



- Enamelled Slate. -



SESSIONS & SONS, LIMITED, GLOUCESTER.

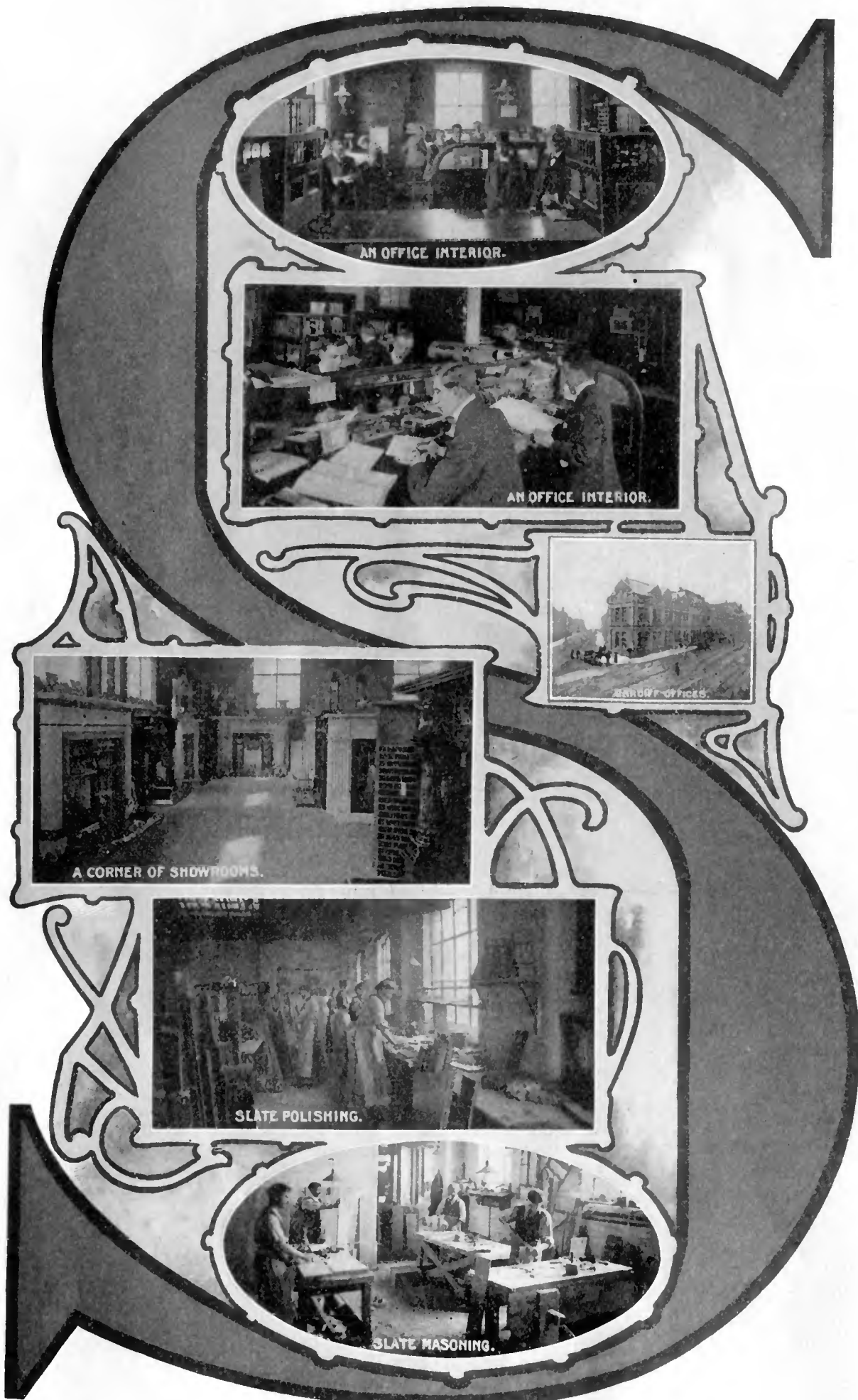
Timber, Slate, and Building Material
Merchants and Manufacturers.

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, where 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 occasionally 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 showrooms, 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 warehouse; 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 construction 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



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. Gobey. Of these Messrs. Frederick, Arthur, and Herbert

of their works and the establishment of branches the extent, as well as the volume, of their trade has constantly increased, the Company having long since gained a much more than national reputation. In addition to having customers in almost every important centre in Great Britain, they regularly export their manufactures to South Africa and nearly all of the British Colonies, to Holland, Belgium,

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 distinction. They are now the oldest, as well as the leading, enamelled slate manufacturers in Gloucestershire, 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 equally complete. Here the slate is polished and



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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 showroom.

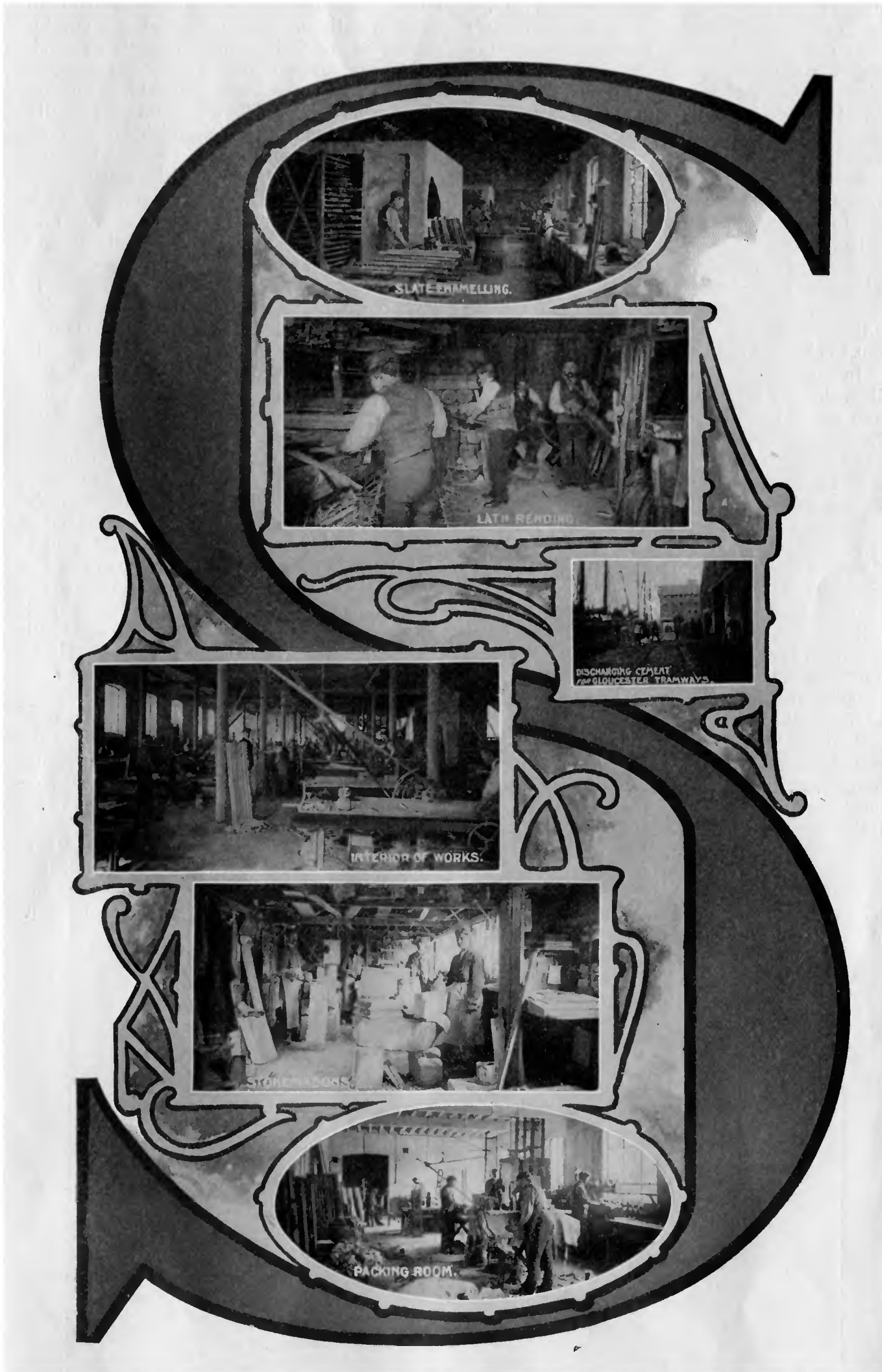
ture, the chimney-pieces thus made being subsequently enamelled in the same manner as the dressed slate. By this process a considerable economy is effected, while the product is in no way inferior to that turned out in the ordinary way.

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

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.



Sessions and Sons
Limited

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 utilising the slate dust and chips accumulating in the course of manufac-

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