

shown in the evidence that the Department of Militia had not been blind to this, and as recently as 1913 the English type of boot had been considered, but after careful investigation it was found that Canadian soldiers, accustomed as they were to much lighter boots, would be crippled and made inefficient through attempting to wear the English type of boot. This was borne out by the fact that when some of the Canadian boots were complained of at Salisbury and replaced by boots supplied by the British war officials, letters are being received in Canada to the effect that these are not at all suitable for our men, and are very hard upon them, and that they are again asking that they again be supplied with the boots to which they are accustomed. It may be said that this fact was brought out in the evidence that Canadian shoe manufacturers can make as good a boot for army purposes as can be made anywhere in the world, and there is no doubt that they can supply a boot if that boot is demanded which will overcome as well as any can overcome the extraordinary weather conditions which these boots were called upon to meet.

One-Half of One Per Cent. of a Scandal.

Regarding the whole situation, it cannot be better summed up in so far as the Canadian shoe manufacturers are concerned than in the words and figures of the majority report, which were not and cannot be disputed. Out of 86,000 pairs of shoes issued to the Canadian forces there were condemned by the militia authorities 7,807 pairs. The committee in order to satisfy itself as to the exact condition of the shoes which had been condemned after having been used, had them returned to Ottawa and had two practical men of much experience in connection with the repair and manufacture of shoes make a careful examination and report upon those condemned boots. The result was that it was found that of the 7,807 pairs condemned 6,599 pairs could be repaired and put in serviceable condition; 510 pairs had been burnt, 319 pairs had been mutilated and cut in some way, and there were actually defective only 379 pairs of shoes or less than one-half of one per cent. of all the shoes issued to the forces in Canada; and when this record is taken into consideration, we think it might be well said that the Canadian shoe industry has reason to be proud of this record and that instead of being held up to the ridicule and scorn of the people of Canada they should be pointed to with pride for having met so serious a crisis in so capable a way. It is unfortunate that this prejudice and condemnation of the Canadian shoe trade which has been heralded all over the world should ever have occurred. It has had a far-reaching effect upon the industry.

At the present time Canada is receiving large orders for all kinds of products from Russia, Great Britain and France and we are told that largely through the disparaging reports that have been sent broadcast regarding the class of shoes supplied by the Canadian shoe manufacturers, orders for shoes from these countries have not come to Canada in the way in which they otherwise would, and that in this way a great loss has been suffered by this industry and by the people of this country.

Orders Now Go to the United States .

Up to the month of June, orders for over 7,000,000 pairs of shoes at a cost of over \$20,000,000 have been placed by the allied armies among the United States manufacturers. Some of the large shoe concerns in that country have orders for a million pairs. In Canada little of this business has been secured by our manufacturers and the loss to our shoe manufacturers and their employees is estimated at from seven to ten million dollars.