



## WELLINGTON & COMPANY, GLOUCESTER.

Printers, Lithographers and Paper  
Bag Manufacturers.

**B**UT few Firms in Gloucester have made more gratifying progress or have taken a higher stand than have Wellington and Company, printers, lithographers, and paper bag and cardboard box manufacturers, Southgate Street.

The business was established in 1854 as a wholesale paper house only, occupying small premises near the Great Western Station. When the steady growth of the business had made a removal to larger quarters necessary, premises were fitted up in Llanthony Road, where the Company remained for fifteen years. The present premises, which were taken over in 1871, are so situated and surrounded by other buildings that one could gain no conception of their real extent, except by going all through them. They cover an area of approximately 2,000 square yards, extending from Southgate Street back to the docks, and practically all of which is under roof. Among the departments are several very large stock rooms for the reception of immense quantities of paper, the various grades and kinds being kept in separate rooms; composing and press rooms for the letterpress and lithographic work; large departments for the manufacture of paper bags and cardboard boxes by hand and machinery; artists' workrooms, where the lithograph designs and copper-plate engraving are executed and copper process-blocks are made; and a number of smaller rooms for stereotyping, dressing lithographic stone, a fitting shop for building new machines and for repairs and miscellaneous work. The buildings are so arranged that any one department is easily reached for the receipt or despatch of stock, a wide driveway running through the centre of the premises from Southgate Street. Throughout the buildings are convenient lifts, iron doors between separate departments, incandescent gas and steam heat.

Broadly, Messrs. Wellington and Company carry on four separate, though closely allied, industries—wholesale paper and stationery bookbinding, and paper bag and cardboard box making, each of these branches being confined to a separate department of the premises. In three of these branches—paper factoring, lithographing, and paper bag and cardboard box making—they do by far the largest trade of any one firm in this district. Their trade covers a wide territory, the Company's travellers constantly visiting all parts of England and Wales. From 150 to 170 hands are given constant employment.

A further idea of the magnitude of the business may be gained from a reference to the mechanical equipment in the various departments. In the letterpress department alone, in which every kind of art and commercial printing is executed on a large scale, are not fewer than fourteen machines, some of which are of extra size, and all of which are modern. One of these machines prints in two colours at a time a sheet 40 inches by 50 inches in size, this probably being the largest press in the district. This department also includes ink grinding machinery (the Company grinding most of their own inks), a large "guillotine," or cutter, a "hot rolling" machine for taking out type impressions and giving the printed sheet a better finish, and other up-to-date appliances.

The lithographing department—which, as has been stated, is the largest and most complete in this district—contains eight cylinder machines, several presses, two bronzing machines, ink grinding machinery, a machine for grinding and cleaning the lithographic stone, and a separate gas engine. The Company's lithography has long been widely known for its invariable excellence, and this department is usually kept going at high tension. To the ordinary observer, however, the paper bag and cardboard box making departments—

and particularly that department in which they are made by machinery—are the most interesting. When Messrs. Wellington and Company began the manufacture of paper bags they created what was practically a new industry in this district, as it is now the only one of the kind of any importance. In recent years they have completely revolutionised the process of manufacture, having introduced machines of wonderful ingenuity which turn out finished bags with marvellous rapidity and precision. Some of these machines are of their own building, and give them a decided advantage over manufacturers having a less highly perfected equipment.

The latter are of peculiar interest, and represent the highest form of invention, as may be readily seen from the enormous amount of work they turn out. At one end of these machines a reel of paper is rapidly unwound and drawn into the machine, the proper amount of paste being automatically applied as the paper passes along; and in such quick succession that the eye can scarcely follow the separate operations, the paper is folded to the proper size, cut into lengths with a swiftly revolving knife, the bottom formed, and the finished bags thrown out from the machine upon a moving endless band which passes around a large steam-heated wheel, from which the bags are taken, thoroughly dried and ready for packing for shipment.

Another machine, even more ingenious, was invented and constructed on the premises by a late foreman engineer of Messrs. Wellington and Company, exclusively for making the small three-cornered bags used by confectioners. This one machine cuts the paper from the reel, pastes it, folds it, prints it, and counts the bags—and all this at the almost incredible rate of 60,000 a day.

As has been stated, the Company also manufacture paper bags by hand, these bags being required by certain customers for special purposes. In this department are a number of women and girls, whose training and constant practice have given them a remarkable quickness and dexterity.

Another large department is devoted to book-binding and cardboard box making. Among the machines in this department may be specified those for relief stamping, making perforations, rounding corners and making thumb-holes, stitching with cotton or wire, punching and stamping, folding, punching, eyeletting, and automatically manufacturing tags, scoring cardboard, and other machines for making cardboard boxes. In this department is also a new ruling machine, which rules both sides of the sheet at the same time, several powerful guillotines, and a new varnishing machine, the latter used for imparting a high gloss and finish to lithographic and other printing.

The present members of the Company are Messrs. M. N. and C. J. Wellington, who succeeded their father, the late Mr. Joseph Wellington, the founder of the business.

The accompanying interesting engravings were made by the Company, and were kindly loaned for this publication.