



**TANNERIES** have been important industries for the town and here an early view of Beardmore Tannery is shown. A few of the buildings may be recognized but they are now surrounded by additions, marks of progress.

## Tannery 113 Years Ago Starts In Unbroken Forest

A little more than 113 years ago when the entire section of country was still an unbroken forest, a small tannery was built by Abraham Nelson on the site now occupied by one of the largest establishments for manufacturing leather in Ontario. The business was carried on by Mr. Nelles in a small way for a number of years and he was succeeded by Edward and Henry Smith who increased the capacity of the tannery and carried on a successful and profitable business. The concern was purchased about 1872 by Coleman and McIntyre of London who built a large stone addition to the old building and continued their operations exclusively in the manufacture of sole leather from Spanish hides. They carried on successfully for about four years, part of the time under the management of Mr. J. B. Burns. During their ownership the building was burned down, and re-built. It afterwards became the property of McGarvin and Atcheson, who continued the business several years before it was sold to Messrs. Toby and Co. After lying idle a considerable length of time the entire property was purchased by Mr. G. L. Beardmore in June, 1865, and placed in thorough state of repair, and fully equipped with the most modern machinery. For two years it was under the management of Mr. Atcheson and then Mr. T. A. Hall had full charge of the operations for a time.

### GREAT FIRE

On the 14th Dec. 1877 the entire building was again burned down, destroying nearly everything except such stock as happened to be in the vaults at the time. The insurance of \$17,000 covered only a small portion of the loss; nevertheless the enterprising proprietors at once set to work to have it re-built, this time in stone.

### EARLY STATISTICS

Specifications recorded in the issue of the Acton Free Press on February 8, 1877 are recorded here. They consume nearly 2,000 cords of hemlock bark each year, for which they pay about \$10,000. The manufacture of sole leather does not require a very large number of skilled workmen, still the wages paid at this establishment amounts to about \$400 a month. The capital invested is about \$40,000. The main building is of stone two stories, 147 feet long by 60 wide, with leech house 75x30. There are about 100 vats. The machinery comprises the most modern improvements, nearly \$10,000 having been expended, last spring introducing leeches, coolers, new bark mill, a centrifugal pump for pumping liquor, and other improvements. The municipal taxes on the property average about \$250 a year.

April 19 1877—The steam whistle at Speight's shop may again be heard as of yore, at morning noon and night. We hope it will keep good time.

From 'Way Back

## Two Pioneer Acton Industries Remain and Progress To-day

**BEARDMORE CO AND STOREY GLOVE CO, AMONG THE FIRST TO START IN ACTON, HAVE CONTRIBUTED EMPLOYMENT FOR VILLAGERS THROUGH THEIR LENGTHY PRODUCTIVE HISTORY. THUS THE TOWN HAS PROGRESSED UNTIL TODAY'S NINETEEN INDUSTRIES PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PRESENT POPULATION**

### W. H. Storey Glove Works Established In 1868 -- Still Major Acton Industry

This establishment was commenced in Acton by Mr. W. H. Storey in the year 1868. At that time the operations were not very extensive, being principally confined to the manufacture of harvest gloves and the coarser grades of men's wear. In 1877 all classes of goods were made, comprising over 60 different kinds, embracing the finest quality of ladies' French kids

In the year 1872 Mr. Storey entered into partnership with Mr. James Moore, and with Dr. McGarvin in 1873 when the operations and the facilities for manufacturing were largely increased. With ample capital, additional machinery and implements were introduced and a number of skilled workmen employed. About the same time a tannery was built for the special purpose of tanning and dressing the

skins used in the manufacture of gloves. Dr. McGarvin's interest in the business ceased at the expiration of one year, it then continued under the full management and practical supervision of Mr. Storey and Mr. Moore. In 1875 they built an entirely new tannery on a large scale. For the past 35 years the late Thos. Arnold and his sons have owned and operated the plant very successfully.

### EARLY STATISTICS

Specifications recorded in the issue of the Acton Free Press on February 8, 1877 are printed here. The Wholesale value of the gloves made here during the past year is about \$45,000. From 25 to 30 hands are employed men and women. Wages average about \$500 a month per every Saturday evening.



**ACTON'S FIRST** industry, Storey Glove Works, provided employment for many early settlers in Acton. Its founder, W. H. Storey, was the first reeve of Acton, and a citizen very interested in public affairs.

### Storey-Moore Co. Produce Fine Glove

February 8, 1877. This establishment was built in 1872 by Messrs. W. H. Storey and Co. for the manufacturing of gloves for their fine glove work. It cost \$2,500. About the time the building was completed Mr. Edward Moore entered into partnership and undertook the management of the business under the firm name of Storey, Moore and Co. During 1877 about \$10,000 worth of leather was turned out.

### Stephenson Plow Captures Awards

The Stephenson plow, manufactured by the company, has been before the Canadian public since 1864 and so popular that it became the demand were total all-gether too limited. Hence a company was formed in 1875 with a paid up capital of \$10,000 to enlarge the premises and procure the necessary machinery to carry on the operations on a very much more extensive scale. The establishment was

fully equipped with every necessary appliance of which machinery was capable, including steam engine, furrows, lathes, planers and other smaller implement facilities for turning out 2,000 to 3,000 plows annually at the lowest minimum of cost that is \$30. The plow was patented in Canada and the United States. It had received a large number of local and provincial prizes, and won its crowning victory at the Centennial Exhibition where it took a diploma of the highest merit and the medal of the Commission. Sydney Smith purchased this business in 1878 and cleaned up machinery which had been idle for some time.

### Sheepskin Tannery On Smaller Scale

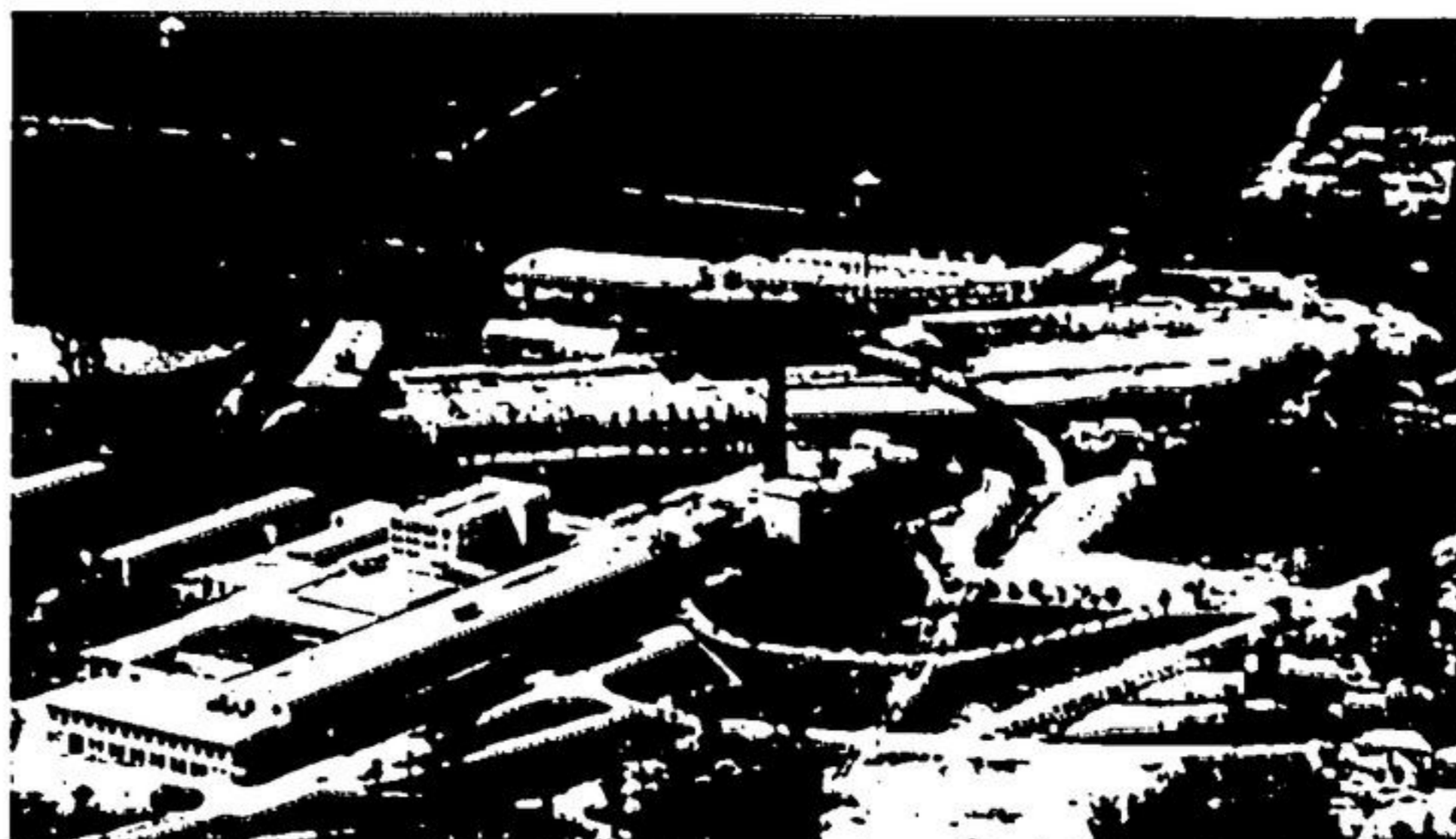
February 8, 1877. This concern is somewhat similar to the Kid Leather Tannery only on a smaller scale. It was established in 1871 by Dr. McGarvin and Henry Smith for the purpose of supplying stock for Storey's glove works. It was purchased by Mr. Wright in 1875. About 3,000 dressed skins were turned out between August 1875 and February 1877.

### 1000 Cords Timber In Barrels Annually

This concern was of considerable importance. The stave and shingle business was carried on several years by Messrs. Edward and John Moore, who sold out to Mr. Coates in November 1875. The latter introduced a machine for making turned heading and also removed his cooperage to new premises adjoining the factory. One thousand cords of elm timber were annually manufactured into staves and heading and a large quantity of pine and cedar into shingles. The factory contained a good deal of expensive machinery driven by a 12 horse power steam engine and employed eight hands. The operation of the several machines was very interesting. In the cooperage six hands were usually employed to turn out about 2,000 barrels annually.

### Canada Lime Wks. Near Grand Trunk

"Canada Lime Works" situated a short distance east of the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway was probably carried on quite as extensively as any similar operations in Ontario while the quality of the lime produced was scarce equalled by any for building purposes. They were established by Messrs. D. C. Robertson and W. Laidlaw in 1872 and purchased a couple of years after by Dr. McGarvin and C. S. Smith. There were four kilns with a capacity of 1200 bushels a day. The work was carried on about eight months in each year, employing from eight to ten hands night and day. Wages amounted to \$325 a month. The capital invested was \$18,000. Large quantities of lime were shipped east and went almost daily on the Grand Trunk Railway.



**AERIAL VIEW** of Beardmore Tannery as it is today shows the extensive ground this important factory covers. Acton's largest, it employs about 500 workers. Beautiful grounds surround the present establishment.