

With such a large and well-appointed building now in use for factory and offices, the fact is interesting and eloquent of the West, that this firm has been in business only for eight years. They started by making 35 pairs of boots a day, and at the present time their output averages 500 pairs per day. With extra ground already secured, Mr. Thurston expects that after certain additions are made the number of pairs of boots produced per diem will make towards the four-figure mark.

We gleaned some other facts which are certainly remarkable, and say much for the management of the business, as well as for the hold that the Leckie boot must have got on the trade. This boot-making factory has never had a slack time, never been shut down or on short time, and has indeed been kept working to the limit of the plant.

Observation of the different departments would itself provide a special study. The general impression carried away, however, is that everything put into the make-up of the goods is of the best. We believe the Leckie firm has sought to produce boots specially adapted to this climate, and for the work carried on in British Columbia. Heavy leather boots are in special demand, and of course specially strong and specially adapted types for loggers, miners and others are produced.

Even a general interest in the work of other people is enlightening and educative—provided a man is alert to learn—and has an overseer, as in this case, who knows his business well, to explain a few things by the way.

It may not be giving away any business secrets to note that we gathered that this go-ahead firm of front-rank manufacturers has been seeking to protect its customers as well as itself from the big advances at present being made in all leather goods, and has been among the last to raise prices. This, we gathered from Mr. Thurston, was due to the exercise of foresight on the part of the responsible members of the firm who had ordered much of sole leather skin and upper leather skin, reaching into values of tens of thousands of dollars.

Inquiry as to what had caused shortage of leather, led to the imparting of useful information concerning the methods of the cattle-raisers in South America, and anew suggested how the different departments of the world's work are inter-related, and all alike dependent on the bounties of Nature. One reason given for the shortage of leather, and the consequent raising of prices, was that in certain cattle-raising countries there had been specially good harvests, following which the dealers, having less need to sell, were seeking to increase their stock.

In Leckie's case, the visit to the factory only confirmed the impression we had previously about the class of the firm. Every department is well arranged and carefully wrought. In following the raw material from the rough leather stage to the finished article, one cannot help noticing how quality seems to predominate everywhere. Substantiality, strength, durability, with first-class workmanship, are the words which express the ideas suggested by observation of Leckie boots in the different stages of their manufacture; and we are confident that, in asking the "Leckie Boot" from the retailers, buyers can be sure that their feet will be well protected in all seasons.

As we are interested in all the industries of our Western Homeland, we are glad to find that already in leather "Leckie" leads.