



MR. LOUIS COTE.

every occasion to increase his store of knowledge and experience.

With these views firmly resolved upon, he entered at once into the establishment of Messrs. Smith & Corcoran, boot and shoe manufacturers, where he resumed his trade and soon worked himself into a good position. All day long he worked with ardour, and when the day's work was over, instead of amusing himself as many young men in his position would do, by frivolity, he went to a night-school for still further instruction in that which he considered he was deficient.

In 1863, the firm above mentioned left St. Hyacinthe, and with the fruits of their economy and labor they founded at Quebec an industry which to-day affords support to a considerable portion of the population of St. Roch and St. Sauveur.

The ambition, however, of Mr. Côté was to establish in St. Hyacinthe, where he had met such kind friends, a shoe factory. He therefore returned to that town after a short absence, and there, in partnership with his brother George, he founded the first shoe factory in that town. Here then, at last, he found himself in a position to put into form the dreams of his youth, and to develop his inventive genius. As a consequence, his labor-saving improvements in shoe machinery soon

brought prosperity to the business. Very soon the machines he invented produced a revolution in the shoe-making establishments both in Canada and the United States. And thus Louis Côté, the little shoemaker of St. Dominique, became the inventive genius of the French Canadian race, and produced machinery which our neighbours across the border, with all their gifts for invention, had failed to discover. It seemed to them hardly creditable that a Canadian should beat them in a field and in branches of trade in which heretofore they had considered themselves invincible.

We regret that our limited space will not allow us to enter into a description of these inventions of Mr. Côté's, but which may, some future day, form the subject of an article on Canadian inventions.

We trust that this short sketch of our countryman, still in the very prime of life, and enjoying a rich return for his inventive genius and business ability, will be an incentive to Canadians to seek to improve their minds by study and steady application to business, and, although every one is not gifted by nature with certain talents or ability, yet nothing is more certain than that he who studiously, when young, applies himself to improve his mind, and cultivate whatever talent nature may have gifted him with, must in the end reap a reward.