

SHULER & BENNINGHOFFEN.

WOOLEN MILL.

THE two brothers Breidenbauch in 1853 had a dry goods store in Hamilton and took a notion to make the woolens which they sold. These two with Jerry Andrum and Titus Shuler and Asa Shuler, under the name of Breidenbauch & Co., started a woolen mill in the building now standing on Fourth Street between the shops of Long & Allstatter Co. and the Bentel & Margedant Co., the old building now forming a part of the Long & Allstatter shop. About five thousand dollars was put into the business. The two Shulers were carpenters and Andrum was to be the woolen mill man. They put in four narrow looms, one wide loom, one spinning-mule, and one set of cards. They made yarns, cashmeres, blankets and flannels. All were sold either in Hamilton or in Cincinnati, the business being strictly local. Pay was taken mostly in trade,

The first year they managed to lose nine hundred dollars and Mr. Andrum retired in disgust. Mr. Asa Schuler assumed the management of the mill and the business was pushed into new markets and with great success. In 1858 Mr. J. W. Benninghofen bought the interests of the Breidenbauch Brothers and the firm name was changed to Shuler & Benninghofen. Mr. Benninghofen was clerk in the Brewery of John W. Sohn and he remained a clerk in the Brewery for a year after he bought his interest in the woolen mill.

In 1862 the present mill was built, on the corner of Heaton and Lowell Streets, and when the new mill was done a double set of machinery was put in.

In 1854 the mill made its first felt for use on a paper machine. This was bought and used by Shuey & McGuire for their paper-mill in Hamilton, It was not an endless felt, but was seamed. Paper-makers felts were made right along to some extent and in 1866 the mill made its first endless felt. This felt trade has grown enormously and this mill now has two-thirds of the Western trade on paper-makers felts and the reputation of these felts is the very highest.

In 1881 Mr. Benninghofen died and his two sons, Chris and Peter took his place in the mill where they can always be found, every day in the week.

The mill now makes paper-makers felts, up to one hundred and twenty-six inches in width; blankets of the finest grades; woven woolen skirts both endless and pieced; flannels, yarns and skirting flannels. The widest loom is two hundred and sixty inches. The trade of this mill now extends all over the United States with trade connections in Mexico, Japan and other foreign countries.