

# The KY Boot Factory

1896

Boot Factory For Cellardyke – A few weeks ago the capital was subscribed for the purpose of starting a boot factory in Cellardyke, but some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a site. This difficulty has now been overcome as the promoters have purchased the property in West Forth Street belonging to Mr John Ritchie and lately occupied by Mr Hutton aerated water manufacturer, which shall be converted into a factory for the above purpose. The purchase price is we understand, £200 and the necessary alterations it is expected will be completed in January.

June

## SEA BOOTS

The KY Sea boots are still the leading boots in the Trade, and are the best value at the price ever offered. Fishermen should see the KY wellingtons, which will shortly be in the market. These boots will not be made in Germany, but their price and quality will equal anything that can be got.

Whole sale from the principle boot factories in Scotland, and from the Manufacturer. Wm Shith leather Merchant Colinsburgh.

The largest Manufacturer of Sea Boots in Scotland.

20 November

THE K. Y. Boot Factory. —This new factory in West Forth Street was opened at the end of last week, and a start begun to the manufacture of the sea boot. Few hands are employed as yet, but when the structural alterations are completed after the New Year, a commencement will be made to the general manufacture of all kinds of boots and shoes. The alterations on the front premises include the breaking out of three new windows in the south gable on the second storey. This large room is to be used as a \*twins; machine room, while the attics, which are to be lined with wood, are also to be fitted up as machine rooms, and to be lighted by several windows in the roof. The Company have a good many orders on hand for the sea boot, of which they are the largest manufacturers in Scotland, their special manufacture being the well-known K. Y. boot, which has given entire satisfaction to the fishing communities-

1897

February 19<sup>th</sup>

## KY Boot Manufactory IN CELLARDYKE.

The starting of a new industry in Cellardyke in the shape of boot manufactory is now an accomplished fact, and already 40 hands are employed with the prospect of some more being immediately engaged. It is only a few months since a Limited Liability Company was formed with the appropriate name of K.Y.. and the old fish curing premises in West Forth Street secured. Necessarily a great deal of time since then has been occupied in making the needful alterations and for the carrying on of the work, and although everything is not exactly finished sufficient has been done to allow a start to be made. The alterations have been carried through under the personal superintendence of the Messrs Smith and Mackintosh, who utilised all the room

available to make the factory alike comfortable to the workers and commodious the work. The labour of having all the different machines erected has been safely accomplished, and for weeks back there have been many visitors to the factory, who expressed themselves pleased with the courtesy extended to them by the managers, the explanations given of the work, and greatly satisfied at the fact of so many people being employed. The contractors for the work were :— Mason work - Mr John Clark ; ,joiner—Mr W. Brown ; and plumber—Mr Dalzell.

The main entrance to the factory is in West Forth Street, but there is also a cart entrance at the back opposite the Public School where carts are intended to be taken in with the goods and materials to be used in the factory. The building in front has been converted into three flats. In the top storey there are 20 different machines, and already nearly all are fully employed. All are driven by mechanical power supplied by a 6-horse Crossley gas-engine. The machines here are used for eyeleting, sewing the uppers, skiving, and hooking. There is also a rosin machine which puts in a stitch in the leather equal to hand, and also at a much quicker speed. The wax machine is very similar to the rosin one but meant for a lighter class of work. All these are being worked by females, who are very expert at their work. In this room a number of shoemakers are employed as well as the cutters of soft leather, benchmen, and lasters. On the second storey is the hard-leather cutting room with a warehouse and office at the back. In this room the famous K. Y. sea boots are made. A small sewing machine is at work here blocking the uppers to the hand sewn, sea boots. Here also are men engaged in cutting the leather for the long sea boots, while there are rollers used for pressing the leather, instead of the old-fashioned style of putting it on a stone, and beating it with a hammer. The rollers have a ton pressure and do their work very expeditiously. A currier is also at work on this floor, and the rough leather as it comes in is curried by him and made ready for the other departments. A Blake sole sewing machine is also fitted up by means of which three dozen pairs of soles can be sewed on to the uppers in an hour with perfect ease. The machine is an ingenious one, and easily manipulated. In the ground flat, the finishing room, there are 10 different machines, including a heel trimmer, which gives 5000 revolutions a minute ; an edge trimmer; heel scourer with fine and rough sandpaper wheels with a brush attached to sweep away the dust, which is thrown into some bins at the back; edge setter, heated with gas, to give a fine edge to the shoes ; heel burnisher, in which there are two hard brushers and a pneumatic pad; a seat wheel for giving a finished appearance to the heel of the boot; a bottom scourer also with rough and sand- paper wheels to give a gloss to the sole and taking off the rough edges; a screw machine for screwing the sole of a boot together; a ranging machine; and cutting presses with knives of different shapes, formed like the sole of a boot, from a baby's fives to a man's 13's. On this floor the gas engine is placed. It is a 6 horse gas engine by Crossley Brothers, equal to 12 horse power, and accomplishes the work very satisfactorily. At the back premises there are a leather warehouse, drying sheds for the currier, and leather presses with plenty of storeroom. The Company have, in fact, made a very full and complete equipment of all the necessary appliances to carry on the work and turn out articles of first-class quality and workmanship. So far the Company have done well, and when everything gets into proper working order it is expected that the machinery will be kept constantly employed and inure workers engaged.

2<sup>nd</sup> April

K. Y. BOOTERY FESTIVAL AND ASSEMBLY. The first annual Festival and Assembly of the K. V. Bootery, took place on Friday evening within the Town Hall, Cellardyke. Mr Mackintosh presided,

and on the platform were the following gentlemen—Rev. Mr Ray, Bailie Williamson, Councillor Butters, Mr Leslie, Mr Smith, manager, and Mr Mackintosh, senr., Dundee.

After tea, which was set on three long tables running the whole length of the hall, at which several ladies presided, a very varied and interesting programme was gone through. The lady singers were Miss A. Keay, Cellardyke, and Miss L Robertson, West Anstruther, and were both encored. Miss Keay's song was "Gathering up shells by the seashore," and Miss Robertson's "The better land," and "my ain kind dearie o'. Songs were also given by Messrs Gibson, Robertson, West Anstruther. P. Smith, Cellardyke, P. Mackintosh, and Mr C. Watson, one of the employees gave a very realistic imitation of bird warbling, the birds including canary, blackbird, lark, mavis, starling, chaffinch, and sparrow, although it must have been trying for Mr. Williamson he kindly consented to give an encore which was much appreciated.

The exhibition of Indian Club exercise by Master Edward Mudie, was a decided novelty, and was very much enjoyed, his graceful movements were closely watched by the large audience would gladly have insisted on a repetition, but feared to exert so young a performer.

The last item was a sword dance by the Miss Leslie which was gracefully executed.

In the course of the evening, the Rev Mr. Ray, who had been invited to be present addressed the meeting, and said he thanked them very heartily for time invitation, and also for putting him down in the programme for remarks and not a speech. In the name of the Cellardyke, folks, and in his name he gave all the strangers who had come to dwell among them a hearty welcome. He was quite sure they would find the Cellardyke people warm hearted and neighbourly, a fact he had proved repeatedly for himself. He hoped the factory would be a great success, and that it would not be the last though it had been the first industry started in Cellardyke. He jocularly remarked that he didn't know if the Dundee friends who had come over here should not work for half pay, seeing that they were sure to get stronger, with so much fresh pure air. He concluded by saying, that they as a community were under a deep debt of gratitude to the enterprising gentlemen who had done so much to start the industry, two of whom were present, Mr Leslie mid Mr Butters (Applause.) the various votes of thanks were accorded, by Messrs Smith, Leslie, and Mackintosh. Miss Anderson was the accompanist to the singers, and also played the music for Master E. Mudie. In lieu of a speech Bailie Williamson sang Finnigan's wake, and for an encore The old banjo. An assembly followed, and was kept up till a late hour in the morning.

TO BOOT RETAILERS.

THE K.Y. BOOT MANUFACTURING CO., LTD., CELLARDYKE, FIFE, Hold the Largest Stock, and are the Largest Manufacturers of SEA BOOTS in Scotland. They Defy Competition in any of their Various Makes of DECK BOOTS, KNEE BOOTS, AND LONG SEA BOOTS

In Pegged, Hand-Sewn, Standard-Screwed, and Machine-Sewn. Retailers not stocking these well known Makes of K.Y. Sea Boots do not keep up with the times.

ALL CLASSES OF Wellingtons Also in stock

Sample Pairs sent Carriage Paid on receipt of Reference with Order.

Dec 1897

THE KY BOOT COMPANY

The annual meeting of shareholders of this company was held in the Town hall Cellardyke, om Wednesday afternoon. Mr James Leslie, the chairman of directors presided. He submitted and read the report and balance sheet for the year ending 4<sup>th</sup> December, which stated that the directors regret that the year's operations show such a poor result, but would point out to the

shareholders that work had really been carried on for about 8 months only, the first few months being taken up with repairs and alterations on the premises, fitting up machinery &c., so therefore the balance against the company shown this year is not a fair test of the profit earning power of the Company. With a full year's operations and consequent large increase in the turnover (which could be undertaken with about the same expenditure for wages &c.) a much better result may be anticipated. The sales during the year amounted to £4064 6s 3 ½ d while the stock in trade amounts to £1380 15s making a total of £5445 1s 3d. The expenditure on stock, machinery property, &c., was £4735 8s 1d of which £834 has been transferred to different accounts, and the balance with the gross profits carried down of £1543 13s 2d makes the total of £5445 1s 3d. Mr Turpie moved the adoption of the report, and urged that in future the salaries of the managers and the wages should be kept on a separate balance sheet. It was agreed to give effect to this suggestion in future. Bailie Butters was re-elected a director and Mr Watson auditor. Mr Dunsire moved that the balance of capital should be called up. He did not see how they could do without it. Bailie Butters seconded, and said he did not see the use of paying overdraft rate to the Bank if they could avoid it. The Motion was unanimously agreed to.

## 1899

Jan

The K.Y. BOOT MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION. ) FOB SALE AS A GOING CONCERN, the BUSINESS, PREMISES, MACHINERY. STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c.c . of above Company situated at CELLARDYKE , FIFESHIRE ;

The Factory was opened about two years ago, and the Machinery, and Stock are in first-class condition.

Full particulars can be obtained, on application to the Subscribers, with either of whom Offers may be lodged, marked "Tender for K-Y. Boot Factory," on or before Saturday, 28th January 1899  
W . T . KETCHEN, W . S .. Methil and H. WATSON, Solicitor Anstruther. Liquidators

Feb

CELLARDYKE. The "T" Boot Factory (Ltd).—A meeting of the shareholders was held on Wednesday, when an offer for the property was-considered but refused, and it was agreed that unless a satisfactory offer be made previous, the property be exposed by public roup Friday, the 10th March. The liquidators reported that they had sold the stock, fittings, &c., to Mr Lewis Morrison, boot manufacturer, Aberdeen. They further reported that they had granted bills to some customers for six and eight month-, it would a few months yet before they could divide.  
March 1899

CELLARDYK E. THE K. Y. FACTORY PREMISES.—The premises of the K. Y. Factory in West Forth Street, Cellardyke, were exposed for sale by the liquidators in the Town Hall last Friday. There was a fair attendance. The bidding began at £120, and rapidly rose to £160, at which figure it was knocked down to Mr David Gillies, net manufacturer, Largo. Under the conditions in the articles of roup, the exposers have 10 days to consider whether they will accept or reject the offer, and we understand that as there is a bond fur £200 on the property, the liquidators have refused the offer, an re to re-expose the subjects.

April 1899

Adjourned Roup

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 1899 at One O clock

The KY Boot manufacturing Company Ltd

(In Liquidation)

Premises for sale

There will be Re-Exposed for Sale by Public Roup, by the Liquidators of this Company, on FRIDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1899, at One o'clock Afternoon, within the TOWN HALL of CELLARDYKE,

All and Whole these Central and Commodious PREMISES, situated in West Forth Street, Cellardyke, until a few weeks ago occupied by this Company as a Boot and Shoe Manufactory.

There is a considerable frontage to West Forth Street, and a large Yard behind, extending north to School Road, and the Buildings could be adapted to carry on almost any kind of Manufactory.

The Site is an excellent one for building Purposes Block of Houses could be built to face West Forth Street, and another to face School Road, and there is sufficient space for garden ground at the back of each.

The Feu-duty is Nominal Entry at Whitsunday 1899. Further particulars can be obtained from the Subscribers, the latter of whom holds the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup. W. T. KETCHEN, W. 8., Methil, H. WATSON, Solicitor, Anstruther, liquidators: Anstruther, 5th April, 1899.