



The firm of Remshardt and Co., Wool, Skin, and Hide Merchants, Vogel and Cumberland Streets, Dunedin. was originally established in 1881 by the present proprietor, Mr. Christian Eugene Remshardt, who about three years later admitted Mr. Arthur McDonald into partnership under the style of Remshardt, McDonald and Co.

After a prosperous existence of nearly four years, the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Remshardt has since carried on the business as at present constituted. The large building occupied by the firm, which was erected on Harbour Board leasehold land for Messrs Hogg, Howison and Co. for the Mutual Agency Company, has been acquired by Mr. Remshardt. It is a three storey brick building with roomy cellar, having large frontages to Vogel and Cumberland Streets. Messrs Remshardt and Co. occupy the ground and first floor and cellar, the upper flat being let. The principal entrance is from Vogel Street, on which side the offices are located, and the store and cart entrance is in Cumberland Street.

Mr. Remshardt was, in conjunction with Mr. McDonald, among the first to establish the rabbit skin industry in New Zealand, and to introduce careful classing of the skins. The proprietor having made a particular study of this trade, besides opening communication with European, American, and Eastern firms, it is not surprising that enterprise and industry have been rewarded by the development of an extensive business. Some idea of the extent of the firm's export trade in rabbit skins alone may be gleaned from the fact, that from 800 to 1200 bales containing several millions of skins are shipped every year. Messrs Remshardt and Co., who purchase largely at Dunedin auction sales as well as privately, are so well known as

buyers of these skins that they receive consignments from customers in all parts of Otago, as well as from Southland, Marlborough, and Wellington, and sometimes from the province of Auckland; they are also large buyers and shippers of wool, sheepskins, hides, horsehair, flax, frozen meats, and other similar lines.

Mr. Remshardt, who is a naturalized British subject, was born in South Germany in 1848, and was educated in his native land till attaining the age of seventeen, when he went to London. After two or three years in Mincing and Mark Lanes, where he gained a practical knowledge of mercantile pursuits, he went to America, and was engaged in the import and export trades in Texas and New York for three years. On returning to London, he remained there as junior partner in a Mincing Lane export firm, for a further period of nearly three years, and came to New Zealand in January, 1875.

Mr. Remshardt obtained the appointment of accountant to the New Zealand Insurance Company in Dunedin, under Mr. G. Elliott, and filled the position for over five years, when he left to establish Remshardt & Co.

As a Freemason, he is attached to Lodge Dunedin. In 1877 Mr. Remshardt was married to a daughter of the late Mr. F. Roberts, of Dunedin, and has two daughters.

Christian Eugene Remshardt died on 22 November 1942, aged 94 years, and is buried at Dunedin's Andersons Bay Cemetery.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from information in The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Otago & Southland Provincial Districts].