

## C. J. ANDERSON COMPANY

At 212 Austin avenue is situated the well equipped establishment of this substantial industrial corporation, which is engaged in the manufacturing of controllers and starters for electric elevators, the superior devices that are thus made the basis of the enterprise having been invented and patented by C. J. Anderson, who is president and general manager of the company and to whose energy and technical ability has been due the development of the successful business of the concern, the company having been incorporated under the Illinois laws in the year 1910. The superiority of the Anderson controllers and starters for electric elevators has been proved in the most exacting of tests and in practical use, so that the business of the company is based on substantial foundations of merit and is constantly expanding in scope. The history of the enterprise is best

told in connection with a brief record of the career of its founder, and the pertinence of the following review is therefore unmistakable.

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### C. J. ANDERSON

C. J. Anderson was born in a small industrial city in Sweden and the year of his nativity was 1868. He attended school until he was twelve years old and then entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of machinist and engineer. At the age of fourteen he was given a man's work, as he was then placed in charge of the operation of a portable engine utilized in brick yards and in furnishing power for threshing machines. His ambition and his practical experience urged him on to the seeking of broader opportunities for personal achievement, and at the age of eighteen years he severed the ties that bound him to home and native land and set forth to make his own way in the United States. The year 1886 marked the arrival of Mr. Anderson in Chicago, and here he obtained employment in the extensive railway-supply and machine shops of the Adams-Westlake Company. His desire was to secure work in the line of his trade but at the start there was no opening of the kind and he made the best of the situation by taking the position of janitor and window-washer, while waiting opportunity to gain a place at the machinist's bench. In due time he realized this ambition but his ambition to extend his education and especially to acquire a better knowledge of the English language, led him to attend the night sessions of the public schools. He applied himself with characteristic energy both to his work and his studies, and to such valiant souls success comes as a natural prerogative. With the Adams-Westlake Company he won advancement to the position of assistant foreman and after four years of service with this corporation he resigned his position and went to Mansfield, Ohio. There he readily found employment along the line of his trade but after six months the lure of Chicago, as a great industrial center, caused him to return to this city. For two years thereafter he was in the employ of the Gregory Electric Company, and the plant of the company was then destroyed by a boiler explosion. Under these conditions Mr. Anderson, who had in the meantime acquired definite technical skill as a patternmaker, took a position in the pattern shops of a malleable iron company. Later he returned to the Gregory Electric Company and when the same was succeeded by the J. L. Sherman Company he remained with the latter concern until the business was sold to the Cutler-Hammer Company. With this latter company he remained until it removed its headquarters from Chicago, and even for a time thereafter. In the meantime he had invented and patented his improved controllers and starters for electric elevators and, with full confidence in their practical value, he initiated the manufacturing of the same on a very modest scale, his original location having been at 312 Ontario street. His new shop was directly opposite the plant of the Adams-Westlake Company and gave him a full view of the windows which he so frequently washed in the initial period of his experience in Chicago. With a floor space of only five hundred square feet and with only two employes, both skilled mechanics, Mr. Anderson conducted his little manufactory during the first year. He himself worked indefatigable and for long hours, in order to gain

a foothold as a manufacturer, and in this period he supplemented his financial returns by accepting at his shop repair work for others. Enlarging the capacity of his plant from time to time, Mr. Anderson continued operations at the original location on Ontario street until 1915, and the expansion of the business had in the meanwhile led to its incorporation, in 1910. In the year 1915 removal was made to the present eligible headquarters, where are utilized six thousand square feet of floor space, the mechanical equipment and accessories being of the best modern type and employment being here given to an average force of more than thirty skilled artisans. Mr. Anderson still maintains the most careful supervision of all mechanical and executive details of the business, permits no product to go forth until he is assured of its absolute perfection in every particular, and the Anderson elevator controllers and starters have constituted their own best advertising, with the result that there is now a demand for them in all parts of the Union, the trade of the company showing each successive year a substantial increase.

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