

THOMAS OAKES & CO., successors to D. Oakes & Son, Woolen Manufacturers, Bloomfield, N. J. In compiling the history of the representative manufacturing establishments of Bloomfield, it would indeed be deemed a strange omission were we not to make extended mention of the Thomas Oakes & Co. Woolen Manufactories. This important enterprise in our town was inaugurated in 1830, or about sixty-one years ago. The founder was Mr. D. Oakes, father of Mr. Thomas Oakes, and the present firm are the successors to the old firm of D. Oakes & Son. Mr. Thomas Oakes was born and brought up in Bloomfield, and inherited his father's business abilities. He is an honored townsman in the community and holds the office of the presidency in the Bloomfield National Bank. The Oakes family, in fact, were original settlers in Bloomfield. Mr. Henry P. Dodd, the "Co." in the firm is also a native of this State, and has for many years been closely identified with the firm in question and the interests of Bloomfield. He is a director in the same bank that his partner is President of, the Bloomfield National Bank. Their firm afford employment to an average of 200 hands the year round. The woolen productions of this house are known the country over and recognized by the trade as being goods of superior value. The premises occupied by the plant are vast in area, and the buildings imposing in appearance. Two large steam engines aggregating 230 horse power furnish the motive power for the machinery, which is all of the most improved order. Water power is also used. This enterprise has done much toward the present prosperity of Bloomfield.