



C. HEALEY & SON, LTD., GLOUCESTER.

Manufacturers of Road Vehicles of every description.

THE business carried on by Messrs. C. Healey and Son, Limited, has had a progressive history of nearly forty years, having been established by the present head of the Company in 1867. Like a great many of Gloucestershire's industries, it was begun on a small scale, Mr. Healey himself for some time doing the larger part of the actual work of building and repairing vehicles. This thorough apprenticeship, however, gave him a practical knowledge which he could not otherwise have gained, and formed the basis of his later reputation.

From the very start the business experienced a substantial growth, and from time to time the staff of workmen has been added to. When the premises first used were no longer adequate, the present larger and more convenient site in Lower Westgate Street was leased, and the facilities were greatly increased. At the present time the Company own three separate premises—the main factory in Lower Westgate Street, a handsome and commodious four-storey repository in the same street nearer the Cross, and a workshop at Over, a mile from the city. They are now, in fact, the largest private company in the county making an exclusive feature of the building of road vehicles.

Several months ago the Company gained the freehold possession of the site they occupy, and have made plans to still further add to the capacity of their works. The factory has really been almost completely reconstructed, several scattered buildings having been pulled down to make room for the erection of a large new building. The plans for this building have been carefully thought out, and the lighting, ventilation, and other arrangements are all of the best character. Besides this large main building another new building—comprising the offices, paint shop, and other departments—has also been completed. The mechanical equipment is thoroughly up-to-date, the factory containing all needed machinery and appliances.

Messrs. Healey and Son manufacture every part of their vehicles on the premises, including all of the iron work and upholstering, none of the component parts being obtained elsewhere. One of the features of the factory is a complete saw-mill and wood-working department, for converting the rough timber into the finished parts. It should be added that special care is given to seasoning the timber, none of which is used until it has matured in the yard or sheds for several years.

In the various departments a staff of efficient workmen—many of whom have long been in the employ of the Firm—are retained by reason of their special fitness for the work assigned them. No work, however, is entrusted exclusively to employees, the members of the Firm personally overseeing everything that is done, and no faulty construction, whether it would be noticed or not, is allowed to leave their premises. This care given to the details is no doubt in large part the secret of the great favour with which the Company's vehicles have been received.

Messrs. Healey and Son manufacture every grade of road vehicle, from the lightest dog-cart to the heaviest van, as may be seen from the very attractive display in their repository. They also design and make to order vehicles for special purposes, and do all kinds of repairing to order. Owing to the increasing popularity of motors they have made special provision in their new works for repairing this class of vehicles.

The extent to which the business has prospered, and the favourable recognition the

vehicles have gained, are the best evidence of their quality and style. The Company not only enjoy a very large local trade, but their vehicles are well-known throughout the entire country as well. They have even made a number of vehicles for export to South America, India, and South Africa, a mark of recognition of which they may justly be proud.

As has been stated, the present head of the Company is Mr. C. Healey, the original founder of the business. Associated with him is his son, Mr. A. W. Healey, who is a Director and Secretary of the Company. It is sufficient to say that in the development of their industry their methods have been such as to inspire the fullest confidence wherever they are known.



HOLLOWAY, SON & CO., GLOUCESTER.

Leather Factors and Manufacturers.

MESSRS. HOLLOWAY, SON AND COMPANY, manufacturers and factors of all kinds of leather goods, are the most important firm of the kind in the district, and as such are entitled to mention in "Industrial Gloucestershire."

The business so successfully carried on by the Company was established thirty years ago by Mr. S. Holloway, who was succeeded by his son, the late Mr. G. H. Holloway. Upon the latter's death the business passed into the hands of the present proprietor, Mr. W. S. Holloway the grandson of the founder.

The first premises used by the Company were in Brunswick Road, where the business soon outgrew the facilities there available, and the present premises in King Street were taken possession of in 1877. The building now occupied is the result of several enlargements, and at the present time another addition is in contemplation. Indeed, the business has grown to such dimensions that could the Firm secure sufficient adjoining property the building would be extended to double its present size.

The best idea of the character and extent of Messrs. Holloway, Son and Company's business may be gained by an inspection of their stock. Four floors of their commodious building are completely filled with this stock, every foot of space being utilised. Different departments are assigned to various lines, all of which seem equally complete and well selected.

In one respect the Firm fill a unique place—they are the only wholesale boot and shoe factors (at least of any importance,) between Bristol and Birmingham. It is gratifying to know that this Gloucester house not only enjoys a considerable trade with local retail dealers, but its travellers, throughout the entire section, successfully compete in quality and price with the largest factors in the kingdom. The Company's stock of boots and shoes comprises 50,000 pairs of every variety, for men, women and children, a special feature being made of thoroughly well-made and serviceable goods of moderate price. An exclusive brand of their own—the "Optimi" brand—has created an exceptionally wide demand, and the Firm guarantee every pair bearing this name. A noticeable feature of the stock is the entire absence of inferior goods, the Firm having consistently declined to lessen their high reputation by handling any but the best obtainable makes.

Another class of goods for which Messrs. Holloway, Son and Company have become particularly noted are their solid leather hand-sewn suit cases, hand bags, hat cases, valises, trunks, etc. All of these goods are made of the best English oak bark tanned leather, so dressed and finished that they not only have an exceptionally attractive appearance, but resist

wear and weather much better than those usually put on the market at the price. A great variety of these goods is always kept in stock. In addition to their leather trunks and travelling bags the Company also carry a line of steel, fibre, wicker, compressed cane, and other trunks, etc., the wicker trunks being in particular favour by reason of their light weight, by which travellers frequently find their luggage charges materially lessened. These wicker goods are manufactured by the Firm, a fact which sufficiently accounts for their excellence.

In addition to the above-mentioned lines, the stock includes every kind of leather findings for boot manufacturers, belting and leather requisites for millers and engineers, leggings for farmers and others, etc. In all the departments the same effort has been made to maintain the high quality upon which the Company's reputation has been based.

As has been mentioned, Messrs. Holloway, Son and Company's business has had a continued and unbroken growth from the date of its establishment to the present time, and it is safe to predict that under the present management this will continue to be the case.



MESSRS. ROBERTS & STARR, GLOUCESTER.

Nurserymen and Florists.

ON September 8th, 1867, Mr. Chas. Roberts commenced business on the premises now occupied by the firm of Roberts and Starr, the members of which are the founder (Mr. Chas. Roberts) and his son-in-law (Mr. Sidney S. Starr). Mr. Roberts began as a greengrocer, for at that date the hawking system had not reached the point to which it is now carried, and an excellent vegetable trade could be had at a shop in the main street.

From the date of its establishment the business proved entirely successful, and in a few years flowers were added to the business, and then seeds and bulbs. In 1879 Mr. Roberts took a lease of the gardens of what were then known as the Hillfield House, and which he styled the "Alexandra Nurseries." Here he erected additional greenhouses, and the demand for bouquets, wreaths and cut flowers soon increased. Each succeeding year shows a widening of the Firm's connection, and to-day there is scarcely a county in the United Kingdom from which the Firm has not, at one time or another, received important orders. In 1888 still further additions were made, and in that year they established what are known as the "Paradise Nurseries," in London Road, and also testing gardens in Alexandra Road.

The Firm's connection for floral work is more particularly in and around Gloucester. In the Forest of Dean district they have an excellent trade, sending hundreds of floral tributes annually to this district, where Palm Sunday and Easter are probably more widely observed than in any other part of the county. Church floral decorations for festivals and weddings, and decorations for ballrooms have for years been a great speciality with this Firm. Their work has been the subject of very flattering comment, and unsolicited testimonials they have received from the gentry and nobility of the county is evidence of its high character. Orders may be placed with Messrs. Roberts and Starr with absolute confidence, as they give to every order prompt and personal attention.

