

In the stitching room the whirr and clank of the various machines is for the moment somewhat bewildering, but one soon becomes accustomed and it takes but a short time to grow interested in these wonderful automata, each one under the supervision of a skilled operator performing unfailingly and ungrudgingly the duty assigned to it.

From this room the uppers are passed down to the second floor which is occupied as the bottoming department. This process includes the lasting of the shoe, soleing and heeling, and it is here that one gains some idea of the vast amount of work that is necessary to turn out the finished product. The Goodyear welting machine employed in this department is a marvel of ingenuity and thoroughness in its work. The duty fulfilled by it is, perhaps, one of the most important parts in the whole process of manufacture, and the fact that it is now almost universally used by Shoe Manufacturers is a sufficient recommendation of its efficacy. The rather peculiar process of lasting a shoe inside out, and then turning the same as one would a glove to its proper exterior, is employed in this department in the manufacture of slippers and certain lines of fine footwear, such as dancing pumps, etc., calling for a greater degree of flexibility than the ordinary article. What impresses one most, however, in this particular case is the quality of the work throughout which is equal to successfully withstand so severe a test.

Passing to the first floor which is occupied as the Finishing Department, Sample Room and Superintendent's office, a more familiar sight greets the eye. The shoes ranged upon portable racks are assuming the conditions we are accustomed to see them in, when the obliging salesman in the retail store takes them from the shelves for our inspection as purchasers. Much, however, has yet to be done. The trimming of the heels and soles is in itself a most important function, as the slightest misjudgment on the part of the operator would inevitably result in the ruin of the greater part of the preceding work. The staining of the soles and heels, same by specially constructed brushes is worthy of attention, sleek and beautiful appearance which oftentimes makes us feel guilty towards ourselves when obliged to carry them through streets, the cleanliness of which is not always a credit to our corporations.



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Superintendent whose office as portion of this flat, are as may

be imagined, manifold, among them being the all-important responsibility of designing the patterns constantly subject to change by the demands of a fastidious public.

On the ground floor facing to the front of Inspector Street are the commodious general and private offices of the firm, in rear of which is the cartooning and shipping department where the shoes, finally complete, are placed in their boxes, ready for shipment to consignees in all parts of the Dominion.

Descending to the basement we find the heel pressing machine, that produces the seemingly solid piece forming the heel of the shoe. Here also in the shape of a handsome vertical engine of the latest pattern is the motive power which runs the mechanical part of this large establishment, as well as supplying the electricity for the lighting of the entire building when such is necessary.

Employing in the neighborhood of 200 to 250 hands, the output of this factory reaches the large average of 600 pairs a day, affording a striking comparison to what could be accomplished by hand work only. Dating from the year 1814 the business was carried on by Messrs. J. & T. Bell, and was eventually assumed by the present proprietor, Mr. John T. Hagar, whose likenes we are fortunately enabled to reproduce herewith. To Mr. Hagar, at all times courteous and obliging, we are indebted for the information contained in this article. One who is privileged, as we have been, to gain access to the innermost workings of a modern shoe factory in the particular case of Messrs. J. & T. Bell, carries away the impression that it is equally model and modern. Cleanliness, neatness and clockwork regularity are observable in all departments, and this perfection of system must be attributed to the masterful and capable management of Mr. Hagar and his assistants, which qualifications are in the end essential to the successful carrying on of any business enterprise.