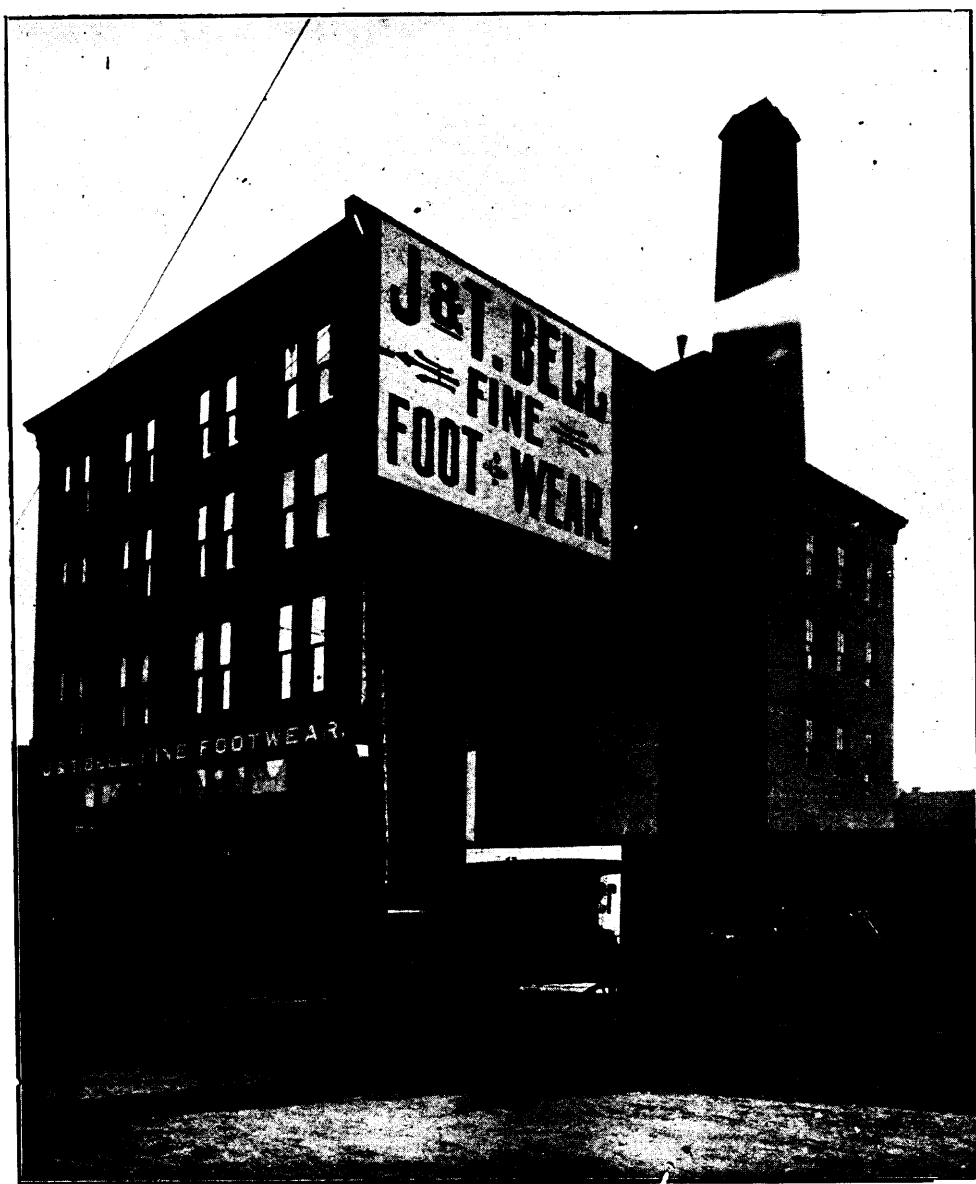


A MODERN SHOE FACTORY.

NOT least among the important developments of the past century, which carried in its train so many wonderful inventions and improvements, has been the point of perfection reached in the manufacture of footwear. Like all other changes of a revolutionary nature, the employment of machinery in this particular branch of trade met with a steadfast opposition on the part of those who were most directly interested in it, viz.: the artizans, who by the old and tedious process, cut, stitched and hammered to produce the now almost obsolete article of a hand-made shoe.

Even by the consumer a manifest distrust was for a long period evinced towards the machine-made factory shoe, but thanks to the persistent energy of those in command who anticipated a growing necessity, this at the present day has been overcome, and the general public now recognize and accept the modern article, as having by sheer force of merit superseded the old.

The factory of Messrs. J. & T. Bell as portrayed in the accompanying cut, offers to one the best illustration obtainable, towards exemplifying the perfection to be reached in this line of manufacture, which can safely be classed as one of the most important branches of Canadian industry and enterprise.



Situated on the slope of the recently widened Inspector Street in Montreal, Canada's metropolis, this handsome four story building is specially adapted to the line of manufacture carried on, as being roomy, well ventilated, and what is most important, where a careful scrutiny of each and every part used in the manufacture is required, open on all sides by numerous window spaces, to a steady and well distributed flow of sunlight. The top flat is occupied as the cutting and stitching rooms; and here notwithstanding the achievements of mechanical genius, handwork has still to be employed in cutting out the uppers according to pattern. Each skin used for this purpose is carefully examined, and if the slightest flaw is apparent, is rejected as being unfit for use. A noticeable feature among others is the number of Dongola or light kid uppers that are handled in this department. They are utilized very extensively in the manufacture of Ladies' Shoes, and combine to form an extremely fine finish with lightness and durability.