

## STRATFORD, ONT.

Like other towns and cities of Canada, Stratford has profited by the boom which seems to have taken hold of the Dominion during the past year or two. Every establishment in the city has worked full time during the season, and many were forced to work overtime. In nearly every case, too, wages have increased.

A year ago Stratford had two furniture factories; now it has three. Mr. George McLagan's factory employs as many as the size of the building will warrant—about 70. They have worked overtime off and on during the season, and have been very busy. It may be absolutely necessary to work overtime again this fall. There was a general advance in wages over last year—probably 5 per cent.

Mr. Jos. Orr's furniture factory employs about 75 men, and they have been busy all the season. Wages were increased between 5 and 10 per cent. The firm have made large extensions.

The new factory, that of R. S. Porteous, manufactures for the export trade exclusively. The factory was established a month ago, and about a dozen men are employed.

Mr. David Easson's planing mills keep

fourteen men busy, and sometimes they were forced to work overtime.

The Stratford Bridge Building Company employ about 30 men, but have been unable to get material to construct all the bridges they have contracted for. Wages have increased fully 10 per cent.

The Stratford Mill Building Company employ, all told, about 75 men, and have never been so busy as now in the history of the business. They find it almost impossible to fill all their orders. Wages have gone up 20 per cent. over last year.

The Macdonald Manufacturing Company, builders of threshing machines, have kept about 25 men busy throughout the season. Business has been better than last year, and wages advanced about 10 per cent.

The Stratford Shoe Company moved into their commodious new factory this spring, and give employment to between 40 and 50 men. The company have found it almost impossible to get skilled hands, and are forced to work the staff overtime in some departments. There has been a general advance in wages—between 5 and 10 p.c.

The Shoddy Mills employ about a dozen hands, and they have found the season a busy one. Wages increased slightly.

The Cardigan Overshoe Factory have a

staff of seventeen hands, and find their output considerably in excess of last season, which was very large.

Stratford's two ready-made clothing establishments have had a busy season. Thornton & Douglas employ 48 hands at present, but find that with their rapidly-increasing business they will have to remodel their establishment in the near future. They have always paid good wages, and the employees are satisfied.

The Stratford Clothing Company have a staff of 55 hands, and are kept busy. This is a new concern, having been established in April, 1898. Since then the pay-roll has been trebled.

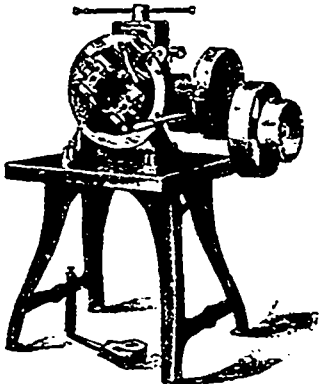
Hamilton & Lovett, cigarmakers, employ about 25 hands, and have found the season a busy one.

Mr. A. H. King, cigarmaker, has employed as high as 32 men, and though established only this year, finds business very brisk.

The Perth, Flax & Cordage Company have had a busy season. Some 40 hands are employed.

The Whyte Packing Company are at present erecting an immense factory, which will employ 75 men for at least ten months of the year.

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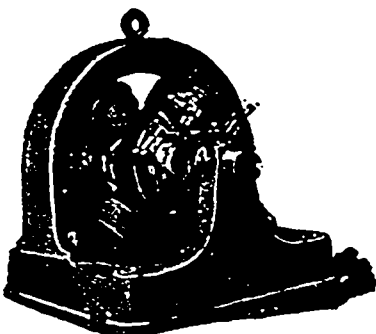
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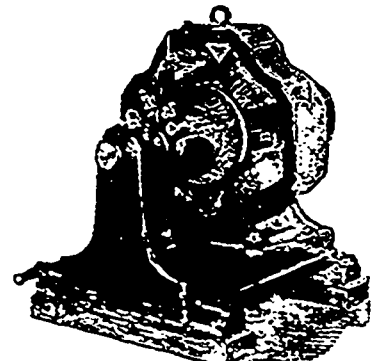
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