

named a well-known Montreal house, Brown & Childs, established a branch of their wholesale business. Two or three years afterward, this firm established a boot and shoe factory in premises near where the Temperance Coffee House now is, next St. James' Cathedral. About 1855, E. R. Carpenter & Co. came from the United States and began a wholesale trade, mostly in American shoes. This firm afterwards became Sessions, Cooper & Co., and its style is to-day Cooper & Smith. The Toronto business of Brown & Childs passed into the hands, in 1855, of Childs & Brown, from Massachusetts, and next year the style became Childs & Hamilton, under which name Mr. W. B. Hamilton carried on the business for many years. In 1886 he associated with himself his present partners, under the style of W. B. Hamilton & Co. Some time "in the sixties" J. W. Damer & Co. went into manufacturing in Toronto; that firm afterwards became Damer, King & Brown, on Front street, then King & Brown; finally, as it is now, J. D. King & Co., who removed their factory to Wellington street west. Other firms which have within the past twenty or thirty years essayed the boot and shoe manufacture were Henry Cobley & Co.; Gillyatt, Robinson & Hall; Walker, Evans & Co.; Edward Childs; John Holmes; but these five firms are now all out of existence.

By the use of ingenious modern machinery and by division of labor, the making of shoes has been greatly changed from the cramped and sedentary employment of a former day. As in the case of the hand-loom weaver, the shoemaker of the old school has had to succumb, and the factory furnishes foot-wear for the million. First the sewing-machine, then the machine pegger, then the Mackay sewer, the screw-wire machine, the Goodyear machine, has come in turn to facilitate production. But few parts of the construction and finish of a shoe now remain for which some machine has not been invented to take the place of laborious and deft human fingers. That marvel of ingenuity, the "cack" turn-machine, is no longer novel, but the screw-wire machine remains a puzzle to the novice. Fitting must still be done by hand, but machines are in these late days found for pegging, sewing, stitching, heeling, burnishing, eyeletting.

There are many well-to-do persons in Canada, principally men of English tastes, who are satisfied with nothing but hand-made boots, but the vast majority of women and children, as well as the farmer, and the artisan and laborer, depend upon the shoe factory. American patterns predominate among the finer sorts of foot-wear, and considering the enterprise and taste of the Americans in this direction, we cannot wonder that they do.

This branch of manufacture has not been without its difficulties, as indeed is attested by the large number of firms which have essayed it during the last quarter century and the small number which survive. Twenty years ago the Crispin Society, a secret organization of boot and shoe operatives, undertook to dictate terms to employers, as to hours, prices, persons and what not connected with the trade. The employers stood it for a while, but at last several declared their freedom from such shackles, and their determination (1871) "to employ whom they pleased and themselves to regulate bills and wages." Nor has the industry been free in later years from attempts at dictation by employés.

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