



ASHBEE, SONS & COMPANY, GLOUCESTER.

Timber Importers and Saw, Planing and Moulding Mill Proprietors.

AMONG the younger timber importing firms in Gloucester that of Messrs. Ashbee, Sons and Company, Bristol Road, occupies a prominent position. The business, which was originally carried on under the style of Ashbee and Sons, has been well known to the trade in the country and district for over a quarter of a century, having been established in 1872. For eighteen years the firm occupied the premises formerly used by Messrs. Tredwell and Company, who were for a long period among the leading timber importers in the City.

In 1892 the style of the firm was changed to Ashbee, Sons and Company, and at the same time removal was made to the present premises. Here they have the advantage of a convenient location, with excellent receiving and delivering facilities. The yards and buildings cover an area of nearly five acres in one tract, extending from Bristol Road back to the Docks, with ample railway siding and canal wharfage.

In addition to carrying a large and varied stock of foreign timber and deals, Messrs. Ashbee, Sons and Company are saw, planing and moulding mill proprietors. Their mill is of modern construction and well equipped with all necessary machinery and appliances for prompt and economical production. They make a special feature of supplying every requisite for builders and contractors, their trade extending throughout the Midlands and the West of England.



THE GLOUCESTER JOINERY COMPANY, LIMITED, GLOUCESTER.

Manufacturers of High-Class Joinery of every Description.

THE business now carried on by the Gloucester Joinery Company, Limited, was originally established by Messrs. Wm. Eassie and Company, and was subsequently carried on by the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, Ltd. In April, 1900, the present Company took over the business from the Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, and have since fully maintained the high reputation the business had gained.

The premises occupied by the Gloucester Joinery Company, Limited, are in Bristol Road, and cover approximately an acre of ground, one half of which is under roof. They have the advantage of an excellent location, extending from Bristol Road back to the canal, with a private railway siding extending through the yards and into the mill. The buildings include, in addition to the offices and storage and drying sheds, two large adjoining buildings of substantial construction, one of which is 155ft. by 45ft. in dimensions, and the other, known as the joinery shop, 132ft. by 35ft. The latter building, which was erected in 1901, is particularly well lighted and steam heated. Through the courtesy of the Company we are enabled to present herewith an engraving showing an interior view of a portion of one of the shops.

Throughout the works the mechanical equipment has during the past few years been greatly improved, the most modern wood-working machinery having been installed. They have, in addition to three moulding machines and three circular saw benches, the latest machinery for mortising, tenoning, band sawing, circular moulding, panel planing, &c. The premises

also include special facilities for thoroughly seasoning the various woods which enter into their productions. The staff has been largely increased since the present Company came into possession of the business.

The Gloucester Joinery Company, Limited manufacture every description of high class joinery in both deal and hardwood. They are also contractors for fixed or portable buildings, such as temporary hospitals, pavilions, offices,



Interior of Joinery Shop.

agricultural show buildings, summer-houses, contractors' plant, navy barrows, &c. They have facilities for using non-flammable wood in their manufactures whenever desired, by which the safety and durability of buildings are ensured, and which they also use for deed boxes, &c. Of the various productions manufactured by the Company may be mentioned several to which they have given special attention. Among these are their school and church furniture, in oak, pitch pine, and other woods; staircases, handrails, balusters, mouldings, wood chimney pieces, and interior fittings; conservatories, greenhouses, and all kinds of large and small portable buildings, and shop and office fronts and fittings. It should be added that all of their productions are characterised by high class work, and they make no attempt to cater for the cheaper trade. They have gained almost a national reputation, the greater part of their manufactures being made for the principal builders and railways throughout the kingdom.

The present Directors of the company are Messrs. W. H. I. Pryer, Chairman, and G. N. Walker, R. G. Foster, Geo. Peters, J. J. Luker, Wm. Turner, and Arthur Cole. Mr. S. S. Robertson is the Secretary and Manager.



WILLIAM WIBBY, GLOUCESTER.

Timber Merchant and Manufacturer of Builders' and Contractors' Requisites.

FOR nearly half a century the business now carried on by Mr. William Wibby, Bristol Road, has been an important factor in Gloucester's industrial life. Although since its establishment improved machinery and methods have almost revolutionized the timber and wood-working industry, the head of the business has readily adapted himself to changing conditions, his plant now embodying the latest improvements known to the trade.

The premises occupied by Mr. Wibby, and comprising about four acres, have the advantage of an excellent location in Madleiz Road, Bristol Road, and extending back to the Canal. The Canal frontage affords sufficient facilities for the reception and forwarding of the rough timber and the finished product.

The buildings comprise several separate modern structures, which have been added to and altered from time to time. The office building, which forms the entrance to the premises, contains several apartments, and is provided with telephonic communication and fitted with every requisite for the convenient transaction of business. The storage and drying sheds, the mills, the boiler house, and indeed the entire plant, give evidence of excellent judgment in their planning and arrangement, comparing favourably with any in this section.

The saw mill is a substantial and well-constructed building, and is a particularly interesting department. The mill is equipped with horizontal, circular and band saws, planing, moulding, and turning machinery of the latest and most improved pattern. All of the machinery is driven by a powerful steam engine, which is housed in a separate building. A large staff of men, whose productive power is greatly multiplied by the excellent mechanical appliances in use, is kept busily engaged, and it is a gratifying fact that for many years the plant has been in continual operation, notwithstanding the periodical recurrence of "dull trade" which has more or less affected most industries.

Mr. Wibby's stock of timber includes both native and foreign woods. A particularly large and valuable selection is always kept in reserve, thus being thoroughly seasoned.

While he is widely known as a timber merchant this term is not fully descriptive, as he is probably more of a manufacturer than a merchant. As may be seen from his descriptive catalogue, he gives equal attention to every form of wood work, making a special feature of moulding, sash bars, stair work, every variety of turned work, flooring, and all kinds of interior finish for builders. His joinery work has long enjoyed a high reputation by reason of the excellence of both materials and workmanship. As has been intimated, particular care is taken to use only such woods as are thoroughly seasoned, a precaution which manufacturers with less resources are not always in a position to take. He frequently receives and executes important orders from builders and contractors all through the country, as well as in this and the adjoining counties, an evidence that in both price and quality the work compares favourably with that produced in the largest plants in the country.

Another speciality which has been largely developed in recent years is the manufacture of wheelbarrows, of which he has probably turned out a greater number than any other one man or firm in this section. He is, indeed, probably the only manufacturer in this immediate section who makes a special feature of this work, which has grown to such dimensions as to form quite an important industry of itself. These barrows, which are made in all the standard shapes and sizes, are also made to order after special designs when required. Railways and contractors executing large public works have favoured him with very large orders in this line, as well as the wholesale trade generally. Still another department of his work is the manufacture of garden seats, gates, fencing, ladders and every form of joinery work which lends itself to production on a large scale. In view of the length of time the business has been established, and the extent to which it has grown, it is needless to say the same careful methods prevail in all departments. Although Mr. Wibby does an extensive trade through the country generally, he also enjoys a large local connection.

Throughout its entire history Mr. Wibby's business has been distinguished for its safe and conservative management and is a type of our best enterprises. Mr. Wibby himself enjoys the unlimited confidence of the trade as well as those to whom he is personally known.