

Tobacco Manufactory.

THOS. STEELE, No. 78, AND 80 YORK STREET.

It is only since the advent of the Southern war that much, indeed hardly any, attention was paid to the manufacture of Tobacco in this city. Since then the trade has grown from lilliputian to gigantic proportions, and in this city in particular, many hundreds of men, women, boys and girls are employed. Prominent among these firms is that of Messrs. Thos. Steele & Co., successors to S. S. Preston & Co., who were one of the most extensive tobacco manufacturers in Canada, is situated on York street near the corner of King. The building which consists of two houses being thrown into one, has a frontage on York Street of sixty feet by fifty-five in depth, and is four stories high, the entire of which is occupied by the different departments which are necessary in manufacturing tobacco from the raw state till it is ready for use. The engine which runs the works is of sixteen horse-power, and is placed together with a cutting machine in the cellar below the building. On the basement is situated the office, bonded warehouse, shipping room and press room where the press is worked by hydraulic power. This department also contains one large ram bender, six compressors and twelve retainers and moulds for making ten-and-a-half lbs. The second story is divided into two compartments, the first of which is the rolling and drying room, in which the leaf tobacco after being prepared is placed on a platform where men are employed turning it with forks made for the purpose, much in the same manner as hay. On the third story are situated the shaking out and casing room, and the warehouse where the tobacco after being cased is kept until it is sent down to the bonded store. The fourth story is used for drying the lumps, getting them in the right order for the pressing room. Messrs. Steele & Co., sold over three hundred boxes monthly of tobacco last year, and their business is rapidly increasing. On an average they employ one hundred hands regularly.

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