

YOUTHS' SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, AND MEN'S, SIZE 6, UPWARDS.

(Duty, 1s. 6d. per pair and 15 per cent. *ad val.* Preferential, 9d. per pair and 7½ per cent. in addition.)

		Duty.	
		British.	Foreign.
Shoes or boots invoiced	5s. per pair	2s. 4d.—47 per cent.	3s. 6d.—70 per cent.
"	6s. "	2s. 6d.—42 " "	3s. 9d.—63 " "

IMPORTED BOOTS AND SHOES WORN BY THE WEALTHY CLASSES.

		Duty.	
		British.	Foreign.
Ladies, invoiced	15s. 1s. and 15 per cent.	—3s. 6d. and 23 per cent.	24 per cent.
Men's, invoiced	20s. 1s. 6d. and 15 " "	—4s. 9d. and 24 " "	36 " "

The latest census returns for 1910 give the following particulars relating to boot and shoe factories, viz.: Number of factories, 74. Hands employed—Male, 1,359; female, 913: total, 2,272. Wages paid—Male, £154,044 (average, £113 4s.); female, £43,549 (average, £47 7s.). Leather used—Local, £190,396; imported, £86,854. Total cost all materials, £334,880. Boots, shoes, slippers, &c., manufactured, £604,872 (not including leggings or other products). Value of land occupied, £61,602. Value of buildings, £74,751. Value of machinery and plant, £90,704.

Statistics of boot trade.

The value of imports for 1910 was £250,456: add duty received £71,987, and cost of importation (15 per cent.) £37,568, gives a landed cost amounting to £360,011, which amount, together with the value of local manufactures (£604,872), shows the cost of boots locally produced and imported to be £964,883. When wholesale and retail profits are added, the approximate annual cost per head of the population is about 30s., without repairs—a heavy charge to the breadwinners of large and growing families, where children are still at school.

The cost of wages in production is one-third of the total cost of a pair of boots, and the Commission have evidence showing that a pair of boots locally made and retailed from 28s. to 30s. only cost to produce 12s. 9d. (wages 5s. 1d.).

From the evidence collected, supported by exhibits, fraudulent boots and shoes made up with composition insoles faced with canvas and backed up with cardboard, with cardboard heels, are being sold to the public. There is some conflict in the opinion of experts as to the strict definition of "shoddy." In boot-linings, linen of good quality is considered a good substitute for leather.

Branding.

6. For the purpose of estimating the whole number of workers employed in State-protected industries, and the extent of protection afforded to each separate industry, the Commission have compiled the following statement from the last returns available:—

Extent of protection in New Zealand.

TABLE 55.—WORKERS EMPLOYED IN STATE-PROTECTED INDUSTRIES, 1910.

				Hands employed.		Rates of Duty.
				Male.	Female.	
Ham and bacon curing	..	..	..	210	14	2d. lb.
Fish curing and preserving	..	..	..	103	3	2d. "
Condensed milk	..	..	..	38	20	25 per cent.
Biscuit-factories	..	..	..	379	208	2d. lb.
Fruit-preserving and jam	..	..	..	174	137	25 per cent. and 2d. lb.
Sugar-boiling and confectionery	..	..	..	304	267	2d. lb.
Baking-powder factories	..	..	..	18	7	20 per cent.
Colonial wine	..	..	..	50	1	6s. gallon.
Coffee and spice	..	..	..	66	54	3d. and 2d. lb.
Sauces, pickles, and vinegar	..	..	..	115	104	4s., 3s., and 6d. gallon.
Soap and candles	..	..	..	215	23	5s. cwt., 1½d. lb.
Glue	..	..	..	13	2	1½d. lb.
Sausage-skins	..	..	..	151	..	3d. "
Woodware and turnery	..	..	..	304	..	20 per cent.
Paper-mills	..	..	..	87	29	5s. cwt.
Paper bags and boxes	..	..	..	18	82	7s. 6d. cwt. and 25 per cent.
Lime and cement	..	..	..	280	..	2s. barrel.
Monumental masonry	..	..	..	117	1	25 per cent.
Glassworks	..	..	..	14	..	20 "
Electroplating	..	..	..	17	..	20 "
Tinware-factories	..	..	..	469	4	25 "
Iron and brass foundries	..	..	..	1,814	24	20 "