## THE CORYDON DEMOCRAT-SOUVENIR EDITION.

## A PROGRESSIVE MERCANTILE FIRM.

The W. H. Keller Co. of Corydon, Whose Success Has Been Phenomenal. 



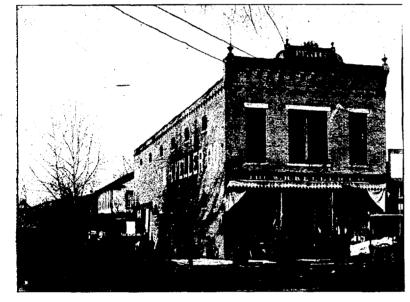
## MEMBERS OF THE W. H. KELLER CO.

F. G. KELLER.

L. C. KELLER. T. J. HUDSON. W, H. KELLER

In every line of business and in | lished less than twenty years, this every town and city, there are to be house stands as a model for emulous found certain firms who lead in enter- competitors, each year finding it more ties will be touched upon concisely. prise, energy, and progressive meth- firmly intrenched in the good opinion ods. A combination of these qualities of the public, whose wishes and necesinvariably wins success and prosperity. sities it has catered to successfully since Corydon's public square, a most desir-The trading public appreciate the the day it first invited patronage. A innovations which give them better condensed history of its foundation stores, better goods, and moderate and growth, together with a glance at prices. For these reasons the W. H. its splendid resources and advantages

Keller Company, of Corydon, has forg- will well repay perusal. ed ahead in the mercantile world, em-The business was first established by bodying as it does the elements and W. H. Keller in 1879, upon the site principles, which, in their application where stands the present handsome to business affairs, secure the highest and commodious brick structure occuand most satisfactory results. Estab- pied by the firm, the original building



THE W. H. KELLER BUILDING.

tough enough to hold well the finest

figures of carving. It comes from the

quarry cut by a steam channeler, with

blocks or quadrangular columns of vari-

ous dimensions. A flawless block of

any size possibly manageable may be

cut. So small is the amount of moist-

ure it takes up, and so well distributed

is it, that no degree of cold will work

injury. The stone is employed for gen-

eral building purposes, and is especi-

ally valuable for bridges, piers, and

abutments. It is also used largely for

monuments and tombstones, curbing,

and flagging. So great is its durability

that cliffs composed of it exposed to

our variable climate for unknown cen-

turies show no signs of disintegration.

It is practically invulnerable to the

forces of cold and heat, air and moist-

The Corydon quarry is equipped with

every facility for meeting any ordinary

demand that may arise for its product

It is provided with two Ingersoll-Serg-

ment to fifty men when in full opera- into possession of the new owners, the

tion. The above-mentioned property is | railroad has been vastly improved in

sessed. West of the town of Corydon old thirty-five-pound iron rails; the

sions to comfort or elegance. Trading the brands of the best known goods in was at the commencement confined to grocery goods exclusively, but with the lapse of time came the necessity of enlarging the business to embrace other lines of merchandise, and in 1881 there was added to the stock, dry goods, clothing, and boots and shoes. This widening of the channels of trade proved a wise measure, for the business received a forward impetus immediately. Year by year Mr. Keller's trade grew in magnitude, new customers being constantly introduced by old ones, whose experiences had taught them to appreciate the enterprise displayed by the young, though far-seeing proprietor. In 1894 the volume of trade having outgrown the facilities of the original building, Mr. Keller decided to erect in its stead a new one, which should eclipse anything of the kind existing in Harrison county. The result of his purpose is found in the building the concern now occupies, which was completed and opened to the public in 1894. About this time the cares and responsibilities of so largely an increased business being greater than Mr. Keller cared to support alone, he determined upon taking into partnership his brothers, L. C. and E. G. Keller, employed prior to this as clerks in the store. The three brothers, together with T. J. Hudson, constitute the firm of The W. H. Keller Company, which was organized in January, 1895. Since that date no change in the concern has taken

To give an adequate description of the character and extent of the business done by this company would require more space than it is possible to accord to it in this publication, but such salient points as will tend to convey a general impression of its hand-The building devoted to the business stands at the southwest corner of able location. It consists of two stor-ies, with a basement running the entire length of the store, its dimensions being 29x97 feet. The interior of the building is unique in construction, everything possible having been done to economize space. The lower floor is in part devoted to the sale of dry goods, this department occupying all the space for a depth of 55 feet. In the rear of the store proper is the grocery department, and back of that again, separated by a brick partition. is the produce and jobbing department in which is a platform built for the purpose of loading and unloading wagons with convenience and despatch. In the center of the store is the staircase. a broad, solidly-built fixture, forking in the middle and giving access on either side to the second floor. Midway between the two floors and approachable from the staircase, is the cashier's spokes. The new factory has been in desk and office, an ingeniously-constructed affair which attracts general attention owing to its uniqueness. The second floor runs the full length of the building, and is used as a salesroom for clothing, hats and caps, boots the Studebaker Wagon Company. The and shoes, and gentlemen's furnishing spokes turned out are of excellent goods. In the rear of this is a compartment wherein are kept ladies' cloaks and wraps, carpets, window its retail business, the firm in question shades, rugs, matting and goods of may be said to be the pioneer that insimilar character. An elevator carries troduced into the town of Corydon the goods from the basement to the second methods of the modern city departfloor. To particularize upon the spec- ment store. As was stated at the com-ialties offered in the respective de- mencement of this article, its enter-

being a frame edifice without preten- partments would mean to enumerate the United States, for the firm keeps in touch with all the great markets of the country, and brings within the reach of the people of this and the adjoining counties the most reliable products of the country's factories. They have no leaders in any line, but they exercise such care in the selection of goods that they are in a position to cater to all classes and to all purses. The stock is so large and so well assorted that disappointment is unknown to prospective purchasers. Another thing worthy of remark, is the politeness and civility of the employees, all of whom are loyal to the interests of the house and proud of the high reputation it bears with the public. One of the branch issues of the business is the sale of sewing machines, the firm being agent' for the New Home machine, whose reputation has been for years established, and of which millions have been sold. Throughout the entire establishment

the most perfect system prevails, the impression being given of a modern metropolitan emporium wherein order, decorum, and system reign paramount The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity, sixty-three incandescent lamps furnishing an illumination little less than brilliant. The stocks are arranged tastefully, goods being displayed in a manner showing excellent judgment combined with artistic care. Handsome plateglass windows of large proportions occupy the store front, behind them beeither for their beauty, novelty, substantial quality, or moderate price. store, a boon greatly appreciated by shoppers whose time is limited. Every device and appliance of modern invention tending to the comfort and convenience of patrons is to be found in this essentially up-to-date establishment, this being one of the reasons of its popularity, especially among the ladies.

The business done by the W. H. Keller Company is not confined to the retail trade. The firm own eight wagons which ply a thriving trade in four counties, Harrison, Crawford, Washbing trade. ington and Orange, carrying from Corydon large stocks of general merchandise and returning laden with country produce. Another wagon is kept going between Corydon and Louisville, where a market is found for the immense quantities of produce which is at all times being received. A new enterprise has within the past two months been added to the list, which has given this house a commanding lead in this portion of Indiana. It is the establishment of a manufactory for the making of wagon and carriage operation for several weeks, under the management of J. R. Black, a practieal craftsman, thoroughly familiar with the carriage building trade and its branches, and for seven years with quality, the entire output finding a ready market. Considered solely as to



CLOTHING DEPARTMENT-W. H. KELLER CO.

prise in this direction has not been | more than ordinary business capacity. effort wasted. Year by year the busi- W. H. Keller has the reputation of beness has continued to expand until it ing one of the best business men Coryhas outgrown the limits of its present don has ever known. He is possessed quarters, in which every inch of avail- of great energy, which he seeks conable space is put to use. In the near stantly to direct where it will be of future material additions to the prem- most service. Keen, sagacious, and ises will be made with a view to the venturesome to a degree that has fairmore expeditious transaction of trade, ly startled the people of this vicinity, cupy the store front, behind them be-ing displayed to the best ability of the window dresser's art such wares as it is desired to bring to public attention. The staff of employees on the pay roll guine. In matters pertaining to the of the Keller Company reaches the upbuilding and welfare of Corydon, he number of twenty-two, all of whom is ever found in the van, and the town The cash carrier system prevails in the store, a boon greatly appreciated by the matter of dividing the responsibil- vanced views on municipal improveity of management, it may be added ment. His brothers are men of very that each member of the firm has his much the same stamp, possessing exparticular place in the store. W. H. cellent business qualifications, and beand L. C. Keller have under their ing endowed with perspicacity in all charge the dry goods, carpet, and cloak the relations of commercial and social departments, E. G. Keller has the life. Mr. Hudson partakes of the management of the clothing and furn- characteristics of his partners, and in ishing goods department, and T. J. his particular department of the busi-Hudson looks after the interests of the ness is an invaluable auxiliary. boot, shoe and hat departments. W. Though apparently at the top rung of H. Keller, the senior member of the the mercantile ladder, this firm is desfirm, exercises a general supervision tined to rise still higher, its unwritten of the business and attends to the job-

motto being "upward and onward." It represents the fruits of years of la-

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The gentlemen who control and di- borious and earnest effort, and is a rect the interests of this splendidly credit to the builders of its fortunes equipped establishment are men of and the town of Corydon.



MAIN FLOOR OF THE KELLER STORE.

HARRISON COUNTY'S LIMESTCRE. Ketch of the Corvdon Stone Co's

Sketch of the Corydon Stone Co.'s **Oolitic Limestone Quarry.** 

Geologists of eminence have pronounced Indiana limestone the best building stone in the world. Not only the best in point of durability, but best in every sense of the word, challenging all manner of tests. Flexible, elastic, resonant, and uniform in grain, it is equally strong in every part, its peculiar qualities giving it the best possible power of resistance to strain or crushing force. The limestone of Harrison county is declared by experts to be equal to the best found anywhere in the State. According to State geologist E. T. Cox, it is "almost equal to granite in strength and endurance, and deserves the careful attention of engineers having in charge the construction of piers, walls and foundations exposed to ice, floods, and surging waves.'

Within four miles of Corydon is the limestone quarry owned and operated by the Corydon Stone Company, an organization incorporated in 1885 for the purpose of developing the limestone interests of this section. The property owned by the company comprises about forty acres, underlying which is a massive bed of stone, practically inexhaustible. The quarry has been in operation since the year 1885, and the output has been shipped annually to most of the larger cities in the East, including New York, Philadelphia,



H. T. O'CONNOR, Superintendent Corydon Stone Co.

Boston and Baltimore. Connecticut not the only stone industry of which every respect. New fifty-six-pound has received many shipments. Hartford and New Britain in particular having been supplied with large quanit owns and operates a quarry of simi- road-bed has been ballasted and cipal markets at this time are Chicago somewhat different texture and qual-has been increased, and within the ons and buggies, it is of still greater strength and even adjustment to the cipal markets at this time are Chicago somewhat different texture and qual-and St. Louis, where the Harrison ity, and adapted especially for the past year two new engines have been value. There are no two opinions in value. There are no two opinions in value. There are no two opinions in the value of the value of the value. There are no two opinions in the value of the value of the value of the value. There are no two opinions in the value of county stone is in favor with contract- manufacture of mantels and shelving added. The company is now engaged Harrison county concerning the stand- ment of the work carried on in Mr. Catholic.

ford stone being of a buff tint. The gang saws and other stone working produce, the cold air to be supplied lighter shades of stone are usually in machinery necessary for the manufac- from a cave or underground cavgreater demand among builders, for ture of this class of goods. Mr. H. T. ern, at the mouth of which the reason that they are of a finer and O'Connor is the Superintendent of the temperature of forty-two degrees is over into Kentucky, is prime evidence accomplish them, the prices being exmore solid texture. The Corydon quar- company. maintained during the hottest weather.

ry has the advantage of being free There is an interesting feature of the This cave is situated close to the railfrom mud seams; the ledges of stone history of railroads in Harrison county road track and has been used for years are solid, each ledge running without a connected with the quarries above de- past by local marketmen and butchers break for a distance of more than three scribed, which is explained in the to preserve their goods in summer. hundred feet. When first quarried it statement that the ownership of the The fruition of this enterprise will give cuts like a sandstone, yielding readily Louisville, New Albany and Corydon to the owners of the warehouse great to tools of all kinds. It is then soft, yet



CORYDON STONE CO.'S QUARRY.

enter into the equipment. In the matter of transportation facilities, the Railroad was acquired in 1886 by the advantages in the way of shipping pro- but it doubtless runs into the thous Corydon Stone Company is so circum- directors of the Corydon Stone Com- duce direct to New York and other ands. The wagon-making department stanced as to be able to offer unusual pany, and has since remained in their Eastern cities. The officers of the L. advantages. A track of the Louis-ville, New Albany and Corydon Rail-by the bankruptcy of the road in 1886, President; Sa. John Boyle, Vice-presiroad runs direct to the quarry. This at which time it ran over the Air Line dent and Treasurer; G. W. Briffett road has traffic arrangements with the tracks to Louisville. A collision with General Freight and Passenger Agent Air Line (the L., E. & St. L. R. R.), and an Air Line train in which several peo- and H. T. O'Connor, Superintendent the Monon system, which enable the ple were injured and some killed, re- R. J. and W. N. Tracewell, of Corydon, company to successfully compete for sulted in litigation having a most dis- are the company's attorneys.

pacity of the Corydon quarry is eight save their investments, and by them it The Leading Carriage Manufacturer and Blacksmith of Corydon.

To a business and farming commun- ons are covered, the boxes being thirity, a first-class blacksmithing estab- teen feet in length, and the workman- and, being a practical man, his acthe Corydon Stone Company is pos- steel rails have taken the place of the lishment is of the first importance, and ship throughout first class. Every dewhen the industry is combined with tail of manufacture is given the closest the manufacture and repairing of wag- attention, thus ensuring perfect whom he has had three children. He

mands a trade which not only extends, the most thorough manner, and as exa throughout the county, but reaches peditiously as skilled mechanics can of the quality of his work, and Mr. ceedingly moderate.

blacksmithing department are three

forges which are almost constantly

kept busy, either turning out the vari-

ous parts and fittings employed in the

construction of wagons, or in the mak-

ing or shaping of horse-shoes, the

sound of the hammer on the anvil re-

sounding through the neighborhood

from early morn till dark. It is diffi-

cult to estimate the number of horses

that are shod at these shops annually.

of Mr. Bulleit's business is a very im-

portant one. All kinds of vehicles are

made to order, from the lightest buggy

to the largest market and express wag-

ons. The buggies range in price from

\$80.00 to \$100, according to the make

and style, and have a reputation for

strength, durability and light-running

qualities not surpassed by any of the

leading makes. Mr. Bulleit has just

completed two large fruit wagons for

J. V. Bauer, of Louisville, a prominent

fruit grower of Kentucky. These wag-

The proprietor of this flourishing Bulleit enjoys to-day the distinction of being at the top of the ladder in this business deserves the greatest credit section, so for as the wagon-making for the successful manner in which he and blacksmithing industries are con- has made his way in the world. As a cerned. The building in which his young man he was possessed of but business is carried on is a large and  $\frac{1}{4}$  few advantages, having neither capital commodious frame structure facing on nor the means of obtaining it. By tbree of Corydon's streets. It has two dint of hard labor, and everlastingly stories, the ground floor being used for the manufacturing of wagons and for his three brothers in the organization blacksmithing of all kinds, and the of a general hardware and blacksmithupper one as a repository and paint ing business, as told elsewhere in these shop, where the goods are finished. columns in connection with the sketch of Bulleit & Hurst's business. Since The ground space covered by the build- that time he has continued to prosper, ing is 100x25 feet, for the wagon shops yet, notwithstanding that he has now and wareroom, while running east is a thriving and constantly increasing an L, which has a depth of 60 feet and business, he works as hard as he ever a frontage of about 25 feet. The estabhappy unless employed in one or the lishment is fully equipped with all the other departments of his shops. machinery and tools necessary for the

Mr. Bulleit is now in his forty-sixth production of first-class goods. In the year but his active and busy life have preserved his strength and vitality so that he appears to be a much younger man. He came to Corydon fourteen years ago, and since that time has accumulated considerable property, being the owner of eight residence houses, which number will soon be increased. He is his own book-keeper,



A. L. BULLEIT.

counts are always in first-class order. Mr. Bulleit was married to Miss Mary Togal, of New Middletown, Ind., by

A. L. BULLEIT.

