Among other partners in the firm at various times we would refer to the late Mr. Richard Potter, a legally educated gentleman of far more than ordinary ability. He was at one time chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, and was also a chairman of the Gloucester Wagon Company, and was, at the time of his death, (twelve years since), described by a writer of that day as "a king of men." The writer has entered somewhat into details as to the proprietorship of the Firm, but his object in so doing is to illustrate the long time with which the same families have been connected with such a successful industrial undertaking.

In the year 1889 the business was converted into a private limited liability company, of which the managing director to-day is Mr. John Henry Croxford. The Company at the present time is not less fortunate with respect to its directorate than it has been in the past and it unquestionably owes its advanced and still progressing position to the indomitable energy and capable administration of its present managing director, Mr. Croxford, who became associated with the Firm in 1875, and who has devoted the greater portion of a busy life to the interest of the manufactories and the industry in general. He continues to be the guiding spirit of the business.

The building which has been erected in recent years is a very imposing structure, and is of such a nature as to provide for the wants of the business. The building is of brick, and is divided into several sections, each of which is adapted to a different purpose.

The business of the firm is carried on with great success, and the reputation of the firm is widespread. The goods manufactured are of the highest quality, and are sold at a fair price. The firm is well known for its attention to detail and its dedication to quality.

The firm is also known for its charitable work, and has supported many local charities and organizations. The firm has a long history of supporting education and the arts, and has donated to many schools and cultural institutions.

The firm is managed by a team of experienced and dedicated individuals, who are committed to the success of the business. They work closely with the customers to ensure that their needs are met, and the firm is known for its customer service.

The firm is also committed to environmental sustainability, and has implemented many measures to reduce its impact on the environment. The firm is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint, and is continually looking for new ways to be more sustainable.

The firm is a proud part of the local community, and is well respected by its neighbors. The firm is a source of pride for the local people, and is an important part of the local economy.

The firm has been in business for over a century, and has a rich history. The firm is known for its longevity and its commitment to quality, and is respected for its dedication to the community.

The firm is committed to innovation and development, and is always looking for new ways to improve its products and services. The firm is dedicated to providing the best possible experience to its customers, and is always looking for new ways to exceed their expectations.

The firm is proud of its heritage and its legacy, and is committed to maintaining its reputation as a leader in the industry. The firm is dedicated to the future, and is committed to ensuring the success of the business for many years to come.
seasoning and desirable preservation of the better qualities of wood, and are among the finest drying sheds to be seen in the trade.

The imports of this Firm are chiefly confined to what are technically known in the trade as the soft or fir woods. These are exported mainly from Russia, Norway, Sweden and Canada, although the Company also do a very extensive trade in the pitch pine timbers

from the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent ports in North America, and in the oak timbers from Germany, particularly from Prussia. We should also mention Austrian oak for wagon making and staves, Norwegian round poles, and Russian lathwood billets. A somewhat smaller trade is also conducted with some of the ports on the Danube and those of the Black Sea, and occasionally with those of British Columbia. It is freely acknowledged by the trade in general that this Firm invariably holds one of the very finest and most extensively assortments stocks of wood for building, joinery, and all other manufacturing purposes of any in Great Britain.

The present saw mills, which are built of stone, brick, and iron, forming a single open room without partition of any kind, and covering an area of 180 feet by 120 feet, with an octagonally shaped chimney stack 122 feet high, were erected in the year 1894. They constitute one of the very finest buildings for such work in the United Kingdom. Two of the large sections are reserved for the conversion of deals, planks, and boards into every imaginable size, and the third bay, with an overhead travelling crane running the whole length of the building, contains the frame and bench saws for cutting and converting the larger timbers in the log. The roof is supported by heavy iron columns and girders, and glass skylights act as ventilators. The subjoined illustration shows a portion of the interior, and will give the reader a fair idea of the immensity of this building.

The mechanical equipment embodies the latest inventions and improvements known to

the woodworking industry, consisting of some twenty-four cutting, planing, moulding, beading and similar saws and machines, all driven at a high tension, besides other machines for grinding and sharpening the saws and the various planing irons.

It is particularly interesting to note that every single machine used is of English make, and all are of the most modern style and type, manufactured by Messrs. Robinsons, of Rochdale, and Messrs. Ransome, of Chelsea. In these days it is something of a discovery to find an industry that is not indebted in this respect to either Germany or America. Indeed, anyone who has visited the great American and Canadian mills, as the writer of this article has, can truthfully say that the tougher and temporary structures of those countries cannot in any way compare with the mills under notice.

The basement of this main saw mill extends under the entire building, permitting of free access to all parts of the shafting. All of the sawdust and chippings from the machines overhead are drawn by powerful fans into large receptacles in the basement, and thence to the boiler-house, where they are consumed as fuel. Nearly all the workmen in the mill and almost all the other departments work by the piece, a system which yields the best results for both employer and employees.

Next in interest to the main mills is the engine-room, a recently erected and very handsome building, with tiled walls and flooring, measuring 50 feet by 26 feet, with a connecting fitting shop of 60 feet by 19 feet. The engine, of which the engraving on the following page can only give a very inadequate idea, is a splendid piece of work, being a horizontal double crank compound condensing engine of 450 indicated horse-power, designed and constructed by one of the best known firms of English engineers, Messrs. J. and E. Wood, of Bolton, Lancashire. The wheel, a fly pulley of 20 feet in diameter, and grooved for fifteen 11-inch ropes, weighs, with the shaft, some 18 tons, and gives 70 revolutions per minute. The engine is almost noiseless in operation, and this, with the beautifully polished brass and copper work, makes it one of the most impressive pieces of mechanism in the City or County.

In the same block of buildings is the special engine for generating the electricity for the lighting of the entire premises, designed and erected by Messrs. Summers and Scott, of Gloucester, a firm of engineers of high reputation. For the driving power of the smaller wood block flooring mill a Lister motor, in conjunction with a dynamo of 100 brake horse power, both of Gloucestershire manufacture, is employed. The boiler-house is a huge structure, and contains one Lancashire double-flued, and two (twin) steel Cornish boilers, all of the most modern and approved type, and working at 100 lbs. pressure.

Indeed, with regard to all the buildings, it may be said that they are of the best possible design and construction, and we find it a
DEAL YARDS ON CANAL, LOOKING N.W. (Price, Walker & Co., Ltd.)

pleasant task to enter much more fully into details than would be necessary were we commenting on premises of an ordinary character.

Mr. E. J. Cullis, A.M.I.C.E., of Gloucester, the consulting engineer to Messrs. Price, Walker and Company, designed the mill and other buildings, and also laid out the roads and railway sidings, the excellence of the work reflecting the greatest credit upon his engineering and constructive ability. The completeness with which even the smallest details have been thought out and provided for have gained the warmest unsolicited commendation from eminent practical engineers, and we find that the well-known technical journal, "Engineering," has paid the honour of publishing descriptive articles and engravings showing plans of these yards and buildings.

The small illustration on page 33 shows a three-chambered drying stove for the quicker process of artificially bringing some sorts of wood into a condition fit for immediate consumption. This process is an absolute necessity of the present time, consequent upon the more rapid movements of to-day to meet the demand for timber in all states in which the natural means of drying would take much too long a period to secure. A wood block flooring mill has also been erected adjacent thereto, this kind of flooring having recently come into great favour. The operations conducted in these two departments sufficiently testify to the ability of this Company to properly and expeditiously execute any orders for this latter class of work, and within a very limited time.

For the better and more expeditious manner of dealing with large bulk of timber, the Firm own a large overhead steam-travelling gantry, which reaches the whole length of their timber yard from a jetty stretching out into the canal, down to the Bristol Road. By this means of conveyance the immense steamer cargoes, consisting of thousands of logs which the Firm import, can be promptly piled and stored away, the same purpose being effected by these economical means in the prompt execution of orders for this heavy class of timber.

In convenient locations the Firm also have separate buildings for lath rending by hand, smirching, repairing, and fitters' work in general; a roomy set of stables for their fine team of jet black horses; and a commodious room of 30 feet by 30 feet, comfortably fitted with heated and cooking stoves, in which the employees dine and take their meals. One of the engravings on this page affords an interesting glimpse of the mess room, which is as

place in the public mind, it will interest our readers to know that this Firm, away back in the Crimean War, through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Richard Potter, supplied the wooden huts and barracks that were then used by the French army; so that we can well understand a Firm with such a long and successful past not only being well-known throughout the trade, but also by reason of their high and well-deserved reputation, commanding respect and support both at home and abroad.

But, obviously, it would be impossible to fully describe in a brief article such as this, an industry requiring some twenty-five acres of ground, employing so many hands, and equipped with machinery which could only be fully appreciated by expert critics. It is hoped, however, that enough has been said to indicate the important part this business forms in the industrial life of Gloucestershire, as well as the advantages accruing to patrons from the economy which comes from production on so large and complete a scale.

It is but just to conclude the foregoing sketch with an acknowledgment of its inadequacy. It has been a privilege to include in this work a reference to the Company's industrial achievements, which have done so much to promote the prosperity of Gloucester and Gloucestershire.

EMPLOYEE'S DINING ROOM. (Price, Walker & Co., Ltd.)

ENGINE ROOM. (Price, Walker & Co., Ltd.)

Industrial Gloucestershire 1904