

RAVENEL, JOHNSON & ROBERTSON.

Charleston is fortunate in possessing reliable underwriting agencies, among the leading of which we note the agency of Ravenel, Johnson & Robertson. The agency was founded during the sixties and its career has been one co-existent with the growth and development of Charleston. The firm occupy a commodious suite of offices at No. 12 Broad Street, and their accommodation and facilities are all that could be desired. The companies represented by the agency cover the entire field of fire, life, accident, marine and surety bonds and have combined capital and assets of many millions. They include the following high class organizations: German-American Insurance Company, of New York; Royal Insurance Company, of England; Phoenix Assurance Company, of England; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, of Edinburg; London Assurance Corporation of England; Hamburg-Bremen Insurance Company, of Germany; Pennsylvania Insurance Company, Philadelphia; British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, of England; Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Company, of England; Travelers Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., and American Surety Insurance Company, of New York. With insurance placed in these well known and tried and tested companies, indemnity in case of loss is assured, and policies are written in each of them at the lowest established rates. This agency transacts a large and profitable business and numbers among its patrons many of the leading citizens of Charleston, the county and vicinity. This business is the result, not alone of the excellent companies represented, but likewise of the progressive abilities of the wide-awake gentlemen at the head of affairs. The individual members are wide-awake citizens of this section and are highly respected.

Mr. O. E. Johnson, Jr., is a Charlestonian by birth and resides at Summerville. He is a gentleman well known through the State.

Mr. F. M. Robertson, the junior member of the firm, is one of our best known young business men and a Charlestonian by birth.

Messrs. Johnson and Robertson are experienced underwriters, and their services are always at the disposal of patrons.

BERNARD O'NEILL & SONS.

Bernard O'Neill & Sons, wholesale grocers, cotton and rice factors and commission merchants, 191 East Bay and 48 and 50 State Street, own and occupy the store and building there. The business was established by Mr. Bernard O'Neill in 1845. The building occupied by this house is a large three-story edifice, 30 feet wide by 325 feet in depth. The first floor is devoted to the general stock and to the offices of the firm, the second to groceries and woodenware, the third to the general merchandising business of the house, which is large enough to give them a trade all over the South Atlantic States. This firm owns several large plantations planted in cotton and rice, besides two extensive truck farms on these places; several hundred hands are employed during the year and this force is increased during the harvest season.

Mess. O'Neill & Sons have done and are still accomplishing much in the development of this section of the State tributary to Charleston. Mr. Frank Q. O'Neill, who is president of the Hibernia Trust and Savings Bank, founded by his father, Mr. Bernard O'Neill, attends to the financial affairs of the firm, and Mr. James B. O'Neill to the buying and selling and general superintendence.

Mr. Bernard O'Neill is practically a retired merchant; he has been in business in

this city for nearly 60 years, but still takes an active part in anything that even has a tendency to her benefit, leaving the arduous work to his sons, but aiding them with his good judgment attained by long practical experience.

OTTO TIEDEMAN & SONS.

Otto Tiedeman & Sons are thus described in an account of the city published some time ago: "Thrift, honesty and enterprise are as sure of their reward in Charleston as in the rest of the world, and when to these characteristics are joined keen, general intelligence and a fine perception of business matters, you have the model merchant and the representative citizen; such a man is Mr. Otto Tiedeman, the founder and still the head of the well known firm of Otto Tiedeman & Sons." Mr. Tiedeman came from Germany fifty-nine years ago; two years after his arrival he went into the gro-



OTTO TIEDEMAN & SONS, Wholesale Grocers.

cery business, and from comparatively small beginnings he has built up a large business, extending over a large territory.

The house of Tiedeman, Calder & Co., established in 1871, was succeeded by Mess. Otto Tiedeman, Otto Tiedeman, Jr., and John C. Tiedeman. The junior members are Charleston born and sons of the senior principal. The firm deals in provisions, rice, staple and fancy groceries, canned goods, tobacco and cigars. Rapid increase in business and a desire to keep pace with the times, induced the firm to erect a new and more imposing building on the site of their old stand, 172, 174 and 176 East Bay. On the first floor, at the left upon entering, are the offices, the rest of the story being used for general wholesale purposes. The second floor is a storeroom for meats alone; and the third floor is for general merchandise. The most conspicuous and attractive feature of this model business structure is its very handsome iron front; architecturally it is an ornament to the city and it is an evidence at once of the excellent taste and the public spirit of Otto Tiedeman & Sons.