

St. Thomas Manufacturing From the Earliest Days—Continued

articles of the black walnut, a tree abounding here, appeared to me more beautiful in color and grain than the finest mahogany, and the elegant veining of the maple wood cannot be surpassed. I wish they were sufficiently fashionable in England to make the transport worth while."

Love, beside the manufacture of furniture, was a building contractor, and erected many of the churches and other buildings in the town. He was a man of good parts, and one of the most respected citizens of Elgin.

The first iron foundry in St. Thomas was started by Elijah Leonard, an Eastern States Yankee, in 1834, near Turville's old grist mill, on Kettle Creek. His father and Mr. Van Brocklyn became partners in the enterprise. The foundry a year later was moved to about where St. Andrew's market now stands. The rebellion of '37 having broken out shortly after, the business became a failure. In "The Talbot Regime," by Judge Ermatinger, is given an account of the troubles which came to the Leonards, first on account of their nationality, and secondly on account of the difficulty of securing the raw material necessary to run their establishment. Their principal output were plows and necessary implements used in farming. To make these required a supply of iron, and the sources of this supply were few and distant. The most available was the scrap iron which accumulated about the military posts. Mr. Leonard purchased some of this military "scrap" and the result came near being disastrous to him. In Judge Ermatinger's history the following concerning this raw material for his foundry is given in an interview by Mr. Leonard:

"One charge against me was lodged by one of my most intimate friends who laid information with 'Squire Ermatinger that I had cannon balls on my premises. I was summoned to appear and made my statement as follows: 'I had bought a sloop load of these cannon balls from Capt. Mallory, who had purchased them at Amherstburg from the condemned military stores at that point. The balls had accumulated during the war of 1812.

"After hearing me, the magistrate retired. To judge from the length of time they took to decide the case I had a narrow escape from jail. 'Squire Chrysler was favorable to my discharge and I overheard him say: 'Let the boy off; he is only fulfilling the scripture by heating swords into pruning hooks, or cannon balls into plow points.' So I was finally let go. I was using these balls up as fast as I could. They were hard enough to melt, without being arrested for the task."

Mr. Leonard, having been arrested four times was not satisfied with the brand of encouragement given to manufacturers in St. Thomas at that date, and moved to London where he established another foundry, which in time became one of the largest and most profitable businesses in the province, and which is now conducted by his sons. John Sells, who had an interest with Mr. Leonard in St. Thomas, continued the business a short time, but the building remained until it was torn down in the construction of the Canada Southern Railway.

The old Red Foundry on the corner of Centre and Metcalfe streets, has been a landmark for half a century. It was flourishing when St. Thomas was a village; it has grown with the growth of the city, and is now an establishment that any city might point to with pride. It was founded by John and William Stacey in 1852, and they had for partners Hiram Hunt and Wm. B. Richardson. A disagreement among the members in a few years about the management caused a dissolution and the business was closed out. The firm while it lasted did a large business in stoves, tinware, plows and farm

implements. At a later date Joseph Stacey and James Tucker did a large repair business for a short period, and others conducted it with varying results to the year 1871, forty-three years ago, when the present firm of C. Norsworthy & Co. acquired the business. From that time onward the plant has been enlarged at short periods, and the business extended until the firm, and its output are familiar to the people of the Dominion, from Halifax in the east to Vancouver in the west. The firm made farm implements at first, but this line was dropped, and it gradually drifted into making various lines of machinery, such as engines and boilers, handle lathes, water works supplies, shafts and pulleys, automatic stokers. They also do heavy forging and make patterns. They do a large business in manufacturing machinery from patterns furnished, and from blue prints. The plant has been greatly enlarged and improved during the past year, and ranks as one of the best machine shops in the country. The firm employs 35 men and pays upwards of \$13,000 a year in wages. The business has been profitable, and its outlook for the future is bright. The Messrs. Norsworthy are "to the manner born," having been brought up in the business and thoroughly instructed in all its branches, and at the death of the elder Norsworthy, their father, a few years ago, took his place in the firm. The latest addition to the plant is a large department for the manufacture of furnaces.

Probably no business flourished in St. Thomas at an early period as did the tanning of hides. In the middle of the last century leather manufactories were distributed all over the province. Though small, many towns derived a great benefit from them. Now they are consolidated, conducted by great trusts and combines, who have gobbled up all the business of the country and concentrated it at one or two points.

The unfortunate and lamented Joshua Doan started a tannery in the early thirties in the block where the city hall now stands and some of his old vats were cleared away when the foundation of the city hall was laid. Doan sided with Mackenzie and Duncombe in the troubles of '37, and was a zealous advocate for responsible government. He paid for his zeal with his life. Being captured by the loyalists, he was tried in London, convicted and hanged.

An American at that time was conducting a tannery at Tyreconnell, and he came to St. Thomas and purchased Doan's tannery from his widow, and did a large tanning and leather business for about half a century. He was the well-known and highly respected M. T. Moore, the first mayor of St. Thomas. The firm of M. T. Moore, carried on by his sons, after his death, was continued till about 1847, when changed conditions made it unprofitable, and it, with other like establishments, had to go down with the rise of the tanners' trust. There were no less than four tanneries in St. Thomas in 1850. One of them owned by the late Geo. Crocker, did quite a good business.

The distilleries of St. Thomas are a thing of the past, and those who thirst after the fermented juice of corn and rye have to procure their supplies from the mammoth concerns at Walkerville and Toronto, but those who are satisfied with a milder beverage, can procure the home-made article from the Rudolph & Begg brewery, or from the city waterworks, which distills the muddy water of Kettle Creek into pure aqua vitae. Notwithstanding the prohibitory laws passed in this part of Ontario, the big brewery on the old London and Port Stanley Road, long known as the Rudolph & Begg brewery, has done a thriving business, and its bank account was the biggest when the Scott Act was in force in the city