

John Chambers & Son Ltd

New Zealand Herald 29 Apr 1893

Messrs John Chambers and Sons have on show at their rooms, Fort-street, one of Tangye's splendid gas engines, which may be seen working daily. It is of 5 horse nominal power, and for ease in running and economy it is undoubtedly one of the finest engines that has been seen in the colony. The result achieved has been only after 25 years spent in experimenting; the Otto "cycle" has been retained, but the improvements lift the motor far above any of the old type of engines. A patented combustion chamber allows of a better mixture of gases; this of course means better firing and as a matter of course the impulse steadier. So much so that dynam... high class printing machinery can... driven direct. The governing is now more sensitive, and the speed can be changed while the engine is running. These and other improvements have enabled the Messrs Tangye to lay down recently the biggest gas installation in the world – four engines of 100 horse power indicated each, of exactly the same type as that at Messrs Chambers', and which when driven by Dawson's gas-producing plant, are guaranteed to give one ... horse power for 1lb of coal consumed, a truly marvelous result.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference ABIB W4228 Box 27

Stratford Civil Record Book: Date: 7 Dec 1894; Plaintiff: John Chambers & Son; Defendant: Gilbert John Willy; Amount: £19 10s 7d

Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 4-RIC102 Photograph showing the business in Fort Street c1894

Glass Plate Negative by James D. Richardson. It also shows the business next door occupied by William Joshua Beale, an importer of sewing machines. See Wises Post Office Directory 1894-1895.

Auckland Star 18 Oct 1895 Fire in Fort-Street

Shortly after five o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in a building in Fort-street used by Mr W. J. Beale, sewing machine importer, of Shortland-street, as a storehouse. The store was locked up by Mr Christie, the storeman, at about five o'clock yesterday afternoon, and everything at that time appeared perfectly safe, there being no sign of fire about the premises. Shortly after the alarm was given, the Central Fire Brigade and the Salvage Corps were quickly to the spot, and by their prompt action the total destruction of the building was averted. Still, the damage done was considerable. The roof of the building was burnt completely off, and the sides badly charred, while the stock consisting of some hundreds of cases of machinery, was for the most part either damaged or destroyed. The stock was insured in the Sun Office for £700.

New Zealand Herald 19 Oct 1895 Fire in Fort-street

Between five and six o'clock yesterday morning a building in Fort-street, belonging to Mr Sutherland (at present in Scotland), and occupied by Mr W. J. Beale, sewing machine importer, Shortland-street, as a store for stock, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was given to the Albert-street Fire Brigade station, and the Salvage Corps (Captain Field), both corps being quickly on the spot. By their prompt and energetic action the building was saved, though the roof and sides of the building were badly charred. The stock was considerably damaged. It was insured in the Sun office for £700. The origin of the fire is unknown. Mr Christie, storeman, closed up at five o'clock on the previous evening, when all appeared to be perfectly safe.

Industries in New Zealand p335-336 (published late 1890s)

John Chambers & Son Engineers and Importers, Fort Street, Auckland

... established in 1892, when Mr J. M. Chambers came out from England to join his father. He had been for some time connected with Tangyes Ltd., in the Old Country, and came as their representative to New Zealand, so that the present firm are the representatives of the Company in this colony. ... The firm deal in every kind of machinery, engineers' and mining requests, and carry the heaviest stock of mining and general machinery in the colony. The premises in Fort Street have a frontage of 30ft., and a depth of 50ft. They were for some time used as a stock-room and offices, but, as the business increased so rapidly that the output doubled each successive year, they were obliged to procure larger premises for the storage of their current stock, and in 1894 a large warehouse was taken in Gore Street. The new premises consist of two buildings, with a frontage of 40ft., and a depth of 70ft. There is also a large cellarage accommodation, the dimensions of which are 100ft by 100ft. Here are stored heavy machinery, shafting, lubricants, oils etc. Messrs Chambers & Son contract for the complete equipment of a mine down to every detail, including pumping and winding machinery, stamp batteries, and electric transmission of power. They also make a speciality of dairy machinery. The first large contract taken by the firm was the supplying and erecting of the pumping plant for the Devonport Borough Council, which throws water from Lake Takapuna to Mount Victoria, a distance of four miles, and a height of 230ft. They also supplied an auxiliary pumping engine of the Duplex type to the Auckland Water Works, which is capable of throwing two million gallons a day to a height of 450ft. They erected the pumping and winding plant of the Kathleen Gold Mining Company, and a stamp battery to the Success Gold Mining Company for Captain Hodge, the contracts amounting to nearly 14,000 pounds. The firm was the first to introduce in the North Island the air compressor engine for driving pumps and rock drills and have supplied seven air compressing plants on the Coromandel Peninsula during the last two years. They have also supplied ten winding machines during the same period, the largest of which is at present working at the Thames Hauraki Company's mine. It has a winding speed of 1300ft per minute, which is the highest speed that has yet been obtained in the colony. Messrs John Chambers & Son were the first firm to supply electric transmission of power in the North Island, and put up a plant at the Talisman mine. ... They also completed the electric installation on the Northern Steamship Company's 'Terranoa', 'Waimarie', 'Taniwha' and other boats.... The firm have recently introduced in New Zealand the Latch & Bachelor Flattened Strand wire-ropes, and Locked Coil wire-ropes, which have met with exceptional success... The ropes are exceedingly flexible, are free from all tendency to spin or kink, and readily splice into themselves, or into other ropes. The new traffic bridge at Karangahake was built of this rope, which has given every satisfaction. Mr John Chambers, senior, was born in Hertfordshire, and educated in England. After leaving school he was apprenticed to an engineering firm in Greenwich, and on leaving them, bought an ironmongery and coppersmiths business in Newark, Nottingham, which he carried on for about three years, and then sold out and came to New Zealand, arriving in the colony in 1863. He travelled about for a while, and did not settle down to regular business until 1865, when he purchased an interest in the firm of E. Porter & Co., and was senior partner until he separated and joined T. and S. Morrin, when they formed that business into a limited liability company. He started business for himself in Queen Street in 1886. Mr J. M. Chambers was born in Newark-on-Trent, and came to New Zealand as a child with his father. He went back to England in 1886, and entered the employ of Tangye's, acquiring a practical knowledge of engineering by working in their different shops. He was also for a time with Askham Bros. & Wilson, and with W. A. Sparrow, of London.

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/17 Protest against 20% on wove wire for mining purposes

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/56 Will commence action in Supreme Court to recover sums deposited re gold saving machinery

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/57 Action in Supreme Court to recover sums deposited re gold saving machinery – instructions to accept service of writ and defend case. Also opinion of J. A. Tole, Crown Solicitor

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/92 Apparatus for photographing by 'X' rays as surgical apparatus – Commissioner's decision re classification

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/94 Steel Forgings for stamp battery – claim it should be classed for gold saving purposes and processes

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/136

Protest against duty on Richard's indicator and pass truck wheels free for mining purposes ex 'Tongariro' – Commissioner's decision re fine

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/146 Action re quartz crushing machinery – matter referred to Mines Department expert

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/150 Action re quartz crushing machinery – opinion of Mr Gordon

BBAO 5544/57/a 1897/151 Action re quartz crushing machinery – opinion of Government Mining Engineer

BBAO 5544/58/a 1897/365 'X' Ray Apparatus – Commissioner has directed this be admitted free as N O E

BBAO 5544/58/a 1897/472 Forged Steel Shoes and Dies – protest against duty payable

BBAO 5544/59/a 1897/576 Omit hardware ex 'Otarama' – Commissioner's decision re fine

BBAO 5544/59/a 1897/622 Pass electric hand lamps at 10% - Commissioner's decision re fine

BBAO 5544/202/a 1897/673 Contend graphited oil is liable to 6d per gallon not 20% - Commissioner's decision re tariff

BBAO 5544/202/a 1897/686 Protest against duty on granular plumbago (Dixon's Dry Graphite)

BBAO 5544/202/a 1897/773 Re duty on an electric lamp – Commissioner's decision re classification

BBAO 5544/203/a 1897/958 Forwarding copy of letter re a yacht type projector

BBAO 5544/203/a 1897/1018 Omit hardware from entry ex 'Star of England' – Commissioner's decision re fine

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/60/a 1898/13 Pass lathe chuck free ex 'Rangatira' – Commissioner's decision re fine

BBAO 5544/60/a 1898/30 Tire setters to be liable to 20% duty

BBAO 5544/61/a 1898/328 Re gyrometers – asking if post entry has been passed

BBAO 5544/61/a 1898/342 Omit valves from entry ex 'Indramayo' – post entry accepted

BBAO 5544/61/a 1898/351 Bright compressed shafting ex 'Ruahine' – to be admitted free

BBAO 5544/61/a 1898/480 Extract from invoice prices – asking for report

BBAO 5544/204/a 1898/652 [Letter from Tangye] His goods imported by Chambers – Commissioner's decision re market value

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/62/a 1899/83 Forwarding copy of letter re Tangye's pumps

BBAO 5544/62/a 1899/160 5% to be added to value of invoiced tonnage

BBAO 5544/62/a 1899/192 Omit governors for steam engine and pump fittings ex 'Waikato' – post entry accepted

BBAO 5544/63/a 1899/266 Forwarding copy of letter re invoice value of goods imported from Tangye and Company and G. H. Haswell

BBAO 5544/63/a 1899/279 Shoes and Dies – Supreme Court decision re admittance

BBAO 5544/64/a 1899/528

Protest against disallowance of a further 10% discount for goods from Gandy Belt Manufacturing Company – opinion of G. V. Shannon

BBAO 5544/64/a 1899/570

Re air compressor used in connection with mining exhibited at Exhibition, but which they cannot dispose of at present – question re duty

BBAO 5544/64/a 1899/673 Ask to keep boilers on sight on deposit, for 6 months pending sale

BBAO 5544/205/a 1899/706 Pass electric bells and pushes at 10% ex 'Star of New Zealand' – post entry accepted

BBAO 5544/205/a 1899/738 Screens – claimed for use for mining purposes – Commissioner's decision re entry

BBAO 5544/205/a 1899/817 Hydraulic ram passenger lifts not to be admitted free

BBAO 5544/206/a 1899/941 Inform them no authority in Tariff for admitting machinery for cement grinding at 5%

Observer 07 Jan 1899 John Chambers and Son [photo included]

This enterprising firm have contributed most largely to make the Machinery Court of the Exhibition the complete and unqualified success that it has proved to be. The fact their's is by far the finest and most varied display of up-to-date machinery that has ever been shown in any of the Australasian colonies. The exhibit occupies nearly 2000 feet of floor space, and there is not a single foot wasted. All the machinery is of English make, and the very best of its kind at that, and has not been specially imported for the Exhibition either, but has just been shifted from Chambers and Son's extensive stock at their warehouse. The most notable exhibit among this splendid display of English engineering and mechanical skill is a 16 by 24 by 30 Tangye's coupled compound horizontal Cornish pumping engine, fitted with intermediate shaft, carrying pumping crank. Next to this is a Tangye's coupled geared winding engine. In addition to these two engines there is a Tangye's coupled geared winding engine, having a pair of 10 inch x 20 inch cylinders for raising a load of about two tons, at a speed of 440 feet per minute. These engines are a duplicate of a plant supplied to the Kathleen Gold Mines (Limited), Coromandel, are erected on solid concrete foundations, in the same manner as they would be if for permanent work. They are both driven by a T. Larmuth and Co.'s 12 x 18 "Hirnaut" air compressor, which will be worked direct by a very fine 12 nominal h.p. Tangye gas engine. The visitor's attention may also be directed to a couple of Tangye's Colonial Steam Engines, specially suitable for dairy factories, and consisting of a 6½ x 9 inch, and a 8 x 16 inch engine, also a 4 x 5 inch vertical engine. Besides these there is a Tangye eight-brake h.p. oil engine, worked by kerosene contained in a tank over the cylinder, supplying oil by gravitation. It is also furnished with an improved vaporizer, and the engine will run for many hours without attention. Messrs Chambers and Son likewise supply a splendid assortment of pumps. One of the pumps, a 4 by 3 by 5 Duplex, is shown at work pumping 2700 gallons of water per hour from a reservoir underneath the floor of the Exhibition to a vertical height of 24ft. In conclusion, let no farmer miss seeing Evans' patent flexible chain-gate. It is the perfect *beau ideal* of what the farmer most urgently wants, and is simply impassable by all animals against which it is closed.

Auckland Weekly News 20 Jan 1899 The Auckland Exhibition [photo included]

We give today another instalment of our photographs of some of the most attractive exhibits in the Auckland Industrial and Mining Exhibition.

John Chambers and Son

This firm is already well known for its enterprise, and it has added considerably to its reputation by the exhibition display of moving machinery, which is justly considered one of the finest displays of the kind ever seen at a colonial exhibition. The entire space, some 2000 square feet, is given over to machinery made in England, and as the whole exhibit is taken from Messrs Chambers and Son's stock, it must be gratifying to New Zealanders to note in these days of international competition in the engineering world, that machinery of British manufacture is still first favourite in this colony. The exhibit comprises a number of the well-known Tangye's engines. Prominent among these are a compound horizontal Cornish pumping engine and a coupled-gear winding engine. These engines are a duplicate of a plant supplied to the Kathleen Gold Mines (Limited), Coromandel. They are erected on solid concrete foundations, in the same manner as they would be if for permanent work, and are both driven by a 18-Hirnaut air-compressor, worked by a Tangye gas engine. Another interesting exhibit is a Tangye oil engine, worked by kerosene, the oil being supplied from a tank by gravitation. This engine is famed for its simplicity, and is exceedingly popular among farmers. It can be worked economically, as as it runs for many hours without attention it never necessitates the employment of skilled labour. During the Exhibition season it has been used to drive a dynamo giving 80 lights of 16-candle power, in various parts of the Exhibition. The display of pumps is also of special importance. One of these is shown pumping 2700 gallons of water per hour from a reservoir, under the floor of the Exhibition, and supplying water for air-compressor and gas engine. Several of Tangye's pumps are shown, one special sinking pump being shown suspended from a framework, exactly as it is placed in the mine, while a special steam pump, short-feeder type, is shown for the first time in New Zealand. Three dynamos are shown, two being employed to supply about 150 lights to exhibitors, besides transmitting power to various parts of the building. The exhibit is altogether an attractive and instructive one.

Auckland Star 09 Feb 1899 Exhibition Awards

...Mining Machinery, Tools, Etc., John Chambers and Son – Drilling machines (hand and power), 1st award; Oil and Gas Engines – John Chambers and Son, 3rd for Tangye's 8-horse power oil engine...

Archives NZ Auckland BADZ 5181/17 John Chambers and Son – Closed Company File

Summary of Capital and Shares of John Chambers and Son Limited made up to 27 Oct 1899. Nominal capital £30,000 divided into 15,000 Preference shares of £1 each and 15,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each (fully paid up). Number of shares taken up to 27 Oct 1899 – 23,302; there has been called up on each share £1. Total amount of calls received £15,000. Total amount of calls unpaid – nil.

[1] William James Parkins	Birmingham, England – Secretary	1	Preference share
[2] Harold Lincoln Tangye	Birmingham, England – Gentleman	8,000	Preference shares
[3] Seymour Thorne George	Auckland – Gentleman	1,000	Preference shares
[4] Leonard Welstead	Battle, Sussex, England – Gentleman	1,000	Preference shares
[5] Arthur William Keep	Birmingham, England – Merchant	850	Preference shares
[6] Henry Frederick Keep	Birmingham, England – Merchant	850	Preference shares
[7] Charles Edward Keep	Birmingham, England – Merchant	800	Preference shares
[8] Martha Chambers Chambers	Auckland – Domestic duties	2400	Ordinary shares
[9] John Chambers	Auckland – Merchant	100	Ordinary shares
[10] Elsie Gertrude Chambers	Auckland – Domestic duties	3000	Ordinary shares
[11] John Moginie Chambers	Auckland – Merchant	2800	Ordinary shares
[12] Tangyes Limited	Birmingham, England	2499	Preference shares
[13] David Hammond Duthie	Auckland – Banker	1	Ordinary share
[14] Hugh Campbell	Auckland – Solicitor	1	Ordinary share
Unallotted shares		6,698	

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/65/a 1900/87 Deduct and protest disallowance of discount off wood pulleys from Sydney – post entry accepted
BBAO 5544/65/a 1900/131 Protest against 20% on water meters
BBAO 5544/65/a 1900/136 Claim admission of rotary meters at 5% - Commissioner's decision re entry
BBAO 5544/65/a 1900/181 Their opposing statements re shafting. Mr Jobson's statement to be shown to J. Chambers and Son
BBAO 5544/65/a 1900/183 Re further discount off pulleys from Parke and Lacey Company, Sydney – Commissioner's decision
BBAO 5544/66/a 1900/328 Boilers etc – re prices
BBAO 5544/66/a 1900/341 Re his interview with the Secretary with reference to the prices of boilers etc
BBAO 5544/66/a 1900/373 Forwarding copy of letter re invoices from Tangye Limited
BBAO 5544/66/a 1900/453 Bright Compressed Shafting – duty will not be pressed for
BBAO 5544/66/a 1900/492 Request reconsideration of decision re inland carriage of Tangye's goods
BBAO 5544/67/a 1900/539 Claim re Dixon's Solid Belt Dressing – Commissioner's decision re admittance
BBAO 5544/67/a 1900/616 Claim sluice valves free as machinery for gold saving – Commissioner's decision re admittance
BBAO 5544/207/a 1900/716 Request reconsideration of decision re sluice valves for cyanide plant for gold saving – Commissioner's decision re entry
BBAO 5544/207/a 1900/757 Pass galvanized sheet iron free ex 'Elingamite' – Commissioner's decision re penalty
BBAO 5544/207/a 1900/795 Re forgings and rings for cement pulveriser – Commissioner's decision re classification
BBAO 5544/208/a 1900/1029 Claim Cupel Machine as gold mining machinery – Commissioner's decision re duty
BBAO 5544/208/a 1900/1060 Claim reducing sockets at 5% as iron pipe fitting – Commissioner's decision re classification

New Zealand Herald 01 Dec 1900 Tenders

Fort-street and Gore-street – New Four-storey premises for Messrs John Chambers and Son. Tenders for the above are invited until the 13th day of December. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Arthur P. Wilson, Architect. November, 1900.

New Zealand Herald 14 Dec 1900 Local and General News

Tenders were opened yesterday for a four-storey building for Messrs Chambers and Sons, at the corner of Fort-street and Gore-street. The new premises will have a frontage to Fort-street of 73ft, and to Gore-street of 99ft. The half basement will be used for oils and heavy goods, and the ground floor and upper storeys for the general business of the firm. On the ground floor are two goods entrances, and an entrance to the offices at the corner of the two streets. On the first floor will be situated the offices of the firm, but the fittings and divisions of these are not included in the first tender. Two "waygoods" patent hydraulic lifts, capable of lifting heavy machinery, will be provided to carry goods from floor to floor. In addition to these provision will be made on two floors for Tangye's patent travelling cranes. All the floors are to be fitted up with lavatories. The warehouse will be of brick, with red arches, cement dressings, and bluestone base. The floors are made of extra strength, and are supported on iron columns, with Dorman, Long, and Co.'s rolled steel girders. The total superficial area of the building is 22,176ft, and it is well lighted and ventilated. Messrs Cole and Moody are the lowest tenderers. We hear that their tender has been accepted, the contract price being £4390. This amount does not include the party walls, one of which was erected about two years ago. The architect is Mr Arthur P. Wilson, of the Arcade. The following is a list of tenders:- Cole and Moody £4390; W. E. Hutcheson £4440; A. Pollard £4587; A. Watson £4650; Ferguson and Malcom £4669; J. J. Holland £4675; Julian £4697; R. R. Ross £4730; J. Farrell £4730; Cleghorn and Rosser £4818; Jones and Coulbourne £4821; J. D. Jones £4832; Burfoot and Son £4930; J. Ellingham £4940; G. Baidon £4975; R. Kay £5190.

Thames Star 15 Dec 1900

Chambers and Son are building a four-storey building at the corner of Fort and Gore street, Auckland, at a cost of £4390.

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544 A78 68/a 1901/75 Protest against payment of duty on Cupel Machine and forwarding declaration from Waihi Gold Mining Company
BBAO 5544 A78 68/a 1901/93 Re passing ordinary blocks as chain pulleys – post entry accepted
BBAO 5544 A78 68/a 1901/134 Protest against 20% on lathe chucks imported separately
BBAO 5544 A78 69/a 1901/285 Refusing to pay drawback is approved
BBAO 5544 A78 69/a 1901/322 £20 deposited by them to be paid into the Public Account
BBAO 5544 A78 69/a 1901/325 Commissioner's decision re tariff on electric apparatus for exploding blasts
BBAO 5544 A78 69/a 1901/357 Re short payment of duty on boilers
BBAO 5544 A78 70/a 1901/521 Application for appointment of premises at corner of Fort & Gore Street as bonded warehouse approved
BBAO 5544 A78 209/a 1901/693 Re Commissioner's decision regarding entry of lawn mowers
BBAO 5544 A78 210/a 1901/980 Ask to be allowed to remove "Rayner's Evaporator" from the wharf pending decision from Wellington
BBAO 5544 A78 201/a 1901/986 Steam winding engine to be admitted free
BBAO 5544 A78 210/a 1901/1043 Evaporator condenser – conditions under which it can be kept

Southland Times 08 Mar 1901

Go Ahead, Invercargill – Attention is directed to a new 10-horse power gas engine by Tangye's Limited of Birmingham which has just been put in for Mr B. Denly, builder and contractor, Yarrow street. This is the first of Tangye's revised gas engines that has been placed so far south, but if appearance and sweet running go for anything it will not be the last by a long way. The engine is a marvel of simplicity and strength, combined with finish and good workmanship throughout. The New Zealand agents for Tangye's Ltd., are Messrs John Chambers and Son, of Dunedin and Auckland, and their representative, Mr J. S. White, who is at present in Invercargill, may be found at the Albion Hotel today or tomorrow morning. The erection of the engine, and very complete wood-working plant which Mr Denly is installing, is in the capable hands of Messrs J. Johnston and Sons, of the Vulcan Foundry. Mr Denly is to be congratulated on his enterprise. He will no doubt find it appreciated.

New Zealand Herald 20 Mar 1901 Local and General News

Mr H. H. Metcalfe has received the following tenders for the supply of pumps, engine, and boilers, for the Manukau Water Supply Board, Onehunga:- Hadley and Co., £2373 (accepted); John Chambers and Son £2435; John Burns and Co. £2450; J. McLellan (Wellington) £2570; E. Porter and Co. (including erection) £3484.

New Zealand Times 06 Apr 1901 For Sale

One Tangye Gas Engine, 12½ h.p. The owner having ordered a larger engine of the same type, the above is for sale, and can be seen working at any time. The engine is in first-class order. For particulars apply to F. S. Greenshields, corner of Brandon street and Customhouse quay. Agent for J. Chambers and Son, Ltd., Auckland.

New Zealand Herald 12 Apr 1901 The Goldfields

Several parcels of shares in the Grand Junction Gold Mining Company changed hands yesterday at from 54s to 52s 6d. The rumours of better values having been obtained from the footwall side of the reef, have caused brisk inquiry for shares, whilst samples of ore broken out from the lode, which have been received at Messrs John Chambers and Sons' office, were also responsible for some demand. The quartz is of a good, solid, and auriferous nature, freely studded with pyrites and other minerals, and interlaced with silica. It is heavily impregnated with thick dark blue ribs, which look likely for sulphides. In some of the samples blotches of gold are visible. The assay value of the quartz has not been made known.

New Zealand Herald 01 May 1901 For Sale

25 tons 40lb Steel Rails and Shoes; good, second-hand, almost as good as new. Apply J. Chambers and Son, (Limited), Fort-street.

New Zealand Herald 03 May 1901 Auckland Council

Tenders for iron pipes were received as follows:- John Chambers and Son £1845; T. and S. Morrin (Limited) £1724; E. Porter and Co. £1797. The tender of Messrs T. and S. Morrin was accepted.

New Zealand Herald 04 May 1901 Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping and Writing

Day and Evening Classes now forming – 50 Practical Results: During 1900, fifty positions were obtained for Pupils. Last three months the following are a few of the names of Pupils who were successful in obtaining positions in commercial and professional office:-

Messrs Mitchelson and Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss Ethel Whiting
Messrs J. Chambers and Son	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss Gould
Bank of New Zealand, Auckland	Two Cadets, knowing shorthand	Messrs Wallace and Baker
Messrs Furness and Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss L. Taylor
Messrs A. Yates and Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss N. Gannon
Messrs Mackechnie and Nicholson, Solicitors	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss Baird
The Mitchelson Timber Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typist	Mr Baragwanath
Messrs Thos. Cook and Son	Two Cadets knowing shorthand and typewriting	Messrs Sellers and Goodwin
Messrs W. Souter and Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typiste	Miss Walker
T. Cotter, Esq., Solicitor	Shorthand Writer and Typist	Mr Stanton
Messrs E. Porter and Co.	Shorthand Writer and Typist	Mr Brady
Messrs Sargood, Son and Ewen	Shorthand	Mr Claude Smith

Wairarapa Daily Times 09 May 1901 Local and General

We have long been wanting a good office ruler; at last one has come to hand from Messrs John Chambers and Son, of Auckland. It bears an advertisement of "Magnolia Anti-Friction Metal for Machinery Bearings," but that we do not mind, because it is just the office accessory we have so long been looking for. Messrs John Chambers and Son have our sincere thanks for the ruler, and whenever they have another article of the kind to spare we shall be glad to make a similar exchange.

Auckland Star 14 May 1901 Lost

Gold Bracelet between Parnell and St Helier's Bay – Finder will be rewarded. Chambers and Son, Fort St.

Evening Post 08 Jun 1901

A few weeks ago the President of the Builders' Association, speaking at Silverstream, made some remarks about the annual winter brick famine in Wellington. The famine, there is reason to hope, will not occur after the present winter is over. It is now announced that a second company has been formed for the purpose of manufacturing bricks from some good clay which has been discovered on the property of Mr A. B. Fitchett, Ohiro-road. Mr W. C. Stephens, of the head office staff of the Wellington and Manawatu railway, has resigned his position to undertake the duties of Secretary of the Wellington Brick Company, in which, it is understood, he holds a considerable interest. Messrs Crabtree and Sons are supplying the brick-machine, capable of making from twelve to twenty thousand bricks per day, also a twelve by five foot boiler to work at 100lb pressure. The motive power will be a Tangye engine of forty horse power, economical load, supplied by **Messrs Chambers and Son**, Auckland, while other machinery has been ordered from England and America.

Auckland Star 24 Jun 1901 Hospital and Charitable Aid Board

Hospital Lift – Mr E. Bartley, the Board's architect, reported on the question of putting a passenger lift in the Hospital, and stated that the cost of effecting the necessary alterations in the building would be about £100. Messrs Chambers and Son offered to put in a lift for £995. These reports were furnished in consequence of an offer made by Mr Wesley Spragg and other gentlemen to contribute £100 towards the cost of the lift. Consideration of the matter was deferred till next meeting of the Board.

New Zealand Herald 25 Jun 1901 Hospital and Charitable Aid Board

Elevator in the Hospital: Reporting on the feasibility of putting an elevator in the hospital, the Board's architect (Mr E. Bartley) stated that the cost of effecting the necessary alterations in the building would be about £100. Messrs J. Chambers and Sons offered to put in a high pressure lift, with a cage, 3ft x ft 6in for £995. The above reports were furnished in consequence of an offer made by Mr Wesley Spragg and other gentlemen, to contribute £100 towards the cost of placing a lift in the building. Consideration of the matter was deferred till next meeting.

Auckland Star 10 Jul 1901 Whangarei Waterworks

The following tenders have been received for contract No.1 of the Whangarei Waterworks:- Briscoe and Co. £6057; Chambers £5523; T. and S. Morrin £5232; Porter and Co. £5099 (accepted). The estimate was £5452.

Auckland Star 12 Jul 1901 City Council

City Engineer, submitting tenders for 25 h.p. engine and boiler for driving stone-crushing machines: The acceptance of Messrs J. Chambers and Sons' tender at £910 was approved – (Signed) A. Kidd, Chairman.

Ohinemuri Gazette 17 Jul 1901 Turua Notes

Messrs Bagnall Bros and Co. Ltd., have started their new engine and boiler. These were supplied by Messrs John Chambers and Son of Auckland. The boiler was made by Babcock and Wilcox and the engine by Tangye Bros; the furnace has been specially constructed for burning sawdust and shavings, from pans supplied by the makers of the boiler, and is found to act admirably.

Colonist 15 Aug 1901 Advertisement

C. G. Peart, Nelson Agent for John Chambers and Son. "Racine" Electro Vapor Engines and Launches, Tangye's Gas Engines, Tangye's Oil Engines, Dodge Wood Split Pulleys, Bell's Asbestos Goods, and Bell's Asbestos-packed Steam Fittings. Kept in Stock – Gas Engine Oil, Tangye's Anti-friction Metal, Magnolia Metal. C. G. Peart, Engineer, Hardy-street.

New Zealand Herald 23 Aug 1901 Local and General News

Two fine warehouses on the harbour reclamations have recently been completed and occupied, namely, those of Messrs John Chambers and Co., and of Messrs Briscoe and Co. (Limited), wholesale ironmongers, which are three and four storeys respectively.

New Zealand Herald 05 Oct 1901 New Zealand Portland Cement Company

This company has recently been re-formed and the works, which have just been remodeled, are now fitted up with the best and most modern cement-making machinery. The works are situated at Limestone Island, in the Whangarei Harbour, and occupy an exceptionally fine position as regards both the quality and quantity of the raw material and facilities for shipment; a deep-water channel capable of taking deep-draught vessels running right alongside the works. The works cover about an acre of ground, and the machinery is of the best description. The motive power is a 200-h.p. Tangye's compound surface-condensing engine, with Wheeler condenser and Babcock and Wilcox boiler, supplied by J. Chambers and Son...

Auckland Star 11 Oct 1901 City Improvements

... the stone breaking machine at Mount Eden... housed in a corrugated iron building 55 feet long and 30 feet in width... The driving engine is a "Tangye's" fitted with cut off gear. Mr James C. Froude, representative of Messrs John Chambers and Son (Limited), the firm supplying the machinery, was present to watch the trial run...

New Zealand Herald 12 Oct 1901 City Improvements

The Mayor (Mr Alfred Kidd), accompanied by a city engineer, visited the stone-crushing machine, now in course of erection on the side of Mount Eden. The work is well under way, and a look over the ground is sufficient to convince anyone that the City of Auckland will soon have a most complete stone-crushing plant in full working order. The new stone crusher is what is known as "Baxter's". It has been erected inside a large building on the side of the mountain, approached from Mary-street, the motive power being under the same roof, while room has also been left for the old stone-crusher, which will be removed to the new site when everything is in working order. The new machine has a crushing capacity of 80 yards per eight hours, and the old machine will crush 50 yards, making a total of 130 yards per day when both stone-crushers are running. The machines are to be driven by a 76 horse-power Babcock and Wilcox water tube boiler, the driving engine being a Tangye fitted with the Tangye-Johnston automatic cut-off gear. Mr J. C. Froude, representing Messrs John Chambers and Son (Limited), who supplied the machinery, had a trial run of the boiler and engine yesterday. Tramlines have been laid from the stone quarries on the mountain-side, and the stone is brought in trucks from two directions into the shed to be put through the crushers. The Baxter stone-crusher is fed by hand, but after this labour is unnecessary except to carry the broken metal away...

New Zealand Herald 16 Oct 1901 The City Council's Stone-breaker

The new Baxter stone-breaker, erected at the Mount Eden quarries by Messrs John Chambers and Sons (Limited), contractors to the City Council, was formally started yesterday by His Worship the Mayor (Mr Alfred Kidd)...

Opunake Times Tuesday 22 Oct 1901 Bankruptcy: Estate of Albert Elgar

The following is the statement of the assets and liabilities in the bankrupt estate of Albert Elgar, of Opunake, a tinsmith:- Assets: Stock-in-trade 149 £ 12s 7d., book debts £135 6s 4d estimated to produce £121 0s 4d, cash in hand £4 16s 6d, furniture £30, tools £33 15s 6d, cow £5 10s, heifer £2, saddle and bridle £2 5s, workshop and tank £40. Total £388 19s 11d. Unsecured creditors as per list: £202 7s 6d. Balance £186 12s 5d. List of unsecured creditors:- Porter and Co., Auckland £90; Chambers and Son, Auckland £19 4s 9d; Drummond & Son, Wanganui £15 0s 11d; Hardley & Son, Hawera £15 10s; J. Judson, Opunake £8 19s 5d; Estate of Pettigrew, Opunake £7 4s 8d; Bang Chong, Opunake 5 pounds 3s 7d; C. Ekdahl, Hawera £1 6s 6d; H. Weston, New Plymouth 12s 6d; A. Standish, New Plymouth £3 3s; W. Parkinson, Hawera 15s; J. McDavitt, Opunake £2 10s; R. Watson, Eltham Road £6 8s 7d; Taranaki County Council 6s 3d; Harbor Board 6s 11d; John Duthie & Co., Wellington £5; W. Peacock, Opunake £5 5s; W. J. Christie, Opunake £1 16s 7d; A. O'Brien, Opunake 15s 6d; M. Howarth, Opunake 10s; G. Newsham, Opunake £6; W. Dudley, Pihama £2; Townsend, Awatuna 10s; T. Wallis, Opunake £1 18s 6d; Bayliss, Pihama £2. Total £202 7s 6d.

New Zealand Herald 07 Nov 1901 Seventy Handsome Illustrations

... The illustrations of John Chambers and Son's and McCullagh and Gower's new premises, which are interesting as showing the expansion of Auckland and the enterprise of some of its citizens...

Auckland Weekly News Supplement 07 Nov 1901 p13 Seven Photographs of the premises of John Chambers & So

- [1] View of John Chambers and Sons Ltd, New Premises, Fort and Gore Streets, Auckland
 - [2] Section of First Floor, showing heavy winding gear, blocks and tackle and timber jacks
 - [3] Section of Upper Floor, showing samples wire rope on spools
 - [4] Entrance to Warehouse and Enquiry Office
 - [5] The Ground Floor showing steam, oil and gas engines of various classes
 - [6] Section of the first floor showing oil launch, patent blocks, tackle and winches
 - [7] Section of Upper Floor showing variety of split wood pulleys
- All can be viewed online in the Auckland Council Library Heritage Images Collection

New Zealand Herald 15 Nov 1901 Auckland City Council

The following tenders were received for the supply and delivery of cast-iron pipes for Queen-street water supply:- John Chambers and Son, £2180; Briscoe, MacNeill and Co. £2329; E. Porter and Co., £2399. The tender of Messrs Porter and Co. was accepted, the engineer reporting that Messrs Chambers and Son had not complied with conditions as to time.

Wanganui Herald 19 Nov 1901 Shocking Death at Dunedin – Battered on a Shafting

Mr John Wright, a member of the firm of Wright, Stephenson and Co., and Son, and one of the founders of the firm, met with a shocking death today. He had been worrying for some time about a manure-mixing machine, and Chambers and Son, who supplied the machinery, put on a man to run it for a week. The elevator had become choked, and the belt driving it slipped off. The deceased went up the ladder, but whether he tried to replace the belt or intended to wait till the elevator was cleared is not known. Somehow he got caught in the shafting, which was revolving at the rate of 150 revolutions per minute, and was carried round with the shafting. As the latter was less than three feet below the beams, his lower extremities struck the beam with every revolution, and the body was terribly mangled before the engine could be stopped. Death was probably instantaneous. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned and no blame was attached to anyone. The deceased was very popular among all classes, and his death caused a great shock. Most of the business places displayed flags at half-mast. He leaves a widow and several young children.

New Zealand Herald 19 Nov 1901 Coromandel Waterworks

A Special meeting of the Coromandel County Council was held on Saturday evening... The business was to open tenders for the water works, supplies of pipes, and earth work, also the appointment of an inspector. The following tenders were received for Contract No.1: Messrs E. Porter and Co. £4199 (accepted); J. Chambers and Son £4314; Wingate and Co. £4318; Briscoe and Co., £4475

Otago Daily Times 19 Nov 1901 A Well-Known Businessman Killed – The Inquest

Edwin Wilkinson, storeman on John Chambers and Son's premises, said that he was an engineer by trade, and was sent over to the premises of Wright, Stevenson and Co. to look after the machinery. After everything had been running for an hour in good order, the elevator got choked and threw the belt off. He jumped down into "the pit" and was clearing the elevator. He had not been there more than a minute when he heard a noise, and looked up, receiving a blow on the side of the head. He saw the body of the deceased being taken round by the shaft...

Manawatu Standard 02 Dec 1901 In Bankruptcy

The following is a statement in connection with the insolvent estate of G. N. Stratford, coachbuilder of Bulls:- ... Unsecured creditors: Auckland... Chambers and Son 18s 10d... In his statement bankrupt says he took over his father's coachbuilding business at Bulls in 1895 and when he was making some headway in 1897 the big flood in the Rangitikei River severed Bulls from its over-river trade. In December 1899 his premises were totally destroyed by fire. He attributed his bankruptcy to restricted trade, over-competition in the blacksmithing and coachbuilding, want of capital, and sickness in the family. He could make no offer to his creditors.

New Zealand Herald 14 Dec 1901 For Sale by John Chambers and Son, Limited

- [1] Tangye's 10-h.p. Vertical Boiler, 10-head Stamp Battery (1000lb weight), 2 Steam Hoists, 1 No.1 and 1 No.3 Root's Blower; all second-hand
- [2] Dodge Wood Split Pulleys, Kirkstall's Steel Shafting, Plummer Blocks, Couplings, Collars
- [3] Flax Milling Plant, consisting of Strippers, Scutchers, Screw Press, Shafting, Pulleys, etc., second-hand
- [4] Bell's Asbestos Engine Packings, Sheetings; Silvertown Rubber Hose, Belting, Insertions, Gandy Belting, North British Rubber Belting and Leather Belting
- [5] Lubricating Oils and Grease of all descriptions
- [6] Racine Oil Launch, 16ft long, 1½-h.p., speed 6 miles, carrying six passengers
- [7] Babcock and Wilcox Steel Water Tube Boilers, each 64, 76, 124 h.p., 120lb pressure
- [8] 23in Sampson Turbine, built for 34ft head, develops 212 h.p., second-hand, first-class
- [9] Wheeler Surface Condenser, 340 square feet heating surface, complete, with Circulating Air Pump
- [10] Tangye's Improved Gas and Oil Engines, "Otto" principle, Pinkney's Patents from 1 to 23 h.p., from stock
- [11] Tangye's Cornish Boiler, 25-h.p., 22ft by 5ft 6in, 80lb pressure; also, Kidd's 30-h.p. Cornish Boiler, 26ft by 5ft 6in; both second-hand
- [12] One Egan No.1 Surface Planing Machine, to plane 18in by 6in, as described under code word "Ambrosrus"
- [13] Tangye's 10in by 18in Coupled Geared Winding Engine, 6ft drums. Also, Coupled Winding Engine, 4ft 6in drum, pair of 8in cycliners; also one second-hand, with pair of 9in cylinders

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

- BBAO 5544/71/a 1902/125 Passes water gauges ex 'Tekoa' as hydraulic pressure gauges – Commissioner's decision re penalty
- BBAO 5544/72/a 1902/214 Re evaporator imported by J. Chambers and Son ex SS 'Tongariro'
- BBAO 5544/72/a 1902/354 Apply for refund of duty on rebate on price of mining machinery
- BBAO 5544/74/a 1902/696 Protest against 20% duty on belt stretchers – Commissioner's decision re entry
- BBAO 5544/74/a 1902/783 Post entry accepted
- BBAO 5544/211/a 1902/926 Protest against 20% duty on couplings etc – Commissioner's decision re admittance
- BBAO 5544/211/a 1902/1035 Turbine tube cleaner – Commissioner's decision re classification
- BBAO 5544/212/a 1902/1036 Special wire tube brushes – Commissioner's decision re classification
- BBAO 5544/212/a 1902/1085 Commissioner's decision re duty on Green's Economisers for boilers

New Zealand Post Office Directory 1902

Chambers & Son Ld. John - engineers and importers Fort St Auckland; Cumberland St Dunedin; Wellington

The Cyclopedia of New Zealand Volume 2 Auckland p369 (1902)

Chambers, John and Son, Limited, Engineers and Importers, Fort and Gore Streets, Auckland. Telephones 675 and 698. PO Box 323. Bankers, National Bank of New Zealand. Branches at Dunedin and New Plymouth. Messrs John Chambers and Son, Limited, keep at their warehouses an exceptionally large and complete stock of machinery, specialities, engineers' requisites, and of mining, dredging and general machinery. Large engineering works have been undertaken and carried out by the firm. The fine battery and plant of the Barrier Reefs, Limited, was supplied by the firm in 1900. It erected in 1897 the plant of the Kathleen Gold Mine, at a cost of 8,000 pounds, and the Success and Four-in-Hand Gold Mining Companies have been similarly equipped at a cost of 13,000 pounds. Large dairying machinery has been erected by the firm in various parts of the provincial district of Auckland; indeed, the firm makes a specialty of this branch of its business. The firm's well-merited success has been achieved solely by perseverance and integrity. The firm has been in existence since 1892, and is recognised as one of the leading and most progressive firms in New Zealand, with a name respected from Auckland to the Bluff. The expansion of the business was so great that, in 1899, it was formed into a limited company, under the title of John Chambers and Son, Limited with Mr John Chambers as chairman, Messrs J. M. Chambers and Seymour Thorne George, directors, and Mr W. Stanley Cooper, secretary. The company has the sole agencies in New Zealand for Tangye's Ltd (which employs 1600 hands), Asham Brothers and Wilson, Sheffield, for Bell's Asbestos Company, Limited, London, and Babcock and Wilcox's Water Tube Boilers, etc. The specialties of the firm are requisites and machinery for mines, waterworks, dairies and creameries. It not only keeps considerable stocks, but regularly receives the Sydney and Melbourne stock sheets of Tangye's Ltd., and can secure any machine required at the shortest notice. The firm completed and erected the pumping plant for the Devonport Borough Council's waterworks, and it constantly has contracts in hand for the erection of dairies, engines, chaff-cutting plant, etc. It is in a position to enter into contracts for the supply of machinery of every description, and will undertake to erect and complete it in any part of the colony, and hand it over in good going order. The firm has a competent staff of men to undertake engine-fitting and all kinds of machine work. Its offices and warehouse are at the corner of Fort Street and Gore Street; the buildings are of brick and four stories in height, and the total floorage space is 32,400 square feet. The business of the firm extends over the whole colony, and besides employing travelers, the partners themselves occasionally make business trips through the country towns and districts.

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/77/a 1903/522 Forwarding copy of letter to them re classification of Green's Patent Fuel Economisers

BBAO 5544/77/a 1903/540 Asking if there is any authority re warehousing engines and boilers for a specific intention

BBAO 544/213/a 1903/718 Approval of their Bonded Warehouse

BBAO 544/213/a 1903/757 Asking number of steam engines warehoused for year ending 30 Jun 1903

BBAO 544/213/a 1903/886 Re deduction of 15% off list price for Babcock's Boilers etc – asking if he has Jones and Burton's price list

BBAO 5544/214/a 1903/918 Forwarding copy of letter sent to the Auckland house re clearance of engines and boilers

ACIF 16475 C1/19/t 1903/1703 NZ Express Co. for J. Chambers & Son's claim West's Hydraulic Tyre Setter free as Metal Workers Machine Tool [02 Nov]

Archives NZ Archway – Customs Department – Inwards Letters from John Chambers & Son

BBAO 5544/78/a 1904/168 Refund authorized on difference of duty on engines sold before a certain time
BBAO 5544/79/a 1904/318 Commissioner's decision on classification of labour saving hoists and travelling gear
BBAO 5544/79/a 1904/323 Their intention to contest liability of duty at 20% on engines not specially imported for a dairy or mine
BBAO 5544/79/a 1904/392 Babcock Boilers – circular re discussions with J. Chambers and Son
BBAO 5544/79/a 1904/407 Re cold rolled shafting
BBAO 5544/80/a 1904/582 Re goods ex 'Zealandia' invoiced from John Chambers and Company Ltd, Auckland to R. Wood and Wood of Sydney
BBAO 5544/80/a 1904/657 Forwarding copy of Secretary's letter re feed water heaters
BBAO 5544/80/a 1904/740 Understate value of hardware ex 'Niwaru' – post entry accepted
BBAO 5544/81/a 1904/760 Their case is under consideration of Cabinet – re acceptance of writ
BBAO 5544/81/a 1904/772 Reporting re defence in their case
BBAO 5544/81/a 1904/832 Try to pass steam boiler at 5% for dairying and intend to transship to Auckland
BBAO 5544/81/a 1904/842 Commissioner's decision re duty on a speed indicator
BBAO 5544/82/a 1904/919 Re duty on engine
BBAO 5544/82/a 1904/940 Re duty charged on steel jaws – post entry accepted
BBAO 5544/82/a 1904/1001 Re speed indicators
BBAO 5544/82/a 1904/1123 Re import of a boiler for dairying purposes
BBAO 5544/215/a 1904/1137 Re duty on cranes
BBAO 5544/215/a 1904/1160 Re classification of pump bucket leathers
BBAO 5544/215/a 1904/11221 Re classification of pump bucket leathers

Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1905 H15A p66 Return showing the names of owners of Boilers

J. Chambers & Son own a 2nd class 16 hp driving machinery with 13" cylinders in the engines situated in New Plymouth.

Archives NZ Reference AD 3/32 1908/177 Inwards correspondence register of the Army Department

Officer Commanding Permanent Force writes on 16 Mar 1908 re claim of John Chambers & Son. Referred to Officer Commanding Defence Auckland 20 Mar 1908 - ascertain whether the attached account is correct and if so forward a certified voucher for authority to pay. (account 1/7/4).

Archives NZ Reference AD 3/35 1910/199 Inwards correspondence register of the Army Department

C.G.S. Wellington writes on 15 Apr 1910 re Oil launch asking Palmer Engineering Coy re account J. Chambers & Son. Forwarding correspondence re claim from J. Chambers & Son asking for £1 10s for 6 type No.2 Hellesen drycells at 5s each for oil launch ak. On 18 Apr 1910: Officer Commanding Defence Auckland suggest that the account should be forwarded to Palmer Engineering Coy as the launch was in their charge. On 21 Apr 1910: Suggest the account together with copy of Officer Commanding Defence Auckland explanation be sent to Palmer Engineering Coy for settlement. On 30 Sep 1910: Forwarding news from Officer Commanding District Auckland asking what has been done in the matter - replying what was done in the matter. [Former papers: D. 10/212]

Hocken Archives and Manuscripts – AG-200-11/04/3563 Letter to the Otago Harbour Board, Birch Street, Dunedin 08 Feb 1924

Dear Sirs, We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your valued order for the following:- 2 only 1-³/₄" Diameter Best Lambeth Cotton Ropes stretched and Spliced to suit measurements as per Blue Print No.14060 attached. Your order will be despatched to our Principals by first out-going mail with instructions that prompt shipment be made. Again thanking you for this business and awaiting your further favours.

Alexander Turnbull Library Biographical Index - NZ Biography 1962 Volume 2 p84 - Humble start led John Chambers to foremost place

The New Zealand-wide firm of John Chambers and Son Ltd., has demonstrated its confidence in Hawke's Bay by investing thousands of pounds in land, buildings and stock in Hastings. The company's newly-erected premises in Heretaunga street will be opened on Monday. From small and humble beginnings almost 70 years ago, John Chambers and Son Ltd., now holds a foremost position in the selling and servicing of some of the finest engineering equipment, heavy machinery and agricultural plant for New Zealand's primary automotive and industrial needs. The founder, Mr J. M. Chambers, first had his thoughts turned towards New Zealand when, as a lad of 16, he was apprenticed as a coppersmith to a firm involved in servicing vessels engaged in the Crimean War. While thus employed he met many travellers and in particular, sailors who told glorious tales of the land "down under". These tales of early New Zealand led Mr Chambers to resign his position and emigrate to this country. He arrived in Auckland in 1864 after an eventful voyage lasting almost six months.

Gold Mining

Unfortunately, in 1866 a trade depression set in; business in general became paralysed and the firm of ironmongers he was employed by in Auckland was forced to close down. In these circumstances, Mr Chambers turned his efforts to gold mining and with a party of friends, took to digging in the Thames area. Their efforts, however, met with little success. At the same time it brought home to Mr Chambers the need to introduce mechanisation of some kind to implement mining since he was convinced vast quantities of the elusive metal could be obtained with suitable mining equipment. He therefore spent the ensuing years designing mining and general contracting equipment. In 1876 he visited Great Britain, the United States and Canada, to arrange for the manufacture of some of his equipment, and at the same time he took the opportunity of securing for himself the New Zealand Agency for many engineering and industrial lines. Incidentally, some of the agencies then secured are still held by the Company.

Mineral Resources

On his return to New Zealand Mr Chambers resumed his interest in mining as well as in other businesses and concerns being established in the country. He was one of the first at the goldfield at Ohinemuri and was one of the original share-holders in the Martha mine, which later became known as the Waihi Gold

Mining Co. He did much for the development of this, especially in the Karangahake area, where he erected the first smelting furnace. Later he pegged out the Ohinemuri river for tailings. This river was subsequently worked by the Waihi-Paeroa Gold Extraction Co. Ltd. Mr Chambers, whose knowledge of the mineral resources of the country was extensive, was instrumental in the development of the coalfields at Kamo and did much to assist with the assembly of one of the largest cement works in New Zealand. In 1893, his son, John Chambers Jun., having returned to New Zealand after being six years in Australia and Great Britain undergoing training as an engineer, joined his father and they established the firm of John Chambers & Son Ltd.

Company's Fortunes

For the first three years of operation the company confined its activities to selling mining and contracting equipment in the Auckland area, but in 1896, when New Zealand enjoyed a mining boom, the firm really prospered. This boom brought many orders to John Chambers & Son Ltd. For two years the company was exceptionally active in contracting for the supply and erection of pumping and winching machinery, stamp batteries, and even electric lighting for existing mines and mills. The firm contracted to deliver and erect machinery of all kinds and even the construction of buildings. The latter were built of wood or iron framework, the timber in most cases being cut from the virgin forest growing near the battery sites. The company became firmly established in New Zealand as mining and contracting engineers for it made a success of every job undertaken. When the boom collapsed, the firm resolved upon stocking, contracting and engineering requirements and machinery of all kinds, including equipment for the rapidly developing primary industry. In 1903 Mr J. M. Chambers died and the business was carried on by his son until his death in 1918.

Abreast of Times

In the 70 years of its history, the business has changed in its character with the development of the country, and perhaps in no way has it shown its vitality and versatility more than in meeting such changes. Today the company operates 19 sales branches with more than 600 employees. While the founder and sales assistants first covered the country by horseback, followed by the use of bicycles, the company now has a fleet of more than 60 modern vehicles to enable its engineers and sales representatives to call at regular intervals on all engineering, industrial and automotive concerns throughout the length and breadth of the country. Today the firm of John Chambers & Son Ltd. is headed by Mr G. N. Roberts as chairman and Mr Douglas L. Smith, M.I.Mar E., M.I. PlantE., as general manager. Mr J. R. Graham, A.M.I. Mech E., A.M.N.Z.E.E., A.M.I.MarE., heads the newly-formed engineering sales division.

Alexander Turnbull Library Reference TL 3/1/2 7 Jun 1962

Letter from the Turnbull Library to The Managing Director, John Chambers & Son Ltd., Cr. Jervois Quay and Cable Street, Wellington

Dear Sir, In the hope that some of your older personnel may have knowledge of the descendants of Mr J. M. Chambers, I write for your help in a quest. Mr J. M. Chambers' father (John Chambers) was interested in the New Zealand Iron & Steel Co., formed in 1883, and I find that in 1917 he (Mr J. M. Chambers) held some of his father's records of this company, which went into liquidation in 1886. It is these records that I am seeking, and any suggestion you can give me would be greatly appreciated. We know that Mr J. M. Chambers died in 1918, and that his two sons went to Australia, but their subsequent movements we have not traced. Yours faithfully, Chief Librarian.

Alexander Turnbull Library Reference TL 3/1/2 19 Jun 1962 Reply from John Chambers & Son Ltd.

Attention: Mr C. R. H. Taylor - Dear Sir, We would refer you to your letter TL 3/1/2 of the 7th Jun of this month in which you asked for any information we can give you in regard to the descendants of the late Mr J. M. Chambers. We would suggest that you communicate with his daughter, Mrs Kathleen Caffin, whose address is:- Balrath, Co. Meath, Ireland. As an alternative Colonel Mackey of Russel McVeagh & Co., Solicitors, Auckland may be able to assist you as this concern have acted on behalf of the Chambers' family for many years. We trust this information will be of assistance to you. For John Chambers & Son Ltd R. A. Elliott, Manager.

Beginnings: A History of the North Shore of Auckland by Paul Titchener

Volume 3 p11 Notes only: A Tangye 6hp boiler & engine was installed at Duder Bros Brickworks by John Chambers & Son.

Volume 4 p31 Notes only: A contract was let to John Chambers & Son to supply pumps, boilers and other machinery in the Lake Pupuke Pumphouse.

Includes a photo of a Tangye Pump and the pumphouse dated 7 Mar 1906.