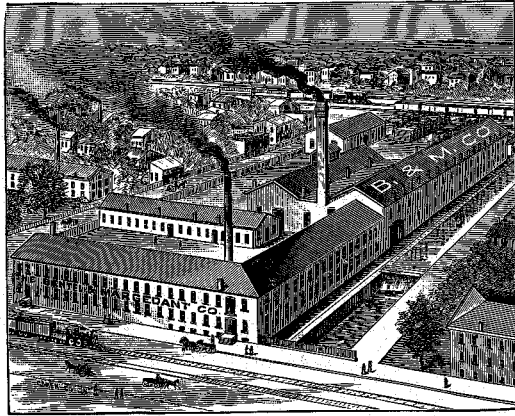


THE BENTEL & MARGEDANT CO.

Wood Working Machinery.

IN 1864-65 Mr. Charles E. McBeth, a machinist in Hamilton, commenced the manufacture of small power presses, corn stalk cutters, tobacco molds, shoe polishers and other small articles. In 1867 D. W. McClung, and later Jacob Schaffer, entered into partnership with Mr. McBeth to manufacture the Universal Wood Worker. They had bought a half interest in the patent and also the control of the other half. Mr. McClung soon retired, selling to Schaffer and in 1869 Mr. Schaffer retired selling to Mr. W. C. Margedant.



Mr. Margedant, from 1854 to 1859 had been working as a journeyman machinist in the old shop of Owens, Lane & Dyer and leaving that shop had become engineer and architect for Mr. John W. Sohn who was engaged in numerous enterprisés requiring the services of such a man. Mr. Margedant had had a thorough technical education in Europe and was a man of genius and energy. In 1870 Mr. Fred Bentel entered the concern. The firm was then manufacturing tobacco molds and the Universal Wood Worker. The Universal Wood Worker was a machine of a great deal of merit and demand for it grew so large that the capacity of the shop required to be greatly increased. But in May 1873 a fire occurred imposing a loss of over six thousand dollars. The loss was a hard one for it destroyed valuable patterns and made a serious break in the business on which the prosperity of the owners depended and they were very hard up for money when rebuilding was imparative. Disputes arose over the rebuilding and Mr. McBeth retired, Mr. John W. Sohn taking his place as an equal partner. The rebuilding was completed and new patterns were made and to the line of manufacturing was added a full line of

wood working machinery of the very latest and most original design, Mr. Margedant proving himself to be possessed of most admirable talents in this direction. The business prospered until the dull times of 1876-1879 when things took a bad turn, business being wretched, and debts pressing. The pressure became too great and Mr. Margedant and Mr. Bentel both retired from the business, Mr. Sohn assuming the whole load and employing Mr. Margedant as manager on a salary with an interest in the profits. Business soon picked up and the capacity of the shop became over-taxed and it became necessary to work double turn night and day, and many orders were refused. Business relaxed again and it became necessary to make reductions at every point, But this depression passed over and business again picked up. In 1885 the concern was incorporated under the style of the Bentel & Margedant Co., Mr. Margedant becoming a stockholder. On January 11th, 1889, Mr. Sohn died and Mr. Margedant purchased his stock. In 1889 the business was re-organized with Mr. Margedant as President and general manager, Mr. John T. Gardner Vice President and Superintendent; and William L. Huber Secretary and Treasurer.

The business is in the best possible condition. Its products are known the world over and its machines are models of practical design and superior efficiency. The line of machines manufactured includes over three hundred different sizes and styles of regular machines, to say nothing of special machines which are being constantly devised for special work. In this line of special machines this establishment has a most brilliant reputation, it being well understood throughout the wood-working world that if some new and unheard of machine is wanted for specially economical and more perfect proficiency in the working of wood, the Bentel & Margedant Co., are always prepared to devise and construct it with the assurance that the result will be satisfactory in the highest degree. For instance, in the manufacture of vehicle wheels, where the closest economy and the greatest perfection in production is called for, the special machines of this establishment are the standard requirement. This automatic refined machinery is of the utmost refined character and deals with the rough wood and produces the finished wheel. A specialty has also been made of automatic machinery for the manufacture of wood pumps, and for railroad car works. An idea of the extensive product of the establishment may be gathered from the fact that of the "Universal Wood Worker," a single machine in the long list of products of this concern, over four thousand have been sold and they have gone into all the lands where wood is worked.

The shops are very extensive and are well equipped with the best modern iron-working machinery for the production of wood-working machines, and the business is conducted with the most careful and conscientious supervision with a constant thought as to the best interests of the customer.