

England poet has said: "A constant listener there, he did not fail to carve his name on every bench and rail." We all love to go back to the fountain of youth. *The Antocrat* is right when he sings:—

And he his tales what time he tell
In spite of manhood's fall;
The greybeard is a school-boy still
And loves his school-boy tale.

But we must by no means omit to observe that there are Canadian inventions or improvements in this direction too. One firm in Preston has patents on

LEATHER, BOOTS AND SHOES

THE growth of leather manufacture in Canada would furnish material for an interesting history, if there were room in this sketch. The forests of hemlock which are so extensive in different provinces offer tempting inducements for the use of the bark of this tree in tanning processes. Quebec and New Brunswick have furnished great quantities of hemlock bark to our own tanners, and the liquid extract of the bark has been sent in thousands of barrels to other countries. Many thousands of cords of bark have been shipped, and are still shipped, yearly to the United States from our eastern provinces.

Quebec has long held an important place as a producer of leather. Before 1850 a great share of the leather used in Canada, especially of the finer kinds, was imported from the United States, but in that year, says an article in *Le Moniteur de Commerce*, "the duty was raised from 12½ to 25 per cent., which had the effect of stimulating production in both Upper and Lower Canada of medium as well as coarser grades, while the Americans still continued to absorb most of the trade in finer qualities. But in the last ten years Canada has made progress in making special lines of fine goods."

Of late years Canadians have found market beyond the Dominion for their sole and black leathers. American sole leather, too, has found increasing sale in Britain and on the Continent. Canada's export of leather during the fiscal year ended with June, 1890, was \$727,087 in value, and the boots and shoes and other manufactures of leather exported in that period was \$152,314. The tanning industry employed in Canada 18,129 persons in 1881, with an output valued at \$15,103,000.

The business of shoe manufacture was begun on a small scale in Montreal during 1828. At least this is the date given for it in Rev. A. J. Bray's *Canadian Art and Industry*. In a sketch of the period between 1840 and 1850, it is said that several persons or firms were then making "sole shoes," as they were called, the leather being cut from patterns and given out to fitters. Among those prominent in the industry then were Thomas Hawkie, Edward Thompson, G. A. Rolland, A. Lapierre, Wm.

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