusted to him. His consulting room is fitted up with the most modern scientific equipment, and he has successfully dealt with the most troublesome cases of defective eyesight.

In spite of his extensive practice Mr. Maurice Smith has been able to give a part of his time to municipal matters, having represented Rowland Hill Ward since 1901 in the Liberal interest.

Mr. WALTER ARNOLD

An Old-Established Dispensing and Family Chemist

Mr. WALTER ARNOLD, who owns the pharmacy in Bewdley Street, was born in Kidderminster, and learned his profession with Mr. John George, one of the best-known chemists of Wolverhampton. After gaining valuable experience for two years with Dr. Waddell, of Lion Street, and afterwards in Birmingham and London, always in businesses where ample opportunity was given to make himself proficient in every branch of the chemist's and druggist's business, he established himself thirteen years ago at 71, Bewdley Road, where he soon succeeded in creating a wide clientele.

Whilst his charges are so moderate as to enable him to meet competition, the quality of his chemicals and drugs is of the very highest, and his extensive business makes it possible for him to have always a stock that is absolutely fresh. Everyone knows how much depends in dispensing upon the efficacy of drugs not being impaired, and the anxious care taken by an experienced professional man, such as Mr. Arnold, is rewarded by the confidence in which he is held by all.

Like many chemists, Mr. Arnold has made a special study of the more common ailments, and he prepares several proprietary articles which, under the name of Arnold's Bronchitis Mixture, and Arnold's Liver and Indigestion Pills, have become favourably known with a large number of sufferers, as indicated by the large sale they are finding.

Mr. Arnold has always successfully endeavoured to maintain the prestige of his profession, and both as a professional man, and in private life, he is held in high esteem.

HENRY ROBERTS

A Prominent and Old-established Chemist and Registered Dentist

Among those of Kidderminster chemists who are deserving of special mention in this issue is Mr. Henry Roberts, of No. 27, Mill Street, who has occupied the same premises for thirty years or over.

His stock, which is as complete and well-selected as that of any pharmacy in the town, includes, besides standard drugs and chemicals, a full line of toilet articles, perfumes and sundries. A special feature is made of dispensing, Mr. Roberts personally attending to all work of this character. In dispensing great care is taken to ensure absolute accuracy and to use only such drugs as have preserved their full strength and efficacy. Another feature is the preparation of a number of proprietary articles of more than ordinary merit, scientifically prepared after his own formulas. These include an iron tonic, cough tinctures, neuralgia cure, and other remedies.

Since these few lines are designed as a professional notice rather than a personal comment, it is enough to say of Mr. Roberts that during his extended business career he has enjoyed the highest reputation both in professional and lay circles.

Mr. G. H. TAYLOR

A well-known Dispensing Chemist

The pharmacy in Worcester Street was established by Mr. G. H. Taylor ten years ago, and is now one of the best equipped and best known businesses in the town. Having previously held for many years a position as analyst for Messrs. Alfred Bird and Sons, Ltd., of Birmingham, Mr. G. H. Taylor has exceptional qualifications as a dispensing chemist, and it is as such that he is held in high regard.

Besides the drugs and chemicals, nursery requisites and perfumes, soaps and general toilet and household necessities, patent medicines, and all those many articles which are the complement of every chemist's shop, he sells several proprietary articles which are of high merit and find an extensive sale.

He further supplies photographic materials and chemicals, and has a dark room for the use of his clients. For the convenience of customers the pharmacy is connected with the Telephone Exchange, No. 0199, and urgent orders will be executed immediately.

Mr. G. H. Taylor is a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and one of the most respected men in the profession.

Mr. J. HUNTLEY

Dispensing and Family Chemist.

After gaining experience in his profession in Norwich, Gloucester, London and elsewhere, Mr. J. HUNTLEY came to Kidderminster in December, 1892, and established himself in the Horsefair, in which densely populated district he soon created a wide connection. Besides keeping the usual drugs and chemicals which form the stock of every chemist's business, he is the local agent and has a large sale for Nurse Milly's Soothing Syrup, Dubar's Lung Renewer, and all Browning Dubar's preparations. They are said to possess extraordinary healing properties, and are eagerly bought by the many clients who prefer them to all other similar preparations.

In connection with his chemist's shop Mr. J. Huntley carries on the business of a manufacturer of artificial teeth, in which he does considerable trade among dentists.

Mr. WALTER W. PRICE

Photographic and Dispensing Chemist

A well-known chemist's business is that owned by Mr. WALTER W. PRICE, Comberton Hill. Being the photographic quarter of Kidderminster it is only befitting that we should find here at the Comberton Hill Supply Stores the best selected and most comprehensive stock of photographic chemicals and cameras.

Dispensing is another department to which Mr. Price devotes himself.

Mr. Walter W. Price, who has been established five years at Comberton Hill, is one of those professional men who have had an exceptional advantage in acquiring experience, having spent some years with the old-established firm of chemists George and Welch, of Worcester, and a considerable time with Messrs. Savory & Moore, chemists to the Queen.

F. MEADES,

The only Medical Herbalist in Kidderminster

In our reference to the professional life of Kidderminster we take pleasure in including mention of Mr. Meades, who has the distinction of being the only medical herbalist in the town or vicinity. He has been engaged in the practice of his profession for the past eight years, for four of which he has occupied his present premises at 98, Blackwell Street.

Medical herbalists, so far as possible, avoid the use of drugs which are formed wholly or partially of minerals, or any substances other than roots, barks, or herbs, and preparations of them of a non-poisonous character. Their means and methods of treatment are therefore allied to those of nature. During the past few years the practice of medical herbalists has grown rapidly in favour throughout the country, and the soundness of their theories has been frequently demonstrated. The National Association of Medical Herbalists of Great Britain requires every member to pass an exceptionally severe examination, involving questions pertaining to materia medica, pharmacy, anatomy, physiology, diseases of woman and children, hygiene, chemistry, and botany, as well as the practice of medicine, with which they are more directly concerned. The subject of these lines is a member of that association, taking an active interest in it, as in everything connected with his profession.

In his dispensary in Blackwell Street he carries a complete stock of drugs and chemicals required in his practice. He makes a special feature of dispensing, using the greatest care in this very important work. He has been favoured with a very large and constantly increasing patronage, which has grown almost wholly through the recommendations of those who have benefited by his services. His clients include a number of people from a distance, as well as in Kidderminster and the immediate vicinity.

In addition to his work of dispensing he prepares a number of proprietary articles of unusual merit and efficacy, all of them after his own formulae. Upon request a full list of these preparations will be posted to any address.

It gives us pleasure to add that Mr. Meades is a man of general culture, as well as a very competent medical herbalist. He has creditably passed a number of science and art examinations, and his attainments are by no means confined to his own profession. He has fully sustained the dignity of his profession, as well as increased its usefulness, and it may safely be predicted that his efforts will continue to be appreciated.

Wine Merchants & Maltsters



STORE ROOM—HOPKINS & SON.

G. HOPKINS & SON, Limited Wine and Spirit Merchants, Brewers, Cider and Perry Makers

Among the firms entitled to special mention in this account of Kidderminster, one of the foremost is G. HOPKINS & SON, LTD., not only because the family is the oldest and longest-known among the business families of the town, but also because the business in question has of later years grown to an extent which makes it rank with the principal firms of the kind in the county.

The firm was founded in 1859 by the late Mr. George Hopkins, who took over a small business which had been established for many years on a portion of the present premises. He was joined in 1887 by his only son, Mr. Arthur Hopkins. In 1889 Mr. George Hopkins died, and in 1898 a private limited liability company was formed, of which Mr. Arthur Hopkins



MR. ARTHUR G. HOPKINS.

is chairman and manager. Adjoining premises were purchased to make room for new departments, until now the premises cover an area of 13,000 square feet, exclusive of the brewery in Sutton road.

While there are now several departments, the one devoted to Wines and Spirits claims special consideration. The cellars are of considerable extent, and a varied and well-selected stock is kept. The firm do most of their bonding work in Birmingham, there being no bonded warehouse in Kidderminster. The well-known "White Wings" is their registered brand of Whiskey.

The Brewery in Sutton Road was acquired in 1899, as a result of the firm's policy of supplying what the public want. The process of brewing at this "Gem of a Model Home Brewery," as it has come to be called, is similar to that which exists in the best of home breweries, while every scientific device possible has been adopted to ensure the brewing process being pure.

The Invalid and Imperial Stouts, brewed from specially selected Dublin malts, are a speciality, and have obtained great commendation. The whole of the cask stout used by the firm is their own production.

A most important and growing department of this extensive concern is the cider mill. Being situated within the orchard district, a plentiful supply of fruit is assured, whilst on the other hand there is a large industrial population near. This portion of the firm's premises will be seen in the illustration. It comprises a three-storey factory and a large range of arched cellars capable of holding thousands of casks. The solidity of these cellars, and the river running alongside, ensure a coolness in summer that is most valuable in this business.

The equipment of the cider mills is a most interesting blend, if we may use the term, of the method of cider making used by the old makers, with every modern improvement conducive to purity of quality and the saving of labour.

The firm claim that the result is a cider combining all the merits of the old time beverage without its defects. It is needless to point out that the regular cider drinker prefers his liquor on the dry side, while the occasional one generally prefers it to be sweet. Drawing from all sorts of orchards and accumulating a large stock, fermented in varying methods and for various periods, the firm can easily meet all these different tastes. For gouty or rheumatic people dry cider is recommended.

The actual process of cider or perry making will be familiar to some of our readers. From the large store room at the top a wooden shoot carries the fruit into the mill, where a spiked cylinder revolving nearly 2000 times a minute converts it speedily into pulp, which is then packed in Manilla hemp cloth bags and pressed, re-ground, and then re-pressed. The juice falls into the fermenting vats below, and it is from now onward that knowledge and experience most tell.

An extensive trade in bottled cider on the lines of the bottled beer trade appears to be springing up, and the brand "Pomosa Corona,"—meaning a wreath of apples—is already well known.

The firm are the original and now the largest bottlers of Guinness in Kidderminster, their account having been continuous for over forty years. For some reason their bottlings have a character which other bottlers have never been quite able to touch. Worthington's and Bass's ales are also bottled, and share the popularity.

Passing through the extensive and well-fitted beer bottling stores we notice a tram line running from the washing room through the cellars to the loading up entrance. Empties arrive at a separate entrance and descend to the washing room by a slide. Thus a regular circulation is kept up without confusion. In the yard a steam boiler and cooper's shop attest the completeness of the arrangements.

The three retail businesses directly managed by the firm demand attention. They impress the visitor most favourably in many ways, one of which is their unlikeness to the conventional idea. Mr. Hopkins says that it is his business to sell all sorts of liquors more or less alcoholic, but he points to the price lists on the walls as a proof of his readiness to supply to those who desire them an equally good choice of non-alcoholic liquors and light refreshments, hot or cold. He says "I go with the times, and if possible a little in front of them. Establishments combining the supply of alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments are bound in the long run to score over those confining themselves to one description, and such businesses, well-managed, will largely disarm opponents on the Bench and elsewhere." Proceeding to the Licensing question, Mr. Hopkins has strong views as to the necessity of compensation and the injustice of extreme views. Compromise, he believes, between differing opinions is the only method of dealing with the question, and all parties are beginning to recognise that fact. No trade has had so many special burdens imposed on it of late years as the one in which he is engaged; brewers have borne them cheerfully so far, but now that the special reasons for imposing them have been removed, equity demands that they should be re-adjusted.

Mr. Hopkins has just published a little work, making easy the gauging of barrels—this has hitherto been only practicable to experts.

Messrs. HAMPTON & REA Maltsters and Hop Merchants

This firm was founded in 1825 by Mr. Herbert Willis, and is the oldest established maltster's business in the town. After having been carried on successfully since 1850 by the late Mr. Hampton, it passed in 1895 into the hands of Mr. E. D. Hampton and his brother. On the latter leaving the firm Mr. Hampton joined in partnership with Mr. Joseph Rea.

In addition to being the oldest, the firm has also the most extensive malting and hop factor's business in the district. They possess large maltings and stores at Oxford Street, where is also the head office of the firm, and two other large maltings and stores at Broad Street and Paradise Row, the total area being one and a half acres.

The trade of the firm extends over the whole of the county. The practical knowledge which Mr. Hampton, the senior partner, acquired when with his father, has been of considerable value in maintaining and improving the firm's trade, and the volume of business done annually entitles them to be ranked among the leading firms in the district.

In malting and the handling of hops and malt—principally Worcestershire growth—the firm employ a number of men, and the continued success of the business, in the face of severe competition, reflects the greatest credit upon its capable management.



Ironmongers



E. & A. JENNS

Have a speciality which they sell all the world over

The general mill-furnishing store in Oxford Street was established twenty-one years ago by the late John Killingbeck, who is famous in engineering circles as the inventor of the most ingenious lubricator in use, and passed, in 1899, into the hands of Mr. E. Jenns, who had been manager of the concern for seventeen years previously, and who during that time gained a wide and comprehensive knowledge of all the thousand and one things that the development of modern industrialism has made necessary. This store supplies wheel and plug valves, pump and cup leathers, boiler tubes and fittings, best English oak tanned belting for light and heavy machinery, machine oil, cylinder oil perfectly free from acids, gauge glasses, steam and vacuum gauges, engine packings and rubber goods of every description, and selected for their high qualities; and any article not kept in this large stock can be supplied at a few hours' notice. Messrs. E. & A. Jenns are also sole agents for Worcestershire for the patent "papier mache" bobbins and spools, manufactured by the famous German firm of Gebruder Adt of Ennheim, the trade in these forming one of their most important departments. They also include a large variety of gas and water fittings of all kinds, and, as a store under able management should do, they are open to supply any article from the most intricate machinery down to a box of tacks.

Their special claim, however, to being classed among the prominent firms in the town lies in the fact that they are the joint patentees and sole purveyors in this town of Killingbeck's patent sight-feed lubricator. This appliance, which has received the highest awards, first-class certificate and silver medal at Cardiff, 1887, and the silver medal at the Melbourne Exhibition, possesses, as is proved by the honours it has earned for its inventor, greater advantages and gives better results than any other lubricator as regards economy, efficiency, simplicity, and certainty. The distinguishing principle of the appliance is that the oil is blown with the steam into all the working parts of the engine to which it is affixed. Messrs. E. & A. Jenns have prepared a circular which gives illustrations and diagrams fully describing the technical points, and which is forwarded to anyone desirous of making himself acquainted with this wonderful invention. We are only concerned with the industrial importance of the patent, and therefore content ourselves to point out the superiority which it appears to possess over other lubricators. In this each spot of oil is seen as it passes from the lubricator to the engine; it yields an increased working power; it creates a considerable economy of fuel and lubricant; its action is certain and regular; it is simple to regulate; and the wear and tear of the engine fitted with it is reduced to a minimum. The condenser is enlarged and shows a greater column of water; there is a direct connection with the oil chamber; each side of the cup can be closed preparatory to re-charging; each section of the lubricator is arranged so that it may be disconnected independently; and it has an enlarged glass which prevents smearing.

The lubricator is made of gun metal throughout; it will work light or heavy oils; it can be regulated from one drop in three minutes to any amount required for lubricating; and is withal so simple that it can be fixed by any ordinary workman.

It has often been described as the most perfect lubricator on the market, and Messrs. E. & A. Jenns are so confident of the many excellent points which place it in front of all others, that they allow a month's free trial to any user of steam

who wishes to test its qualities to his own satisfaction. The enormous saving in lubricant alone, amounting to fifty per cent. and upwards, calls for the careful attention of manufacturers and engineers to the lubricator, and the fact that it is working successfully and fulfilling all the functions expected from it in every part of England, Australia, and India, seems to be a conclusive proof that here we have the highest development attained in this branch of engineering science. It is made in two patterns, the ordinary, and the Duplex, to supply two cylinders from one lubricator. Both are made in various sizes to lubricate engines from 10 h.p. to 400 h.p.

Mr. Edmund Jenns, the senior partner in the firm, has associated with him his brother, Mr. Alfred Jenns. Both give all their time to the business, and chiefly to the knowledge and experience of Mr. E. Jenns is due the influential position which the firm to-day maintains.

Mr. RICHARD WISE

The Leading Ironmonger's Shop in the Town

This business was established over forty years ago, and was acquired in 1878 by Mr. E. J. Wise, the father of the present proprietor, Mr. Richard Wise, under whose management the trade has considerably grown in extent and importance.

The handsome building, which is entirely devoted to business purposes, contains all those thousands of articles which, under the general name of ironmongery, comprise everything that may either be required by the builder when erecting a house or by the housewife in furnishing it afterwards. In addition to the large shop and stores in the Bull Ring there is a large warehouse in Pitt's Lane, and workshops for the execution of all repairs.

Mr. Wise employs a staff of fourteen hands, but personally superintends every department of this important business.

A. J. FOSTER

Mill Furnisher and General Ironmonger

Sheffield House, at 37, Church Street, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Bull Ring, was opened by Mr. A. J. Foster, on July 29th, 1893, as a mill furnisher's and general ironmonger's shop, and belongs now to the best known businesses in the county. Mr. Foster has had the advantage of a long experience in the trade in different branches, mostly in Birmingham, and in his knowledge of the wholesale market, and in the consequent ability to buy on the most advantageous terms and to sell a good article at a moderate price may be sought the cause of the success with which he has met.

His trade is of considerable dimensions, and the shop, stock rooms, and warehouse are filled to their utmost capacity with all the thousands of different articles required in household ironmongery and mill furnishings. Of the latter Mr. Foster makes a speciality, keeping a stock of valves, belting, fittings, gauges, oils, and anything that may be required by the local manufacturers, of whom he counts many among his customers.

He holds a sole agency for the district for Beckett's "Matchless" steel, known for its exceeding high quality, and used in the manufacture of the highest grade of steel implements, and Beckett's "Matchless" Improved Sand Blast Files; but his best known speciality are cartridges, and the reputation which this establishment has gained among sportsmen may be gleaned from the fact that the majority of the cartridges supplied for pigeon shooting in this district are loaded and sold by Mr. Foster. There is a special cartridge loading room, and the total area of the premises is over 3,000 square feet.

The business is well established in the favour of its customers, and a growing connection is the result of the attention to the needs of the district, and the energy with which it is managed.

Messrs. PHEYSEY, Ltd.

STOURPORT

One of the largest Ironmonger's establishments in Worcestershire

It is not generally known, and it would scarcely be suspected, that one of the largest, most complete, and most progressively managed ironmongery establishments in Worcestershire is located at Stourport. Such, however, is the fact, and we take special pleasure in referring to it in this publication.

We refer to the business carried on under the firm name of PHEYSEY, LIMITED, at 5, 23 and 24, Bridge Street. This business was founded in 1862 by Mr. W. Pheysey, the father of the present managing director, in a small shop adjoining the present premises. It was begun on a very small scale with a merely nominal capital, and with but a fraction of the immense stock now carried. The growth of the business was uninterrupted from the start, however, and the trade now extends all throughout this and the adjoining counties, successfully meeting the competition of London, Birmingham, and other firms. For some years a special feature has been made of implements and supplies for estates, this branch of the trade having become a very extensive business of itself. Many of the principal estates in Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and other adjoining counties regularly obtain their ironmongery and agricultural implements from this establishment.

The premises occupied by Messrs. Pheysey, Limited, are extensive, since the front view gives no idea of their extent. In the rear of the main sales-room are a number of separate apartments, some of which are quite extensive, and in all of which every available foot of space is used for the reception and storage of the stock. The front of the building, and the sales and display room, are exceptionally attractive, making the shop one of the most conspicuous in the town.

Through the courtesy of the managing director we were recently shown over the premises, and were surprised at the extent and variety of the stock carried. It would seem that no craft can be followed, no building erected, and no home furnished without drawing largely on the ironmonger's stock. The house to which we are referring has been careful to deal in goods of the best manufacture, including household and culinary utensils, agricultural implements, stoves and ranges, cutlery and electro-plated goods, builders' hardware, and a great variety of other articles from the most reputable makers. A special feature is made of enamel ware, of which the company sells a larger quantity than any other house in the county.

Several months ago the business was formed into a limited liability company, of which Mr. W. H. Pheysey was made managing director. This gentleman may be said to have been born in the business, and he was for many years associated with his father in its management. He adds to a thorough knowledge of the business an executive ability of high order, as may be readily inferred from the unbroken success with which his efforts have met. We take this opportunity of acknowledging his courtesy during our recent inspection of his establishment.

In 1896 there was added to the general ironmongery business a large building material and agricultural business, which has now grown in large proportions.

Rateable Value

The following comparative table shows the growth of the Borough's rateable value during the past six years.

1898	...	...	£83,166
1899	...	...	£83,387
1900	...	...	£84,105
1901	...	...	£84,932
1902	...	...	£85,316
1903	...	...	£86,729



Gas Works



THE KIDDERMINSTER GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY

A Brief Reference to an Interesting History

It may not be generally known that the Kidderminster Gas Light and Coke Company is one of the oldest of the kind in Great Britain. It was authorised by an Act passed in the year 1818, and the first meeting of the Company, after obtaining the Act, was held on 16th June in that year, when the proprietors present were William Hopkins, Richard Watson, Wm. Boycott, George Hallen, Thomas Hallen, Mr. William Boycott being appointed Chairman of the Company. To these gentlemen, all of whom were of high character, Kidderminster is indebted for much that is best in her industrial and higher life. The Company was therefore incorporated at a time when the process of manufacturing gas had become so far perfected as to suggest its great possibilities. Shortly after the organisation of the Company it erected suitable buildings and installed all necessary machinery and apparatus, and for now nearly a century has been looked upon as one of the foremost, if not the very foremost, of our public utilities.

Although the original plant was located where it now stands, in Pitt's Lane, it need scarcely be said that it has undergone many and very important changes. While the principle upon which gas is produced has not been materially changed in recent years, the machinery and apparatus have been much improved, with the result that from the same quantity of coal may now be produced a greater quantity and better quality of gas and at less cost.

The present premises occupy, including the necessary yard room, over two acres of ground, and even this space is barely sufficient. The buildings are admirably adapted to their purpose, and all of the machinery and apparatus is thoroughly modern. It is not too much to say that in point of its equipment no similar plant anywhere is more up to date, as the Company has been quick to adopt any new method or appliance which could increase the output, better its quality, or lessen its cost.

The value of the Company to the town may readily be inferred from the extent to which its services have been used. For many years each succeeding twelvemonth has shown a steady increase in the number of gas consumers, the number at this writing being approximately 4,100. For years the Company has held the Corporation contract for lighting the streets and public buildings, and it is but just to say that the efficiency of the service could not be excelled. At the present time the Company maintains 21 miles of mains, extending as far as Franche and Wolverley, as well as penetrating every part of Kidderminster.

The unusual progressiveness of the Kidderminster Gas Light and Coke Company, and its invariably liberal dealings with all consumers, is a feature to which we allude with special pleasure. It will be recalled that on several occasions within the past decade the cost of manufacturing gas has, owing to the colliery strikes and other causes, been considerably increased for short periods. On these occasions many of the leading gas companies in the country increased the cost to the consumer in proportion as the cost of manufacture was increased, a proceeding which may have been justified by strict business ethics. But at no time has the Kidderminster Gas Light and Coke Company added to the cost to the consumer, preferring to sustain a temporary financial loss rather than a permanent loss of confidence. We mention this one instance merely to illustrate the general spirit shown by the Company, and to which we feel it a privilege to refer.

The Company relieves the consumer from all labour and cost incident to the introduction of gas to a residence or shop, and extends its service from the main to the house, within reasonable distance, free. It now maintains in private buildings throughout the town not fewer than 1,900 slot meters. From these meters last year £3,550 were collected. Since this amount was made up of pennies, the coppers collected aggregated not less than 15,425 pounds in weight.

The advantages of gas as an illuminant have been thoroughly and frequently demonstrated, both as regards cost and efficiency. At the Glasgow Exhibition a practical test was made of oil, gas, and electricity, to the notable disadvantage of the latter, and several of the principal cities throughout the kingdom, having found it necessary to either greatly enlarge their existing systems for lighting or to build new plants, have, after obtaining the advice of the best English engineers, decided on gas as the best, most reliable, and most economical illuminant which science has as yet made known to us.

Gas has other uses, however, the full importance of which are but beginning to be realised. As a motive power it is much superior to steam, being ready for use at a moment's notice, and being more economical and entailing less cost for the purchase, repairs, and maintenance of the engine. For all forms of industry that require but small power it is an ideal motive power.

But one of the greatest advantages of gas is its serviceableness as fuel, and particularly for cooking. The most eminent authorities on cooking have given it the most unqualified endorsement, and no invention has ever been a greater boon to the housewife. The use of gas stoves does away with the ashes, soot, and dirt attendant upon the use of coal, and as they are so arranged that all of the heat obtained is devoted to cooking, none of it escaping up the chimney or radiating into the room, they may be instantly lighted or turned off, are absolutely safe, and are exceedingly economical.

The economy of gas as fuel also arises from another source. By actual tests it has been found that meats and vegetables cooked in gas stoves, such as are supplied by the Kidderminster Gas Light and Coke Company, undergo less waste than when cooked in the ordinary coal range. A joint costing 6s. roasted by a coal fire is equal only to a 5s. joint roasted by a gas stove, a saving which in the course of a year would mean a considerable item to any household.

The use of gas stoves in Kidderminster has greatly increased during the past few years, about 2,500 being now in use. Those interested in them can obtain from the Company full information as to the proper method of using them. For those who desire to make an actual test, stoves will be rented for a short period at economical expense, and we feel assured that a thorough test will in every case lead to the adoption of gas as fuel.

The Company will place in any home in the town, at a small rental, a gas stove of any desired size, keeping the whole in repair during actual use. A small cooker is also supplied, with automatic prepayment meter. The supply of gas used by each stove is regulated by meter, so constructed that any quantity from a pennyworth to a shilling's worth may be obtained.

For the penny the Company allows 25 feet of gas, which represents a charge of 3s. 4d. per 1,000 feet; but then the Company, in addition to the original outlay for fitting up the house and supplying the meter and cooking stove, undertakes certain risks; its men attend to all needed repairs, and each house is visited

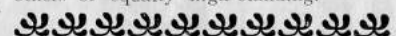
eight times a year for the collection of coppers and the inspection of meters. Considering all things it cannot be urged that the Company has placed the charge at too high a figure. The price of gas to the ordinary consumer is 2s. 6d. and 2s. 4d. per 1,000 feet, according to the quantity consumed.

We have briefly referred to the Kidderminster Gas Light and Coke Company as a public utility, and we should like to add a word as to its importance to the town as an industry. In all departments from sixty to seventy men are given employment, according to the season. During the past year the plant produced 160,837,400 cubic feet of gas, of which 155,712,500 cubic feet were sold, leaving a remarkably small proportion unaccounted for. To produce the amount of gas stated 16,025 tons of coal were used, most of which was obtained from South Yorkshire. We are informed that the present sale of gas is an increase of about 20 millions cubic feet per annum, as compared with three years ago, when electricity was introduced into the town, this increase being about equal to 12 months' consumption at the neighbouring town of Stourport.

The value of the products left during the manufacture is much greater than is generally supposed. Last year the Company sold 7,000 tons of coke, 812 tons of tar, and 120 tons of sulphate of ammonia. The latter, which is valued at the present time at about £12 per ton, is used principally in the composition of manures.

The general manager of the plant is Mr. A. Dougall, who has retained that position for twenty-nine consecutive years. He has been identified with the manufacture of gas, here and elsewhere, for even a longer period, and his knowledge is therefore extensive and accurate. The secretary of the Company, Mr. C. Grant, has given even a longer service, having been with the Company for thirty years. These gentlemen, who are too favourably known to require further comment of ours, are assisted by a thoroughly competent clerical staff.

The present directors of the Company are Messrs. G. W. Grosvenor (chairman), E. J. Morton, W. H. Talbot, J. R. Goodwin, Walter Humphries, Sir Sidney Lea, Bart., and W. J. Wyley, the latter of Shrewsbury. The names of these gentlemen, who have been closely identified with much that is best in the business and social life of the district, are a guarantee that the business to which we have inadequately referred will continue along progressive lines. It is worth noting, in conclusion, that from the date of its organisation the Company's directorate has included some of the most prominent men in the district, and those who are now in charge of its affairs are in most cases the sons of previous directors. Among the former directors were such well-known men as Mr. Wm. Grosvenor, a very successful carpet manufacturer and father of the present Mr. G. W. Grosvenor; Mr. Edward Morton, carpet manufacturer, father of the present E. J. Morton; Mr. Daniel Wagstaffe Goodwin, who developed the large milling business now carried on by his sons, Messrs. J. R. and D. P. Goodwin; Mr. Henry Talbot; Mr. Wm. Talbot, father of Mr. W. H. Talbot; [Mr. Jos. Kiteley; Sir Thomas Lea, Bart., and others of equally high standing.



The Library

The income of the Library is derived from subscriptions, fines, sales of cards, catalogues, and waste paper, the balance being provided out of the Borough Fund.

	RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
1898	... £382 4 8	... £459 15 0
1899	... 360 14 6	... 402 2 5
1900	... 359 7 7	... 405 17 8
1901	... 359 15 8	... 430 5 11
1902	... 362 17 9	... 493 14 3



Seed and Corn Merchants



FRONT VIEW OF MR. CLEMENT DALLEY'S PARK BUTTS' ESTABLISHMENT.

CLEMENT DALLEY & Co.

An Agricultural Produce Exchange in Kidderminster

In all towns having any claims to age there will be found some old buildings having a long and interesting history of their own. In Park Butts will be observed a long range of venerable looking buildings, which calls to mind things and men of the past. Here Butler Best, the wool merchant, carried on a large and profitable business. In the offices adjoining the late James Chambers acted as agent for Danks, Venn and Saunders, the Bridgewater Trustees, calling to mind when the canal which runs up to the premises was the principal means of communication, and where Crowley's, the great carting agents, carried on a branch of their business. These old premises have witnessed the start of many successful businesses. Here Moses Whittall made his first venture in a modest office till success drove him to more modern works.

The present owner, Mr. Clement Dalley, who commenced business in 1886, has made a successful effort to keep up the character of these historic premises, which are now known far and wide among agriculturists as "The busy corner of Kidderminster"—an emporium for supplying all kinds of agricultural wants, and where for twenty-three years has been carried on a business on real co-operative lines. During the transition state of agriculture, owing to continued pressure of foreign competition, when farmers were at their wits end how to make two ends meet, every effort was made to help them as far as possible, by supplying the best value for money and to cut profits down to the lowest possible margin; and to supply them with seeds, manures, and feeding stuffs that would well repay their use.

In the early spring-time the farmers' waggons stream in, here one loaded with the finest oats for seed; there one with malting barley pressing behind; huge loads of hay there to be cut into chaff for horses—each going back loaded with goods required on the farm, seed, grain, meal from the mill in Park Wharf; lamb-fattening, a special food for ewes, lambs, and young stock, made only by the firm; or their wonderful calf-meal, which will feed and rear calves while leaving all milk available for market either in its primitive form, or as butter and cheese; another loaded with feeding cake, or drawing under the crane for a supply of artificial manure, guano, nitrate of soda, kainit, or the latest introduction for adding fertility to the soil, muriate and sulphate of potash. Then looking at the unpretentious front, one wonders where room can possibly be found for such a bulk of goods, and only on interviewing the proprietor, Mr. Dalley, is the riddle solved.

The front buildings are devoted principally to the retail shops and stores for small goods, such as farm and garden seeds, poultry meal, fine flour and oatmeal for domestic use; and contain also the offices. At the rear we find a vast range of buildings, one portion being adjacent to the canal; the whole having a frontage of about 450 feet, and an area sufficient to hold some 40,000 sacks of corn and seed, in addition to large quantities of hay, straw, manures, etc. The mill portion is fitted up with three pairs of stones, seed dressers, and other machines. In the chaff department we find the latest cutter, with patent dressing tackle, which removes every particle of dust; and the whole machinery is driven by one of Crossley's 65-h.p. gas engines, laid down in 1901.

Mr. Clement Dalley, to whose initiative and organisation the work done by his

firm is due, has further distinguished the concern which he controls by establishing a system of profit sharing with his employees, from office boy to chief clerk, including of course the outside staff. In his system, which is a modification of one originated and carried out with such conspicuous results by Sir George Livesay, every one on the pay roll participates in the net profits made by the firm, according to a scale which has yielded as much as 1s. 2d. in the pound of the total annual wage of the employee; and every member of the staff receives an additional one per cent. for every year's service to the firm. The net results of the adoption by Mr. Dalley of this scheme have been that a union of interest is created, services are rendered more faithfully, and their value, economically, is distinctly enhanced. The scheme has been in working now for twelve years, and has contributed largely to the firm of Messrs. Clement Dalley and Company gaining the high position which they now hold.

Mr. Dalley has found time in his busy life to devote a part of it to the interest of the town. He entered the borough Council two years ago as a Liberal Unionist, and his ability is readily appreciated in the work done by the various committees with which he is connected.

Recently he has closely identified himself with the staple industry of the town by accepting the chairmanship of an important manufacturing concern, much to the advantage of that firm and the trade at large.

The pages of this Illustrated Issue are evidence of the existence in our midst of a number of men who, endowed with unusual gifts of intellect and character, have had a career of continual success, and among them it has been our pleasing duty to mark Mr. Clement Dalley as one of the foremost.



Millers and Seed Merchants



Messrs. J. P. HARVEY AND Co.

Millers, Corn, and Seed Merchants

But few of Kidderminster's enterprises have shown a more constant or gratifying growth than has that of Messrs. J. P. Harvey & Company, whose name has been familiar to the public of this district for nearly half a century.

The business was established in 1860, in Oxford Street, in the buildings still used by the firm. It was founded by the late Mr. J. P. Harvey, who had but little capital other than energy and an unusual degree of business ability. The business was begun in a very small way, the patronage being confined to a very narrow district and deliveries being made in a single cart drawn by a donkey; to-day, more than twenty horses are required in delivering the Company's products, which have created a demand all through this section of the Midlands. This contrast is in itself a striking comment on the signal ability with which the business has been, and is, carried on.

For a number of years after its establishment the business was limited to the sale of corn, seeds, and manures; subsequently the milling business was added, the Company purchasing the flour mill formerly operated by Minife & Son, in Mill Street. The Oxford Street premises are devoted exclusively to the storage of corn, seeds and manures. These buildings are very commodious, extending through from Oxford Street to Worcester Street, affording sufficient room for the convenient storing and handling of a large quantity of material. The premises are equipped with all necessary machinery for crushing and grinding corn and other feed. The firm has also a large warehouse at the Great Western Railway Station for the storage of grain, cake and manures, and a branch depot is also maintained at Brierley Hill. Railway trucks run alongside for loading and unloading.

The flour mill in Mill Street has been extensively altered since it was taken over by its present owners, a complete modern roller plant having been substituted for the machinery which had formerly been in use. It is now one of the best arranged and best equipped mills in the district, having a weekly capacity of about a thousand sacks of flour, besides a proportionate quantity of meal and other feed. The Company's flour is of the best quality, being made from the choicest wheat by perfected processes. The "Peerless" brand, especially adapted for bakers' and confectioner's use, represents the highest stage of milling.

As further evidence of the constant progress made by the firm, we should mention the large warehouse it has recently erected adjoining the flour mill. This warehouse is supplied with an up-to-date plant for cleaning seed and seed corn, and with a splendid system of elevators and automatic conveyors, the latter designed and made by Spencer & Co., the well-known firm in Melksham, milling engineers. They carry the grain to any part of the warehouse or mill with the greatest possible economy of time and labour, thus effecting a saving of which the customer ultimately gets the benefit. Being located directly on the canal, by which a large portion of the grain is received, both mill and warehouses have exceptionally advantageous receiving and shipping facilities.

As we have already stated, Messrs. J. P. Harvey & Company deal in all kinds of seeds, manures, corn, flour and oilcakes. They make a special feature of farm seeds and seed corn, of which they have every variety suited to this soil and climate. In selecting their seeds the Company considers quality as a much more important factor than cheapness, and that they have



GOODWIN'S—RECEIVING CORN BY CANAL.

Messrs. D. W. GOODWIN & Co.

Town Mills, Kidderminster

The constant tendency towards the cheapening of food stuff, the severe competition of foreign millers, and the demand by the public for pure and unadulterated flour, may be regarded as the three factors which have brought the English milling industry to its present prominence, and only after one has looked over a modern mill, can one credit the immense amount of scrupulous care which is given nowadays to the manufacture of flour, as compared with the crude way that was universal scarcely a generation ago.

The town mills, owned by Messrs. D. W. Goodwin and Company, are regarded as the most perfect type of a modern mill in this district, are nothing more than a huge automaton. By a lavish introduction of automatic machinery such a state of perfection has been reached that after the wheat has been brought from the canal to the mill, on the firm's private line, it falls through the "hopper bottoms" of the trucks into the elevator, which carry it to the tops of the building, where the first stage in the milling process

is reached; nor is it again touched by hand till it is being kneaded by the baker or the housewife into wholesome bread.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW GOODWIN'S MILLS.

Limited space forbids anything like a detailed description, and we can only indicate the process which the wheat has to undergo before it becomes flour.

After having been cleaned automatically from foreign seeds, by passing through three tiers of cylinders being "wired" in such a way as to catch everything not of the size of wheat, the wheat is washed, dried, weighed—all this being done automatically—and passes then through a series of machines, technically called rolls, scalpels, and purifiers. This process is being repeated over and over again, until at last we receive by elimination the finest flour which it is possible for science to produce, and a gradation of less pure and inferior flour down to the "offal," the technical name for the coarse stuff, finally rejected as unfit for human food.

In the packing room is a weighing machine which automatically weighs up the famous "extra superfine pastry flour" into lots of various quantities, according to the demand of the market, and an automatic reckoner, which counts the number of sacks loaded on the wagons. The whole building is fitted with Grinnell's "sprinkler system" fire extinguishing plant, supplied by a powerful steam pump which is connected with it, and which will automatically commence to pump as soon as a fire breaks out, no matter in what part of the large buildings.

The whole of the machinery is driven by a 160 h.p. engine, besides two water wheels driven by the Stour. There is a branch office and warehouse at Dudley.

In addition to the flour milling Messrs. Goodwin do a large trade in other corn and meals for horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry, etc., such as oats, beans, maize, peas, buckwheat, darr, and barley, etc.



OLD VIEW OF GOODWIN'S MILLS.



Corn Merchants & Tanners



long enjoyed the confidence of the farmers of this district, is attested by the very gratifying patronage they have secured.

Another special feature is the variety of manures, several of which are prepared for particular soils or crops, and all of which are of the best obtainable strength and quality. In recent years an intelligent application of manures has become a science with successful growers, as the marketable value of the crop depends largely on the nature of the fertilizer applied to the soil. Messrs. Harvey and Company have made this a careful study, and their manures are the result of many years of experimenting. They have received from the leading farmers and horticulturists in this district unqualified endorsements of which they have every reason to be proud. The firm issues a catalogue containing a full list and description of its fertilizers, and giving many testimonials from prominent growers in the vicinity.

From a purely local business Messrs. Harvey & Company have extended their trade to all points throughout the district. They have regular representatives in all the agricultural centres in this and adjoining counties, through whom increasing orders are received. A sufficient supply of all kinds of farmers' requisites is kept in hand at all times to meet any demand, and orders from any distance are promptly and carefully attended to.

The present members of the firm are Messrs. Josiah Harvey and S. Harvey Loynes, both of whom devote their best energies to the business to which we have briefly referred. They are also interested in several other enterprises, mention of which is made elsewhere in these columns. What they have accomplished in business circles in Kidderminster is peculiarly gratifying in that it is the outcome of best methods, no firm having gained a larger share of public confidence.

C. W. NICHOLLS

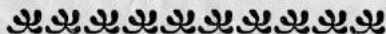
Hay, Straw and Corn Merchant

The business of which Mr. C. W. NICHOLLS is the owner and manager is an example of Kidderminster's successful enterprises. It was established over thirty years ago, and during its entire history has held a high place in the regard of the public. Fifteen years ago it passed into the hands of the present proprietor, who has succeeded in materially extending his connection.

Mr. Nicholls, as stated in the heading to this brief notice, is a wholesale and retail dealer in hay, straw and corn, flour, horse, cattle, pig and poultry food of all kinds, and allied products. His connection extends throughout the country about Kidderminster, and his patrons include a number of the leading farmers in this vicinity. He has his own horses and carts, and deliveries are promptly made to any point within a radius of ten miles.

His premises, which are excellently adapted to their purpose, are located in Crowther Street, off Bewdley Street. He occupies a substantial two-storey brick building, with capacious yard room. His equipment includes modern crushing and cutting machinery, and every needed facility.

Mr. Nicholls is held in high regard not only in business circles but by all who come into contact with him.



Debit per Capita

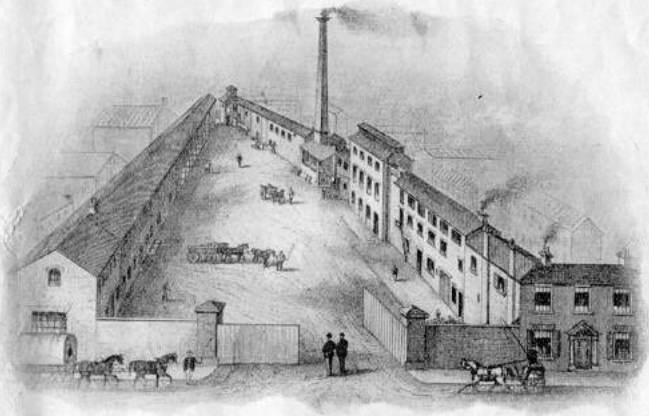
How much every man, woman and child in Kidderminster owed on Mar. 31, 1903:

The total debt of the Borough was, on

March 31st, 1903, £87,411.

The population on that day was 24,681.

The total debt per head of the population is therefore £3 10s. 9½d.



VIEW OF THE TANNERY.

T. COLUMBUS SMITH

The Kidderminster Tannery

The tannery in Dudley Street and Orchard Street, owned by Mr. T. Columbus Smith, is probably better known as regards its importance in many of the chief centres of trade in Great Britain than it is in Kidderminster. It is one of the three or four tanneries in Great Britain which deal exclusively with the seal skin. Its manufactured products go directly and indirectly to every part of the civilised world, and Mr. Smith was awarded, at the Crystal Palace in 1884, a gold medal for exhibition of leather open to the world.

The tannery itself has had an interesting history. It is a continuation of the famous firm of Messrs. Moore and Hand, who carried on the industry many years at the old wharf tannery in Kidderminster. When the firm was dissolved in 1870, the remaining partner, Mr. Moore, took over the premises in Dudley Street. The concern was afterwards acquired by Mr. W. C. Withall, and passed in 1891 into the hands of Mr. T. Columbus Smith, who retained the services of Mr. E. Bird, who had been in the firm's employ for many years, and recently Mr. Smith's son has entered the business to assist in management and acquire a practical knowledge of its various branches.

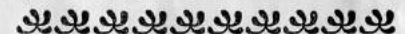
Few men could possess a better qualification for carrying on such a specialised industry as the converting of the skins of hair seals to patent and enamelled leather. Then Mr. Smith, on his extensive travels, had not only had the opportunity of seeing the latest scientific methods adopted by American tanners, but whilst travelling in the northern seas he had the actual experience of hunting seals, learning the way in which their skins were dealt with by the American and Russian seal fisheries. Such knowledge has been of invaluable assistance in carrying on successfully and extending the industry which he controls, and being a tanner's son, and having an expert knowledge of every stage of manufacture, we find in this the most important reason why this concern occupies a leading position in the tanning industries.

It is extremely interesting to follow the process by which the skins are converted into enamelled leather for the use of saddlers, carriage builders, makers of infants' shoes, bicycle gear cases, and other articles. The skins arriving from Greenland, Cape Dom, the North Cape, Patagonia and Newfoundland, in a salted condition, are taken into the sorting yard, where they are sorted according to their various qualities, and after undergoing a number of processes, which it would take too long to explain here in detail, they are

tanned, curried, and enamelled, and are then ready for exportation. The tannery, which covers a considerable area, and keeps employed about fifty hands, is equipped with the most modern appliances, and is capable of turning out an enormous quantity of work.

There is a fifty horse-power engine driving the machinery, and steam pumps capable of pumping 60,000 gallons of liquor, which are required every day in the various stages of manufacture. We noticed, also, some wonderful machines, which are capable of splitting the skin into two, three, or more, according to the purpose for which they will be required. Of late years the firm has been large importers of hair seal skins and white whale from the antarctic and arctic regions. The white whale are largely used for the expensive boot laces, and are called porpoise, this being one of the exceptions where the imitation is better than the real, for although there is such a fish as the porpoise the skin is practically useless for the purpose. Many of the seal skins are dressed in the hair and are used for ladies' coats, especially now for motoring. Practically all kinds of skins have found their way to the tannery, the variety of which we found most interesting.

If the tannery is not the largest of its kind it is one of the most important in the country, and some of its transactions reach astonishing figures. The extent of its trade places the concern among the leading firms of our town, and Mr. T. Columbus Smith deserves the highest credit for the enterprise with which he has created, and the administrative ability with which he maintains this industry in its prominent position.



Public Baths

The following comparative table shows the income and expenditure of the Public Baths during the past five years:—

	RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
1898 ...	£222 4 6	£406 6 4
1899 ...	240 11 5	400 17 8
1900 ...	231 13 8	375 3 10
1901 ...	236 6 11	524 2 8
1902 ...	283 11 4	618 13 5

The Corporation Farm

The following table shows the receipts and expenditure of the Corporation Farm for the past five years:—

	RECEIPTS -	EXPENDITURE.
	FROM ALL SOURCES.	
1898 ...	£8,121 3 2	£8,186 0 1
1899 ...	7,175 5 3	7,711 6 1
1900 ...	6,811 10 8	7,356 0 10
1901 ...	8,549 16 8	8,916 5 0
1902 ...	6,430 7 10	7,449 12 2

Ironfounders & Electricians

W. W. MARTIN

One of the Leading Electrical Engineers in the County

Electrical engineering has of late years made vast strides. Electric motors are gradually everywhere supplanting steam and gas; electric lighting is slowly being substituted for gas, incandescent or otherwise; telephones are becoming so general that there is now hardly an office or large private residence which is not connected with the telephone exchange; electric bells are in general use; and many houses are protected by electric burglar alarms.

It is natural that electrical engineers should have much benefited by this revolution in engineering; and many who were well equipped in the practical knowledge of their trade have attained positions of considerable importance.

Mr. Martin, who is now regarded as one of the best electrical engineers in the county, established himself in Kidderminster in 1891, first at 2, Green Street, Worcester Cross. The growth of his trade here was so continuous that larger premises became imperative. He acquired, therefore, the freehold property at 70 and 71, Coventry Street, where he built for himself in connection with a private residence a workshop which is fitted with modern lathes, drilling machines, and all the necessary tools. The driving power is supplied by an electric motor.



RESIDENCE OF Mr. W. W. MARTIN

Adjoining is the office, which is connected with the Telephone Exchange (0198).

The number of contracts executed by Mr. W. W. Martin, particularly as regards electric lighting, is considerable, but in the short space at our disposal we can only mention a few. He did the electric light installations at the mills of Messrs. Woodward, Grosvenor, and Company, J. Humphries and Sons, Richard Smith and Sons, Morton and Sons, and Greatwich, L.t.d., and fitted such well-known mansions as Broom Hall (G. W. Grosvenor, Esquire, J.P.), the residence of Rowland Hill, Esquire, Comberton, and of Rowland Worth, Esquire, of Stourport, Westwood Hall, the residence of the borough member, Sir Frederick Godson, M.P. (when the hall was restored), and many others. Mr. Martin fitted also electric light installations in nearly all the principal shops, and carried out the contract for the illumination of the Municipal Buildings during the Coronation. The list, however, we have given is exhaustive enough, and will convince our readers of the importance of the business controlled by Mr. Martin. In 1902 he opened a branch at Waterloo Buildings, Hagley Street, Stourbridge, where he has created a connection extending over the whole of that manufacturing district.

Mr. W. W. Martin commenced his career as an electrical engineer by serving an apprenticeship with W. A. Carlyle and Company, electrical and general engineers, of Birmingham. His last situation, before establishing himself here in Kidderminster, was a three years' engagement with J. and J. Baldwin,

Limited, spinners and manufacturers, of Halifax. Here he laid down complete electric plants in all their mills and residences. This was a task of considerable extent, and the successful carrying out of the work is evidence of the position which Mr. Martin occupies among electrical engineers.

W. M. HUGHES

A Highly Competent Electrical Engineer

Mr. W. M. Hughes, of New Road, is an electrical engineer of considerable technical knowledge, and the business established by him promises to become one of the most extensive engineering concerns in the district. Some one has said that "to the electrical engineer belongs the future," and the man who has been able, in the short time of four years, to create a business which keeps from eight to ten mechanics in regular employ, appears to have a fair prospect of success, or seems at all events on the right road to it.

Mr. Hughes gained much of his experience during the seven years he was in the employ of the National Telephone Company, one of the best schools in telephonic work an electrical engineer could wish to have. Since establishing himself he has executed numbers of important orders; to mention only a few, he laid down two complete plants in Uttoxeter, and fitted Astley Hall, the place of Mr. Stanley Baldwin, with electric lights, amounting in all to 200. He does also nearly all the fitting for the Kidderminster and District Electric Lighting and Traction Company.

In his attractive showroom one can find every imaginable kind of fittings for electric lights, bells, alarms, etc., and readers in want of Mr. Hughes' services will have the widest possible choice. Estimates are given for every kind of work, and every order is executed with the utmost dispatch.

The large workshops in connection with the showroom are always busy with repairing or preparing new orders. An extensive share of the work done here is taken up in nickel-plating, for which Mr. Hughes has laid down a complete new plant.

His speciality is the supplying and erecting of motors for driving (factory) purposes. Mr. Hughes foresees the large substitution of these for steam and gas, and is prepared to fill any order that may be given.

We have been pleased to notice the measure of success with which he has already met. It is entirely due to his energy and his expert knowledge, and the possession of these will enable him to continue on the road to success.



EXTERIOR OF Mr. W. M. HUGHES' SHOP

GEO. TURTON AND COMPANY

Established for Upwards of Seventy Years

The iron foundry carried on by George Turton and Company, Stourport Road, has occupied a prominent place in the industrial life of Kidderminster for upwards of seventy years. The premises occupied are quite extensive, including large buildings and ample yard room.

Turton and Company are general iron foundries and engineers, making all kinds of castings, for which they make the patterns when desired. They make a speciality of casting wheels without patterns. A special feature of their work is repairing, for which they have special facilities. For many years they have done a great deal of work for our local mills and factories, but the principal business is not confined to the town. They are in a position to promptly and satisfactorily execute any work that may be entrusted to them, and at prices which could not be touched by Birmingham or any other iron foundries.

D. P. CORBET

The Oxford Street Iron Foundry

Only readers versed in technical matters will understand the value to our local industry of a foundry which has since its establishment in 1867 been famous for the quality of its work, and which has added to its reputation under Mr. Corbet ever since he acquired the works five years ago. Having served his time with Mackrell and Exley, of Elland, Yorkshire, he gained afterwards as an engineer in the merchant service, and later in a similar position with one of the largest firms in this town, most valuable experience, which has enabled him to maintain a name for good work in all classes of castings.

Recently Mr. Corbet has added what is of utmost interest for a description of our industries such as this—the making of motor engine castings. As we may point out to uninitiated readers, the founding of these castings is at present practically confined to French and American foundries, who have so far maintained almost a monopoly for engines supplied to English motor makers. It is, therefore, gratifying to find that Mr. Corbet has overcome the difficulties which have hitherto debarred English foundries from competing successfully with foreign foundries, and that his castings will shortly be put on the market. Mr. Corbet is still improving his process, and he is satisfied that English work will soon be equal to either French or American.

The Illustrated Issue is exceedingly pleased to have discovered, and to make known, what amounts to a new industry in Kidderminster, and wishes Mr. Corbet the utmost success in his enterprise.

What the Kidderminster Police Force Costs

The following comparative table includes police pay, clothing, allowances, and all other expenditure returned by the Watch Committee under "Police Account"

1898	...	£2395	8	0
1899	...	2521	10	2
1900	...	2520	3	7
1901	...	2585	7	8
1902	...	2694	5	5

Total strength of Police, all ranks, 30.



Furniture Carvings



FREDERICK W. OAKES

House Furnisher, Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer

The business carried on by Mr. Frederick Oakes, in Churchfields, is deserving of more than passing mention, as it is in every way a type of Kidderminster's best enterprises. It was founded in 1853 by the present proprietor's father, Mr. Thomas Oakes, who laid the foundation of what has become probably the leading establishment of the kind in the town. Upon the founder's decease the business passed into the hands of his widow, although its active management largely devolved upon Mr. Frederick W. Oakes, to whom it was wholly transferred several years ago. The present owner has therefore been brought up in the business, which, in its results, bears evidence to his signal ability.

During the past decade the business has shown a very remarkable increase, and in 1893 the building now occupied, and known as "Chippendale" House, was erected. It is a very substantial brick structure, 33ft. by 90ft. in dimensions, with two floors. It was expressly designed for the purpose to which it is put, and is well lighted and well arranged. The front doors, which are of very heavy oak, richly carved, are a conspicuous feature of the building, and are pronounced by all who have seen them to be the finest specimens of oak doors in the Midland counties. In the rear of the large building just referred to are extensive premises, including yard room and ample sheds for packing and unpacking furniture and for housing the furniture vans. Mr. Oakes also requires the use of a separate cabinet making workshop in Duke Street. These workshops, it should be stated in passing, were formerly used as chapels. In all from ten to fifteen men, a number of whom are exceptionally competent workmen, are given constant employment.

Mr. Oakes' stock, which is one of the largest and most complete of its kind in this district, may best be described by saying that it includes everything requisite for the furnishing of the house from kitchen to drawing room. New, second-hand, and antique furniture are carried, and of all grades, from the cheapest to the most expensive. The stock contains some particularly fine specimens of antique furniture and of beautifully executed true copies of the antique. During our recent inspection of the establishment we were much impressed with several exceedingly handsome antique sideboards, inlaid tables, and other pieces which could scarcely be excelled anywhere.

A special feature of the establishment is the making to order of cabinet work, paneling of oak and other woods, upholstering, and repairing and restoring of furniture. The excellence of the work in this line has been acknowledged by all who have seen it, and has gained the patronage of many of the leading people of this county.

Mr. Oakes's patronage is by no means confined to this immediate district, and we were shown orders that had been received from London, Birmingham, Leicester, and a number of towns throughout England and Wales. Orders have been received from places as far remote as South Africa, where, owing to the careful packing, the goods arrived in perfect condition, in spite of the long journey of over 7000 miles.

We would state in this connection that great care is given to packing and delivering furniture, Mr. Oakes carrying on a furniture removal business as well. He has his own vans and experienced removers, and prompt deliveries are made to all parts.

We can but add, in conclusion, that the business is in every way worthy of the highest commendation, as is evidenced by

the extent and character of the patronage it has secured. Those who appreciate beautiful furniture and cabinet work will derive great pleasure from a visit to the "Chippendale House," and their pleasure will be enhanced by the courtesy of the proprietor.

Messrs. BASSETT and HOOPER

Stores with unique and successful business methods

This business was established on Station Hill six years ago by J. G. Bassett, who conceived the idea that there appeared to be a good opening for a shop selling on the "store" plan everything required to adorn or furnish a house from a hundred guinea piano down to a pennyworth of picture cord. How far his judgment has been at fault may be seen by the fact that whilst during the first week he had one customer, he has now nearly one thousand customers on his ledgers.

The premises on Station Hill are well-adapted for carrying on an extensive trade. Situated close to the Railway Station, and being on the direct line of the trams, they can be easily reached from all parts of the country. The proximity of the station is of especial value to the firm, for unlike other furnishing houses this firm does not occupy extensive show or store rooms, but does the bulk of the trade direct, that is, sending goods ordered from the manufacturer direct to the customer's house. The saving in rent which is made possible by this unique method, is of course considerable, and is plainly expressed in the extremely moderate prices charged by this firm as compared with those of others.

Whilst the shop on Station Hill is chiefly an order office, or might be regarded as a high-class catalogue showing instead of illustrations the real articles, it would be difficult to find another shop which contains as many articles of special design or special manufacture, and last, but not least, specially low prices as here. From the first day of its existence this firm has made a speciality of certain articles of use or luxury so as to defy competition in that particular line; and it may be safely said that this trade policy has been the direct cause of the great movement forward which their trade has taken up during the last few years. Besides selling other makes of sewing machines Messrs. Bassett and Hooper hold the exclusive agency for the "New Home," they sell mangles manufactured by R. Brooksbank, of Keighley, mailcars, bassinets, made by the famous Cradley Carriage Co., at prices which are astonishingly low considering their quality. All their articles of general furniture are of exceptional value.

More recently the firm have added another speciality, and the success with which they have already met has been all the more gratifying because in this case the speciality is of their own manufacture. Having for some time experimented, they have succeeded in evolving, and are now manufacturing, a guinea couch, which for price, design, and workmanship is certainly nothing less than a marvel. The firm state that there is nothing on the market that can even approach it in value, and it seems indeed almost impossible to produce a couch such as we have seen, and sell it at such low prices without making a loss. However, that is not the public's concern, nor have they been slow in taking advantage of such a "glorious bargain." From the day on which the couch was first advertised it has had an extensive sale, and judging from the orders that are coming in day by day the firm are satisfied that the demand for it is still as fresh as ever.

In pianos and organs Messrs. Bassett and Hooper show numbers to suit all tastes and pockets, foremost among them the pianos made by Spencer, but we should

again say that the Malcolm organ and the Normelle piano are marvels of production and cheapness. How it is that a new good-class piano of beautiful tone and magnificent construction can be sold for a good deal less than twenty pounds, is more than we would like to say, but that they are sold at that, and sold every day, is a fact that everyone can prove for himself.

The chief trade of the firm is "for cash," but in order to meet the convenience of all those who are not blessed with a banking account, the firm has a system of deferred payments which has become very popular, and is taken advantage of by hundreds of customers here and throughout the county. Any respectable man or woman can, on paying a small deposit, obtain goods from a kitchen table to a houseful of furniture, or they may arrange the subsequent payments so as to suit their weekly income. Although such belief in the honesty of human nature opens the door to considerable risks, the firm have never had reason to regret adopting this method of business, but have, on the contrary, widened its connection through the recommendations of customers who have benefited by availing themselves of this opportunity. The fact that customers who opened an account when the firm was first established are still regular buyers for all their household requirements speaks volumes for the good feeling existing between customer and firm.

The repairing shop, which soon became an urgent necessity as the trade of the firm expanded, and with the expansion "trade casualties" became very frequent, has gradually developed into a sort of Kidderminster "Whiteley" in the mending line. Whether it is a sewing machine with an internal complaint, a chair with a broken leg, a couch having "its inside outside," a perambulator having lost its tyres, or a mangle requiring new rollers, etc., whatever it is, all invalids and cripples find their way to "Bassetts," and it cannot be denied that the existence of such a place is a great boon to the worried housewives.

On reviewing the record of this firm one cannot but admit that considering the short time which it has been in existence, its progress has been most remarkable. Mr. J. G. Bassett, the head of the firm, has had the exceptional advantage of holding for twenty-two years the position of a district superintendent in one of the largest and most progressive firms in the world. His experience gained during that period, combined with his own natural gift for seeing the demands of the public taste, and the ability to develop and organise trade, account chiefly for the flourishing state of his business, and give promise of still greater success for the future. Associated with him is Mr. J. Hooper, who joined the firm last January. Having held a position of responsibility with two important London firms for the last eleven years, he has acquired a knowledge of the business which has already shown good results in his new capacity. He has taken charge of the outside work in place of Mr. George Bassett, junior, who devotes his time to the manufacturing and repairing department.

Tolls, Dues, and Charges

The Borough derives valuable aid from Tolls, Dues, and Charges. The following were the receipts from these sources for the past five years:—

	CATTLE AND		RETAIL
	WHOLESALE MARKET.			MARKET.
1898	... £409	16 4 ...	£829 15 8
1899	... 442	4 5 ...	827 15 1
1900	... 455	1 8 ...	801 13 1
1901	... 476	2 2 ...	786 19 1
1902	... 466	15 9 ...	792 15 5



Furniture Carvings



H. MILLER

A Cabinet Maker who is an Expert in Antique Furniture

Mr. H. Miller, whose place of business is at 46, Bewdley Road, opposite the Grammar School House, is a cabinet maker and furniture dealer, but he is best known as an expert in antique furniture, of which an enormous quantity passes annually through his hands.

He has been in his trade for over twenty years; and after a stay of four years in Cheltenham he settled down in the premises at Bewdley Road as far back as 1892. Having already an established connection among connoisseurs, he had no difficulty in extending it, and his reputation as an expert dealer in antique furniture is almost as wide as is the circle of those who collect old oak furniture. Many is the number of treasures in old furniture he has discovered, sometimes under most interesting circumstances, and sold to delighted connoisseurs; and to describe them, or the valuable curios, would take volumes. Of late years Mr. Miller has become known as a specialist in restoring antique furniture or faithfully reproducing old pieces, and his copy of an old Court cupboard, an illustration of



A CARVING BY H. MILLER

which we present herewith, is regarded as a magnificent specimen of the carver's art, so faithful is the copy of the original. Another fine specimen to his work is a monk's bench, made for a local connoisseur, and carved out of an old oak beam that came from the roof of St. Mary's Church. In his two shops Mr. H. Miller shows all kinds of furniture, old and new; and he has further a large stock of old books, where book-lovers often pick up splendid bargains. At the back of the shop is a large work-room, the whole covering an area of about 2,700 square feet. Here a number of men are under his supervision engaged in carrying out the many commissions with which he is continually entrusted. This place is a veritable store-house of the most beautiful pieces of old furniture, oak, Chippendale, and other; and the skill and faithfulness with which some of them that seem in their ruin hopeless beyond repair, get restored—one is almost tempted to say, made to look like new, if we were not speaking of old furniture—is truly marvellous.

Mr. H. Miller's unique business—for it is the only one of its kind in the town—is one of the most interesting places we have had the privilege of inspecting; and though we cannot all be collectors of old oak or Worcester china, or curios, Mr. Miller is always pleased to show any visitor to his establishment specimens of the art of carving which have so firmly founded the reputation of his establishment.

Messrs. DOWNTON AND SONS

A High-class Furniture Stores

A leading position among furniture stores in the district is held by the firm of Messrs. Downton and Sons, who have enjoyed that reputation for over eighty years. Established in 1819 at Coventry Street, the firm has had a career of continuous progress, and whilst they supply furniture of all grades, commencing with the cheapest in the market, their speciality has been to give particular attention to high-class and art furniture, and their selection is one of the best in the county.

The shop windows alone, probably well known to many of our readers, give an impression of the standing of the firm and the style of goods in which they deal, and the elegant shop front, which is un-



MESSRS. DOWNTON & SONS' SHOP

doubtedly one of the most attractive looking in the town, is in keeping with the large number of dainty and expensive pieces of furniture we find inside. In the warehouse, immediately adjoining the shop, the firm has a large stock of general furniture of every grade and description, and they are able to furnish from it whole houses from the kitchen to the top garret in the shortest possible time and at prices which compare most favourably with those of other establishments in Birmingham and elsewhere. It is as complete house furnishers in fact that the firm are best known, and the contracts which they carry out in this line annually are very considerable indeed.

The firm are also cabinet makers and upholsterers, fit window blinds of every description, and do every variety of paper hanging. They also have a large dry warehouse for storing furniture. An important branch of their trade is the sale and laying of carpets, and it is interesting to find from their books, that some of the largest mansions in the county and even London have been supplied with carpets throughout by this firm in Kidderminster. The works and repairing shop are at Court 12, Coventry street, and the total accommodation comprises an area of over 5,000 square feet.

The head of the firm is Mr. Alfred Good Downton. Having been manager of the business under his father for many years, he succeeded to it on the death of his father in 1898, and under his control much progress has been made in extending a connection which has always been one of the best in the district.

W. T. CULL

Expert Cabinet Maker and Wood Carver

During our recent inspection of Kidderminster's industries we had the pleasure of seeing some attractive specimens of Mr. W. T. Cull's cabinet making and wood carving, in his display rooms in the Victoria Buildings, Park Butts. The work is in design, construction, and finish quite out of the ordinary, and deserves special mention. Without attempting to enumerate all the pieces we were shown, we may refer to several of more than usual excellence. Among them was a large and very handsome sideboard, made

of the best figured oak, and finished with the most graceful and delicate hand-carving. Another was a copy of an antique chair, such as was used in the old monasteries, a very quaint and interesting piece of work.

Mr. Cull has the advantage of a natural gift. He served his apprenticeship in Bridgwater, and at the age of 20 was made foreman of the cabinet making department in the factory of the O. C. Hawkes Company, Limited, Birmingham, the largest manufacturers of cabinet work, mantels and over-mantels in the world. He has therefore had a wide experience in every kind of work connected with his calling, and there is no kind of furniture that he cannot design and construct throughout. He makes a special feature of making to order mantels, over-mantels, sideboards, and other elaborate pieces for special purposes, and any form or size required for rooms or corners of unusual shape. Those wanting work of this kind done should consult him, and we do not hesitate to say that his services will be of the greatest value. He also does a great deal of upholstering, repairing, etc.

In connection with his cabinet making and wood carving, which we cannot commend too highly, he carries a complete line of household furniture and furnishings, from dainty bric-a-brac to the largest pieces. His stock is sufficiently varied to enable him to furnish a home throughout, from kitchen to drawing room, at short notice and at reasonable prices.

Mr. Cull established his business in Kidderminster four years ago, in the premises which he still occupies. He has two floors, with well-lighted and attractive showrooms. He has secured a good connection, both in the town and country, and he may safely anticipate a steadily progressing business. We would suggest to our readers, and particularly to those who delight in well executed wood carving and handsome hand-made furniture, to visit his display rooms and inspect the many evidences of his skill.



Post Office Statistics

TABLE I.

Post Office Statistics are an infallible indication of the volume of business done in a community. The following comparative figures for 1901 and 1902 are very encouraging, as they show a steadily increasing activity:—

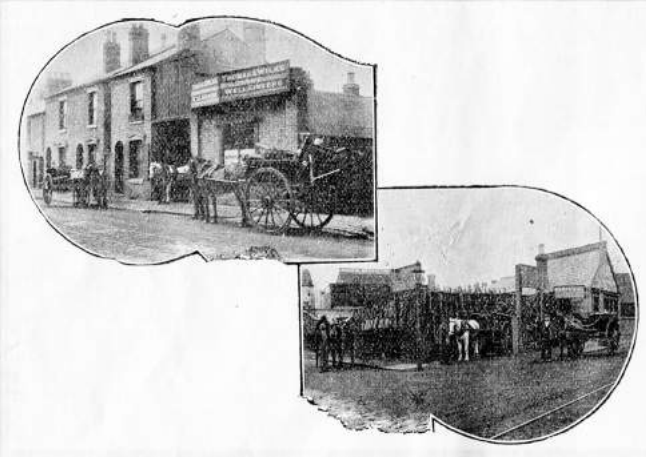
	1901	1902
Letters posted	2,133,000	2,323,998
„ delivered	2,550,960	2,670,948
Parcels posted	40,716	44,064
„ delivered	64,052	65,298
Letter bags in and out	...	35,484
Parcel baskets	...	10,648
Express Delivery Service	185	205
Telegrams forwarded	29,592	30,467
„ transmitted	19,904	18,884
„ received	40,895	43,467
Press Telegrams forwarded	439	489
Letter boxes, town and country	42	42

TABLE II.

Money Orders issued and paid	10,127	11,088
Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals	10,105	9,848
Postal Orders issued and paid	62,921	66,614
Postage Stamps sold	£10,588	£11,369
Inland Revenue Stamps sold	£174	£90
Inland Revenue Licences sold	1,523	1,595

Employed at Head Office—		
Males	51	Females ... 5
Employed at Sub-station—		
Males	14	Females ... 10
Totals	65	15

Pumps & Farriers & Vehicles



MESSRS. THOMAS & WILKS' PREMISES.

Messrs. THOMAS and WILKS Pump Makers and General Water Contractors

There are few tradesmen throughout the district better known than the firm of Messrs. THOMAS and WILKS, of New Road and Market Street, Kidderminster, pump makers, well-sinkers, and general water contractors.

The firm is of very old standing, having been established over three quarters of a century ago. At that time, in 1820, the firm was founded by Mr. Inston, who was succeeded by Mr. Thomas. This gentleman took into partnership Mr. C. Wilks, who became the sole proprietor 18 years ago, but has still retained the old firm name of Thomas and Wilks.

At the time when the firm's history commenced the population and importance of the town was very small compared to its present size, and as there was no water service, the pump was the only means of supply. Possessing not only a technical knowledge, but having made a study of the geological conditions of the district, Mr. Wilks in particular having special qualifications, under his capable management the business has been very widely extended.

The firm sink and bore Artesian wells to any depth or size, make and fix wood, iron, and power pumps, and make a speciality of force pumps, and self-acting

hydraulic rams for raising water for the supply of mansions, farms, estates, nurseries, etc.

The firm also fit and fix iron pumps for deep wells on the latest and best principles, and capable of working up to 55 yards. Several of these pumps can be seen at work in the district.

Messrs. Thomas and Wilks keep all kinds of pump fittings and iron and stone pump troughs in stock, and supply cattle troughs and any kind of cast and wrought iron piping.

The firm employ a number of skilled men, and are prepared to fix pumps and undertake boring operations in any part of the country. In this connection it should be mentioned that Mr. Wilks has been on several occasions entrusted with commissions to find minerals on various estates. This work entails an extensive knowledge of geological formations and the boring of the strata of sometimes enormous depth.

The greatest depth to which the firm have bored in the neighbourhood has been about 400 feet, and even this enormous depth does not in any way represent the limit of their ability.

The firm, who are also authorised waterworks plumbers for the town, has always kept a prominent place among the tradesmen of the district, and being conducted with conspicuous abilities, its continued success appears to be well assured.

C. & J. R. COPE, R.S.S. Well-known Practical Farriers

The business carried on under the firm name of C. & J. R. Cope is one of the oldest of its kind in Kidderminster or vicinity, having been established in 1840. From that date to the present time it has been very successful, and its reputation extends throughout the entire surrounding country. The present proprietors of the business, who came into possession of it four years ago, have themselves been practically brought up in it, and they may be said to be farriers by birth and training.

The premises occupied are in Park Lane, and are among the largest devoted to a similar purpose in the county. A large and substantial three-storey building is used, the upper floors being used principally for the storage of raw material and finished shoes. The most capable and experienced help is employed, only registered farriers being retained.

The Messrs. Cope themselves, however, give their personal attention to all work entrusted to them, and to this fact must be attributed their success. As we have stated, they belong to one of the oldest families of farriers in the county, and have had exceptional experience. Their ability

has received the highest recognition from competent authorities, and they have often been awarded prizes at agricultural shows for forging, and for the excellence of their finished shoes. They also hold a certificate from the Worshipful Company of Farriers, the highest recognition known to the trade. This certificate is given only to those who have passed a thorough examination. But the best comment on their ability is the extent to which their services have been required. No owner of valuable horses need be told how important it is to have them well shod, imperfect shoeing resulting in the most serious injury to horses, as well as in their great discomfort.

The Messrs. Cope have been largely patronised by those who recognise this, their patrons including many of the leading horse owners, breeders, and gentry throughout the West Midland counties. They were entrusted with the shoeing of the noted Waresley stud, which included "Albert Victor," "Ben d'Or," "Glasshampton," and other equally celebrated animals. They have also made a feature of forging special shoes according to veterinary surgeon's prescriptions, in which work they have been particularly successful. They are pleased to give suggestions at any time, and their advice may be safely accepted.

Messrs. CRUXTON & BROOKES Carriage Builders

This firm has gained the leading place among coach builders by sheer hard work. Both partners are practical men; they started in a small way, but now have a large connection, and a stock of traps and vehicles to select from three times as large as that of any one in the district.

The business was originally established in 1849, by Mr. William Roberts, and passed into the hands of Messrs. Cruxton and Brookes thirty years ago. Both partners had been apprenticed with leading coach-builders, Mr. Brookes with Ridge of Wolverhampton, and Mr. Cruxton with Nicholls of Dudley, the Old Castle Carriage Works.

Gradually, as their reputation for good workmanship and style grew, their connection extended, and they have now work demanding the employment of a regular staff of ten hands. The firm undertake coach making, both repairing and new work. They keep a large stock of seasoned wood and fittings, and are, therefore, able to guarantee that only the best material is used in the building and repairing. They make a speciality of dog carts of every description, and of Victorias and Parisian phaetons.

The premises of the firm are in Dudley Street, and comprise a long two-storied factory, a large show room and carriage shed, and an extensive yard. The stock kept here of vehicles of all kinds, all designed and made on the premises, under the personal supervision of the partners, is very considerable, and their growing trade and reputation are the best proof of their statement that in style workmanship and price their firm is second to none.

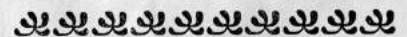
JAMES EDWARDS

Carriage Builder and Wheelwright

The carriage works in George Street, close to Station Hill, owned by Mr. James Edwards, are well known for the solid workmanship which distinguishes every vehicle turned out.

Mr. Edwards, who has carried on the business on his own account for the last seventeen years, is pre-eminently a practical man, and is in a position to undertake the building of any kind of vehicle. He makes a speciality, and has made a reputation for himself, as the builder of chiefly heavy work, such as drays and business carts.

His trade depends solely upon his own efforts to maintain its reputation. Readers requiring the services of a wheelwright may be certain that the quality of the work could not be bettered or his charges lowered anywhere.



What our Townsmen Own and its Money Value

Retail Market	£11,277	14	8
Music Hall, Corn Exchange	8,386	9	10
Town Hall	10,433	4	5
Library	3,909	0	2
Cattle Market	4,743	9	9
Workshops	257	0	0
Land	1,300	7	0
Baths	3,734	17	8
Borough Hospital	1,571	7	4
Corporation Farm	22,261	7	10
Waterworks	39,542	6	7
Stock and Miscellaneous Property	8,532	17	3
<i>In addition to this there has been expended on</i>			
Sewerage Works... ..	£73,641	5	2
Streets	25,734	1	10
Curbing, Channelling... ..	5,400	6	11
Bridges... ..	3,566	19	8



Auctioneers & Accountants



Messrs. NOCK & JOSELAND

Auctioneers, Land Agents and Valuers

Messrs. Nock & Joseland are generally regarded as possessing the largest practice of Auctioneers and Valuers in this district, and the record of the firm, and of the individual partners, entitles them to the leading position in the profession.

The Kidderminster Branch was established in 1888 by Mr. Charles Joseland, who has the credit of practically starting the Kidderminster Cattle Market. Commencing on a modest scale, the importance of these sales grew year by year, until they are now amongst the largest auctions in the midlands drawing stock from Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, and even further, besides being, of course, patronised by every leading farmer and dealer in this district. They are held on every alternate Tuesday.

In 1890 Mr. Joseland amalgamated his practice with that of Mr. Nock, of Wolverhampton, the firm name being changed to Nock & Joseland, with offices at Bank Buildings, Kidderminster, and Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton business has one of the oldest and most prominent connections in Staffordshire, having been founded in 1806. It was eventually acquired by Messrs. Nock & Chase, and after Mr. Chase had left the firm it was amalgamated as stated.

Besides being the leading agricultural auctioneers, the firm have also been, during the last fifteen years, the recognised auctioneers for the sale by auction of manufactured carpets, at which buyers attend from every part of the United Kingdom. They are also regularly entrusted with the sales of carpet plant and machinery.

Both partners are greatly esteemed in professional and commercial circles. They are both keen business men, and rank high in their profession, Mr. B. B. Nock being a Fellow of the Institute of Surveyors, and Mr. Charles Joseland being a Fellow of both the Surveyors' and Auctioneers' Institutes. He is also one of the Valuers appointed by the County Council of Worcestershire, under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1894.

JOHN NICHOLLS, F.A.I.

Auctioneer, Estate Agent and Valuer

MR. JOHN NICHOLLS, F.A.I., is the oldest practising auctioneer in Kidderminster. His business was established thirty three years ago, he has had thirty-years' experience in his profession, and has controlled the practice for the last twenty-two years. To be entitled to call oneself an auctioneer is unfortunately very easy nowadays. Men, however, like Mr. Nicholls, who desire to keep up their profession, have brought about the founding of the Institute of Auctioneers—the object of which is to retain the high status of the professional man and to prevent the profession from being invaded by people whose only title to the name of an auctioneer consists in their license to sell.

An especially high place among these professional men is held by Mr. Nicholls, and the fact, to mention only one, that in his agency he counts not less than forty-seven different land owners as clients—the extent and nature of the business transacted by him on behalf of these clients ranging from house property to farms—will give an indication of the confidence and trust with which he is regarded.

Besides holding on every alternate Tuesday a cattle sale in the Kidderminster market, Mr. Nicholls has an extensive practice in valuing of all kinds. He has for many years been employed by the Corporation of Kidderminster to do the

valuations in connection with their farm, and in addition to a large private practice in probate and mortgage valuations has, since the new Bankruptcy Act, done a large share in selling and valuing for the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy.

Mr. Nicholls is also an authorised bailiff under the Agricultural Holdings Act, and further holds an agency for some of the most important Fire and Life Insurance and Steamship Companies.

From his office in Commercial Buildings Mr. Nicholls issues periodically a register of property for sale by private treaty which is widely distributed throughout the district.

We are indebted to Mr. Nicholls for most of the information contained in this brief sketch, and we are pleased to put on record in this Illustrated Issue the career of a man who has upheld for many years the best traditions of his profession.

G. HERBERT BANKS

Auctioneer, Valuer and Estate Agent

ALTHOUGH MR. HERBERT BANKS has not been established longer than four years, he has already gained the reputation of a successful auctioneer, and in that particular branch to which he chiefly applies himself, agricultural auctioneering, he holds a leading position among the professional men of this district.

He commenced business in 1899, after having spent a number of years with the well known and old-established firm of Bentley, Hobbs, and Mytton, of Worcester, by opening a cattle sale in the Kidderminster market. Since May, 1899, these auctions have been held regularly every other Tuesday, and are widely patronised. In addition to this Mr. Banks inaugurated quite a new feature, an auction of farm produce. This is held every Thursday, and is one of the most successful sales in the market. In the same year Mr. Banks re-opened the Bewdley Cattle Market, which had been closed for ten years. He held his first sale in August, 1899, and the immense success which attended it proved how much the farmers and dealers in that district appreciated the enterprise displayed by Mr. Banks in restoring the old market.

Sales are now held every fourth Wednesday, and buyers attend from Dudley, Halesowen, Cradley, Stourbridge, Droitwich, Bromsgrove, Worcester, and numbers of other places. The sale ranks already in importance with many of the old-established cattle sales in the district, and the additional opportunity given by Mr. Banks to our farmers for the profitable selling and buying of live stock cannot be too highly estimated.

Having gained the confidence—and with it the support—of the agricultural interest, Mr. Banks showed more enterprise by building at considerable expense, and opening quite recently, on March the 24th, a new cattle market at Tenbury, called the Station Smithfield. Tenbury is exclusively an agricultural district, and if the opening sale may be regarded as any criterion for succeeding auctions, the success of this new market will be fully insured. Whilst the auctions at Bewdley are held every month, the demands of the Tenbury district are met by a fortnightly sale.

As this Illustrated Issue is chiefly concerned with showing the importance of the various businesses under review, and the progress which the town and the district has made, as implied by the progress of the individual concerns, we are glad to place on record the service which Mr. G. Herbert Banks has rendered to the agricultural and trade interests.

Messrs. TOVEY & COOPER

Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents

This well-known firm was established in 1860 by the late Mr. Samuel Tovey, who was for many years one of Kidderminster's most influential and highly respected townsmen. He not only founded what has become one of the leading businesses of the kind in the district, but took a prominent part in public affairs, having served as Mayor, Alderman, and Justice of the Peace. The sole partner of the firm is now Mr. Albert Cooper, who became a member of the firm in 1893, and who has been fortunate in materially extending the scope and volume of the business.

Messrs. TOVEY & COOPER do a general auctioneering, valuing and estate business. The firm gives special attention to the various duties devolving upon estate agents, buying, selling, and exchanging realty, taking charge of estates, collecting rents, etc., special attention being given to the collection of rents. During their history of over forty years they have been intimately connected with many of the most important property sales and exchanges known to the district in that time, and their patrons still include many of the leading people throughout this and adjoining counties.

Other important features of the business are the valuing of public house and other properties, fire, life and accident assurances, and the sale by auction and private treaty of all kinds of real and personal property. A very large business has been secured among the carpet trade, this firm having conducted some of the principal auction sales of carpet machinery and stock.

In no business is personal character of greater importance than in the business in which Messrs. Tovey & Cooper are engaged. In purchasing or renting property one must largely depend on the judgment and integrity of the agent, as there is frequently no other means of ascertaining the exact value and condition of the property in question. We take pleasure in stating that the subject of this article is fully deserving of any confidence that may be placed in him.

Messrs. J. CHAMBERS & SON

Chartered Accountants, House and Estate Agents

One of the best known professional firms in the district is that of Messrs. J. Chambers and Son, of the old Savings Bank here and 82A, Barton Street, Gloucester.

It was established in 1855 by the late Mr. J. Chambers. The Savings Bank, of which he was the actuary, ceased to exist in 1882, the Post Office Savings Bank having taken the place of most of these old institutions. Since his death in 1896 the business of the firm has been carried on with conspicuous success by his son, Mr. Albert D. Chambers, who, besides having a large practice as a chartered accountant, superintends the various branches of this firm.

Messrs. J. Chambers and Son have a very large house agents' business in the town, and represent a number of leading Life and Fire Insurance offices.

Mr. Albert D. Chambers is secretary to the Kidderminster Infirmary.





Sanitary Engineers



Messrs. C. WILLIAMSON and Co.

Sanitary Engineers, Plumbers, Painters,
Glaziers and Decorators

That "nothing succeeds like success" is aptly illustrated by the business carried on under the firm name of C. Williamson and Co., at 31, Mill Street, and Park Butts. This business was established upwards of sixty years ago by Mr. T. C. Williamson, and has always maintained a leading position in the trade. After several changes in the personnel of the management it in 1882 passed into the hands of the present proprietor, Mr. Henry Cox, who has displayed a much more than ordinary degree of energy and progressiveness.

The past few years have witnessed a particularly gratifying extension of the business, and the premises have several times been enlarged and added to, to meet the requirements of a constantly increasing trade. Three years ago the Park Butts show rooms were added, and still more recently a carpenter's shop at the rear of 41, Mill Street. A staff of from thirty-five to fifty men, depending on the season and the condition of the building trade, is required. Among the workmen are several of exceptional ability.

C. Williamson & Co. are general sanitary engineers, plumbers, painters, glaziers, and decorators. They have also recently added slating, brickwork, and all kinds of carpentering, having specially engaged and retained the most capable workmen for this branch. Estimates are cheerfully furnished for either large or small contracts, and at any distance. All work is done under the personal direction of the proprietor, and every contract is based on the best obtainable workmanship and materials.

The invariably high-class work executed by the firm has resulted in a correspondingly high-class patronage. Many of the principal property owners in Kidderminster and district have availed themselves of the resources of the firm, whose work may be seen in our handsomest public and private buildings.

In their attractive show rooms C. Williamson & Co. carry a complete and well selected stock of gas fittings, sanitary fittings, mantles, tiles, paperhanging, and decorations, embracing every desirable pattern, and representing the best productions of the leading manufacturers: Baths, lavatories, hot water cylinders, &c., are supplied and installed to order, illustrated designs and estimates being submitted on application. Owing to the large quantity of materials and supplies they use they are enabled to make purchases on the lowest terms, a benefit which ultimately accrues to the patron.

C. WATKINS

General Plumber and Sanitary Engineer

One of the best known plumbers in this town is Mr. C. Watkins, Horsefair. After having been for many years with the late J. R. Wood, who then owned a large ironmongery business in High Street, Mr. Watkins established himself on his own account twenty years ago in Blackwell Street. The growth of his trade demanding larger accommodation necessitated several moves, until he eventually acquired the freehold of the premises he now occupies.

Mr. C. Watkins is essentially a practical man. Besides general plumbing he undertakes contracts for steam, hot and cold water, and gas fittings. He is a locksmith and bell hanger, and executes every kind of work in coppersmithing, tin, iron and zinc. He is prepared to give estimates for any work required to be done, and his long experience enables him to carry out satisfactorily every contract that may be given to him.

In his shop Mr. Watkins has a fairly complete stock of household ironmongery, brooms, brushes, baths, &c. He is also an agent for incandescent lights and fittings. At the back of the shop is a capacious workshop, and the total area of the premises is not less than 2,500 square feet. He employs workmen, but gives his personal attention to every detail of the work done.

Mr. C. Watkins may look back upon a successful career. Practical knowledge and energy have made the business grow to its present position, and its value may be seen in the fact that the majority of its present customers gave their work to Mr. Watkins when he first commenced business twenty years ago.

T. J. SPILSBURY

A Prominent Plumber, Painter and
Decorator

Everyone in Kidderminster and vicinity is familiar with the name of Mr. T. J. Spilsbury, the plumber, painter and decorator. Mr. Spilsbury is a native of Kidderminster, where he has always resided, and where he learnt his trade. After serving a long apprenticeship, subsequently working as a journeyman for some years, he a quarter of a century ago engaged in business on his own account. Seven years ago he purchased the premises he now occupies in Lion Hill, Bromsgrove Street. These premises include both his residence and workshop, and are quite extensive and are excellently adapted to his purpose, being centrally located, conveniently arranged, and amply large.

Mr. Spilsbury is equally competent to perform every kind of work coming within the scope of his calling. Plumbing, steam, gas, and water fitting, sanitary work, painting, glazing, paper-hanging and decorating are all given attention, all work being done under his own supervision. He also does all kinds of jobbing, contracting for brick work, slating, &c. He employs from ten to twenty men, according to the season and the condition of the building trade, and he has been careful to secure only the most capable workmen.

Whilst he is ready to furnish estimates on either small or large contracts, basing every estimate on the best obtainable workmanship, he prefers the larger contracts. He also makes a feature of alterations to buildings, installing modern sanitary arrangements, &c. He has assisted in modernising and renovating a great many of the principal buildings in Kidderminster, having work of this character in hand almost constantly. During his experience of twenty-five years he has been entrusted with some of the most important work in his line ever done in the vicinity, the substantial character of his work in every case testifying to his judgment and ability. He has done a great deal of particularly fine work for the large estates about Kidderminster, and in Kinver, Stourport, Bewdley, and the surrounding towns. He is prepared to execute work of any character at any distance as well as in Kidderminster, and we have no hesitation in assuring property owners, builders, and others that they could not do better than to consult him before undertaking any extensive building operations, or making enlargements to existing buildings.

Mr. Spilsbury's popularity is as much the result of his agreeable personal traits and known integrity as of his ability as a workman. During his long business career in the town he has been intimately associated with many of our leading property owners, who have fully appreciated his suggestions and the manner in which they were carried out. It gives us pleasure to add our own commendation, and to wish for the subject of these few lines a long continued prosperity.

H. E. PRITCHARD

Sanitary, Gas, and Hot-Water Engineer

Sanitation, and its influence upon the well-being of the people is becoming more widely recognised day by day. A defective drain means fever, and the penalty for neglect is expressed in human lives. The Institute of Sanitary Engineers and of Plumbers is the outcome of the consciousness of the responsibility which lies upon them. Bad sanitation is injurious alike to public health and to the householder, and efforts to make impossible the jerry plumber, and to raise up a class of men who have a knowledge of the laws of sanitation, should be universally supported. Not long ago the Lord Mayor of London, whilst presiding at a meeting of plumbers called for the purpose of urging upon the Government the necessity for the registration of plumbers, paid a high tribute to them for taking steps to raise the status of their calling, and thereby showing that they felt the duty which they owe to the public health to equip themselves by careful study of the subject of sanitation for the growing demand which progressing science is making upon them.

One of the men who takes his profession thus seriously is Mr. H. E. PRITCHARD, of Bewdley Road, opposite the Grammar School House. During the four years he has been established he has earned a reputation of which he may well be proud, not only locally but in many parts of the country. To give only a few instances, he was entrusted with carrying out the whole of the plumbing at Astley Hall, he did the plumbing in the new Church Schools at Far Forest, a magnificent piece of building given by the Rev. William Lea, and he carried out a gas lighting contract at the Wolverley Grammar School. He installed a hot-water apparatus in Davenport House, one of the most beautiful mansions in the country, in a beautiful old-world village, Worfield, nr. Bridgnorth. Here a river runs through the park, working an old water pump which supplies the mansion. The pump was erected as far back as 1738, and is interesting in that all the working parts are made of oak. If on one side it is wonderful to notice as suggested by this picture of olden time the vast progress made in sanitary engineering, we cannot help on the other but marvel at the skill and ingenuity of our ancestors who could construct a pump that has lasted for nearly two centuries, and still does the work for which it was designed.

Mr. H. E. Pritchard has also carried on extensive contracts for the South East Shropshire District School at Quatt; for Mr. Elkington, of Wolverley; Mr. Brown-Westhead, of Lea Castle, and many others, but these we have mentioned are a conclusive proof that he is one of the foremost men of his calling.

In his shop in Bewdley Road he has a large stock of articles and fittings of all kinds. He sells and fits incandescent and ordinary gas lights, and he is, as deserves particular mention, an authorised water-works plumber, and a glazier and house decorator. He is open to give free of cost estimates for any work that comes within his sphere, and undertakes to carry out large or small contracts, to the utmost satisfaction of employers. The workshop is well equipped with all the latest tools, and is generally regarded as the best plumber's shop in Kidderminster.

He has been successful because he knows his work and does it well; his staff of workmen is selected for their ability, but every detail is under his personal supervision; the majority of his contracts have been given to him on the recommendation of patrons who have had an opportunity of testing the thoroughness of his work, and with such reputation his continued success is well assured.



Cycles, Etc.



J. SANDERS

Cycle Maker, Dealer, and Repairer

The attractive shop, of which we give here an illustration, is well known to many lovers of the wheel in this district. The business was established by Mr. J. Sanders 12 years ago, and was removed to its present splendid premises in 1898, where it has ever since continued to grow in popular favour.

Mr. J. Sanders holds agencies for such well known machines as the Sunbeam, Singer, Star, and Triumph cycles, but is perhaps better known in cycling circles, and should be more generally known, as maker of the Royal Severn cycle, a machine which has had a most successful racing record.

Of recent years Mr. Sanders has taken up an agency for the Mabley motor car, and still more recently for the Excelsior motor cycle, both of which enjoy a large sale. He stocks, further, petrol and motor parts of all kinds, charges accumulators, and does business in buying and exchanging cars.



MR. SANDERS' NEW ROAD SHOP

Besides superintending such important business, Mr. Sanders is also the owner of an extensive boot and shoe stores, with branches in 9, Vicar Street and 57, New Road. All these concerns are in a flourishing condition, and are evidence of the energy and business capacity of their owner.

KIDDERMINSTER CYCLE DEPOT

Bull Ring

Some years ago an effort was made to introduce a new industry into Kidderminster—the manufacture of cycles. A Company was formed, a number of public men joined the directorate, and the "Excelsior Works," as was the name of the Company, manufactured for a long time a machine that was equal to any other on the market, excepting, perhaps, in the full sound of the name.

The power of the big works in Birmingham and Coventry in the long run became too oppressive, and after a valiant fight it was resolved to voluntarily wind up the local Company.

One of the directors, Mr. R. Jenkins, subsequently commenced business on his own account by opening, in 1900, the Kidderminster Cycle Depot, in the Bull Ring.

Situated right in the heart of the town, on the road to everywhere, it was only natural that the business secured from the outset a large share of the cycle trade, and having been appointed sole agent for one

of the best machines made, the Humber, Mr. Jenkins, by that very position alone, soon formed an important connection in the Midlands.

It is hardly necessary to mention the merits of the Humber cycle. There is not a cyclist who has not heard of its excellence, and those who are not cyclists will get all necessary information from an artistic catalogue and booklet on "Humber cycles and how to use them," which will be sent by Mr. Jenkins to anyone interested in this machine.

Besides the "Humbers," Mr. Jenkins has always a large stock of cycles of all kinds and grades on view, and his terms may be arranged to suit the convenience of prospective customers.

Of recent years Mr. Jenkins has given special attention to the motor trade, and owing to his connection with some of the largest firms, he is able to supply motor cycles and motor cars on terms that will compare well with any in the district. Motorists are specially catered for, and he stocks petrol and all the accessories required for either motor cars or cycles. Repairs are carefully executed.

THE "CROSS" CYCLE DEPOT

Proprietors, Messrs. Leonard Wyer & Co.
Worcester Cross

A smart and up-to-date firm, holding the sole agencies for the Centaur, Swift, Rover, and Sparkbrook cycles is that of Messrs. Leonard Wyer and Co. With such high class, world-famous machines as these it is not necessary for us to go into details concerning their merits. Catalogues and any information may be had on application at the depot. The Centaur motor bicycle, to those intending to go in for motor machines, is to be thoroughly recommended as the best on the market. It is chain-driven, and the patent anti-vibratory motor fork reduces vibration to a minimum, and prevents the possibility of a breakage. The specification will be supplied to any one on application. In addition to the above, Messrs. Wyer and Co. make the Cross Cycle to order with any fittings or tyres, etc., required; and as in distinction to large manufacturers the local maker depends upon the reputation he establishes with the local public, the customer will, therefore, have a guarantee that none but the best material and skilled labour will be employed in the building of a machine.

The workshops connected with the show rooms are always kept very busy, the firm giving special attention to any description of repairs. Here as careful attention is given to punctured tyres as to a broken frame, the re-enameiling and re-plating of a machine or any other important repair. They make a speciality of fitting two or three-speed gears, which have now attained much popularity. The success with which Messrs. Leonard Wyer and Co. have met with hitherto is due to the careful attention which always has been and which will continue to be, given to every customer.

T. C. PRESSLAND

Taxidermist, Preserver of Birds, Animals and Fish

For twenty years Mr. T. C. Pressland at 10 Swan Street, has been a taxidermist, being the only person in Kidderminster who makes this work a business. We were recently shown some excellent specimens of his work, including a number of stuffed and mounted birds and small animals. They were all very carefully mounted, being in appearance and position as natural as life. He makes a special feature of mounting and preserving fish, which must be fresh when brought. His work in this line is excellent, and has no superior.

Mr. Pressland has done work for places as far away as South Wales, as well as this immediate district. All orders by post are given prompt attention at reasonable prices

FRANK TRANTER

Saddler and Harness Maker

The saddle and harness manufacturing business owned by Mr. FRANK TRANTER at 21, High Street is the leading one in the district. It was founded by Mr. Tranter twenty years ago in Coventry Street, and was transferred to its present location in High Street in 1898.

The large shop and show room contain a well selected stock of saddles, harness, horse-clothing, waterproof knee rugs, leggings, and stable requisites. All saddles and harness are hand made, and made on the premises by his own workmen and under his own supervision. Repairs receive special attention, all the work being distinguished by good material and good workmanship.

Mr. Tranter has lately added the sale of dress baskets, portmanteau, Gladstone and travelling bags, and his stock of well-made and well-wearing bags of all sizes and descriptions is the best in the district, as can be easily ascertained by anyone who will compare them with that in other shops. It is owing to a large stock being kept and special attention given to every detail that this shop has become the recognised centre for all saddlery, harness, stable requisites and leather bags.

E. MOUND

Boot Maker and Dealer

Mr. E. MOUND was apprenticed in Kidderminster for a term of eight years in the hand-sewn department, after which he served twelve years as journeyman in various parts of England and Ireland, thus becoming thoroughly experienced. He commenced business on his own account fifteen years ago. After several removals, each time securing more convenient quarters, he settled down at 118 Blackwell Street, his present location.

He carries a full stock of men's, women's and children's footwear, making a speciality of serviceable and moderate priced boots. He also gives special attention to bespoke work and all kinds of repairing, all work being done on the premises under his own supervision. It is but just to say that his trade has been built up strictly on merit, and that Mr. Mound has gained the entire confidence of his patrons.

JOHN LOWE AND BROS.

WRIBBENHALL, BEWDLEY

Manufacturers of all kinds of Cords and Twines for the Carpet Trade

This business was established in 1801, and continued by the Lowe family until 1893, when it was taken over by Mr. J. Birtwistle, who was joined in 1900 by Mr. R. A. Hector. The works are situated at the side of the Great Western Railway, and cover an extensive area, the rope walk extending a distance of 300 yards, with modern plant and appliances driven by steam power, and capable of producing large quantities of finished goods. These include every description of ropes, lines, twines, sash lines, whipcord, bell ropes, oil cloth, rick cloth, etc. The firm also deal largely in pitch, tar, garden and door mats, etc. The leading speciality manufactured by the firm is the rope, jacquard cords, and all the varied twines used in the Carpet Trades, for which purpose these productions are in steadily progressive demand by the principal carpet firms in the district and throughout England, Germany, France, Austria, Holland, and America. A large general trade is done by the firm, their goods being in popular favour in the home and export markets for their superior excellence of material and finished workmanship. A numerous staff of experienced employees is retained.



Jewellers



W. COPELAND

Goldsmith, Jeweller, Watchmaker and Optician

Among the businesses that may vie with any other in the county for a prominent place in the fullness of stock and quality of the goods is that of Mr. W. Copeland, of 6, High Street. Having learned his trade in that High School for the watch and gem industry, Coventry, he established himself in Kidderminster twenty-nine years ago, and is now able to look back upon a career of much progress and gratifying success.

Mr. Copeland being what may be termed a specialist in watches, a large portion of the shop is given up to an extensive stock in watches of all descriptions, which for quality, style and cheapness it would be difficult to match, whether a moderate-priced silver watch or the costliest gold hunter in the market. He also contracts for mending and keeping in repair clocks of every description, all repairs being skillfully executed on the premises.



EXTERIOR OF MR. COPELAND'S SHOP

But however important the watch department may be, it is the wonderful array of high class jewellery that will prove most interesting and alluring to our readers. The window glitters with a brilliant selection of rings, and the show cases in the shop contain what may be looked upon as the finest and best selected stock of gems in the county. One of the special features is his magnificent variety of diamond and other gem rings of every fashionable pattern. Of wedding rings Mr. Copeland has every weight and size in stock, and a present is given with every ring sold. There is further a fine assortment of "keepers" and signet rings, over a thousand rings always kept in stock. Of gold and silver jewellery, such as brooches, pendants, chains, charms, cigarette cases, and many other articles we find a very extensive variety, and to mention all the articles in the fancy department, such as Japanese goods, bronzes, bric-a-brac, etc., would take pages. To complete the variety there are hundreds of articles of silver and electro-plated goods, and as Mr. Copeland is also an optician, he keeps a

large assortment of spectacles and eye-glasses of every description, sells opera and field glasses, makes up oculists' prescriptions, and supplies optical goods of all kinds.

Mr. Copeland's qualities have long been recognised. He has been for some years clockmaker to the Corporation and to the local School Board, but he has found his best reward in a steadily growing trade, the result of a practical knowledge, long experience, and the energetic desire to be found in front of his trade. He is a freeman of the city of Coventry, and is among his townsmen here regarded with the highest esteem.



INTERIOR OF MR. COPELAND'S SHOP

His handsome shop was a few months back entirely renovated. Better accommodation was provided by enlarging it to twice its original size, thus enabling him to fix several handsome wall and counter cases for the better display of goods.

ALBERT E. HORTON

Watch and Clockmaker and Jeweller

Mr. Albert E. Horton established himself in this town five years ago, and has during the last three years occupied the prominent premises at the corner of High Street and Worcester Street, one of the best trade positions in the town.

He has a large stock of high-class adjusted English and foreign watches and clocks, and a large range of solid silver and electro-plated goods suitable for presentation, and wedding and birthday gifts. He has further an extensive stock of marble and onyx clocks and bronzes of different styles and quality, and for engagement, keeper and wedding rings the firm states that it is the cheapest and most reliable house in the town. In gem rings and diamond brooches some of the finest designs may be seen here, and the charges are as moderate as the selection is complete.

Mr. Horton makes a speciality of repair work in which he is particularly proficient. He also undertakes the adjusting of watches and remounting of jewels.

We cordially commend him to the notice of the public, feeling assured that he is fully deserving of any patronage that may be accorded to him.

Special terms are made to sports and presentation committees.

THE KIDDERMINSTER FINANCIAL AGENCY

Jewellers, Pawnbrokers and Outfitters

The Kidderminster Financial Agency, of 5, Mill Street, has too long been familiar to the people of the town and vicinity to require extended comment here. It is among our old established businesses and has enjoyed unbroken prosperity.

Six years ago the business passed into the hands of Messrs. W. H. Hewitt and C. T. Richards, who compose the present firm. At that time, and frequently since, the premises were extensively altered to adapt them to the requirements of a growing trade. All the floors are now used, and several rooms are completely filled with the various articles comprising the stock. Adjoining the shop are the large Assembly Rooms, belonging to the firm, and let by it for sales, dancing classes, exhibitions, etc.

The stock carried by the Kidderminster Financial Agency includes all kinds of jewellery, clothing, furnishings and miscellaneous articles. This is the only firm in the town that advances money on jewellery and plate, and as a consequence it has accumulated a collection of these articles that cannot be excelled anywhere, while they are sold at much less than current prices for the same value. In this connection it should be stated that the firm makes cash advances on all manner of securities as well as tangible value, and also negotiates mortgages, &c. It is but just to say that during a long history the agency has carefully guarded the interests of its many patrons, and every transaction is strictly confidential.

As we have stated, the firm consists of Messrs. W. H. Hewitt and C. T. Richards. The latter gentleman is a resident of Wolverhampton, and gives but little attention to the affairs of the Kidderminster Financial Agency, the management of which devolves almost entirely upon Mr. Hewitt. This gentleman is highly esteemed for his agreeable personal traits, as well as for his business integrity and ability, and he has reason to feel gratified at the success which has followed his efforts.



CANAL WHARF, KIDDERMINSTER



Builders Contractors



RICHARD HUGHES

Kidderminster's Leading Timber Merchant

The business carried on by Mr. RICHARD HUGHES, in Park Lane, is not only the leading one of the kind in Kidderminster or vicinity, but it is also the oldest. It was established in 1835, and for many years was the only timber, slate, and building material business in the town. For upwards of seventy years our principal builders and contractors have obtained their supplies from this firm, which has therefore been a very important factor in our town's development.

The business was established by a Mr. Barlow, who was succeeded by Mr. Woodhouse. Mr. J. T. Lawrence subsequently came into possession of the business, and in 1804 was succeeded by Mr. Richard Hughes, the present proprietor.

During its history of three quarters of a century the business has always been carried on in the same premises in Park Lane. The location is all that could be desired, being in the centre of the town and yet having sufficient room for the convenient storage of a large amount of material. The receiving facilities are excellent, part of the premises adjoin the canal, and have ample wharfage. The entire premises cover approximately one and a half acres of ground.

We were recently shown through the various buildings, and were equally surprised at the extent, variety, and value of their contents. The various buildings include commodious and well appointed offices, large timber storing sheds, cabinet and furniture making workshops, and other buildings. Since coming into possession of the business nine years ago Mr. Hughes has made a number of improvements, including extensive alterations to the office building, and still further improvements and enlargements are in contemplation.

Mr. Hughes's facilities are such that he is in position to not only supply Kidderminster builders and all other consumers of timber with all needed materials, but also those of surrounding towns, viz.:—Bewdley, Stourport, Kinver, Bridgnorth, Cleobury Mortimer, Tenbury, Ludlow and district, where his name is almost as well known as it is here. The stock includes all kinds of building and joinery timber, doors, mouldings, turnery of every description, and slates of the best quality. The stock of wood is unusually varied, comprising red and white deal, yellow and pitch pine, canarywood, oak, &c., and including walnut, mahogany and all kinds of matchings and floorboards, ceiling, tile and slates, lathes, &c. The stock contains the largest and best assortment of foreign timber in this district, an assertion which can easily be verified by a visit to the premises. Deals, battens, boards, scantlings, logs, etc., of any shape or size are cut to order at the shortest notice.

A special feature is the manufacture of all kinds of picking sticks and other requisites for carpet manufacturers. Mr. Hughes is favoured with a great many orders from our local carpet factories for these requisites. Another feature is the wholesale manufacture of household furniture and cabinet work, in which he has built up a very considerable trade during the past four years. All of this furniture, which is made on the premises under his own supervision, is constructed of the best material by competent workmen. Its thoroughly reliable and honest construction has gained for it a well-deserved popularity and orders still continue to increase.

We are pleased to state that at no time in its history has the business been in better condition than it is to-day, notwithstanding the "dull times." In all the departments over thirty hands are employed, many of whom are skilled workmen of long training and experience. Mr. Hughes is specially qualified to successfully carry on the large business of which

he is the head. He has practically spent his entire life in it and has become familiar with its every detail. For many years he was manager for his predecessor, Mr. J. T. Lawrence, and it may safely be said that during his services in that capacity he was largely responsible for the high standing the business held. Since becoming proprietor he has succeeded in materially extending the business. Associated with Mr. Hughes are his two sons, who have acquired a practical knowledge of the various details of the business.

WILLIAM WATERS

A Prominent Builder and General Contractor

Among those who have taken a prominent part in the building operations in Kidderminster in recent years, we take the pleasure of referring to Mr. William Waters, whose office, work rooms, and storage premises are in Offmore Road. Mr. Waters has followed his calling in this town for a quarter of a century, for the larger portion of that period carrying on his own business. Six years ago he moved to his present location.

He is a general builder and contractor, and having been connected with the trade from his boyhood, as apprentice, journeyman, and master, he has become familiar with its every detail. He is not only competent to construct any building after plans submitted to him, but is capable of making designs for any kind of structure. Many of the shops and residences he has erected have been after his own plans, and in both design and workmanship they give evidence of a high order of ability.

He submits estimates for the erection of either large or small buildings, his estimates including every part of the work from the foundation to the roof, and including painting, decorating, etc. Brick-laying, plumbing, and similar work are sublet to the most responsible contractors, though every stage of the work is supervised by Mr. Waters himself.

During his business career in Kidderminster he has made a special feature of doing the highest class of work, and as a result he has been favoured with the patronage of many of our principal property owners. His services have been in frequent demand not only in Kidderminster, but throughout the surrounding country as well. In addition to constructing buildings, he gives a great deal of attention to alterations to existing buildings, having altered several of our principal shops. A conspicuous example of his skill and judgment is furnished by the Fehrenbach building in High Street, which he entirely remodelled and reconstructed several years ago. This building, which was formerly an unattractive ironmongery shop, has been made one of the handsomest establishments in the town. The interior fittings, which are particularly attractive, were all designed and executed by him.

As we have stated, Mr. Waters has had a long experience in his calling. He began work at an early age, at a time when educational advantages were not so frequent as now, and from that time until the present has been gradually forging ahead. He now employs a considerable number of men, among whom are workmen capable of executing the finest wood-carving, cabinet work and joinery. His methods have always been of that thorough and conscientious kind that have given English artisans their pre-eminence, and his business transactions are above criticism. It is gratifying to know that his efforts have been profitable to himself as well as satisfactory to others, and that he has gained a competence through his labour. We take pleasure in commending him to those who may need the services of a contractor or builder, as we feel assured that he will maintain the high reputation he has so long enjoyed.

CHARLES WALKER

A well-known Builder, Contractor, and Timber Merchant

Among those who have achieved a very gratifying success in Kidderminster, Mr. Charles Walker, the builder and contractor, is entitled to mention. We take special pleasure in referring to Mr. Walker's progress, and it has resulted, not from favourable circumstances, but solely from his own energy and perseverance.

He has been directly connected with the building trade all his life. His apprenticeship was served under one of our most prominent local builders and contractors, under whose guidance he became familiar with every detail of his calling. Seven years ago he purchased the premises he now occupies facing Castle Road, and adjoining Park Lane and the canal. The receiving facilities could scarcely be excelled, as timber received by water may be unloaded from the canal directly into the yards.

Mr. Walker, as we have already stated, is a general contractor, builder, and timber merchant, and is prepared to successfully carry out any contract, either large or small, that may be entrusted to him. He furnishes estimates in erecting buildings complete from foundation to roof, and including plumbing and sanitary arrangements. He also gives a great deal of attention to alterations, enlargements, and improvements to existing buildings, his services in this line of business having been in frequent demand.

For a number of years he has made a special feature of wood and corrugated iron buildings, in which he has been peculiarly successful. Some of the largest corrugated iron shops in Kidderminster, notably several for our local carpet manufacturers and spinners, were erected by him. In the erection of his wood and corrugated iron buildings he uses a system of stays and braces that gives the greatest possible strength and rigidity to the buildings, while not increasing their cost, and we would suggest to property owners who may contemplate building that they examine his workmanship before giving any contracts.

Mr. Walker, in addition to doing all kinds of building, and making all repairs and alterations, does a growing trade in all kinds of building materials, of which he keeps a complete stock in hand. Orders for any kind or quantity are given immediate attention, and are delivered anywhere in Kidderminster.

Since the establishing of his business, six years ago, Mr. Walker has had the satisfaction of witnessing its continuous increase. To every piece of work entrusted to him, whether important or unimportant, he gives careful attention, and we trust that his business will continue to increase as it deserves.

G. THOMAS

Shopfitter and Undertaker

Mr. G. Thomas, of 89, George Street, has become known of recent years as a reliable cabinet maker and shopfitter. He executes any kind of work coming within this sphere, whether mirror casing, making of air-tight cases, or fitting up of whole shops, and his workmanship is as excellent as his charges are moderate. He has a roomy workshop at George Street with every facility for carrying out orders to the entire satisfaction of customers.

He conducts also funerals at any distance from Kidderminster, and can supply everything required. He has a large stock of brass plates, engraved memorial, or door plates, and is a large dealer in artificial wreaths, of which there is a wide selection. Floral wreaths are here also made to any design.



Drapers Tailors



ISAACS and ATTWOOD

Kidderminster's Leading Drapery Establishment

Of all the retail establishments in Kidderminster none are more familiar to the public than that of Isaacs & Attwood, Bull Ring. The business has been conducted continuously for upwards of one hundred years, and is still prosperous and progressive. The partners are Messrs. C. Isaacs, H. Attwood, and R. Isaac. Upon the two latter, who have been brought up and educated in the business, the actual management now devolves.

Not only has the establishment the advantage of the best location in the town, but the building itself is one of our most conspicuous pieces of architecture, having been restored and modernised at a comparatively recent date. The front of the first floor is particularly attractive, the display windows forming practically one sheet of glass. These windows are constantly filled with seasonal and tastefully arranged fabrics, making one of Kidderminster's most interesting street scenes. The interior arrangements are equally noteworthy, special attention having been paid to lighting.

In Isaacs & Attwood's establishment there are in all not fewer than twenty separate departments, each of which is as complete as though it were an exclusive shop. Sixty-four employees are required in the various departments, probably a larger number than are employed in any other one retail house in this district.

It would be impossible, even were it desirable, to enumerate all the articles carried in stock in the various departments. Messrs. Isaacs & Attwood are general drapers and men's and women's outfitters, and nothing that could possibly be included in this category has been omitted. Special features are made of the dressmaking, millinery, mantle, and men's tailoring departments, which alone would form a considerable business. Visitors to Kidderminster, particularly those of the feminine persuasion, will find their visit incomplete without at least a short time spent in this establishment, where they are sure to receive considerate attention.

During its entire history the firm has catered particularly for those who have the taste to appreciate, and the means to buy, THE BEST. For many years the house has enjoyed the continued patronage of many of the best families in Kidderminster and the surrounding country. It is but just to add that the present management is fully maintaining the high character that has always distinguished the business, which will, we trust, continue to be the first of its kind in this district.

ALEXANDER KERR and CO.

Tailors and Outfitters

The tailor's and outfitter's establishment at 14, Mill Street, is the oldest of its kind in the town. It was established over sixty years ago, and has changed hands twice only, the last time five years ago, when it was acquired by Mr. Alexander Kerr.

The success of the business has been due to the reliable character of the goods rather than to profuse advertising. The stock, which is exceptionally large and complete, includes every article to be found in a modern outfitter's shop, from moderate-priced to the more expensive qualities.

The speciality of this shop has always been to cater for that large class of customers with whom economy is as much a consideration as elegant style; and doing an important turnover, and employing first-class cutters, the firm is well qualified to maintain its reputation.

In the management of this business Mr. Alexander Kerr is assisted by Mr. Alfred Woodward, who has been associated with the establishment for 45 years.

THOS. BENNETT & SONS

One of the principal Merchant Tailoring firms in the Midlands

Although it has been the fashion of recent years to complain of the want of opportunities in England, and to look to other countries as better fields for the employment of capital or ability, the fact remains that but few places can show a greater number of notable successes than this immediate neighbourhood. Among those firms that illustrate what can be accomplished here that of THOS. BENNETT AND SONS, the tailors and outfitters, is deserving of special mention.

Thirty seven years ago Mr. Thos. Bennett first engaged in business on his own account, being one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the principal tradesmen in Kidderminster or vicinity. He had the advantage of a natural aptitude, as well as a careful training, as he came from a family of tailors, his father and brothers also having been engaged in that calling.

His first shop was in Church Street, where he remained continuously for a quarter of a century, and where the foundation of his success was laid. His business was begun in a very small way, and Mr. Bennett could scarcely have hoped that his trade would ever reach its present proportions. Each year, however, witnessed a distinct advance, until to-day the business is at least equal in importance to any of its kind in the Midlands, employing as it does about seventy people.

In 1890 Mr. Bennett purchased the property at 6, Oxford Street, which he re-built. This building has a depth of 75 feet, and is excellently adapted to its purposes, affording sufficient room for the reception and attractive display of a large stock. The cutting and fitting rooms, and several workrooms, are in the same premises. Besides the merchant tailoring the ground floor of the building is devoted to first-class hosiery, and gentlemen's hats and outfitting, where they hold a most complete and well selected stock.

During his long business career Mr. Bennett has been a man of remarkable energy. Not satisfied with having built up the largest and most select trade of the kind in Kidderminster, he several years ago sought a larger sphere. In January, 1897, he opened a branch shop at 41, Cherry Street, Birmingham; this he carried on successfully for several years, and here the connection greatly increased, making it necessary to remove to more commodious premises. These he obtained by purchasing the business carried on for so many years by S. Murphy & Son at 45, Cherry Street, and here the business is still conducted. In the autumn of 1902 a still larger development took place by the purchase of the well-known old established business of W. M. Sadler, at 1, Stephenson Place.

The Birmingham shops are within 150 yds. of each other, both occupying premises in the very heart of the city. The shop in Stephenson Place is in the Exchange building, one of the most conspicuous pieces of architecture in Birmingham. It is at the junction of New Street and Corporation Street, within a stone's throw of New Street station, and is probably one of the finest sites for a business place to be found anywhere in this part of the country. The shop itself, apart from its location, is a favourable advertisement, with its attractive windows, lofty ceilings, and temptingly arrayed fabrics.

Although Mr. Bennett is now the head of three large establishments, any one of which most men would consider a sufficient tax upon their energies, he still carefully maintains the high standard which gave him his first reputation. From the selection of his woollens, which represent the best products of the loom, to the last stitch in every garment that leaves his premises he insists on seeing that everything is of the highest obtainable quality. He has the

distinction of doing work for some of the most noted men in public life. He has the further distinction of having filled orders for many foreign places, including New York, Chicago, and other American cities, and India and South Africa. His Birmingham establishments, particularly the one in Stephenson Place, are familiar to American visitors, many of whom leave important orders.

For some years past Mr. Bennett has associated with him in his business his two sons, Messrs. L. H. and W. H. Bennett, the firm's name being changed accordingly. The sons have been brought up in the business to which they devote themselves, and they have fully demonstrated their ability to maintain its splendid prestige.

T. BROOKE AND SONS

Tailors and Woollen Drapers

This business was founded 24 years ago by Mr. T. Brooke, who after gaining his experience in several leading tailoring establishments in the provinces, opened his first shop at 61, New Road. Six years ago the growth of his connection made an extension imperative, and he acquired the shop at 14, Oxford Street.

His main trade has been from the first to cater for the high and middle class trade. Whilst the lower grade is not neglected, it is in high-class tailoring that Mr. Brooke, the head of the firm, has established and successfully maintained his reputation.

A trade of this nature necessitates the carrying of a very large stock, and there is no doubt that his selection of tweeds, serges, vicunas, and fancy worsteds is as large as any in the district. He has a particularly wide range of Irish tweeds and suitings, and stocks every fashionable design of flannels for boating, cricketing, etc. There is a separate department for rainproofs and coverts, as select and extensive as could be found anywhere.

The steady growth of his business is the best proof of the excellent style of the work turned out here, and so much is his work appreciated that when customers leave the district they still retain their connection with the firm, and the consequence is that Mr. Brooke has customers in almost every part of the country.

Both shops, in Oxford Street and New Road, have an attractive appearance. The cutting and work rooms are airy and well lighted, and the trade demands the constant employment of a dozen hands.

Mr. Brooke is assisted in the management of his extensive business by his son, Mr. T. R. Brooke. Both gentlemen are directing all their efforts towards letting it be known that for the supply of the most fashionable patterns, excellent work, and elegant fit there is no one ahead of their firm.

H. BACON

High-class Tailor and Hosier

Mr. H. Bacon, tailor and clothier, has been engaged in business in Kidderminster for the past six years, two years ago removing to his present location at 114, Mill Street. Here he has ample facilities for carrying on his work, having comfortable and well-lighted work rooms and attractive show rooms.

He is particularly fortunate in the selection of his woollens, which are in variety and quality fully equal to those of any shop in this entire section. All of the desirable seasonable fabrics are represented, from the most noted mills in the kingdom. During a recent visit to the shop we were much impressed with the splendid variety of tweeds, chevots, vicunas, and other weaves, and with the tasteful manner in which they are displayed in the windows and shelves.



Clothiers



Hatters



He does both men's and women's tailoring, making a special feature of the best made medium priced garments. He gives a great deal of attention to ladies' tailoring, in which he has been unusually successful. Patterns will be sent to any address upon application, and when desired by those who find it inconvenient to visit the shop measurements will be taken at their homes.

Mr. Bacon has secured a very gratifying connection in Bewdley, Stourport, and other surrounding towns, as well as Kidderminster. We have no hesitation in commending his work as representing the highest stage of tailoring.

ALEXANDER KERR

Wholesale Draper

The history of this firm is another instance of which these pages show several, of the success that may be achieved by perseverance, business acumen, and abilities of management. What was twenty years ago a small business with a small turnover, is to-day the foremost draper's concern in the district.

The firm was founded by Mr. Alexander Kerr in 1882 in a shop at Worcester Cross. Some years after it was removed to Coventry Street, and later to its present location, The Grange, in St. Mary Street, Mr. Kerr taking over and amalgamating with his a similar business which had been established 45 years ago.

The trade of the firm comprises the making of suits and costumes to order, the sale of ready-made clothes, (of Manchester) cotton goods and Bradford goods, dress fabrics, mantles and costumes. Gradually it was extended beyond the borders of Worcestershire, and to-day the firm are doing an extensive trade in Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Warwickshire, besides the home county; has branches and resident agents in Worcester and Coventry, and has a staff of 25 employees.



"THE GRANGE."

The Grange is the most unique business house in the town. In olden times the steward house of the lords of the manor (the Blounts), it is now the home of one of the most progressive trading concerns. There is still the old octagonal dining room, the magnificent oak staircase, and the quaint arched windows, reminiscent of ages gone by. Hall Street near by, and Paddock Court, help to keep alive the memory of the days when the old baronial hall was looking down on the town in the days when the carpet industry was not. But to-day a dozen gigantic chimneys proclaim that we live in the age of industrialism and commerce, and the Grange has been transformed into a counting house and stores from which a large percentage of the population of four counties are supplied with clothes.

How expressive of the spirit of the twentieth century! Business knows no sentiment. The competition, not only among local trades, but even of nations with each other, particularly in the clothing trade, calls for the display of high qualities, unless one is satisfied to be left behind. The owner of "The Grange" to-

day, judging from the large business which is transacted annually, and which has grown to its present extent from the smallest beginning, has had those qualifications which place him among our most successful men of business, and which are a guarantee of continued success.

ALFRED H. JAMES

A leading Hatter's Establishment in Oxford St.

It might perhaps be not inappropriate to call the business in Oxford Street, owned by Mr. ALFRED H. JAMES, "The" hat store of the town, if an unequalled stock, large variety, and best quality can constitute a claim to such a distinction. The business which was taken over by Mr. Alfred H. James twelve years ago had already at that time become noted for the quality of the goods sold, and its reputation has been not only well maintained, but largely added to under the capable management of its present proprietor.

Being an outfitter's business, customers will find in the capacious shop and stock room a large selection of gloves, hosiery, umbrellas, both ladies' and gentlemen's, and all those many articles forming the stock of such an establishment. There is further a department for shirtmaking, and also for re-covering umbrellas. The chief feature, however, of the business, and on which its reputation is founded, is hats of all patterns and sizes, of which there is stock large enough to supply any want. In best hats Mr. Alfred H. James sells those of the famous Christy make, and he has also an agency for the celebrated Dent's gloves.

The policy of supplying a first class article at a moderate price is always right, and certain to lead to success. Mr. James has not only succeeded in making his business in Oxford Street popular with all classes of customers, but a year or so ago he took over one of the oldest-established businesses in this line in West Bromwich. It is situated at 199, High Street, occupies one of the finest positions for trade in the town, and is one of the oldest retail shops in the county, having been in existence for upwards of fifty years. The premises are large and fitted in modern style, the shop being one of the most handsome business places in West Bromwich. The stock is well selected, and very large indeed, to fill the demands of a growing trade.

Both businesses are under the personal supervision of Mr. Alfred H. James, who gives, however, most of his attention to the Kidderminster business. To successfully carry on two such shops, and raise and maintain them in their flourishing state, prove the possession of much energy and ability, and Mr. Alfred H. James will find his reward, we trust, in continued success and increased prosperity,—which he well deserves.

T. PENSOTTI

Hatter and Hosier

If every one does not know the "City House" in the Bull Ring, everyone certainly knows Pensotti's, a complete outfitting establishment for gentlemen, where you can get the latest style in smart hats, ties, and up-to-date suits, either ready-made or to measure, umbrellas and hosiery or any other requirement, even a button-hook to button the latest style in gloves with.

Besides being a caterer for public wants Mr. Pensotti has also given a deal of time to public work. He was first elected as a Guardian of the Poor, afterwards a member of the Town Council, and he soon showed that he had a grasp of municipal work. He was later on elected to a seat on the aldermanic bench, and for many years has been the chairman of the Health Committee.

F. PEACOCK, General Draper

Among the high-class shops in the town, the general drapery business owned by Mr. F. Peacock, and situated at 23 High Street, is one of the most popular. It was established 21 years ago by the present owner, who had previously had a training in a leading drapery house in Liverpool, where he became thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the trade.

From the beginning this business has chiefly catered for the better class of buyers. Want of space forbade the accumulation of stock, necessary for firms who supply every class of trade, but in the line to which Mr. Peacock confines himself, his stock is of the most complete and select character, as one might infer from the display in the attractive shop windows.

Both the large shop and the showrooms upstairs—one of the best in the town—are devoted to the display of mantles, millinery and costumes. Of mantles and millinery, in particular, there is a selection which both in fabric and design is equal to any in the Midlands; and the stock of dress goods and general drapery is equally well selected and complete.

The dressmaking is done on the premises, and forms an important department of this business, Mr. Peacock's connection being the most exclusive in the town. There is a well-lighted and well-furnished fitting room upstairs, and a staff of experienced dressmakers enables the firm to execute orders on the shortest notice.

The reputation of this business has been made, and is being maintained, by excellent workmanship, a tastefully selected stock, and moderate charges.

S. MINTON AND SON

BEWDLEY

General Drapers, Clothiers, and Outfitters

Of all the establishments in Bewdley none are more familiar to the public than that of S. Minton & Son, at 35, 51 and 52, Load Street. The business is the oldest of the kind in the town, having been founded in 1836, by the father of the present head, Mr. W. Minton. The latter has himself had a lifelong connection with the business, having for many years had the practical management of it before becoming proprietor. He is therefore peculiarly qualified to judge the tastes and requirements of his patrons.

When the business was originally established it occupied small premises at 51, Load Street, the adjoining premises being subsequently added to meet the increasing demands of the trade. Still more recently the premises at 35, Load Street were opened, the latter being devoted exclusively to furniture and house furnishings. In all a number of separate departments are now required, and a large amount of floor space and shelving is used.

The stock carried includes complete and select lines of drapery, men's, women's, and children's clothing, millinery and haberdashery, floor coverings, bedsteads, and all kinds of household furnishings and requisites. While all the departments are replete with all reasonable fabrics, a special feature is made of several departments, including those devoted to dress materials, ladies' mantles and millinery, and men's ready made and bespoke tailoring. Every article has been purchased with the special view of meeting the requirements of those who demand the highest obtainable value. Only the most reputable manufacturers have contributed to the stock, which at all seasons comprises the choicest products of the loom, and the newest designs.

As we have intimated, Messrs. S. Minton and Son cater particularly for the better and middle class of buyers, a policy which marked the business during its entire history. A wide connection, including many of the leading families of Bewdley and the



Furnishers Milliners



surrounding country, has been secured, many of the patrons having been such for many years.

About two years ago Mr. Minton opened a branch shop at Stourport, at the corner of Bridge and York Streets, this shop being devoted to drapery, mantles, and millinery exclusively. It is under the management of Mr. W. Minton's son, Mr. B. Minton, under whose direction a very successful business has been built up.

We take great pleasure in commending Messrs. S. Minton & Son to the favour of the public, as the long and honourable history of their house justifies the fullest confidence in both their judgment and integrity.

Mrs. T. C. PRESSLAND

Fancy Draper, Milliner and Haberdasher

The business carried on by Mrs. T. C. PRESSLAND has been familiar to the public of Kidderminster and surrounding country for seven years. From the establishment of the business the trade grew steadily, and several months ago larger and more convenient quarters were found necessary, the present shop at 10, Swan Street, being leased.

Mrs. Pressland carries a general stock of fancy drapery, millinery, and haberdashery. She also makes a special feature of baby linen and underclothing, of which she has a very attractive selection. She has been fortunate in gaining a good town and country connection, which she is careful to retain by giving every patron the best possible value.

MISS K. LEDWITH

Exclusive Baby Linen and Ladies' Outfitter

The business of which Miss K. Ledwith is the head has been familiar to the people of Kidderminster and vicinity for the last thirty years and more. Three years ago Miss Ledwith purchased and took active charge of the business, which soon reflected her judgment and ability. She remodelled the premises, giving them a more attractive front and more convenient interior arrangements, and added an entirely new stock.

Her stock includes baby linen, ladies' outfits, underclothing, corsets, &c. She makes a special feature of baby linen, and is the only one in Kidderminster who does. Several rooms are filled with the dainty fabrics which comprise the stock, and we feel sure that no shop in the town could be more attractive to feminine buyers. Previously to engaging in business on her own account, Miss Ledwith had a long experience in some of the leading shops in Worcestershire, adding a thorough training to natural aptitude. We are pleased to have an opportunity of commending the business to which we have referred, and which deserves a much more extended notice than we have given it.

JONES & RABONE

An Old-Established Dressmaking Business

The business owned by the Misses Jones and Rabone is one of the foremost dressmaking establishments in the town. Established altogether for over 25 years, it has during the last few years made much progress, owing to the careful attention which has always been given to the wishes of a wide circle of customers. This establishment not only makes dresses, mantles and jackets, but has also a choice selection of millinery, and all kinds of fancy goods, gloves, handkerchiefs, corsets, &c. Misses Jones and Rabone have also undertaken the agency for Achille Serre, the high class dyer and cleaner, a matter of the greatest convenience for ladies in Kidderminster and district.

ALFRED PRICE

A Brief History of a Successful Business

Kidderminster's possibilities are well illustrated by the business built up and still carried on by Mr. Alfred Price, at No. 113, Mill Street. This business has shown an unbroken growth from the date of its establishment, reflecting the energy and judgment of its founder and owner.

Sixteen years ago Mr. Price began business in a small room in Wood Street. Several years later he removed to a shop in Stourbridge Street, later to Worcester Street, again to Station Hill, and two years ago to his present excellent premises in Mill Street. When he established his business it was with a capital of but a few pounds, and with a stock consisting entirely of a few sewing machines. By unremitting energy, a careful attention to the needs and requirements of patrons, and a scrupulous honesty, he gradually widened his connection, at the same time making frequent additions to his stock to keep pace with his expanding trade. Each removal was necessitated by the new additions to his stock, which is now so large as to require very extensive premises.

Those who have had the pleasure of inspecting Mr. Price's present display, storage, and work rooms are surprised at their extent. He occupies in all not fewer than twelve separate rooms, several of which are by themselves as large as some entire shops. The various kinds and grades of furniture and furnishings are kept in separate apartments for convenience of inspection and handling, and a capacious drive-way facilitates the removing and delivering of goods.

The stock, which entirely fills every showroom from floor to ceiling, is exceptionally complete and well selected. It embraces, in a word, every article needed to furnish or adorn a home, from kitchen to parlour. Nearly all purchases are obtained direct from the makers, and in very large quantities so as to secure the lowest obtainable prices, of which the householder gets the benefit. Every grade, as well as every kind, of furniture is represented in the selection, although a speciality is made of cottage furniture, of which serviceableness and moderate cost are chief features.

In connection with his furniture business Mr. Price does a great deal of repairing, re-polishing, renovating, and upholstering, and we have no hesitation in commending his workmanship. All work is called for and delivered promptly.

Sales are made on both the cash and easy payment plans, and the hire system is made a special feature. Any reputable householder, by making a deposit of a

small sum, may furnish his house throughout at once, reserving his own time in which to complete the payments. It is gratifying to state that Mr. Price has secured a very creditable country as well as town connection, and that his business is still increasing.

Since it would be impossible, in the small space allowed us here, to attempt even a partial enumeration of the stock, or to give an adequate idea of the establishment, we would suggest to our readers that they inspect it for themselves. The pleasure of their visit will be enhanced by the courtesy of the proprietor, who feels it a privilege to show anyone through his premises.

Associated with Mr. Price is his son, Mr. William Alfred Price, jun. Both gentlemen devote their entire time to the business. It has been a pleasure to heartily commend a business which has shown so gratifying a growth, and we feel sure that with a continuance of their present progressive methods the Messrs. Price will meet with a still larger success.

G. COPE

The only Steam Garment Dyer in Kidderminster

An industry which fully deserves the support of the public is that of Mr. G. Cope, who has the distinction of being the only steam dyer and cleaner in Kidderminster or vicinity. Those who have been accustomed to sending work to Birmingham, London, or elsewhere have no reason to do so now, as it can be as well and more cheaply done near at hand.

Mr. Cope has for the last thirty-two years been engaged in this calling, having served his apprenticeship in Birmingham. He has been in Kidderminster for over a quarter of a century, for the greater part of that period occupying his present premises at 9, Worcester Street. Here he has ample dyeing and finishing rooms, and all work entrusted to him is done on the premises under his supervision.

He does all kinds of dyeing and cleaning, of men's and women's clothing, laces, feathers, gloves, &c., after the most approved methods. His prices are lower than are charged by dyers in the larger cities, and the character of his work could not be excelled anywhere. He makes a special feature of cleaning and dyeing gloves, feathers, laces, and all delicate fabrics, restoring them almost to their original condition, and without the least injury to the materials.

Mr. Cope is also agent for Sutton & Co. Carriers, receiving and forwarding parcels at the lowest rates to all parts.



KIDDERMINSTER GENERAL POST OFFICE



Fancy Repositories



INTERIOR OF NOAH'S ARK REPOSITORY

F. E. BASFORD'S NOAH'S ARK A Lowther Arcade in Kidderminster

There is not one reader of the Illustrated Issue—under fourteen years of age—who will not agree with us in saying that the Noah's Ark in Worcester Street is a more important business than all the other large and small concerns put together. Nor are we quite sure that in the throes of Christmas time we should not also receive the assent of the parents of the said citizens under fourteen—for where else could they find a larger variety of those thousands of toys and playthings, and those trumpets and drums that gladden the hearts of the children and drive the poor parents to despair, than here?

The Noah's Ark in Worcester Street is not quite so old as its celebrated and more historical namesake, but the records show that it settled down in its present location some forty years ago. Several "hands" having tried to navigate the ark with more or less success, it was acquired six years ago by Miss F. E. Basford. Under her control things soon began to assume a different aspect. The showrooms upstairs, to use an un-nautical term, were abandoned, and the shop on the ground floor increased to six times its original size. This large addition of space gave the owner the opportunity of carrying out her plan of establishing a real bazaar, a kind of Lowther Arcade for Kidderminster. In a business of this nature, where the different articles are counted by the thousands instead of by tens, a remunerative trade "over the counter" becomes an impossibility. To hand to prospective customers dozens of articles for inspection would for the owner entail the employment of an excessively large staff, and for the customer a waste of time and amount of inconvenience not often willingly submitted to. In a bazaar however, such as this, all the hundreds and thousands of toys and knick-knacks are temptingly displayed on shelves and tables throughout the roomy premises, so that customers may walk around, inspect at their leisure, and buy at their pleasure. The result is equally satisfactory to seller and purchaser. There is no undue hurry, no waiting for the "turn to be served"—in fact, the Noah's Ark reminds one of nothing so much as a permanent exhibition of toys, fancy and leather goods, where both parties get pleased: the customers because they can see everything for themselves and can buy exactly what they want, and the seller because the greater variety of choice favours larger purchases.

The Noah's Ark is in point of size and the enormous variety of articles not only the most important emporium of the kind in Kidderminster, but also within a very wide radius, not excluding Birmingham. As to print a catalogue of the goods sold here would occupy the space of a book several times the size of the Illustrated Issue, we cannot possibly give more than an indication to those of our readers who have not as yet explored the Noah's Ark; we must therefore content ourselves with saying that in toys, dolls, games of all kinds, fancy leather and cabinet goods, art china, stationery, jewellery and electroplated goods it appears impossible to show a greater variety—in fact, it has the most varied stock in these lines of any retail business out of London. There is also a fishing-tackle department which is well selected and contains everything required by anglers from expensive rods to the humble pennyworth of hooks.

To manage successfully such a business, and to be able to keep up such vast variety of new things so as to please the taste of the public which is for ever shifting, requires no ordinary abilities, and Miss Basford is to be complimented upon the fact of having created a flourishing business, and at the same time one of the most attractive business places in the town. Her trade demands the employment of a regular staff of six assistants which during the busy season at Christmas is increased to twelve. This fact alone, if anything, will convey to the reader an adequate idea of the important position which this business has assumed under an especially capable management.

W. T. HODGES

Manufacturer of Picture Frames
21, Worcester Street

It is not generally known that Kidderminster possesses among its many industries a complete picture frame works, which is the only one of its kind in this district, and has long outgrown a purely local importance. Here, at 21, Worcester Street, the whole of the premises are required for carrying on the various departments which comprise carving, gilding, mount cutting, re-gilding of old frames, and restoring of oil paintings and engravings.

In the front shop on the ground floor there is a large stock of artists' colours and materials. There we also find a careful selection of numbers of works of art, paintings in oil, and water colour drawings, engravings, prints, beautiful

photographs of numbers of famous paintings, all providing for the public a variety of choice equal to any that may be had in larger towns.

Mr. W. T. HODGES, the proprietor of this establishment, is a practical man with an expert knowledge of every detail of his trade. He has devoted his time and energy to the interests of his business, and has been rewarded with success, a fact which is clearly illustrated by the extensive growth of the business, and the further fact that on his premises work is done for every part of the country.

As the avowed object of the Illustrated Issue is to promote home industries and trade, to the exclusion of that of other towns, we would like to draw particular attention to these works. Many of our readers will find it the greatest convenience to deal with a local firm that can do every kind of work on the premises, and they will probably find in addition to having the work done as it were under their supervision that the charges are much below those asked by firms in Birmingham and elsewhere.

S. WHITCOMB

The New and Interesting Industry of Knitting

Mr. S. Whitcomb, of Wood Street, belongs to that small number of men who bear the rare distinction of having created a new industry in Kidderminster, and who are, therefore, entitled to be specially mentioned in the pages of the Illustrated Industrial Issue.

He is an old Kidderminster man, but has travelled extensively abroad. On his journeys he came across the knitting machine which had then been just invented and placed on the market, and the eagerness with which it was taken up on all hands suggested to him the possibilities that might result from introducing such an industry into Kidderminster.

Being a man of considerable energy the idea became a fact, and Mr. Whitcomb established himself in 1897. The beginning was of necessity small, but the business grew, and is, in fact, extending day by day. The work done in his knitting room is of such excellent workmanship that one customer recommends it to another, and in this way Mr. S. Whitcomb has established a trade which contains promise of a great future.

His workrooms are well prepared for coping with any order that may be entrusted to him. He has machines for knitting children's stockings, men's and women's socks and stockings, other machines for making Cardigan jackets, and again others for knitting underwear. All the machines are English made, protected by patent, and are the most perfect to be obtained.

It was only befitting that, spinning and weaving having become established in Kidderminster, the knitting industry should be introduced to make the trilogy of the domestic arts complete. Mr. S. Whitcomb deserves great praise for the enterprise, shown, and apart from the financial gain, he will have the fact standing to his credit that he has made knitting by machinery a new industry in Kidderminster. Compared with its powerful sister industries, knitting is as yet of modest pretensions, but we can see no reason why it should not attain an equal rank. It supplies goods that are in daily demand by every member of the community, and quality and price being equal, there is no reason why we should support Leicester or other markets to the exclusion of local manufacturers. If every reader of the Illustrated Issue were to give one trial order to the workshops in Wood Street it would result in firmly establishing this industry on a large scale, and in giving employment to hundreds of hands. Is there local patriotism strong enough to assist in the making of another great industry?



E. F. ALLEN & SONS, Limited

A High-class Modern Pianoforte Saloon

Messrs. E. F. Allen & Sons, Limited, who own the handsome Pianoforte Saloon in Vicar Street, and whose head office and factory are at Wolverhampton, are among the most important firms in the Midlands. The business was established in 1840 by Mr. E. F. Allen, after whose death in 1874 it passed into the hands of his sons, who, displaying a rare amount of enterprise, opened successively branches in Cannock, Stafford, West Bromwich, Shrewsbury, and Birmingham. In 1899 the business was converted into a Limited Liability Company, all the shares being taken up by members of the family. The first Chairman of the Company was Mr. C. S. Allen, who died suddenly in the same year. He was succeeded by Mr. Walter E. Allen, who, besides being Chairman of Directors, shares with his nephew, Mr. Frank Allen, the General Management of the Company. Under this joint directorate the trade policy of the Company became well defined. Declining to handle inferior goods, the name of Allen gradually became synonymous with high quality in pianos, and moderate and easy terms. The trade grew enormously, and the branches which heretofore had been merely shops and show-rooms, became real distributing centres, turning over a continually increasing trade.



EXTERIOR OF MESSRS. ALLEN'S SHOP

In 1900 the Company extended its operations to Kidderminster by purchasing the business of the late Mr. Jackson, at 6, Vicar Street. They entirely renovated the shop, enlarging it to treble its former capacity, and put in large windows, so transforming it into a modern pianoforte saloon, and making it one of the most handsome shops in the town. Having appointed Mr. H. Underwood, who had been with the firm for several years in various positions, as their local manager, the Kidderminster Branch soon justified the Company's expectations, and it is now undoubtedly the premier music saloon in the district.

Like all the branches of the firm, it sells only pianos of the best English, German, and French makers, and among these it makes a speciality of the three that represent the highest perfection in the art of piano making in these three countries, the Broadwood, the Bechstein, and the Erard. For all these the firm have a large sale, but to suit those who are not willing to pay from fifty to sixty guineas for a piano there is at this branch a selection of pianos by other well-known makers, such as Chappell, Collard and Collard, Challen and Son, Knauss, Nieber, Ibach,

and others. They are all distinguished by purity of tone, great resonance and carrying power, and delicate touch—all properties that place them in the front rank of pianos. For all their branches the firm have a system of deferred payments, which may be arranged according to the wishes of customers. On cash sales the Company grant a liberal discount.

In organs the Company have an equally varied selection, but they effect the largest sale in the best known makers, Estey and Bell. The branch has also a large stock of musical instruments of every description, all of which are selected for their high quality.

Their selection in sheet music is the largest in the country, Mr. Underwood, the manager, giving particular attention to this department. It is kept up to date by daily parcels from the various London publishers, and music lovers can find here the latest publication which they may wish to purchase, both as regards songs and instrumental music.

Attached to the branch is a staff of fully qualified tuners, and the firm have been successful in establishing a wide connection department among the best families in the district. There is also, at 6, Vicar Street, a room for practicing and instruction, and several well-known teachers from Birmingham and London receive here pupils.

Of specialities sold by the firm, the pianola is entitled to separate mention. This, as our readers know, is the name for a mechanical piano player, a wonderful invention of American origin. It is an almost perfect substitute for the human finger, has an endless variety of expression, which is under the absolute control of the operator, and anyone without the slightest knowledge of music can play with it the greatest masterpieces in the world of music, and play them almost as perfectly as Paderewski. This great man, together with Sauer, another famous pianist, are most enthusiastic about the pianola, which they have publicly recommended time and again as providing a wonderful amount of enjoyment and musical culture to those who have neither the time nor the talent to become virtuosi.

The people of Kidderminster, it will be seen, are well catered for musically, and we trust that the efforts of Messrs. E. and F. Allen and Sons, Limited, in providing and maintaining a high-class centre for the music-loving public will find their reward in a general and continued patronage.

MISS ANNIE NEWARK

A Photographic Artiste of High Merit

The Rembrandt Studio, on Comberton Hill, at the corner of George Street, has, during the short time of its existence, gained for itself a high place among photographers in this district, and has become known to a large public for the artistic skill with which all the work emanating from the studio is carried out. Of a particularly high class is the work in portraiture done by Miss Newark, who is the owner of the Rembrandt Studio. Some of her photographs of children and animals representing as high a standard in photographic art as can be found anywhere. Her platinotypes are justly famed for exquisite taste and skill, and although it is proverbially impossible to please all, it would be difficult for any patron of this studio to be displeased with the standard which is maintained in this studio in every branch of the art.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Newark for the excellent work she has done for the Illustrated Issue.

Most of the views taken by her for our illustrations are perfect in taste and execution, and those of our readers who have not so far seen her work will have in these pages an opportunity of judging its merit, and the claim it has deservedly upon popular favour.

MRS. E. HARRISON

The Leading Photographic Studio

This studio was opened by the late Mr. Edwin Harrison more than 35 years ago, and during the last ten years has been carried on by Mrs. and Miss Harrison, by whom the reputation which was founded in older days has not only been successfully maintained, but even considerably enhanced.

There are many things to-day which must combine to make a successful photographer. The photographic artist must show by the skill he displays in grouping, by the perfection he has attained in tone and lighting, and by the successful posing of his subjects, whether he is worthy of the name of an artist.

Judged by this standard, the photographs which emanate from this studio represent the very highest stage of art, and rank with some of the best which it has been our privilege to see.



SPECIMEN OF MRS. HARRISON'S WORK

Among the many artistic pictures which we noticed at Mrs. Harrison's studio, we have selected for reproduction a statuesque photograph, the subject of which is "Flora," for it possesses in our opinion all those qualities which make a photograph a work of art. Another work which attracted our attention is a charming picture of "The Gleaner." This is done in colours, and proves Miss Harrison to be not only a clever manipulator of the camera, but also of the brush. The environment of this photograph is painted with exquisite taste.

The studies of children, which first won for Miss Harrison a reputation for skill and artistic posing, are exceedingly fine, and represent a high standard obtained in that branch of art.

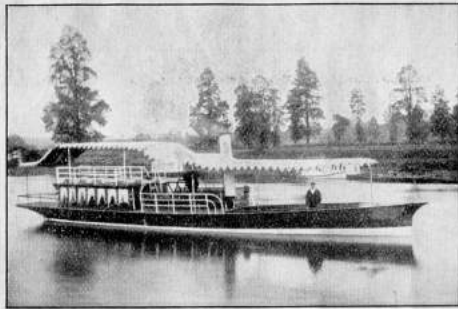
MR. J. H. LEVETT

The Studio, Worcester Street

Mr. J. H. Levett has made a name for himself as a specialist in photography, having taken up those branches of the art where a thorough knowledge and greater application are indispensable for the production of good work. Flower photography is one of his specialities, but his great ability is best shown in specimens of indoor work which we saw at his studio. In enlarging Mr. Levett has also attained a great reputation.



Pleasure Boats & Tobacconists



SEVERN STEAMBOAT COMPANY

The Finest Registered Passenger Boats on the Severn.

Everyone who appreciates the beauties of the river Severn, and who has found time to enjoy the pleasures afforded by it, is familiar with the splendid passenger service of the Severn Steamboat Company, Stourport. This Company has been in existence for ten years, and one of the present members of the Company was the first to establish a steamboat service in Stourport. Without disparaging others, it is safe to say that no other one firm or individual in this district has done more than this Company to add to the comfort and convenience of the increasing numbers who each year repair to the river for their recreation.

During the past several seasons the Company has materially improved its service, and it now has the largest and best selection of registered passenger boats in Stourport or the district. The various steamers, which are licensed for both the Severn and the Avon, can comfortably accommodate over 800 passengers, exclusive of several small launches which are servicable for small parties. By special arrangement either small or large parties are taken to Holt Fleet, Worcester, Pixham, Upton, Tewkesbury, and Gloucester, or any other desired place, while for the general public regular trips are made to Holt Fleet. Follow tram lines to the bridge for the Company's boats.

All of the boats are of recent construction, and are fitted with all modern conveniences, their scrupulous cleanliness being quite a noticeable and commendable feature. The comfort of patrons is always a chief consideration, and the courtesy shown by the Company and its employees has no doubt had much to do with the popularity of the service. Passengers are accorded the privilege of going by one boat and returning by another with the same ticket, and may thus prolong their journey as well as enjoy a change of boats. The landing stage at Stourport, which is within a minute's walk from the centre of the town and the tram terminus, is conveniently arranged.

Those who have had an opportunity of comparing the Severn with other English rivers need scarcely be reminded that in picturesque beauty it has no superior anywhere. This especially applies to that part of the river near Stourport, and particularly the stretch from Stourport to Holt Fleet. Between these two places are some of the most beautiful and historically interesting spots in the kingdom—the red-stone cliffs and caves, Old Ribbesford, Lincombe Weir, and other places, which have attracted thousands of visitors.

Perhaps the most popular river trip from Stourport is to Holt Fleet, a distance of six miles. At this point is a most excellent and capably conducted hotel—the Holt Fleet Hotel—under the management of Mr. J. H. Stephens, who assumed charge several months ago. Pleasure gardens and

exquisite walks and drives, boating, fishing, and other amusements make this an ideal resort.

Accompanying this article is an engraving kindly furnished us by the Severn Steamboat Company. We regret that in the limited space at our disposal we could not give a more adequate description of the Company's service, which is fully deserving of the most liberal patronage.

RICHARD SOUTHAN BEWDLEY

All kinds of Pleasure Boats for Hire

Mr. Richard Southan, who has been well known to lovers of the Severn for the past twenty years, has made special provision for pleasure seekers this season. His two large boats, "Fairy Queen" and "Fairy Barque," which will carry from 80 to 90 people, have been put in excellent condition. Regular trips are made from Bewdley to Arley three days a week, and any fine day upon request. Frequent trips are also made between Bewdley and Stourport, the scenery between these two places being the finest to be found anywhere along the Severn. The comfort and convenience of patrons are carefully looked after, the proprietor's courtesy and attention having made him very popular among the hundreds who have in past seasons been his patrons.

In addition to his large boats Mr. Southan has a number of small row boats at both Bewdley and Arley, which are let by the hour or by the day at low rates. There could be no better way in which to spend a holiday than on the beautiful Severn, and we feel sure Mr. Southan will always do everything he can to add to the pleasure of his boating parties.

W. FAWKNER

A Jobbing Master's business which is over three centuries old

The livery stables and hiring business carried on by Mr. W. FAWKNER is not only the largest but also the oldest in the town and the district. It was established in the seventeenth century, and, what is more remarkable still, it has been continuously in the hands of the Fawkner family, having been handed down from father to son through successive generations. There are few families in trade with a finer record of high business qualities, and to be at the head of an important business which it took generations of prudent ancestors to build up is a position he may well be proud of.

The mews at Prospect Hill is amongst the largest and best equipped in the county. Mr. Fawkner owns twenty horses, and there is stabling for thirty horses, and in the coach houses and yard is room for about fifty conveyances. Mr. Fawkner lets out on hire cabs, broughams, landaus, wedding carriages, and dogcarts, and char-a-bancs, wagonettes, and brakes, to picnic and pleasure parties. He has also first-class

hearses, mourning coaches, and shillibiers, and conducts funerals throughout. Most of the conveyances are of modern make, and fitted with the latest improvements in india rubber tyres.

For the convenience of the public the firm has an office in the Bull Ring, and orders may also be given by telephone, 22 and 22a. Teleg. address :—"Fawkner, Kidderminster."

C. HARRISON

Wholesale Tobacconist and Cigar Merchant

Mr. C. Harrison, whose shop is at 19, the Bull Ring, is one of the best known tobacconists in the district. He does both a wholesale and retail trade, and his business has been among the leading of its kind for many years. He carries a large stock of every desirable brand of cigars and tobacco, and cigarettes, and being a large buyer, and having a long experience in the trade, he is in a position to offer to his customers most advantageous terms.

His trade in smokers' requisites and sundries form a considerable part of his trade, and he can supply retail dealers with matches, clay pipes, spills, etc., at the lowest terms obtainable in the market. Parcels are delivered free; a liberal discount is made on all purchases; and the establishment is generally regarded as the cheapest house in the trade.

The business has been in existence over half a century, and has been in the hands of the present proprietor for 16 years. During this time it has fully maintained its reputation for high class standard of goods, compatible with the lowest possible price.

T. CRISP

A popular Tobacco and Fishing Tackle Store

Mr. CRISP, of whose attractive shop we give an illustration, is one of the best known business men in Kidderminster. He has been established now for twelve years, and the progress he has made during that time is most satisfactory. He is both a wholesale and retail tobacconist, and all his goods are of the finest quality and in the best condition.

He keeps a well assorted stock of walking sticks, and of smoker's requisites of every possible description, but particular mention should be made here of his fishing tackle department, which is the most comprehensive and best selected in the town. Mr. Crisp, being an ardent angler himself, is always ready to give his advice to other disciples of the great Walton, and many exceptional catches have been made with rod and flies advised by him, and supplied from him at 19, Oxford Street.



MR. T. CRISP'S SHOP



Merchants



GEORGE BROWN & SONS

Monumental Sculptors, Builders'
Merchants and Slaters

The business carried on by George Brown and Sons, monumental sculptors, builders' merchants and slaters, has the distinction of being one of the oldest of the kind in Kidderminster or district. It was established in 1830, and for more than half a century has held a high place in our industrial life. Four years ago, upon the death of two senior partners, Mr. William Brown, who has for the last 25 years taken an active share in the management, came into possession, associating with him his two sons, Messrs. Archibald W. and Humphrey W. Brown. All of these gentlemen devote their whole time to the business.

Although the firm is one of the oldest in Kidderminster, it is also one of the most progressive, and the past four years have witnessed a notable increase in the extent of its trade. A branch establishment has been opened on Station Hill, and last year two old established businesses at Stourport have been bought out and consolidated, all of the branches being managed from the head offices in Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Messrs. Brown and Sons devote the larger part of their attention to monumental work, in which they have long enjoyed a reputation second to none in the Midlands. Their stock includes the most desirable marbles, granites, and selected stones obtainable. The work of transforming rough blocks of stone and marble into graceful and highly finished memorials is all done under their close supervision by skilled and experienced workmen.

Their cemetery and ecclesiastical monuments, crosses and tablets have gained unstinted praise both in Kidderminster and in other parts of the country to which they have been sent. Occasionally monuments are executed and sent to Ireland, India, Australia and other colonies—a very flattering comment on the character of the work.

The firm also accepts contracts for general masons' work and slating, also for the supply of all kinds of building materials, of which they have a large stock including sanitary goods, sinks, drain pipes, chimney tops, tiles, bricks, sand and cement. Their lime trade is a large and increasing business.

The three premises used by the firm are the old stone and marble works situate in Coventry Street, Kidderminster, which are quite extensive, allowing ample yard room and having capacious and well arranged workrooms, storage sheds and stables; the premises on Station Hill, Kidderminster, used as a depot and show yard; and the stone yard, depot and wharf upon the canal basin situate at Bridge Street, Stourport.

At the present time not fewer than 35 employees are engaged to meet the requirements of the trade. The members of the firm are well known and have gained the confidence and esteem of their fellow-townsmen.

BENJAMIN BEACH

Representing the South Wales & Cannock
Chase Coal and Coke Co.

This company is the oldest of its kind, as well as the largest, in this vicinity, having maintained a branch in Kidderminster for nearly half a century. It has in all 47 branches throughout the Midlands, all controlled from the head offices, 54, Foregate Street, Worcester, the general manager being Mr. Alfred Usher, and the secretary Mr. Thomas Darch.

The company obtains its supplies from a number of collieries, and handles fuel for all purposes. It makes a speciality, however, of coals from the Cannock Chase district. Having to supply so many depots, it handles in the course of a year an

enormous quantity of fuel, and for that reason is in a position to sell the best qualities at the most reasonable prices. The company's depots are supplied in its own railway trucks direct from the mines, and upon order truck loads are forwarded to any desired spot. In addition the company does a large trade in salt, cement, agricultural and building lime. All the lime is burned at their own quarries at Much Wenlock, and is of the highest grade.

Since most of the success the company has met with in Kidderminster and vicinity is due to the efforts of Mr. Benjamin Beach, the local representative, it may be permitted us to briefly refer to his long and efficient services. He has the distinction of having been in the service of the company longer than any other employee, without exception. He has been connected with the company for forty-one consecutive years, for twenty-eight of which he has been its representative for the Kidderminster district. He is also inspector of the company's traffic for this district, his duties in this capacity necessitating frequent visits to all points between Worcester, Staffordshire, Birmingham, and Much Wenlock. It is but just to say that no man has ever done more to keep the trade on a high plane, and during his long business career his methods have been singularly free from criticism.

Mr. Beach's personal traits have had much to do with his success. He is a native of Kidderminster, and has always been closely identified with the town's best interests. He has taken a particularly active part in the higher life of the community, having for many years been prominent in church and social circles. He has also for nearly forty years been a prominent figure in Friendly Society work, in which his services have been productive of the greatest good.

Mr. Beach now resides at Hartlebury, from which point he may conveniently visit all parts of his district. His home contains many substantial evidences of the esteem of his colleagues in church and social work, and he cannot but be gratified at the position he holds in the regard of all who know him.

ALFRED DAVIS

Dealer in Factory and Household Coals

MR. ALFRED DAVIS, whose business is familiar to the public, has the advantage of an unusually long experience in his calling. He has been directly connected with the coal trade during his entire life, having gained his entire knowledge of the business under the guidance of his father, who was a coal merchant for many years.

Previous to engaging in the coal trade in Kidderminster Mr. Davis had carried on the same business in Birmingham. He established his business here in 1886, and for upwards of twenty years has successfully competed with other factors.

His premises include ample space in the railway station yard, receiving all consignments in his own trucks. He imports direct from the collieries, making a speciality in Cannock Chase and Rugeley coals. He also handles foundry coke and slack for factory purposes.

He does a particularly large trade in the best household coals, which he delivers in either large or small quantities as may be desired. He makes personal visits to consumers in all parts of the town, and his energy has resulted in the building up of a prosperous and growing trade. He does both a wholesale and retail business, supplying all points within a radius of several miles.

Mr. Davis owes his success as much to his strict business methods as to his energy. Consumers may depend upon obtaining from him the highest quality at the lowest price justified by the market, a combination appreciated by every household.

HENRY BARRATT

Wholesale and Retail Coal Factor

For over twenty years Mr. Henry Barratt has been well and favourably known in Kidderminster business circles, having been continuously engaged in his present calling for that period. He established the business he now carries on in 1882, in the premises he still occupies in Holloway Road, Comberton Hill.

He is both a retail and wholesale dealer in all kinds of coal and slack. He represents the Highley colliery, also buying direct from the principal collieries in the celebrated Cannock Chase district. He receives all coals in his own railway trucks, and his yard room permits of the storage of a sufficient supply to meet all demands. He keeps on hand at all times the best grades of both factory and household coals, which are sold at the lowest possible prices justified by the market. He makes a special feature of best household coals, which are sold in any quantity that may be desired.

During his long connection with the coal trade he has secured a very gratifying patronage, both in Kidderminster and the surrounding country. His own carts make deliveries to any point within a distance of several miles, every order being promptly filled and full weights being guaranteed.

Since these few lines are not designed as a personal comment, it would be superfluous to add a word as to Mr. Barratt's personality, it is sufficient to say that his business methods have never been the subject of criticism, and we have no hesitation in commending him to the favourable notice of the public.

WILLIAM BENNETT

Coal Dealer and Furniture Remover

This business was established 34 years ago by the late Mr. William Bennett. It had a small beginning, but grew under his management into one of the most prominent businesses in the town, doing an extensive trade in coal, and removing, and hiring.

Since the death of Mr. Bennett, who will be remembered as a leading member of the Primitive Methodist Church, the business has been carried on by his widow, Mrs. Bennett. The trade still requires the employment of six horses and an equal number of hands.

The coal is carried direct from the collieries in boats owned by the firm, which is able to quote the lowest possible terms. The furniture removing business is extensive, and the services of the firm are in constant request among its wide connection.

A. E. GRAFTON

A Small Maker whose Baskets go all over
the World

Our big staple industry creates and maintains numbers of subsidiary industries, even basket making. Mr. A. E. Grafton, of Worcester Street, a practical man, coming from a family of basket makers, gets his osiers or willows from Somerset, and after being transformed in his two workshops into travellers' "skips," they go, filled by our local manufacturers with carpet patterns, to the ends of the world. Often as many as eight men are employed by Mr. A. E. Grafton, especially during the season, and the fact that he is kept busy repairing and making new skips, proves the excellent workmanship and durability of the skips he turns out. German and French makers send over much flimsy fancy stuff in baskets, but when it comes to strong work that has got to last, of which they make a large variety for house and factory at Worcester Street, foreigners are out of it. This manufactory is not large, but it is interesting, because it is not afraid of foreign competition. Good quality and workmanship succeed.



Hotels



LION HOTEL

The Principal Hostelry in the District

The Lion Hotel, at the top of High Street, stands on the site of one of the old coaching houses, and for many generations has been regarded as the leading hostelry in the town and district. Several years ago it was purchased from the Earl of Dudley by Mr. W. H. Yates, who had previously held it as tenant.



"THE LION HOTEL."

Since becoming proprietor Mr. Yates has materially improved the buildings and premises, cleaning, painting, re-decorating and re-furnishing, and thoroughly modernising the hotel, while retaining the comfort of the old-time inn. The accommodation is extensive, comprising suites of apartments for families, private sitting rooms, coffee and commercial rooms, and a large number of well furnished and comfortable bedrooms. The cuisine is invariably excellent. The Lion is now, as it has always been, the resort for the leading families of the district, and for the better class of commercial travellers, particularly those connected with the carpet trade. Mr. Yates, who devotes his entire time to the management of the house, is fortunate in having the assistance of a capable staff of servants, and he himself is quick to anticipate and provide for the wants of patrons. Through his courtesy we are enabled to present herewith an attractive engraving showing the hotel front.

THE CROSS KEYS COMMERCIAL HOTEL

Owned by Mr. Henry Hill

This well known hotel and market house was acquired in 1886 by Mr. Henry Hill. After some years—in 1894—it having been decided by the Corporation to widen Worcester Street, it was pulled down and replaced by Mr. Hill with the present building, forming now one of the best appointed hotels in the town.

It has a number of well-furnished bedrooms, commercial room and two market rooms besides the licensed premises on the ground floor.

There is further a large and a smaller club room, and the hotel is the recognised club house of the town, not less than a dozen important clubs meeting here. It is the quarters of the Birmingham N.C.U.; Oddfellows, Foresters, Rational and Buffaloes hold their lodges here, and it is the meeting house of the 'Woolstaplers', 'Bricklayers', 'Tailors' and 'Stonemasons' Societies. It is also the head-quarters of the Kidderminster Cycling Club, and the most important local Money Club.

At the rear of the hotel is a large yard, lock-up coach-house, and stabling for 30 horses, containing single stalls for every horse.

There is also a modern brew-house with malt and hop stores, and every facility for

brewing the wholesome ale which has quite a reputation in the district.

The frontage of the premises is 93 feet, and the total area 700 square feet.

Mr. Hill belongs to one of the oldest Kidderminster families, a member of which was the late Rowland Hill. He is one of our successful men, and is respected by all who know him.

CAVENDISH TEMPERANCE HOTEL

Under New Management

To those who desire quiet comfort rather than ostentation we would recommend the CAVENDISH TEMPERANCE HOTEL, at 41, Station Hill.

This hotel is now under new management, the present proprietress having assumed charge but two months ago. All of the rooms are very comfortably furnished and there is a home-like air about the place which the traveller is quick to notice and appreciate. The table is supplied with the best the market affords, and everything is excellently prepared and served. The proprietress owns a farm from which she obtains the choicest fresh country produce, and the delicious cider and perry for which the house is becoming noted.

The hotel is but a minute's walk from the station, and three minutes from the centre of the town, and is pleasantly situated. The combination of very reasonable terms and first-class accommodations has already gained for the Cavendish Hotel a good patronage, which we trust will continue to increase.

GEORGE HOTEL, BEWDLEY

Established in 1600

We regret that limited space precludes a full description in these columns of the George Hotel, Bewdley, one of the most celebrated hotels in the Midlands. It may not be generally known that Queen Elizabeth was once a guest at this house, and that other members of Royalty have patronised it. The hotel, which has had an unbroken history of over 300 years, contains many interesting and beautiful reminders of the past, including old oak staircase, carved oak door panels, and other splendid specimens of antique woodwork. A particularly interesting feature is the old county ball room, with balcony. This room has been the scene of some of the most brilliant social functions that ever took place in Bewdley. A splendid hall, which is known as St. George's Hall, is capable of seating at table not fewer than 250 guests, and 450 for an entertainment.

Although the house has passed through three centuries, it is kept well up to modern requirements. A year ago a large entertainment hall was added, this hall being fitted up with stage and accessories, proscenium boxes, dressing rooms, and all necessary appurtenances. It is the only place in Bewdley adapted to the better class entertainments and the better class audiences, and as such has added a great deal to the pleasure of the inhabitants. There are also billiard rooms, elegantly appointed smoke and commercial rooms, and comfortable private sitting rooms.

Connected with the hotel is a beautiful bowling green, to which guests are always privileged. There is also a large stock sale yard, all kinds of carriages for hire, and in fact every convenience for guests.

Everyone who visits historic and picturesque Bewdley, one of the most interesting towns in the kingdom, should not fail to make at least a short stay at the hotel to which we have briefly alluded above.

THE BLACK BOY HOTEL

BEWDLEY

One of the oldest and best Hostelries in the district

The Black Boy Hotel, Bewdley, has the distinction of being one of the oldest places of entertainment in the neighbourhood, as well as one of the most popular. Fourteen years ago Mr. Arthur Dawes assumed the management, since when the house has more than sustained its old-established prestige.

It has stabling and yard room for twenty horses and vehicles. There is also used during the summer months a large tent on the green, the tent having a capacity for not fewer than two hundred people. A special feature is also made of furnishing carriages for pleasure and coaching parties, and public and private conveyances are regularly run between Bewdley, Kidderminster, Stourport, and other towns and villages in the district.

Mr. Dawes has been fortunate in securing a wide connection, particularly during the summer season. The charges are moderate. We take pleasure in commending the hotel to all who appreciate quiet comfort.

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

BEWDLEY

A Comfortable and well-managed Hostelry

The Great Western Hotel, Bewdley, to which we refer with special pleasure, has under the management of the present proprietor and owner become one of the favourite resorts in this district. It has the advantage of an exceptionally favourable location, being the nearest hotel to the Great Western Railway station, and yet easily accessible from the town. From the upper rooms delightful views of the picturesque surrounding country may be obtained.

The present proprietor, Mr. J. T. BULLUS, took possession six years ago, since when he has not only made a number of decided improvements in the building and premises but has largely extended the old-established connection of the house. He has fitted up a large club and lodge room on the second floor, and has provided for smaller parties several very comfortable and tastefully furnished apartments.

Through Mr. Bullus's courtesy we were recently shown through the hotel, and we cannot too highly commend the excellent taste and evident care given to the furnishing and keeping of every room. We were particularly impressed with the scrupulous cleanliness everywhere apparent.

During the past few years special attention has been given to cycling, coaching and other parties of visitors, for whose comfort every provision seems to have been made. The large dining room, capable of comfortably seating seventy people at one time, is frequently taxed to its utmost. This room is also used for the regular meetings of the "Robin Hood" Lodge of Foresters, a growing and very popular lodge now having upwards of 200 members.

Mr. Bullus has had the satisfaction of witnessing a steady and very gratifying increase of his business, a condition wholly due to his excellent accommodations. He has gained the reputation of serving only the best obtainable refreshments, both in the bar and in the dining rooms, while his charges are quite moderate. We could suggest no greater pleasure than at least a brief stay at his hostelry, and those who go to Bewdley for either business or sight-seeing will find the pleasure of their visit greatly enhanced by a luncheon or tea at the Great Western. We take this opportunity of adding a word as to Mr. Bullus's personality, whose considerate politeness is worthy of all commendation.



SWAN HOTEL STOURPORT

One of the most popular Hostels in the district

The Swan Hotel, Stourport, has been established for at least one hundred and fifty years, during all of which time it has been looked upon as one of the leading hostels along the Severn. There is nothing about its appearance to-day to indicate antiquity, as the buildings are unusually bright and fresh, and the interior decorations and furnishings are of the most approved character. A distinguishing feature of the house is the air of quiet comfort that pervades it, and even the casual visitor is made to feel thoroughly at home. It has the advantage of a very favourable location, being in the heart of the town, with the trams passing the door.

To those who appreciate the comforts and good cheer of an attractive and capably managed hotel, we take great pleasure in commending The Swan. They will find every requirement fully provided for, and everything at moderate prices.

J. E. HITCHON

A Model Mineral Water Manufacturing Plant

The business carried on by Mr. J. E. Hitchon, aerated and mineral water manufacturer, was established sixteen years ago, and for the greater part of that period has been under the present management. Like many other of Kidderminster's most creditable enterprises, it was begun on a small scale, each year witnessing a steady increase. To-day, the business is the largest and best of the kind in Kidderminster or the district, and is still growing at a very gratifying rate. At this season the establishment is the scene of the greatest activity, and even with the splendid equipment and the services of a number of trained hands, it is difficult to fill the orders which are received daily.

From the date of its establishment the business has occupied the present premises at 6, Cemetery Street. While the several buildings cover considerable ground, they are not very imposing in appearance, and the ordinary passer-by has no idea of the excellent machinery and appliances with which they are equipped. Through the courtesy of Mr. Hitchon we were recently shown through the various departments, and were much impressed with the complete and modern facilities for producing aerated and mineral waters. We do not hesitate to say that no mineral water plant in this entire section of the country is better equipped.

Mr. Hitchon deserves a special compliment for the conspicuous cleanliness in every department. We noticed that the brass work on the machinery is kept brightly polished; the bottles and cases in the storehouse are in the best possible condition, and even the stables, which contain a number of horses for his delivery carts, are carefully looked after. We emphasise the unusual cleanliness throughout the establishment, as it has a very important bearing on the high quality and healthfulness of the beverages prepared.

Mr. Hitchon manufactures in all not fewer than twenty kinds and flavours of aerated and mineral waters, among which is a quinine water which has gained particular favour. In all his beverages spring water is used, and the flavourings are the best and purest obtainable. No mineral waters, no matter where made, could be of uniformly higher quality, or more palatable, refreshing and healthful.

Mr. Hitchon's patronage not only includes many of the best public-houses and private families in Kidderminster, but his trade extends all through the surrounding country as well. Daily deliveries are made in his own carts to all parts of the town and vicinity, and all orders are

given prompt and careful attention. A special feature is made of supplying picnics, and boating, coaching, and other parties, on receipt of telegram or post-card.

It has been a pleasure to commend the business to which we have briefly referred, as it has been built up by the right methods. Mr. Hitchon gives his personal attention to every detail of the business, which gives evidence of very capable and progressive management.

INVICTA SPARKLING HOP ALE COMPANY BEWDLEY

Manufacturers of Highest Grade Non-Alcoholic Beverages

To our mind one of the greatest wants of the present age is a really good substitute for alcohol, especially in the form of ale or beer. This has been frequently attempted, though not always with very great success, and there are but few non-intoxicating drinks which are both palatable and wholesome. We therefore have special pleasure in referring to the excellent beverages manufactured by the INVICTA SPARKLING HOP ALE COMPANY, BEWDLEY, and to the conditions under which they are prepared.

The Invicta Sparkling Hop Ale Company was established in 1894, beginning business in the premises still occupied. These premises are amongst the most conspicuous in or around Birmingham, occupying a commanding position on the site of the celebrated Buttow Meadow Springs, and facing the river and the town opposite. The building is a modern and substantial three-storey structure, admirably lighted and well arranged, and containing every provision for the prompt and economical production of a large quantity of the "Invicta" Ale and other summer and winter drinks. All of the machinery and appliances used are of the most modern and most approved construction. A special feature, and one which at once commends itself even to the casual observer, is the cleanliness of the premises and surroundings, the brewery standing in a large open field, removed from any other factory of residence.

Although the "Invicta" Ale brewery is on the banks of the Severn, no river water is used for the purpose of manufacture. Running through the premises are several unfailing springs of the purest water, which is used exclusively. This water is so well known for its absolute purity and healthfulness, as attested both by analysis and by long use, that many people come from miles to get it and to carry it away in bottles and in jars, and it is but just to add, by the way, that the Company has generously permitted the free public use of the springs.

Since the process of manufacturing the "Invicta" Sparkling Hop Ale is a trade secret, it would be an ill acknowledgment of the courtesy recently shown us by the Company during our inspection of the brewery, to make any extended reference to it, we can, however, safely commend the product which we were privileged to test. "Invicta" is a light bitter ale brewed from the best selected hops, and is absolutely non-alcoholic; is an ideal beverage for all seasons, being invigorating, appetizing, and tonic, having all the desirable properties of the best home brewed beers, but without the evils attending the presence of alcohol in the latter; is unexcelled for cyclists, athletes, and all who are subjected to severe labour, and when used with meals has a decided effect in promoting digestion. In addition to its wholesome properties, it is decidedly palatable, while its colour and "life" make it very attractive in appearance. It is bottled on the premises, being put up in half-pint and pint bottles. It is gratifying to know that during the past few

years the demand for the Beverage has grown steadily, a certain mark of public favour. Considerable quantities are regularly supplied to the various towns throughout this district. In addition to its intrinsic merit it has the advantage of an unrestricted sale, as its non-intoxicating nature makes a licence for its sale unnecessary.

Besides the "Invicta" Ale, the Company prepare — after exclusive formulae — a number of other drinks, including potass, lithia, seltzer, and every description of high-class aerated and natural sparkling spring waters. Their lemonade, ginger beer, ginger ale, quinine tonic, champagne, and cherry cider, &c., are all made from the purest obtainable ingredients, and every process of manufacture is regulated with the greatest care. They have become deservedly popular, as they are exceedingly pure, palatable and refreshing.

The Company cater particularly for the private family and shop trade, and many of the best families of Bewdley and the adjoining towns are regular patrons. Orders by post are supplied on short notice. The trade has shown that solid and substantial growth which is followed by permanent success. The Company have not attempted to push forward too rapidly, their chief consideration being to supply the best beverages that skill and care could produce, confident that the public would appreciate their efforts. We are glad that they have done so, and we are confident that the business will continue to increase in popular favour.

We take this opportunity of acknowledging the courtesy extended us during our recent visit to the Invicta Sparkling Hop Ale Company's premises. It has been a pleasure to unreservedly commend both the manner in which the beverages are manufactured and their uniform high quality.

T. HARDIMAN & Co.

Comberton Hill Wine and Spirit Stores

A business well known not only in Kidderminster but throughout the country is that of T. HARDIMAN & Co., wine and spirit merchants, on Comberton Hill. The firm was founded just over twenty years ago by Mr. T. Hardiman, the head of the firm, and has had a successful career, being now one of the most prominent firms in this line in the district.

Besides doing a considerable trade in wines and spirits, the firm is perhaps best known as being the resident agent of the famous brewery firm of Messrs. Flower and Son, of Stratford-on-Avon. Their beer is competing with the premier brewers throughout the country, and the volume of trade which is done annually from the roomy stores on Comberton Hill gives an indication of the extent to which it has established itself in the favour of people in this district.

Messrs. T. Hardiman and Company do also a large trade in bottled goods. They bottle Flower's and Bass's ales and Guinness's stout, and have an increasing demand for the world-famous Pilsener beer, and Symon's Devonshire Cyder, which at any rate in England, has the name of being the best bottled cyder that can be obtained.

In addition to selling siphons and small bottles of better known mineral and table waters, the firm have recently taken up an agency for Sallyco sparkling Table Waters which obtained gold medals in a competition open to all table waters in 1897 and 1898.

Medical and London daily papers are almost effusive in the praise of these waters, yet it is not nearly as well known as it deserves to be, though gradually forcing its way to the front without aid of expensive advertisement.

We urge our readers to test the health-giving properties of Sallyco for themselves,



and we feel confident they will endorse the opinions which are published in a pamphlet with the full names and addresses of numerous medical men, editors, clergymen, and gentlemen of well known social position. Messrs. Hardiman and Company will be pleased to supply copies of this pamphlet to anyone. Many of the leading physicians in London and the Provinces are using Salycco not only as a regular table water, but for the cure of gout and rheumatism, and all uric acid complaints.

This water has unique features, being made of a vegetable alkaloid that is said to be not only a grand stimulant, but the very best urate solvent in existence. It blends beautifully with all drinkables, bringing out the natural flavour of each, thus making the pleasantest of all table waters.

Messrs. Hardiman and Company are looking forward to a large trade in Salycco, and we shall be glad if this notice is the means of making this health giving water known in every house in the country.

In the management of his firm Mr. Hardiman has during the last five years had the assistance of his son, Mr. T. H. C. Hardiman. Both gentlemen devote all their time to the business, which has always borne the reputation of being conducted on honourable and upright principles.

WILLIAM PHIPPS

Maltster and Wine and Spirit Merchant

After having been in the retail business for 23 years, Mr. W. Phipps established himself as a wholesale wine and spirit merchant several years ago, and the experience which he had previously acquired has stood him in good stead in building up an important trade.

More recently Mr. Phipps has added the business of a maltster and hop factor. He acquired the maltings in Blackwell Street, and the Vine maltings in Horsefair, which were specially designed and built for this trade, and are one of the finest maltings in the district, and though he has only been established twelve months, his turnover in malt amounts already to several hundred bushels per week.

Whilst his brewery is small compared with others, it is more interesting. For the management of the concern is so complete that the corn from the fields is here turned direct into ale, no outside assistance being required. This brewery buys, prepares and stores its own hops, malts its own barley, and brews on the most approved principles, and the result is a good wholesome home-brewed beer, which has a reputation throughout the district.

Mr. W. Phipps is essentially a business man, but has found time to take part in the municipal life of the town. He was a member of the Borough Council for six years, and has been a President of the Licensed Victuallers' Association for several years.

F. TANDY

Agent for the Royal Well Brewery Company, Limited, Malvern

Mr. F. Tandy is the representative of the Royal Well Brewery Company, Limited, of Malvern, who base their claim of supplying an absolutely pure beer and stout on the fact that they have the exclusive right to brew from the world-famed Royal Well.

The brewery, which has always had a great reputation, has recently extended its operations by acquiring another old established Malvern brewery, that of Allen Bros., of Malvern Link. They have now much enlarged facilities for coping with the great demand for their ales, and can now readily supply all orders sent to them. In addition to having the advantage of brewing from the finest water in the world, the firm use nothing but the finest malt and hops, and

the result is stated to be that these ales cannot be surpassed for flavour, brilliancy and strength.

The growth of the local trade may be taken as the most convincing proof of their claim. When Mr. Tandy commenced to represent the firm six years ago they had not a single customer; now the books show a really astonishingly large turnover, and as seventy-five per cent. of the trade is with private families, the most difficult to secure and to retain, it appears that the Royal Well Brewery Company, Limited, supplies an article the standard of which it would be difficult to excel.

The firm are also wine and spirit merchants, and supply through their local representative, Mr. Tandy, Scotch and Irish whiskeys, brandy and wines of all blends and vintages. They have a blend of their own, a fine old Scotch malt whiskey called "Beacon Blend," which is recommended as possessing an especially high value. It is supplied in dozen cases or jars, and is guaranteed to be ten years old.



T. C. PAYNE

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Represents the well-known
Castle Brewery,
Bridgnorth

The brewery for which Mr. T. C. Payne is the district agent is a very old established concern, and has been in the hands of its present owners for about ten years. Mr. Payne began to represent them about seven years ago. The number of customers to the firm at that time was very insignificant, now they number upwards of a thousand—a clear proof it appears, that the goods sold must be unusually good, and the man who sells them unusually capable and active.

The firm point to several reasons in favour of the high quality of the stout and ales brewed by them, in bottle particularly they are always in the most perfect condition; they will not go tart, and stand climatic change better than any other beer or stout brewed anywhere. The latter is a bold assertion, but appears to be proved by the fact of the enormous and rapid growth of the Castle Brewery's output, which, it should be stated, as going chiefly to a private family trade. The tied-house brewers, as they are called, possessing a number of public houses, have a regular outlet for the beer brewed, and the standard of the beer is often inferior to that brewed by a firm who cater chiefly for family trade.

As showing the care which the firm bestow upon the goods which they produce it deserves to be mentioned that the goods, are not sent to Kidderminster by rail, where the casks are generally exposed to every climatic change, but they are sent by motors; this means that they are sent direct from the brewery to the cellars here within less than three hours after having been dispatched. This is perhaps another reason for the magnificent condition in which these beers and stouts are always seen.

For producing a beer and stout of exceptionally high merit Mr. Walter Heasman is well qualified. He is a man well known in scientific circles, is a F.R.M.S., and science and practical experience together have combined to make him one of the most expert brewers in the country. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that not only the beer and stout brewed by the Castle Brewery are rapidly gaining a name for excellence, but also that at the Castle Brewery have been taught numbers of pupils, some of whom have already at-

tained leading positions in several prominent breweries.

The commercial side of the firm is looked after by Mr. Henly Heasman, and the Kidderminster district has, as we have already stated, been in charge of Mr. T. C. Payne, Commercial Buildings, for over seven years. He is a thoroughly experienced man, having acquired and extensive knowledge of the trade by his connection with an Edinburgh brewery extending over six years, and during twenty years' service with Messrs. Bucknall, of this town.

While the industry is not a local one, the trade is distinctly so, having been created here, extending over an area of twelve miles around Kidderminster, and giving employment to several hands. Under capable management it has successfully established itself in our midst, and we wish it a continuance of the success to which the high quality of its goods entitle it.

G. J. HUMPHERSON & SONS

BEWDLEY

One of the most interesting Industries in Worcestershire

For more than one hundred and fifty

years the horn business now carried on under the firm name of G. J. HUMPHERSON AND SONS has been well known in the industrial world. It was established in 1749, but it has frequently changed to keep pace with the marvellous development that has taken place in all manufacturing processes. In 1803 the business passed into the hands of the family which still controls it.

The premises, which are more extensive than would be guessed from a front view, were originally the district workhouse. They afford ample room for the various interesting processes, and for the storage of materials. The hands, some of whom have been with the firm for many years, are given full employment, and their productive power has been greatly increased by the introduction of modern machinery. The motive power is supplied by a fine Tangye engine.

As is well known, G. J. Humpherson and Sons manufacture all kinds of ornaments and implements from horn. The industry is peculiarly interesting, and one could scarcely imagine a greater contrast than that between the rough and unsightly horns when they are received at the works and the graceful and highly finished articles into which they are transformed. Plain and mounted drinking cups and flasks, sugar scoops and spoons, combs and shoe lifts, tobacco boxes, lantern leaves, potters' horns, foresters' horns, and many other articles are manufactured in large quantities and exported to almost every country in the world.

In this connection it should be stated that the firm's name has always been accepted as a guarantee of excellence. All the articles coming from their factory represents the best obtainable material and workmanship.

We think that we may safely say that for one hundred and fifty years the industry carried on by G. J. Humpherson & Sons has done as much to advertise Bewdley and the district as has any other one industry. It is gratifying to know that to-day it is in a more flourishing state than it has been for many years, and the demand for its finer drinking cups and other articles is steadily increasing.

It but remains for us to acknowledge the courtesy of Alderman A. Humpherson, to whom we are indebted for the particulars embodied in these few lines. The revival of the industry is largely due to his energy and progressiveness. It is pleasant to know that so far from allowing one of our most interesting and historic industries to become obsolete, he is doing a great deal to give it its old importance.

Butchers & Fishmongers

RICHARD WOOD

A Leading Butcher in Kidderminster

If long experience avails anything Mr. Richard Wood should be thoroughly acquainted with his calling. He has been connected with his present business all his life, after serving a long apprenticeship under his father, who was in business near Dudley.

In 1886 Mr. Wood first came to Kidderminster. In that year he opened a shop in Kidderminster, beginning in a comparatively small way. By close attention to the wants of patrons and a determination to supply nothing but the best, his business grew steadily until it became the leading one of its kind in the town. In June of last year a branch shop was opened at Hartlebury, for the convenience of patrons in the locality. The branch shop has been quite successful and has already secured a very gratifying connection.

In 1886 Mr. Wood entirely remodelled his principal shop, at 112, Coventry Street, making it by far the finest butcher's shop in the town or the immediate vicinity. The entire premises were altered and improved, involving a cost of several hundred pounds. The alterations were made after his own plans, and no detail seems to have been omitted. The interior of the shop is particularly attractive, all wood-work being replaced with tiles, which cover both the floors and the walls. The tiles used for the walls are white glazed and ornamental, giving the shop an unusually bright and clean appearance. Aside from making the shop more inviting in appearance, the use of glazed tiles is also a measure of great sanitary value. There are no crevices nor open joints, and as the tiles are easily and frequently washed, not a particle of dust can find permanent lodgment, a very important point for those who appreciate the value of absolute cleanliness.

Other features of this shop are the nicely fitted office which occupies a corner in the shop, and a large dry air cold room constructed on modern principles. The latter was made to order, and it is unquestionably the largest and best in Kidderminster. It was designed to hold an ample supply of meats and to keep them in the best possible condition.

Ever since the establishment of his business Mr. Wood has consistently catered to the better class of trade, a policy which has been justified by its success. He is assisted by his son, Mr. Harry Wood, who devotes his whole time to the business. He keeps at all times a full supply of the best fresh meats, making a speciality of the best Scotch beef and Welsh mutton, which he buys direct. He also keeps a full supply of choice pickled tongues, corned beef, &c.

Since locating in Kidderminster, the subject of these lines has had the satisfaction of seeing his trade increase at a gratifying rate, and his patrons now include many of the best families in the town and the surrounding country. Orders are filled at the shortest notice, his own delivery waggons making frequent trips to all parts of the town.

Mr. Wood's activity has not been confined wholly to his own business, as he has consistently taken an interest in everything pertaining to the trade in general. Last year he was elected president of the Kidderminster and District Master Butchers' Association, one of the most flourishing trade organizations in the town. The object of this organization is the betterment of the trade, which means as much to the public as to the members themselves, since everything which affords better service is deserving of recognition and support. As president of the Association Mr. Wood has materially increased its usefulness, and it is enough to say that in that position, as in business circles generally, he has gained the undivided respect of his colleagues and acquaintances.

E. LUCAS

The oldest established Pork Butchering and Sausage Manufacturing Firm in Kidderminster

The business carried on by Mr. Edwin Lucas, at 5, Swan Street, Kidderminster, is the oldest established pork-butchering and sausage manufacturing business in the neighbourhood. It was founded by the late Mr. Richard Jones in the year 1860, who commenced business at a shop in Worcester street, afterwards removing to the top of High Street, to the premises now occupied by Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis, boot factors, then finally to 5, Swan Street. Shortly afterwards Mr. Edwin Lucas took over the business.

Mr. Lucas has occupied the present premises for nearly a quarter of a century. He does both a wholesale and retail business, and his various specialities command an ever increasing sale. We might especially mention his celebrated "Worcestershire sausages," which are widely noted for their quality and delicious flavour. He has received many testimonials concerning them from different parts of the country and abroad.

He has recently introduced his delicious "tomato sausages," and reports that they have met with an extremely favourable reception, and that their sale is constantly increasing.

Mr. Edwin Lucas is also noted for his pork pies, which are sent to all parts of the surrounding country. He is a large curer of hams and bacon, and assures us that all his pigs are bought from the neighbourhood, many of them coming from local dairy farms, so that their quality is of the very best.

His reputation has been so long maintained that no further comment of ours can add to it, and we can but wish him a continuance of his well-deserved success.

SIMPSON AND SON

VICAR STREET

Wholesale and Retail Fish, Game, and Poultry Dealer

The shop opened in Vicar Street by Messrs Simpson & Son, fishmongers, etc., must be numbered amongst the important business houses of the town. Although opened so recently as January, 1903, the measure of support it has already received proves it to have filled a public want. The shop is fitted up with every modern convenience for the conduct of a first-class fish, poultry, and game business, particular attention having been paid to drainage, sanitary arrangements, etc.



SIMPSON'S VICAR STREET SHOP

The firm of Simpson & Son has been established in Birmingham since 1760, and is well known as the leading firm of fishmongers in that city. The Kidderminster shop is managed by Mr. L. W. Morgan, who has been in the service of the firm for the past 15 years, and who will conduct the business on lines similar to those followed at the central establishment.

HILL GROVE ESTATE

At no time in its history has Kidderminster witnessed a greater number of improvements than during the past few years, particularly as regards the number and character of the residences erected. On one tract alone twenty-five handsome residences have been built within the past 3 years, and others are in contemplation.

The tract is known as the Hill Grove Estate, adjoining Chester and Comberton Roads, near the tram terminus, and intersected by the new road known as Hill Grove Crescent. As is well known, the Hill Grove Estate was for many years one of the most beautiful private estates in or around Kidderminster. It comprises in all some twenty-seven acres, the larger portion lying very high, and commanding charming views of the Malvern, Clent, and Abberley Hills, and a wide stretch of country. The natural drainage is perfect, and the healthfulness as well as the beauty of the location can hardly be excelled anywhere.

Three years ago the Hill Grove Estate was purchased by Messrs. J. Harvey and S. H. Loynes, who plotted it and divided it into lots suitable for building purposes. Natural advantages were supplemented by a number of carefully planned improvements. A new road, Hill Grove Crescent, was opened up through the centre of the tract, and sewerage, water, and gas were provided. All these improvements, which involved a large outlay, were made before any lots were offered for sale.

The great advantages of the site—the tram running alongside, the Railway Station within three minutes' walk, near the centre of the town, and very low rated, being outside the borough—combined with its natural beauty and the modern improvements made in it, at once attracted public attention, and already more than one-half of the lots have been sold. To enhance the value of the property for residential purposes certain restrictions have been placed upon purchasers of the lots. No residence can be erected under a certain cost, nor may any building be erected or used for trade purposes. These restrictions will effectually prevent the introduction of a population undesirable in a purely residential neighbourhood. Several of the residences now on this estate are among the most attractive and artistic in the town.

In opening up the Hill Grove Estate Messrs. Harvey and Loynes have considerably added to the beauty of Kidderminster, and it is gratifying to know that their enterprise has been appreciated. Those who contemplate building would do well to examine this estate, as a number of the choicest lots still remain unsold. Owing to a fortunate purchase the owners of it have been able to offer the lots at a very low rate—much lower, indeed, than is charged for less desirable property in the same locality. Either of Messrs. Harvey and Loynes will be pleased to give detailed information to anyone desiring it.



THE BRINTON FOUNTAIN



BUSINESS DIRECTORY
OF
KIDDERMINSTER

TRINITY LANE.

Grace D. Hawkes, victualler, George and Dragon
Kidderminster News Co. Publishing Office
R. Jenkins, bicycle agent

BULL RING.

T. Pensotti, hosier, etc., 1
F. Broomhall, tea merchant, 2-3
Craddock Brothers, boot sellers, 4
C. T. Holder, draper, 5-6
W. Hepworth, printer and stationer, 7
Thomas Blunt, boot seller, 8
Home & Colonial Stores, butter and tea dealers, 9
Richard Wise, ironmonger, 10-11
John Wellings, saddler, 12
Fanny Jones, dressmaker, 12
J. T. Westover, chemist, Medical Hall, 13
W. B. Faulkner, cab proprietor, 14
Thomas Griffin, designer, 14
E. Grey, fancy stores, 15
Taylor & Co. (J. Griffith), grocers, 16
E. Foster, jeweller, 17
A. Gocher, butcher, 18
C. Harrison, tobacconist, 19
J. Edmonds, fishmonger, 20

SWAN STREET.

D. Melia & Co., grocers, etc., 1
G. W. Morton, boot sellers, 2
Nelson & Co., foreign meat dealers, 3
J. Hartwell, victualler, The Fox Inn, 4
E. Lucas, pork butcher, 5
B. L. Griffiths, grocer, 6
R. W. Maves, tailor, 7
W. Etheridge, victualler, Black Bull Inn, 9
T. C. Pressland, milliner, 10
Birmingham Borough Loan Society, 11
Geo. W. Dorking, builder, 12
Excise Offices, J. Robinson, supervisor
B. J. Brown, surveyor
C. Harvey & Co., wine and spirit merchants

COVENTRY STREET.

C. Harvey & Co., spirit vaults, 1
G. H. Warner, draper
Wootton & Co., hosiers
H. Pearce, jewellers' broker
J. B. S. Robinson, draper, etc., 8-9-10
J. Heath, painter and plumber, 11-12
T. H. Knowles, Seven Stars Inn, 13-14
A. Young, tobacconist, 16
Wm. Ainsworth, general, 17
J. Faramondy, lodging house, 18
S. Quick, hairdresser, 19
E. Lewis, general, 20
S. Allen, grocer, 21-23
B. Hepworth & Co., drapers and chemists, 25
Wm. Dudley, greengrocer, 26
J. W. Leek, boot maker, 29
A. Hunt, broker, second hand, 30
Alfred Thatcher, general, 31
Jas. Handley, jeweller, 32
Wm. Phipps, chimney sweep, 35
Wm. Geo. Crannage, Shakespeare Inn, 40
G. Brown & Sons, stonemasons
C. A. Wheatley, Roman Catholic pastor, 51
Miss Baker, dressmaker, 55
Jas. Bennett, St. George's parish clerk, 66
W. W. Martin, electrician, 70
A. Bennett, cab proprietor, 70
Jas. Caswell, grocer, 77
W. F. Millington, broker, 78
J. W. Kench, cab proprietor, 79
G. Brown & Sons, offices, 82
J. Starr, coach builder, 83
F. J. Mumford, The Square and Compass, 87
C. A. Downton, architect, 91
Dawnton & Sons, upholsterers, 91
Chas. W. Clark, grocer, 94
Jos. French, boot maker, 95
J. Darlison, fruiterer, 96
G. Walker, pie shop, 97
A. Hollies, butcher, 99
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W. E. Timmis, ironmonger, 109
R. Wood, butcher, 112
W. Brice, The Old Compasses, 113
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J. Bland, draper, 115
H. Ingram, Bell Hotel, 116
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Singer Sewing Machine Co., 118
Purkis & Son, clothiers, 120

HIGH STREET.

S. Clark, grocer, 2
Goodwin, Foster & Brown, Baxter restaurant, 3
Kate & Edith Ledwith, hosiers, 4
Maypole Dairy Co., butter merchants, 5
W. Copeland, jeweller, 6
Boots, Limited, chemists and stationers, 7
M. Tattersall, fancy drapery, 8
Cash & Co., boot sellers, 9
D. Clark, hosier, 10
H. G. Ivens, solicitor, 11
B. Smith, milliner, 11
R. Ravenhill, fruiterer, 12
Hilton & Son, boot sellers, 13
W. H. Wilkes, commission agent, 14
F. Mackaness, dentist, 14
J. Blagborough, commission agent, 14
Gould & Elcock, solicitors, 14
Freeman, Hardy & Willis, boot sellers, 15
W. H. Yates, Lion Hotel, 16
A. E. Horton, jeweller, 17
J. Fehrenbach & Son, confectioners, 18
Lipton & Co., grocers, 19
Hepworth, clothiers, 20
F. Tranter, saddler, 21
W. J. Hutton & C. Allen, designers
Meredith Brothers, grocers, 22
F. Peacock, draper, 23
Market Hall, 24
W. Paton, drysalter, 25
K. A. Daman, dentist, 25
Hepworth, printer and stationer
Geo. Kowley, butcher, 27
Fisher & Co., tobacconists
Isaacs & Attwood, drapers, etc., 1

VICAR STREET.

Lloyds Banking Company, Limited, 3
L. & L. Lane, china merchants, 4
W. H. Brookes, yarn, linen and jute agent, 5
Worcester City & County Coffee Tavern Co.
Allen & Sons, pianoforte dealers, 6
Thomas Little, chemist, 8
J. Sanders, boot seller, 9
Riley & Son, pianoforte dealers, 10
W. L. Quick, clothiers, etc., 11
" " " " 12
Central Toilet Co., hairdressers, 13
N. Palmer, Swan Hotel, 14
J. T. Cowderoy, nuisance inspector, Town Hall
Town Hall, Geo. Gale, curator
Police Offices, E. Bennett, superintendent " "
J. Morton, town clerk " "
T. H. Williams, borough accountant " "
A. James, borough surveyor " "
E. Guest, district rate collector " "
Simpson & Son, fishmongers " "
Morgan & Lawley, chemists, 16
E. Barton & Sons, carpet manufacturers, 17
G. T. Cheshire & Sons, stationers, 18
L. Kenworthy, The Three Tuns Inn, 20

NEW ROAD.

J. Amys, ironmonger, etc.
S. Bateman & Son, timber merchants
T. W. Marchant, coffee house, 3
E. Willlocks, fried fish shop, 5
J. Stringer, jeweller, 6
E. P. Burrows, bicycle fittings, 7
H. Lee, Carpe of Good Hope, 8
E. Alcock, Half Moon Inn, 9
E. Carter, general, 10
G. Millward, milliner, 28
A. H. Carter, Royal Exchange Inn, 34
B. Micklewright, twine and rope seller, 35
T. Sparry, general, 36
Carpet Manufacturing Company (Morton & Sons)
G. M. Whittall & Co., carpet manufacturers
Kidderminster & Stoupport Tramway Depot
E. A. Broome, worsted spinner
R. M. Smith, fruiterer, 53
W. M. Hughes, electrician, 54
J. Sanders, boot repairer, 57
J. Sanders, bicycle agent, 58
A. Ford, grocer, 59
Thomas Brooke, tailor, 61
A. Hardiman, hairdresser, 66
R. Grove, parish clerk, 68
C. Wilkes, well sinker, 70
C. H. Jones, Corn Exchange Inn, 72
Cattle Market, A. Holloway, superintendent
J. Harper, corn dealer

GREEN STREET.

Woodward, Grosvenor & Co., carpet manufacturer
Childern Carpet Co. " "
Victoria Carpet Co. " "
T. & A. Naylor " "
Watson Brothers, worsted spinners
H. Smith, builder

DIXON STREET.

C. Harrison & Sons, carpet manufacturers

OXFORD STREET.

J. Nicholls, auctioneer, Commercial Buildings, 1-2
Thomas E. Payne, brewer's agent " "
J. Beach, commission agent " "
L. B. Heath " " "
J. Miller Perrin, designer " "
T. H. Drew, auctioneer " "
E. Chance, Diamond Money Society " "

Foster Brothers, clothiers, 3
Jas. Garlick, Anchor Vaults, 4
Co-operative Society, general dealers, 5
Bennett & Sons, tailors, 6
H. Robinson, tinman
A. G. Greenhalgh, clothier, 7
C. Steward, fancy goods, 8
S. Johnson, boot seller, 9
F. Taylor, tobacconist, 10
M. Cochrane, The Roebuck, 11
A. S. Thursfield, solicitor, 12
E. & A. Jenns, ironmonger, 13
R. Brooke, tailor, 14
A. Wright, sweet teeth, 15
J. M. Gething & Son, architects, 16
Tovey & Cooper, auctioneers, 17
F. Perrin, solicitor, 17
T. B. Webb, carriers' agent, Bantock & Co.
Thomas Crisp, tobacconist, 19
H. Yarnall, jeweller, 20
R. Jasper, butcher, 21
R. M. Wilkinson, draper, 22
R. M. Wilkinson, milliner, 23
Albert Wheeler, hairdresser, 24
Jane Milnes, furrier, 25
Gospel Temperance Hall
J. P. Harvey & Co., corn dealers, 29
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Cooke Brothers
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David P. Corbet, iron founder
Charlotte Baylis, milliner, 40
H. Gravener, bird stuffer, 41
E. Rollings, news agent, 43
A. Richards, boot repairer, 46
Ann Lewis, grocer, etc., 47
Arthur Hyde, general dealer, 50
M. Alcott, sweet dealer, 51
John Amys, builder, 53
M. Smith, chemist, 54
Saxton Rubber Co., rubber goods, 55
E. Rollings, news agent, 56
W. Pritchard, tailor, 57
Geo. Weaver, cooper and basket maker, 58
C. Chereghan, brokers' dealer, 59
Poole, gardener and gutterer, 60
Freeman, Hardy & Willis, boot dealer, 61
Hampson & Rea, milliners
F. Tench, draper, 62
A. H. James, hatter and hosier, 63
W. Grimley, hairdresser, 64
E. Bytheway, Green Man and Still, 65
Birmingham and District Banking Co., C. N. Bass

BRIDGE STREET.

R. Rogers, shoing smith, 3
F. W. Lewis, coal dealer, 4
G. Weaver, cooper, 5
J. Brain, painter and glazier
Jas. Brazier, confectioner, 6

EXCHANGE STREET

F. Burcher, solicitor and magistrates' clerk
F. E. Burcher, solicitor and registrar
W. A. Tolley, accountant
Nock & Joseland, auctioneers, 2
Clibbery & Phipps
Meredith & Pritchard, architects 3
Crowther & Boring, solicitors
Ivins, Morton & Danks " "
Post Office, 4
F. Stone, commission agent
F. R. Blundell, commission agent, 5
G. H. Banks, auctioneer
Brintons, Limited, carpet manufacturers

MARKET STREET

J. S. Garlick, Bay Horse Hotel
Free Library and Museum
Schools of Science and Art

CORPORATION STREET

W. Smith, shoing smith
J. Sanders, bicycle repairer
E. Parry, Shuttle Office

MARLBOROUGH STREET

Bantock & Co., parcels office
L. T. Bridges, painter, 3

WORCESTER STREET

E. H. Bullock, Wheat Sheaf Inn, 1
G. H. Taylor, chemist and druggist, 2
T. George, The Grapes Hotel, 3
F. Blower, hairdresser, 4
Danish Dairy Co., butter and cheese merchants
W. Weatherhead, hosier and draper, 6

J. Walters, furniture dealer, 8
G. Cope, dyer and cleaner, 9
Wm. Hale, The Angel Inn, 10
A. E. Gratton, basket and skip maker, 13
J. Darlison, fruiterer, 14
G. P. Newey, baker
T. Done, second-hand clothes, 15
G. Moele, newsagent, 16
A. S. West & Co., saddlers, 17
Jos. Parry, general, 18
J. Levett, photographer, 19
R. Walton, hairdresser, 20
W. Hodges, picture dealer, 21
Jas. Field, cabinet maker, 22
A. Findon, pawnbroker, 23
R. Thomas, Crown Inn, 24
T. Bishop, Fried Fish, 25



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W. H. and E. Cooksey, painters, 35
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Every Brothers, clothiers, 80
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COMBERTON ROAD

Geo. Lloyd, grocer, 1
H. Hawker, butcher, 2
Louisa Madley, confectioner, 3
Mary A. Beeston, Clarendon Hotel, 4
Jas. White, confectioner, 5
A. Robinson, painter, 6
Jane Lewis, apartments, 7
Jas. W. Hancock, tobacconist, 8
Alfred Cox, confectioner, 9
Theatre Royal
Thos. Greenwood, tailor, 12
Thos. Giles, hairdresser, 11
Jos. Minett, restaurateur, 13
J. G. Bassett, furniture dealer, 14
Mary James, milliner, 15
Mary Ebury, hosier, 20
W. J. Griffin, music seller, 21
J. H. Grainger, grocer, 22
W. Harrison, butcher, 23
W. W. Price, chemist, 24
E. Walton & Co., confectioners, 25
H. T. Allen, tailor, 26
E. Braggington, fruit, etc., 27
M. A. and S. A. Griffin, drapers, etc., 28
Mentor & Co., photographers, 29
J. W. Conchie, veterinary surgeon, 30
J. B. Beasley, newsagent, 33
A. Haigh and E. Comber, milliners, 34
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H. Lunecar, wine and spirit merchant, 37
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M. Strange, grocer, 39
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M. Duggan, restaurant, 41
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D. Baxter, insurance agent, 46
A. Preece, dairy produce, 47
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F. Powell, tobacconist, 49
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M. Collins, apartments, 5
M. A. Aldridge, apartments, 52
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A. Hardiman, fancy shop, 55
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E. Bouet, designer, 64
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D. Corbet, surgeon, 73
E. Hollis, clothier, 74
Great Western Railway Station
F. W. Bailey, coal merchant
T. Tandy
Railway Station Goods Yard
H. Barratt, coal merchant
B. Beach, agent Camcock Chase Co.
A. Davis, coal merchant
B. Pearson, "
H. Russell, "
Austin Brothers, coal merchants
Wm. Field, sand and gravel dealer
Cosmopolitan School Dresscutting, Miss Thompson
J. Gudgeon, carpenter and joiner
S. Partridge "
Brown & Sons, stonemasons
T. Hardiman & Son, wine and spirit merchants
Prunell & Co., mechanics

F. Owen, bootmaker
M. Jasper, butcher
L. Waver, bicycle dealer
Radcliffe & Co., brewers
Thos. Green, The Cross

LORNE STREET

C. J. Fehrenbach, grocer, etc., 1
F. Smith, hairdresser, 3
E. Taylor, dressmaker, 10
N. Routley, laundry, 11
G. Watkins, Cricketers' Arms Inn, 24
Milton Hall
C. Steadman, sanitary inspector—foreign, 65
A. W. Rollings, off-licence, 72
C. J. Clarke, baker and grocer, 82
J. T. Penn, off-licence and grocer, 89
W. Gittins, laundry, 103
B. G. Evans, insurance agent, 107

YEW TREE ROAD

H. and W. Gardener, hauliers, 6-7
W. Winbury, designer, 22
C. Power, dressmaker, 23

LEA STREET

M. E. Crammage, apartments, 12
J. Jones, apartments, 13
E. Pettitt, " 14
S. A. Harrison, apartments, 15
T. Webster, house agent, 16
T. B. Hayes, apartments, 17
Jos. Parker, builder, 20
M. Dunster, insurance agent, 27
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E. Youngjones, general, 52

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J. P. Hopkins, insurance agent, 68
H. Parker, baker, 76
James Teague, off-licence and grocer, 76
K. Linecar, carpet planner, 84
J. Coleman, boot-maker, 89
P. Carmichael, dressmaker, 90
S. Deakin, florist, 103
T. Dalton, general, 104
L. Hibberd, apartments, 116
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M. Cole, coal merchant

GARRICK PLACE.

C. Nicholls, apartments, 1
J. Evans, tailor, 8
George Law, contractor

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J. Hooper, insurance agent, 34
C. Moore, bootmaker, 43
A. E. Chatwin, Chester Tavern
L. Passey, dressmaker, 62
J. I. Glover, music teacher, 63
W. E. Tubb, baker and grocer, 65, B.P.O.
B. Hicks, tailor and draper, 67
J. Moule, gardener, 71
M. Mills, dressmaker, 83
A. Fowler, milk seller, 84
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FARFIELD

J. G. Field, The Station Inn
G. Hardiman, general, 12
Miss Minifie's school, 32
George Holloway, 47
J. T. Worton, draper and clothier, 56

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R. Bishop, coach-builder
Primitive Methodist Chapel
L. George, dressmaker, 2
W. Tovey, coal merchant, 5
J. Dugard, crock dealer, 6
George Hill, greengrocer, 11
P. Wall, Rampant Lion Inn
M. Coates, carpenter, 14
C. Brown, hairdresser, 15
St. George's Schools
St. George's Parish Room
John Andrews, coal and brick agent, 31
J. Hardiman, grocer, 32
J. E. Wagstaff, painter, 70
R. Beams, off-licence and grocer, 72
Thomas Williams, tailor, 73
A. Cox, general, 74
F. A. Brooks, newsagent, &c., 75
E. Jones, general, 76
E. Oliver, general, 77
J. Watson, hairdresser, 83
J. Parker, general, 85
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Thomas Mytton, general, 87
S. Hayes, Royal Oak Inn, 88
W. Walford, The George Inn, 89
W. H. Bullus, The Golden Lion Inn, 91
W. Wilson, milk seller, 93
A. Jay, general, 94
P. Mitton, general, 97
G. Thomas, grocer, 98
" undertaker, 99
G. Campbell, bootmaker, 102
D. Tarpey, fried fish shop, 103

LION STREET

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A. Pinfold, general, 11
Joseph Robinson, physician and surgeon, 15
Thomas Tandy, coal merchant, 19
A. Pitt, baker, 22
M. M. Ware, dressmaker, 25
H. T. Hunt, King of Prussia Inn, 27

FAIR STREET

E. Cole, greengrocer, 25
Thomas Oakes, Lion Fields Tavern, 32

CROSS STREET

Joseph Colbourne, baker.
Thomas Oakes, furniture dealer
Fred Baker, Foley Arms Inn, 7
Thomas Tandy, coal dealer

SOUTH STREET

W. Davis, Green Dragon Inn, 11
Joseph Bayliss, fried fish shop, 12
E. Morris, bootmaker, 15
C. Moule, oil and hardware dealer, 17
T. R. Morris, general, 19
W. A. Thomason, butcher, 21
Hilda Cox, general, 26
W. Billingham, baker, 27
Louisa Rook, general, 29
H. Barber, grocer, 30
C. Holyman, coal dealer

BROMSGROVE STREET

T. N. Sneed, off-licence, 2
E. Davis, newsagent, 10
A. Rogers, general, 13
W. H. Hewitt, pawnbroker, 14
G. Cooke, hairdresser, 15
H. Farlow, bootmaker, 21
G. Farmer, King's Arms Inn, 24
E. Carter, pork butcher, 26
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Rev. Thomas Fisk, Baptist minister, 29

HOLLOWAY ST. and GEORGE ST.

James Edwards, wheelwright
Mayers & Woodhouse, designers
Annie G. Newark, photographer

OFFMORE ROAD

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H. Brown, stonemason
H. Cooper, general, 34
H. A. Pierce, bootmaker, 36
W. Davis, Robin Hood Inn, 38
H. Bowdler, fishmonger, 39
H. Harper, general, 41
J. Payne, haberdashery, 46
Thomas Morby, gardener, 47
M. A. Hunt, machinist, 60
G. Duffield, dressmaker, 67
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F. Bayliss, grocer
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W. Bowen, debt collector, 9
C. Harvey, commission agent, 9
R. Grove, income-tax and rate collector, 11
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D. Campbell, designer, 13
W. Spurway, designer, 13
Keene & Co., electricians, 13
W. Tench, brass founder, 14
Wm. Chadwick, drvsalter,
G. Holdsworth, commission agent,
W. Taylor, organist, 17
W. H. Moore, surgeon, 18
O. C. Evans, surgeon, 22
Jas. Viney, accountant, 24
H. L. Miles, surgeon, 25
Baptist Chapel
I. L. Stratton, surgeon, 26
Fred. Tandy, brewer's agent, 28
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A. Nutter, commission agent, 28
A. L. Bostock, dentist, 29
Metropolitan Banking Co., 30-31
Evans, leather merchant, 33
J. Howard, builder, 34
L. Lasky, milliner, 34
F. Perkins, commission agent
W. H. & E. W. Talbot, solicitors
County Court offices
New Meeting Chapel
School
A. J. Foster, ironmonger

BLACKWELL STREET.

C. Wood, haberdasher, 1
E. Wallace, jeweller, 2
J. Smith, butcher, 3
W. Bradshaw, leather merchant, 4
A. Wright, sweet dealer, 5
W. F. Mallard, furniture dealer, 6
E. Hickman, fried fish, 7
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H. Prescott, The Hop Pale Inn

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A. Bennett, coal dealer, 6
J. Bell, boot maker, 7
Thos. Simms, general, 8
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G. Lowe, haberdasher, 10
M. Stevens, glass and china, 11
W. Onslow, fruiterer, 12
D. Clark, hosier, 13
A. Kerr, tailor, 14
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Lea Limited, worsted spinners
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H. Bale, ironfounder
Thos. Brooke, printer

PARK BUTTS

C. Dalley, corn merchant
E. E. Palmer, coffee house, 4
M. Silcock, newsagent, 5
J. T. Coulston, jeweller, 6
E. Grove, butcher, 7
T. J. Salter, tobacconist, 8
J. Hope, sweet dealer, 9
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G. Taylor, Lyttleton Arms, 11
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A. W. Taylor, draper, 2
J. Smith, butcher
M. Smith, Umbrella maker
J. R. Bennett, boot maker, 10
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M. Hanglin, pork butcher, 12
C. W. Dashwood, coffee house, 13
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A. Ray, baker, 5
W. Onslow, fishmonger, 9
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S. TAYLOR,

3, STOURBRIDGE STREET,
Professor of Music, and Pianoforte Tuner.

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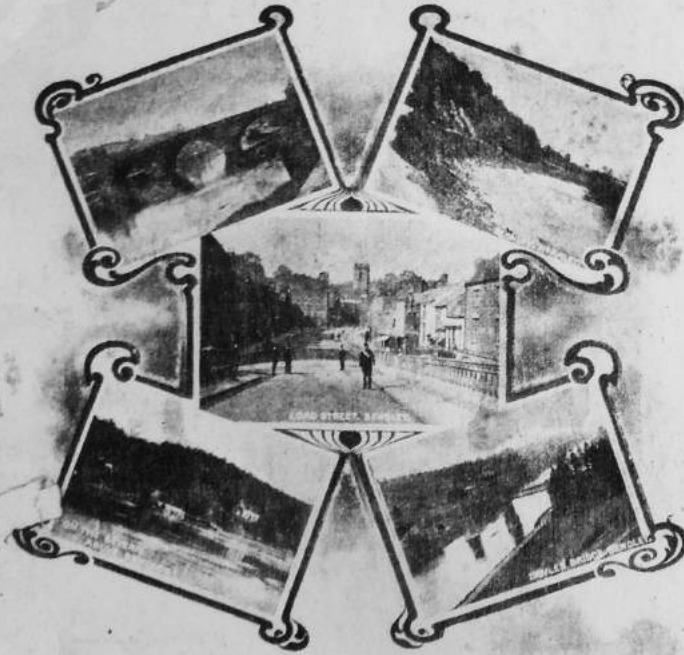
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