

ity of the inhabited buildings is described as very unsatisfactory." There are 3,986,686 so-called houses consisting of only a semi-floor (*rez-de-chaussée*); 2,661,798 have merely one floor; 875,273 have two floors; 221,799 have three floors; and 96,477 have more than three. It will thus be seen that about 90 per cent. of all "houses" are small cottages of half-a-floor or of one floor.

It is a curious circumstance that out of the 950,584 persons given in a previous census as "persons living on their incomes," apparently in no active business, no less than 425,534, or nearly one-half, were women. M. Paul Blouet told us in his lecture the other night that 70 per cent. of the French people were land owners. The maker of the soil did not intend that it should maintain three classes of people, the landlord, the tenant, and the labourer. The French peasantry, he said, combined all three of these in one, and this was why they were happy, comfortable, and rich on what the English contemptuously designated "three acres and a cow."

FINE SHOES AND THEIR RAW MATERIAL.

Great changes have been made within comparatively recent years as regards the style and character of foot wear in this country. This is especially noticeable in women's boots and shoes. Canada has been influenced largely by the United States in respect of the shapes, styles and materials of which fine shoes are made. And the skins from which to produce the fine foot wear have had to be sought for in different parts of the world in successive periods of years. So enormous is the consumptive capacity of the United States that the limited areas in which certain of the raw materials were sought were from time to time in danger of exhaustion. American women *will* have dainty boots and slippers, and Canadians have shown a like disposition towards elegance, not to say extravagance, in this particular. So it came about that manufacturers in Quebec and Ontario set themselves within the last decade or two to produce the sort of fine goods that the female heart cared for. From relying on the Americans for their raw material for these, it was a natural development of enterprise that our importers should look about them to buy the skins from first hands in the countries of production.

Accordingly we have sought to procure some information and data concerning the glazed kid industry.

We are told that the first firm to commence manufacturing what is known as "Dongola" leather was that of E. Frank Moseley & Co., of Montreal, in 1834, whose factory was situated at the suburb named St. Henry, at which place Moseley continued to do business until the tannery was burned down in 1886. In the following year, 1887, Moseley & Co. removed to St. Hyacinthe, where they have continued in business ever since. The factory at that French town is a large and commodious one, well lighted and equipped with the most modern machinery. The present production is estimated at about 500 dozen per week.

The next concern to manufacture Dongola was that of G. A. Mooney & Co., whose tannery was situated at Montreal, where they did business three or four years, but unfortunately this concern came to grief in 1891, and the factory is now closed up altogether. Mooney's production when working was about 250 dozen per week. The next largest tannery to Moseley of this article in Canada is Mr. Paul Galibert, of Montreal, who has been engaged in this business for about four years. Galibert has quite a large factory situated on Wellington street, which is also well equipped so far as machinery, plant, etc., is concerned. The production of this tannery is estimated at 350 dozen per week.

The firm of A. R. Clarke & Co., of Toronto, has also been engaged in this business for some time past, and their production finds ready sale. The weekly production of this house is perhaps 250 dozen.

The Quebec house of A. Pion & Co. has also devoted some attention towards the manufacture of Dongola. Pion has not nearly as large a business as the others, and his production may be estimated at about 2,500 dozen per annum. The above named houses take in all those which are now actively engaged in the manufacture of goatskins into what is known as Dongola leather.

At the time that kid and goatskins were first tanned by this process the tannage was what is known as "Combination," in which gambier as an ingredient is largely used. About five years ago a new system of tanning skins was introduced into the United States; it was what is known as the "Chrome" or acid tannage. We are informed that this way of working or tanning skins is a most difficult one to accomplish well, but it seems to be the tannage of the future, because

leather made in this way possesses qualities which no other system yet known has produced.

The firms engaged in this business in Canada were not slow to recognize the qualities of the "Chrome" system. As long ago as 1892 Messrs. Moseley & Co. paid particular attention in that direction, and at present the "Chrome" glazed kid produced by this house is a very fair quality indeed. Messrs. A. R. Clarke & Co. and Paul Galibert also produce "Chrome" kid in fair quantities.

It may be mentioned that not more than six or eight years ago fully nine-tenths of the glazed kid used in Canada was imported from France; but so well have the Canadian tanners succeeded that at present it is questioned if the consumption of French glazed kid amounts to five per cent. of the whole. It has been estimated that the total production by Canadian factories of this article is about 50,000 dozens per annum, in addition to which there is in the neighborhood of 10,000 dozens imported into this country from the United States.

As regards the raw kid and goat skins from which "Dongola" is manufactured, Mr. J. H. Wardlow, of Montreal, gives us the following information: The countries which supply these raw skins are mostly China, India and the Cape of Good Hope; there are, however, considerable quantities imported from such countries as North Africa and Russia. "I believe I am the only one in Canada in the goat skin business as an importer and merchant." This gentleman states that all he sells are imported direct from the land of production. "Raw goat skins are duty free both in Canada and the United States, which is advantageous as far as Canadian manufacturers are concerned; I mean by this that tanners are able to buy in the American markets the same as they would from myself." As to the total value of this output, it would be estimated at about \$600,000. The foregoing may be considered a fair report of the glazed kid manufacturing business as it now exists in this country.

As the Dongola leather industry is comparatively a new one, so the importation of raw goat skins is a recent branch of business. Mr. Wardlow tells us that he used to sell the major portion of the French glazed kid that came to Canada. When Dongola superseded the foreign leather, he turned about and imported the raw material to make the domestic article.

THE FUR MARKET IN BRITAIN.

Certain branches of the fur trade are sure to suffer from any marked commercial or financial depression. And a mild winter manifestly must have an unfavorable effect. The London trade circular of Messrs. Culverwell & Brooks finds that the year 1894 was less favorable to the fur trade than its predecessor. The prolonged and far-reaching commercial depression was one adverse influence to be reckoned with, and the mild winter failed to call forth any special demand for fur garments. "The progress and development of business being thus checked and hampered, a downward course for prices was plainly marked out. The January sales first felt the influence of the altered temper of the market, and the two principal articles offered, beaver and musquash, both suffered a decline of 10 to 15 per cent. In addition, skunk receded 10, and raccoon 17 per cent., American opossum forming an exception and advancing 10 per cent. The spring series of sales bore, in its general result, the same character as the sales held in January. The supplies of the staple furs were of large extent, mink and marten in particular greatly exceeding the average quantity. Excepting in the case of the more valuable furs, which were required for Russia, the continental orders were restricted. The home trade bid briskly for black bear and a few minor articles, but otherwise their competition was unimportant. The most marked decline was exhibited in the sales of mink, which fell 50 per cent., and marten, which receded 35 per cent. Skunk sold at the decline established in January, and raccoon were again ten per cent. lower. Buyers for the Russian market afforded welcome relief to the prevailing dullness by their keen competition for foxes, silver and cross. These advanced 5 to 10 per cent. Sea otter, which becomes scarcer each year, ruled 10 to 15 per cent. higher. For a single skin the high price of £210 was paid. Bastard chinchilla have been in great request at steadily improving values. The remaining sales of the year were held in June and October. At the former sale the variations in value may be accounted for, to a great extent, by the inferior character of the collections. An improvement of 20 per cent. was shown in black bear, and of 10 per cent. in marten. The supplies at the October sales were not extensive, and beyond a further advance of 30 per cent. on marten, prices ruled in favor of the buyer; skunk and otter to the extent of 10 per cent."

—We hear from Montreal that the following gentlemen have been nominated for the offices named in the Board of Trade of that city: For president, James A. Cantlie; for first vice-president, John Torrance; for second vice-president, John McKergow and Edgar Judge, but Mr. Judge declines to be a candidate; for treasurer, A. A. Thibaudau and H. W. Raphael, but Mr. Raphael declines.