

1871, lumbering being first, flour-milling second, and the manufacture of foundry and machine shop products third. At that time, 1,965 establishments producing boots and shoes were reported in Ontario; 1,419 in the Province of Quebec; 448 in Nova Scotia; and 359 in New Brunswick. But despite the smaller number of establishments, Quebec produced boots and shoes in 1870 to the value of \$9,074,187 as compared with \$5,025,455 for Ontario, Nova Scotia's output was somewhat over \$1,000,000 and that of New Brunswick slightly below that level. The Ontario shoemakers employed 5,650 men and boys and only 704 women and girls while Quebec, then as now, had the advantage of a larger available supply of female help and, of a total of 9,865 employees in the boot and shoe industry in that province, no fewer than 3,642 were women or girls.

### DIFFICULT YEARS

The small unit system of manufacturing in vogue at that time is indicated by the fact that the value of the product per establishment averaged only \$3,850 in 1870, and that the average number of persons in each establishment was only a fraction over four. Nor was this condition of affairs greatly changed at the time of the next census, ten years later. The number of establishments had increased by about 250; the aggregate capital in the industry had about doubled; but small scale production was still the rule. A substantial increase in the average capital investment per establishment indicated a well-defined tendency, however, towards introduction of labor-saving devices and adoption of more modern business methods. The industry in Ontario showed practically no increase in production over this ten year period. The value of output remained stationary, but fewer hands were employed. This reduced employment, too, is attributable partly to the introduction of machinery in some factories. But an even more important factor was the depression which came shortly before 1880, resulting in a heavy mortality of Canadian shoe-making establishments. The year 1878 especially saw many failures. The census of 1881 showed some progress in boot and shoe manufacturing in Quebec, due no doubt to the more favorable labor situation there. In both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the industry was losing ground. The census of 1881 reported 130 boot and shoe making establishments in Prince Edward Island, 25 in British Columbia and 15 in Manitoba. The industry in Quebec surpassed in value of output, number of employees, and amount of wages paid the combined figures for the other provinces. Nevertheless, boot and shoe manufacturing forty years ago was not confined to one or two provinces and the 4443 establishments were distributed over the Dominion approximately in proportion to population. It was still largely a local

industry despite the fact that a notable machinery development had taken place and that such development was concentrating boot and shoe manufacturing in a few principal districts. This tendency was hastened by failure of many of the factories located in the smaller communities.

The period 1870-80 was marked by the invention of many of the older types of boot and shoe making machines. Before 1870 there was practically no machinery available and it is said that in that year John Holmes, of Toronto, was the first manufacturer in this country to bring in the McKay sole sewing machine. It was installed and operated in a building at the corner of Queen and Victoria Streets, Toronto. Introduction of the McKay sole sewing machine was followed by various edge machines, including trimmers and burnishers, some of them being Canadian inventions. The development was a rapid one and by 1880 most of the larger producers were equipped with the mechanical appliances. The smaller manufacturers found that they, too, had to have machinery if they were to continue in business, and by 1885 the Canadian boot and shoe manufacturing industry was fairly generally equipped with the early types of machinery.

### SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS

The census of 1891, covering industrial operations of the preceding year, revealed a striking increase in the number of boot and shoe manufacturing establishments. The aggregate amount of capital invested in the industry was nearly 50 per cent. higher than that reported in 1880, and the annual output represented a greater value. The number of employees was about 5 per cent less than in 1880, indicating a continued development in the way of introduction of machinery and labor saving devices. The number of persons per establishment averaged only about three and one-third. The increase in the tariff on boots and shoes in 1879, from 17½ per cent. to 25 per cent., undoubtedly stimulated native manufacturing and resulted in the increasing number of establishments. Indeed the 1891 figures show substantial gains in each of the seven provinces—a development directly traceable to the increased tariff protection in 1879. At the same time, 5,129 out of 5,398 establishments reported represented only 6,410 wage and salary earners, or an average of little more than one each. Nevertheless, there had been growing up a number of larger establishments, and in 1890 we find 269 of these each employing five persons or more, with an average for such larger units of more than 40 workers. The introduction of machinery was paralleled by a very marked tendency towards larger productive units and the beginning of our modern factory system. Meanwhile there was a continued concentration of production towards two or three