

## OUR BUSINESS PIONEERS

### Men Who Built Up Industrial New England

**OBED GILMAN DORT, WHO BECAME A DRUGGIST AND EMINENT BANKER AFTER THE CIVIL WAR.**

Born at Surry, N H, Jan 25, 1828.



When the American founder of the Dort family came from England and settled in Connecticut, he spelled his name Richard Dart. He arrived in 1633. Obed Gilman Dort attended the public schools of Surry and graduated at the Academy at Keene. At 15 he started out

to learn an apprentice trade, and chose that of carriage and sign painter. When he was ready to begin his business career he did not select his trade, but at 22 became a dealer in drugs, paints and paper hangings at Keene.

After some years he dropped the paints and paper hangings and became a druggist and was engaged in this for 25 years. When he was a young man at Keene he had become a member of the Light Infantry and was elected lieutenant. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Dort in the Fall of 1861 enlisted a company to serve for three years. He was commissioned captain, and his company became one of the 6th Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers.

It was not long till he was promoted major of the regiment. This body of troops took part in the Burnside expedition to North Carolina.

In the Summer of that year, 1862, the North Army Corps was ordered to join Gen McClellan, and they encamped at Newport News. At this point Maj. Dort's wife and a six-year-old child, Arthur, came to visit the camp, accompanied by wives of other officers.

They had only just arrived when suddenly the regiment was ordered away. The visitors embarked on the steamer West Point, en route for the North. On the evening of Aug 13 the West Point ran into the steamer George Peabody, sank almost immediately, and Mrs. Dort, her son and the other women perished in this disaster.

This blow to Maj. Dort was a terrible one and he left the service. His wife had been placed in charge of his business and she left him another little boy 5 years old. He had fought in the battles of Elizabeth City, Camden, the second Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam.

His business required the utmost at-

ention, but it eventually recovered from the bad effects of the war and Mr. Dort's absence and became a prominent one. In 1875 he became cashier of the Citizens' National Bank and three years later was made president. He was one of the founders of the Guaranty Savings Bank of Keene and was for many years its treasurer.