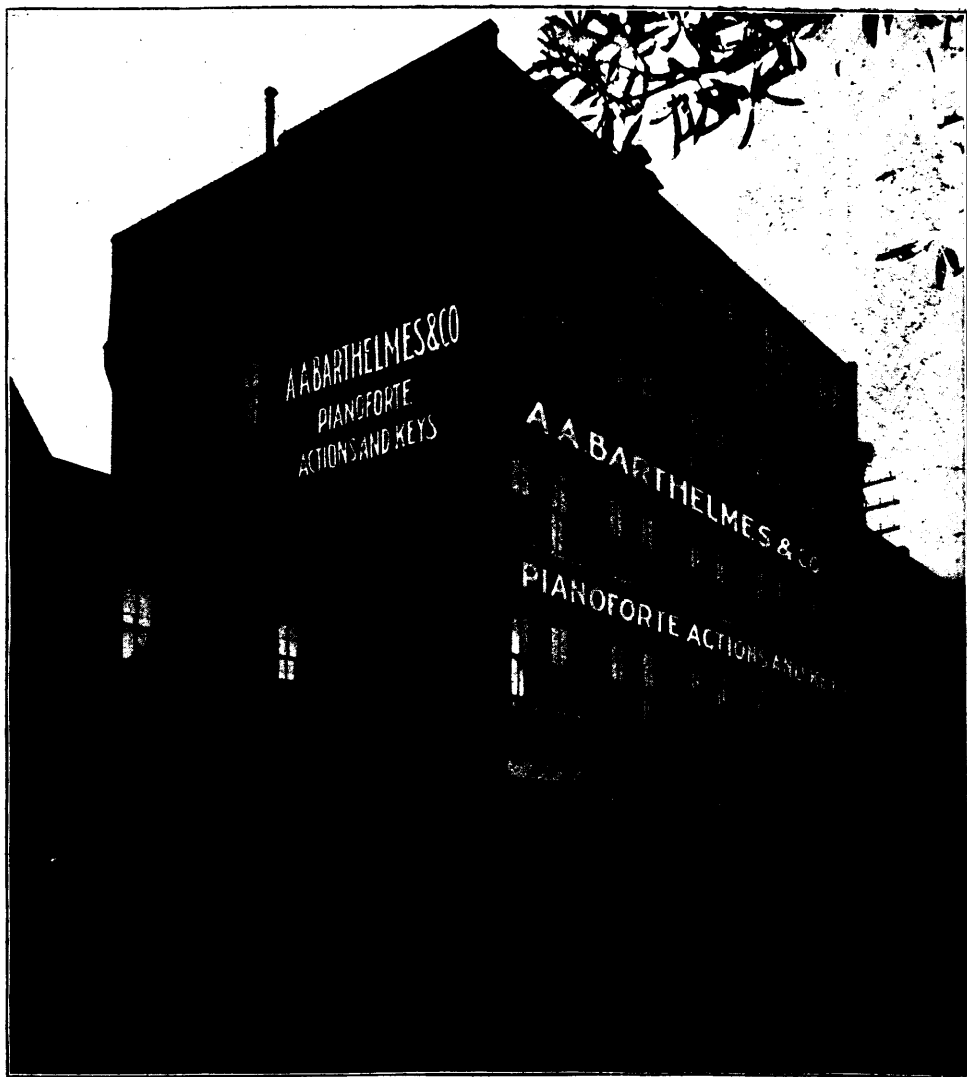




AS the nineteenth century draws to a close how few people take the time to enquire into the wonderful improvements made in pianos during the last thirty-five years! And yet what strides this industry has made in Canada.

The time has past when they were considered a luxury only to be enjoyed by the wealthy. It may now be said that every home where prosperity reigns to any extent boasts a piano. And yet how blindly some are led into the purchase of an instrument without considering the delicate interior construction. How often we listen to the electrical effects produced by some virtuoso; as he sits down and plays for us we are filled with gratitude to the composer and admiration for the player. Yet how rarely are the merits of the skilled artisans—those who make the instruments—considered as tributaries to these varied dramatic effects. What we wish to impress upon the reader is the importance of a good pianoforte action, because without this *sine qua non* it is impossible for the player to do justice to himself or to charm his hearers. Messrs. A. A. Barthelmes & Co. are the pioneer action makers