SESSIONS & SONS, LIMITED,
GLOUCESTER.
Timber, Slate, and Building Material
Merchants and Manufacturers.

MESSRS. SESSIONS AND SONS,
LIMITED, have taken a prominent part
in Gloucestershire's industrial life for the greater part of a century, the

Sessions are sons of the founder of the business,
and Mr. Walter Sessions is a grandson.
Throughout its entire history the industry
has been distinguished by an almost unbroken
growth, the trade being larger to-day than ever
before. In 1857 a branch office and works were
established in Cardiff, while the Company now
occupy a large block of buildings, and employ
something like 100 hands. A few years ago an
office and depot were also established in
Manchester. Coincident with the enlargement

and other Continental countries, and occasion-
ally to North and South America. It is
gratifying to know that wherever their
productions go Gloucestershire manufacturers
are given a very favourable advertisement.
Through the courtesy of Messrs. Sessions
and Sons we are enabled to present on this
and the opposite page several interesting
glimpses of their works and showrooms, from
photographs specially made for "Industrial
Gloucestershire." While these engravings
give some idea of the excellent arrangement of
the various departments, they cannot give
an accurate impression of the real extent of
the premises or the size of the buildings, which
together form one of our largest and most
imposing manufacturing establishments. The
Gloucester premises alone cover an aggregate
area of several acres, a large proportion of which
is under roof. Among the more conspicuous
buildings are those for the offices and show-
rooms, facing Southgate Street, rebuilt about
1884; a large building erected on the Docks
seven years ago, for the manufacture of marble
and slate chimney pieces, baths, lavatories,
etc.; the building formerly used for marble
and slate work, but now used as a general ware-
house; and another warehouse on the Docks
used for the storage of cement and similar
materials. In this connection it may be of
interest to state that the Company supplied
the whole of the cement used in the construc-
tion of the Gloucester new electric tramways,
some thousands of tons having been required
for this purpose. Although the growth of the business
far beyond anything originally contemplated
has made it impossible for the Company to

erect their several additions on one tract, the
entire premises have the advantage of excellent
rail and water receiving and shipping facilities,
private railway sidings extending through the
yards, and the canal adjoining their entire length.

Apart from its extent, Messrs. Sessions
and Sons' business has several claims to distinc-
tion. They are now the oldest, as well as the leading,
enamed slate manufacturers in Gloucesters-
shire, and they have had a large share in giving
the county its pre-eminence in this branch of
manufacture. Their facilities for executing
this work are of the best description, both as
regards the machinery and appliances used,
and the conditions under which operatives
labour. All of their slate they import direct,
from the Welsh, Italian, Spanish and American
quarries, receiving it in rough slabs which bear
no resemblance to the finished product. These
slabs are sawn to the required size, planed
and shaped in one department, an interior view of
which is shown among the accompanying
illustrations. This department, which is 150
feet by 70 feet in dimensions, with a height of
16 feet, is undoubtedly one of the finest work
rooms in the county, being admirably lighted
and arranged, and provided with every
appliance which could in any way facilitate
production or lessen its cost. From this room
the dressed slabs are conveyed by a power lift
to the first floor, where the facilities are fully
complete. Here the slate is polished and

business having been established by the late
Mr. Jesse Sessions in 1838. The Firm was
originally J. Sessions and Sons, the present
name having been adopted ten years ago, when
the limited liability company was formed. The
directors of the present Company are Mr.
Frederick Sessions (chairman), Messrs. Arthur,
Herbert, and Walter Sessions, and G. C. Cobey.
Of these Messrs. Frederick, Arthur, and Herbert

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enamelled, being given its final appearance of marble or wood, the veining and colours being so exactly imitated as to deceive the most critical eye. From this department the finished goods are lowered by chutes into the railway trucks, or are conveyed to the show rooms, an interior view of which is also shown among the illustrations. We regret that no engraving could show the beauty of design and colouring of many of the productions displayed in the show room.

In addition to having become the largest manufacturers of enamelled slate in Gloucestershire, and probably in the kingdom, Messrs. Sessions and Sons have in connection with this work created what is practically a new industry. They have invented a new process (known as Miller's Patent) for utilizing the slate dust and chips accumulating in the course of manufacture, the chimney-pieces thus made being subsequently enamelled in the same manner as the dressed slate. By this process a considerable economy is effected, while the product is in no way inferior to that turned out in the ordinary way.

A glance at the attractive illustrated catalogue published by the Company will give some idea of the wide range of their productions in marble and slate. Next to their chimney-pieces, which have attracted a great deal of attention by reason of the beauty of their design and finish, their lavatories and sanitary goods have probably had the largest demand. These they have designed and supplied for many of the leading railways, public institutions, hotels, and mansions throughout the country. While great care is taken to produce efficiency with simplicity at a reasonable cost.

quality is the chief consideration, and the invariable excellence of workmanship and material has no doubt been the real secret of the Company's marked success.

Messrs. Sessions and Sons also deal in all kinds of builders' materials in wood, stone, and iron, supplying builders and contractors throughout the entire country. In their capacious yards and warehouses they at all times have a complete stock of every requisite of this character, enabling them to fill any order at short notice. They make a special feature of joinery, including the improved patent "Compoboard," a recently invented substitute for lath and plaster or matchboarding. This "Compoboard," for which the Company are the exclusive agents in this district, is prepared in boards or sheets of any desired size, and is invaluable for quick alterations and repairs. By its use iron and wooden buildings can be quickly finished, having all the appearance of a plastered interior.

It but remains for us to add that Messrs. Sessions and Sons have not been less distinguished for their commercial honour and integrity than for their marked progressiveness in the building up of their important industry.