

Boot of 1905, and, as has been pointed out, the latter was never intended for an active service boot. Hence at the very outset a fatal blunder was made by the Government in ordering boots that were not fit for active service, and that blunder has been repeated over and over again.

NUMBER OF INFERIOR BOOTS ORDERED.

In the month of August, 1914, orders were given for 65,000 pairs of these inferior boots. In September a second order for 32,867 pairs was given. The boots of this second order were to be made from the inferior Gauthier samples and from some samples furnished by the Contractors themselves. On October 8th, 9th and 10th, further orders were given for 30,000 pairs. All the boots were ordered up to this time were to cost \$3.85 per pair. On October 24th the Department of Militia made a change in the sample boot by providing a double sole and between October 29th and November 4th, orders were placed for 40,532 pairs of these double-soled boots at \$4.00 per pair.

BOOTS BOUGHT FROM MIDDLEMEN

Later on in the month of November under instructions from the Acting Minister of Militia to purchase boots locally in Winnipeg, the Senior Ordnance Officer in that City, bought 3,798 pairs of boots from middlemen. These middlemen had the boots manufactured in different factories in Ontario and Quebec at prices ranging from \$3.40 to \$3.60 per pair, while they charged the Government an average price of \$4.00 per pair. Afterwards several other orders were placed in Vancouver and in other parts of Canada, and in all, the Department purchased 180,664 pairs of boots. These boots sell at retail for from \$5.50 to \$6.00 per pair.

NO PROPER INSPECTION.

The purchases having been made in the manner above stated, it is of interest to ascertain how the boots were inspected.

Up to the end of the year 1911 the Inspector of boots in the Department of Militia and Defence was a practical boot and shoe maker. He was dismissed without cause in December 1911 and in his place another gentleman was appointed, who had had no experience as a boot maker or as a tanner, and whose business immediately prior to his entering the Department had been that of a broker. It was because of this dismissal that the boots supplied by the Gauthier Company in 1913 were not properly inspected. Then in August last when the first War Contracts under the inferior Gauthier samples were awarded, five other boot Inspectors were employed, all of whom owed their appointment to political pull, and the majority of them had had no experience as boot and shoe makers. All practical men admit