

L. C. CHASE & CO.

An Important Factor in the Industrial Life of Cambridge— About 200 Hands Employed in Making Horse Blankets and Carriage Robes

An important factor in the industrial life of Cambridge is the factory of L. C. Chase & Co., at the corner of Albany and Osborn streets. In this four-story building, 50 feet by 300, about 200 operatives are employed, and here are manufactured every year horse blankets and carriage robes whose quality is greatly esteemed in the trade, and whose value adds very materially to the total manufacturing output of the city.

This great Cambridge factory is but a branch of the business of L. C. Chase & Co. This firm was established in 1852 by L. C. and H. F. Chase for the manufacture of horse clothing, carriage robes, mohair plushes and velours. The present members of the firm are John Hopewell, O. F. Kendall, Frank Hopewell, F. B. Hopewell, William H. Murch, W. P. Underhill, and John Nelson. Its location was for many years at 125 Washington street, but last year the business had so developed that a removal became imperative, and new quarters were secured at 89 Franklin street, where there is much more room and which has the additional advantage of being in the wholesale district. The Cambridge factory has been occupied by the firm since 1899.

L. C. Chase & Co. are interested in

the Franklin mills, of which John Hopewell is treasurer, and which are considered the largest and best equipped of the kind in the world. They are also heavily interested in the Troy mills, of Troy, N. H. Besides their establishments in Cambridge and Boston, they have a factory at Vinal Haven, Maine, for the manufacture of nets, etc. They are also a commission house, handling car plushes from the Sanford mills, and the goods of the Holyoke Plush Co., the Troy mills, of Troy, N. Y., and the Reading Rubber Mfg. Co. and the Chase Imitation Leather Co., of Reading, Mass. The various branches of their business run into the millions, while their name is favorably known all over this country, as well as in Mexico and Canada. They have branch offices in New York and Chicago, which are in charge of members of the firm.

Personally several of the members of the firm of L. C. Chase & Co. are known in this city, John Hopewell and O. F. Kendall being perhaps most widely known here from the fact that they have made their homes in Cambridge for many years. Mr. Hopewell is a former president of the Cambridge club and of the Citizens' Trade association, and has taken a prominent part in city affairs.