



## THE DUDBRIDGE IRON WORKS, LTD.

DUDBRIDGE, near STROUD.

Manufacturers of the "Dudbridge" Gas and Oil Engines.

**O**F the varied industries in Gloucestershire there are but few, if any, which have made more marked progress than have the Dudbridge Iron Works, Ltd., at Dudbridge, near Stroud. In but little over a decade this concern has gained almost a world-wide reputation, its productions being everywhere recognised as representing the highest type of British manufacture. With a single exception, each succeeding year has shown in the annual turnover an increase of from 25% to 60%, and the coming year promises to be the largest in the history of the Company. In this record there is not much support for the too prevalent notion of the decadence of British industry.

The business was established in 1891, on the premises still occupied, under the firm name of Humpidge and Snoxell, the members of the Company being Messrs. James D. and H. Theo. Humpidge and G. E. Snoxell. Of these Mr. James D. Humpidge, since deceased, deserves a large share of the credit for establishing the business on the high plane it has always occupied. He was not only an engineer of particularly fine attainments, but a man of great executive ability and unquestioned integrity.

In 1894 the Company purchased the engineering business formerly carried on by Messrs.

Holborow and Company, whose works adjoined theirs. Five years later the present Limited Liability Company was formed, the Directors now being Messrs. H. Theo. Humpidge (chairman), T. Graves Smith, and Francis G. Platt, all of whom devote their entire time to the business.

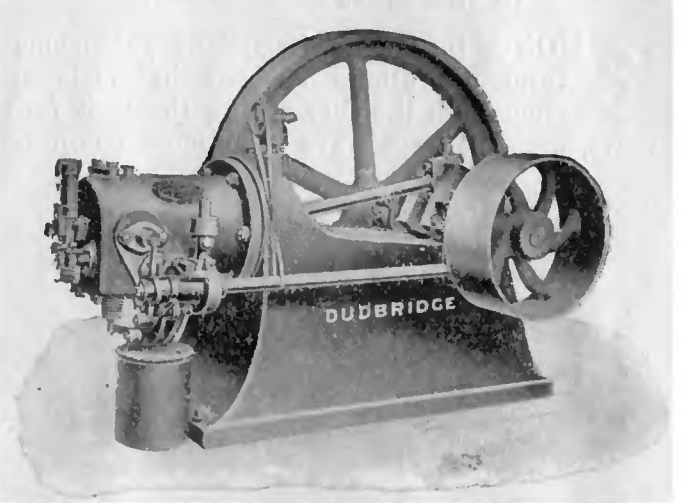
The constant additions to the staff of employees, who now number over 200 as compared with 40 ten years ago, has necessitated a corresponding extension of the buildings and plant, and scarcely a year has passed in which there has not been a considerable enlargement. One of the most recent additions was a modern foundry. This is a substantially constructed building, admirably lighted from both the sides and roof. It is equipped with the most modern cupolas, cranes, moulding machines and appliances, and the motive power is furnished by a separate gas engine.

Immediately opposite the foundry is a large fettling shop, over which is the pattern shop, the lighting arrangement of the latter being particularly noticeable. Adjoining the fettling shop is a machine shop filled with lathes and other tools of most recent design, mostly automatic, and opening out of this are the main machine and fitting shops. In these shops every foot of space is utilized, and it will no doubt soon be necessary either to materially extend them or to erect an additional building, ample reserve ground being available for that purpose. In addition to the main departments already briefly referred to, are the small erecting shop, the testing room, the smithy, the stores, and the well-appointed offices, the whole covering an area of nearly three acres.

It should be added that in the details of construction and arrangement the entire plant gives evidence of very progressive management. A small railway, extending from the foundry through the various departments, and a number of travelling cranes facilitate the passing of the work from stage to stage; the buildings are lighted by electricity, and the motive power supplied by gas, both generated on the premises; the operatives' time is recorded by an automatic clock register; and in other ways every effort has been made to conserve economical production.

As has been stated, the Dudbridge Iron Works, Ltd., make an exclusive speciality of the manufacture of high-class gas and oil engines. The "Dudbridge" engines embody in a marked degree the essential features of simplicity and substantial construction, and all

of the parts are in view and easily accessible. The parts of all the standard sizes are interchangeable and are made in quantities, by which the proportionate cost of manufacture is largely reduced and the time required to execute



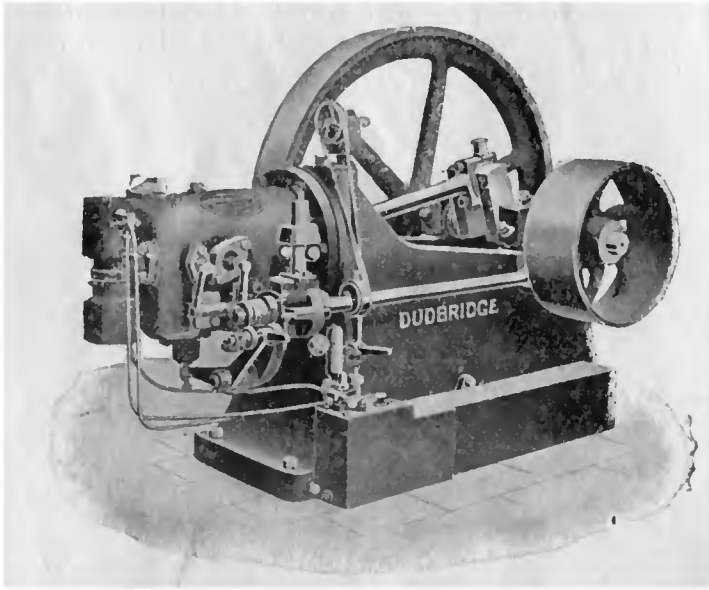
"DUDBRIDGE" GAS ENGINE.  
Constructed by Dudbridge Iron Works, Limited.

an order is lessened. The engines range in size from 1 h.p. to 160 h.p.

Those who are interested in this branch of engineering will find accurate detailed information concerning the "Dudbridge" engines in the beautifully printed illustrated catalogue published by the Company. They also publish a book containing some hundreds of testimonials from users in all parts of Great Britain and abroad.

Besides having gained a very high place in the regard of British engineers, the "Dudbridge" engines are almost equally well-known in foreign countries. In all of the countries of Europe, in South Africa, Australia, India, Egypt, Turkey, the Soudan, and South America they are enduring advertisements of British engineering skill. During a recent inspection of the works, the writer was shown three large engines which at the time were being tested preparatory to shipment, one destined to France, one to Portugal, and one to Syria. The Company have agents in all the important centres abroad.

It is but just to add that the "Dudbridge" engines have gained their distinction through merit only. It has been the consistent aim of the Company to send out nothing that does not represent the best possible workmanship and material. Accompanying this article are two engravings showing the usual type of the "Dudbridge" gas and oil engines.



"DUDBRIDGE" OIL ENGINE.  
Constructed by Dudbridge Iron Works, Limited.

## GLOUCESTER IRON AND METAL COMPANY, GLOUCESTER.

An interesting and unique Industry.

**B**Y reason of the unique character of their business, as well as its extent and importance, the Gloucester Iron and Metal Company, Quay Street, are deserving of prominent mention in any description of Gloucestershire's varied industries.

The business was established several years ago in the present premises, which are advantageously situated, and which comprise sufficient space for the reception and proper storage of the large stock always kept on hand. The main premises include extensive yard room, a commodious office building, a large two-storey warehouse, a fitting shop, and a well-appointed foundry, besides several smaller detached buildings for special purposes. Besides these main premises the Company have another place on the water side.

It is difficult to classify the business carried on by the Gloucester Iron and Metal Company, as they fill an important place in a number of separate trades. It would probably be as

nearly accurate as a single phrase could be, to say that they are general factors, supplying not only to engineers and manufacturers, but to every class of consumer almost every article that could be called for.

To fully appreciate the scope of their operations, one must inspect the amazingly varied stock at all times stored in the Company's capacious yards and warehouses. Articles used in agricultural work, ship's tackle, and forgings of every description, gas fitters' and plumbers' tools and irons, hydraulic jacks, engineers' tools, machinery, bar iron, steel, a large stock of files, felt, Bell's asbestos and Tuck's packing, rubber, surveyors' instruments and electrical apparatus, and a thousand and one articles, some of which are of daily household use, and others required only by highly specialized trades, are included. Indeed, it would require a volume to catalogue the almost infinite variety. Everyone has read of Dickens' "Old Curiosity Shop"—and while that repository of odds and ends has passed away, its counterpart may be found in this Company's singularly varied collection, as many visitors have remarked.

Quite as astonishing as the great variety, is the enormous quantity of many of the articles

kept in stock. In one department of the large warehouses, to give but a single illustration, is a collection of mechanics' tools, comprising probably a much larger selection than may be found in any other one place in the city; and the same remark might truthfully be made of many other special lines.

The importance of the business is attested by its extent and volume. Not only do the Company enjoy a very considerable local trade, but they include among their patrons a number of colliery owners and engineers and general manufacturers throughout the country.

Besides being general factors, the Gloucester Iron and Metal Company are general brass-founders, making a speciality of castings in brass, copper, phosphor bronze, and aluminium, the latter of which but few founders in the county manipulate successfully. The foundry is well equipped for work of this character and orders are executed at short notice.

Mr. M. Hayes has had an experience of a great many years in his present business, having been identified with it for a long time before organizing the present Company. The growth of the business, which has been continuous, sufficiently reveals his progressive and enterprising methods.