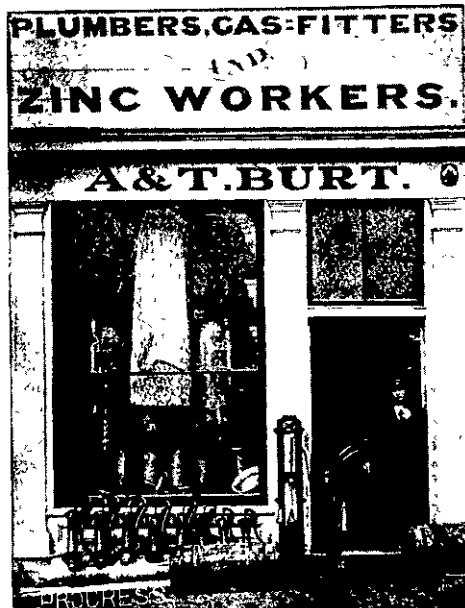


Our Industries: No. 9. A. & T. BURT, Ltd.

THE iron-working and kindred trades of New Zealand are closely allied with the trend of events which has brought our colony into the front rank of Britain's oversea possessions. Prominently placed amongst the enterprising firms which have lent individual weight to our progress is the business of Messrs. A. & T. Burt, Ltd., whose head office is at Dunedin, and the following account of this large establishment cannot fail to be of interest to our readers.

Mr. A. Burt and his late brother started business in 1862 as plumbers and gasfitters, in the Octagon, Dunedin. Their shop then was only 18' x 12', and as Dunedin grew larger, so in proportion grew Messrs. Burt Brothers' business. After enlarging their small shop several times, until it became a matter of impossibility to properly transact the increasing business, the old firm decided to buy another section in 1866 and build a foundry thereon. The site chosen was in Princes street, where the office of the *Evening Star* now stands. From this time, up to 1871, many new industries were added to the business and at the end of the latter year the pioneers' name for good work had spread not only in Otago, but to all parts of New Zealand—even as far north as Auckland. In 1871 several important contracts were taken by the firm, and they again found it necessary to enlarge their premises. They managed to secure a piece of the late Mr. George Matthews' garden at the rear of their own foundry, and on this site large additions were made to the workshops, and the firm took its place amongst the leading iron and brass workers of the Australasian colonies. Whilst Messrs. Burt were occupying the premises in Princes street and Moray place, they were entrusted with several important contracts, notably the whole of the plant for the New Zealand Distillery, as well as machinery for several large meat-preserving works.

In 1875 the business had so increased that it was again necessary to look out for fresh quarters. This time a site was found between Cumberland and Castle streets, half an acre was secured, and in a very short time the whole of this ground was covered with the foundry and workshops. For a little while longer the old premises in Princes street were used as a warehouse, but in 1877 they were found to be too small for the necessary requirements; so a three-story brick warehouse, covering a quarter of an acre of ground, was built at the corner of Stuart and Cumberland streets.



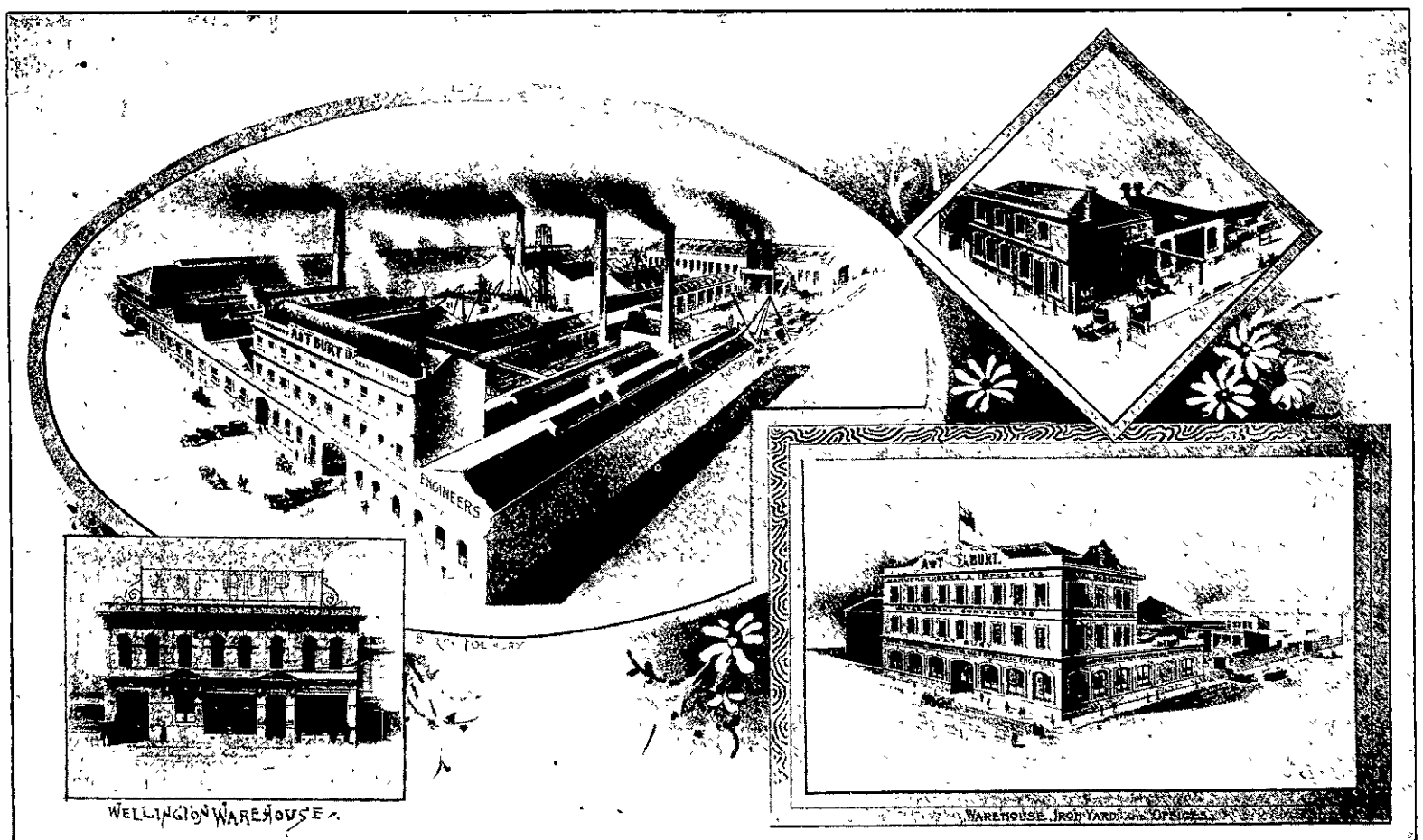
A. AND T. BURT'S FIRST OFFICE AND WORKS IN DUNEDIN IN THE "SIXTIES."

Close by, in less than twenty-three years, one of the largest of the Australasian foundries has sprung up from a little wooden shop. Of course, all these additions and improvements were not made for show, and the work has had to keep pace with the size of the buildings. From time to time the various branches of the business have increased in dimensions, and as soon as any important labour-saving machinery appeared on the market, it was at once adopted.

The business, at one period carried on by the Otago Foundry Co., in Cumberland street, has been acquired by Messrs. Burt, who also occupy the premises formerly used by the Dunedin Engineering Co., Castle street. Additional ground was in due course purchased opposite the works, where the plumbing and coppersmith business is now carried on exclusively, so that, altogether, the works and warehouse premises now occupy five acres in Dunedin. In 1897 the firm was registered as a limited liability company, and nominally a private company, which has since carried on the business under the title of A. & T. Burt, Limited, and it further enlarged its sphere of operations by opening extensive branches in Wellington, Christchurch, and Invercargill. In 1903 still further addition was made to the Company's business by the purchase of the foundry and warehouse of Dunn, Smith & Co., situated in Custom street, Auckland. This portion of the business is carried on under the management of Mr. Alexander Burt, junr., and the Company undertakes ship repairs and manufacturing work on a similar, though smaller, scale than the present works in Dunedin.

At the Dunedin works Messrs. Burt carry on some sixteen different branches of the metal manufacturing trades, and turn out about 75% of the goods stocked at their Dunedin warehouse and other branches.

The main entrance is from Stuart street, and the visitor at once enters the selling-department. Here most of the shelf goods are kept, and an efficient staff looks after the requirements of clients. Along the Cumberland street side is the main office accommodation. The three flats are connected with a hydraulic lift, which was manufactured and erected by the workshop staff. On the second flat mostly gas fittings and rubber goods are stored in bulk. Half of this



A. AND T. BURT'S DUNEDIN AND WELLINGTON ESTABLISHMENTS TO-DAY.