

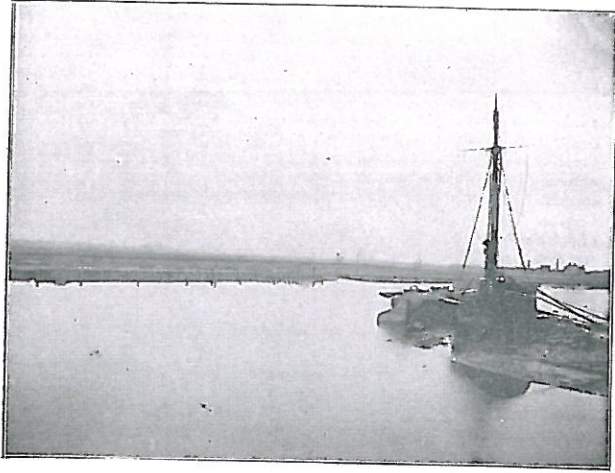
THE MILTON BRICK WORKS.

The staple industry of Sittingbourne has few, if any, older representatives than the firm trading as The Executors of the late William Wood, who continue a business that has been in existence here upwards of 50 years.

It was for a number of years carried on by Mr. William Wood, and after his decease in 1884, the management devolved upon his son. This Mr. Wood also died in 1893, and his brother, Mr. Albert Ernest Wood, has since had the direction of affairs on behalf of the Executors of the Estate.

Always a business of extent and importance, the annual output capacity has now been doubled by the acquisition of a new field near Milton Church, which has led to other improvements and extensions.

The old field at Crown Road contains six stools and some powerful pumping machinery for delivering slurry into the drying-backs from the washing tanks at



MESSRS. WOOD'S WHARF.

a distance, and there are also drying grounds and kilns here for finishing the bricks. This field adjoins the L. C. & D. Railway Co.'s line, and the firm are now negotiating for a siding to be run into the works, which will give them unequalled transit facilities.

The new field is some two miles away, and each works quite independently of the other. A fine new pumping plant for both slurry and water has been laid down by Mr. F. Littlewood, of the Swale Iron Works, and five stools are being put up, there being room for more as business demands increase. A tramway connects the new field with the creek, where a new wharf has been built, alongside of which, at high tide, there is 8 ft. of water. This will greatly facilitate transit, as barges can load or unload at any state of the tide, thus ensuring prompt delivery of goods.

Barges, we need hardly remind our readers, are amongst the most important items of a brick-maker's outfit, and the firm of which we write own five and hire some eight others.

It is not a little curious to reflect, as we see the brick-laden barges constantly leaving Milton and Sittingbourne, how the very earth of the district is being literally spread over England, especially over London, to which Sittingbourne supplies in proportion perhaps more bricks than any other place. Year after year the local population are engaged in making these bricks, the employées of the Executors of the late W. Wood contributing their full share, and year after year the demand increases. The firm make malms, shippers, picked stocks, best, hard, mild and rough stocks, grizzles, and place bricks; and also dig large quantities of flints and gravel. They carry on the manufacture in consonance with the usual method of the district, and for quality their bricks are equal to any.

Following the usual custom, too, they are fruit growers on a large scale, having 100 acres devoted to the cultivation of plums, apples, raspberries, strawberries, &c., for which they find a ready market. Mr. Wood, who directs all matters personally, takes an interest in public business, and is a member of the Milton Urban Council; he is also a Director of the Barge Owners' Association, and, generally speaking, a man of weight and influence amongst his contemporaries. The firm's offices are in Blind Lane, Milton.

OUR PICTURES.

The majority of the illustrations in the Sittingbourne and Milton of the present issue of "The Pictorial Record" are from photos taken, many of them specially, by Mr. F. M. Ramell, of 34 High Street, West End, Sittingbourne.

We need not emphasise the attractiveness that pictures lend to publications, for all nowadays recognise this, and even the half-penny press teems with pictorial attempts. It is only in high-class journals, however, that the best results of picture printing can be obtained, and to get this, good photographs, from which half-tone engravings can be made, are absolutely essential.

We have certainly found Mr. Ramell's work all that can be desired in this respect, which, after all, is only natural, as he makes a specialty of out-door photography, as well as of interiors of residences, works, &c., having every appliance necessary for the purpose.

In fact, the whole range of the photographic art is practised by Mr. Ramell, and an inspection of his work, as done by the instantaneous process, will show that in brilliancy of effect, softness in modelling, and truthfulness, his portraiture will be hard to beat.

His studio is equipped with modern and appropriate accessories in the way of backgrounds, furniture, &c., while his apparatus is of the most improved description. Under such circumstances it is not surprising to learn that invariable satisfaction is given to patrons.

THE "CARTA CARNA" WORKS.

Though the title of the above works, which forms the centre of an unique industry at Sittingbourne, may give to the uninitiated but little clue as to their character, we venture to say that both they and their proprietors, Messrs. F. C. Lowe & Son, are known to the great majority of sporting dog owners and game rearsers in Great Britain and most Continental countries.

They are, in fact, devoted to the production of the celebrated "Carta Carna" dog and game foods, which, since their introduction to the public, have met with unqualified and even unexpected success.

Game-keeping and dog-breeding are what we may call peculiarly individual pursuits, and are very much more likely to be successful when done for the love of the thing than when regarded from a purely pecuniary point of view; and in the matter of preparing foods for both dogs and birds, one can readily see how much more likely a perfect article is to be secured when its production is the outcome of years of private experiment and observation, without thought of any reward save personal success and gratification, than can be the case when the beginning, the aim, and the end has been and is solely to make money.

Mr. F. C. Lowe stands in the former happy position indicated. From an early age he showed a very keen interest in all sports, which sporting instinct he no doubt inherited from his forefathers, for the Stanley Lowes of Whitehall, Churchstow, Kingsbridge, S. Devon, have been noted for many centuries as a sporting family, Mr. F. C. Lowe's father being a M.P.H. for many years. In early life Mr. Lowe turned his attention to the breeding of pointers and setters, and has been one of the most successful breeders of these two breeds, especially at field trials. The first he ever ran was a setter bitch called "Rhoda," bred by Mr. Llewellyn, and with this bitch he won first in Puppy Stakes at the Devon and Cornwall Trials, held at Newton Abbot some 26 years ago. Since this date, Mr. Lowe has won far more than his share of all the principal field trials, both in England and abroad; and when he exhibited at Shows, his pointers and setters were always most successful, and generally carried off the leading prizes.

Perhaps the most noted pointer he ever owned was "Ben of Kippen," who won over £500 in Field Trial Stakes for his owner. £250 was refused more than once for "Ben." This noted dog died a few months since, but will not be easily forgotten, for Messrs. Lowe's registered Trade Mark is "Ben of Kippen," and the crest of the Stanley Lowe family. Another very noted field trialer he had the pleasure of seeing was "Mabel of Kippen," the Field Trial Champion Setter Bitch, her brother, "Squire of Kippen," being also a famous field trial winner. When at Bobbing Place we were also shown some other setters and pointers, models of beauty and health.



BOBBING PLACE.

Mr. Lowe was one of two gentlemen who first promoted the International Pointer and Setter Society for the encouragement and protection of shooting over dogs, and undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary for the first three years, when the progress of the Society was so great as to demand the services of a paid Secretary, who could devote more time to the work. This Society, though only started five years since, is now the leading Field Trial Society of the world.

As a judge of sporting dogs, Mr. Lowe holds a high reputation both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. He was recently judging at Cruft's Great Show, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and is going to Amsterdam on the 26th of May, to judge sporting dogs there.

In 1881 Mr. Lowe moved from Devon to Kippen House, Frinsted, Sittingbourne, where he bred and trained most of his noted dogs himself. It had long been known to his friends that he used some special food of his own preparing, and the grand condition his dogs were always brought out in when competing at the field trials and shows, and the great success he invariably obtained, coupled with the persuasion of some friends, made Mr. Lowe decide, some six years since, to offer his special food to the public, and to use his practical knowledge to some purpose for the benefit of all interested in dogs. It soon became in such request that it was quite evident to him that a move was necessary, to get nearer railway accommodation, and four years ago he moved to Bobbing Place, near Sittingbourne.

The premises at Bobbing Place consist of two factories, situated at the back of a charming country residence, surrounded with picturesque grounds, a sketch of which we produce. The two factories stand in a very pretty old-fashioned yard, studded with fine old walnut trees and well-kept turf lawn and roads. The whole surroundings, including gardens, yard, factories, kennels and stabling, are kept in the most faultless order, and it is everywhere evident the head of the firm and his sons take a very keen interest in everything in which they have a hand. Mr. Lowe also farms about 100 acres round his own residence, part of this farm being noted for its fruit orchards, in which the occupier takes great interest.