

The statistics in the table are taken from the published returns of the Canadian Government Census, except those for 1918, which are preliminary figures based on the Census of Industry and have been supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in advance of publication. They are subject, therefore, to minor changes but are approximately comparable with the other census returns. There may be some question as to what constitutes a boot and shoe manufacturing establishment. The Government aims to include all concerns with an annual output valued at \$2,500 or more. A few custom shoe makers and other very small producers may be counted even in the 1918 figures. This will help to explain the disparity between official and private commercial records. The United Shoe Machinery Company of Canada places at 153 the number of firms which in 1918 were producing boots and shoes regularly in case lots for either the jobbing or retail trades. For 1910 the United Shoe Machinery Company's records show 180 establishments; for 1915, 151 establishments; and for 1917, 149 establishments.

### NO FOREIGN CONTROL

Not only was boot and shoe manufacturing one of the earliest of Canadian industries; it has also been one of the most thoroughly Canadian. The capital employed is almost entirely Canadian, and whatever profits are realized go to Canadian citizens. There is no control by foreign capitalists. Among the 160 Canadian boot and shoe factories are only two which are branches of American concerns, or in which there is any considerable amount of United States capital, and these two factories between them make only slightly more than one per cent. of all the boots and shoes produced in this country. Men thoroughly familiar with boot and shoe manufacturing in Canada state that they do not know of a single dollar of outside capital, except in these two comparatively small branches of United States concerns. The fact that there is almost an entire absence in the industry of imported capital or control by others than Canadians is a feature which makes boot and shoe manufacturing almost distinctive among the leading industries in this country. It is worth considering why United States boot and shoe manufacturers have not invested to a larger extent in the Dominion: that question, too, will be answered in the following pages.

To a greater extent than many other Canadian industries, boot and shoe manufacturing draws upon Canadian sources of supply for its raw materials and semi-manufactured goods. It is true that we are still dependent upon foreign producers for certain needed materials, but this situation is being overcome rapidly, and the purchaser of the highest grade calf boots made in the Dominion today gets a product which is

more than 90 per cent. Canadian. The leather is tanned in Canada; the linings are made in Canada; and much of the machinery is now manufactured on this side of the international boundary. Canadian boots and shoes represent, in all but a very small part of the materials used, the product of Canadian labor, in co-operation with Canadian capital.

### EMPLOYEES AND WAGES

Some criticism has been made of the boot and shoe industry by persons who have divided the total number of employees into the total amount of wages, and taken the result as the average wage. Without entering into any discussion as to the adequacy of the wages paid, it should be pointed out that the average thus obtained by no means represents the earnings of an adult worker. The 1918 figures include 715 boys and 396 girls, all under sixteen years of age, many of them learners in the industry. Analysis of the payroll or time records for 1918 show an average of 4,394 female wage earners and 7,687 male wage earners for the industry as a whole. The average, too, is somewhat reduced by including outside pieceworkers, of whom there were 430 in 1918, 329 of that number being females. Moreover, the 1918 wage figures do not represent the present situation. Wages today are considerably higher than they were two years ago. The boot and shoe manufacturing industry is competing for help with other Canadian industries and wages are largely determined by supply and demand. A large proportion of the workers are paid on a piecework basis and a skilled operator can always command good wages.

The boot and shoe manufacturing plants in the Dominion with a few exceptions are moderately modern and well equipped. Some of the newer plants are model establishments, in which every effort has been made to provide conditions healthful and attractive to employees. Mechanical equipment is fairly complete. In some instances the leading factories in the United States with a large standardized output can afford to adopt highly-specialized machinery which it would not be economical for plants in Canada to install because of their smaller production. Nevertheless, as soon as the efficiency and economy of new machinery is demonstrated, Canadian manufacturers of leather footwear are not slow to adopt it.

Canadian boot and shoe men have not been lacking, either, in brains or inventive genius. In this connection, Mr. F. W. Knowlton, Manager of the United Shoe Machinery Company of Canada, in an address before the last annual meeting of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association, said:

"One of the early inventors of what may be considered modern shoe machinery was the late Louis Côté, of St. Hyacinthe, who invented and first used an edge trimming machine with a rotary cutter.