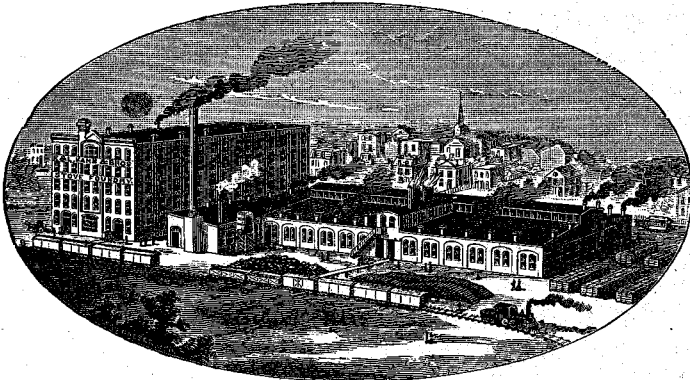


THE F. & L. KAHN & BROS.

Stove Foundry.

IN 1842 Martin, Henderson & Co. established a stove foundry at Hanging Rock, Ohio, one of the earliest stove foundries in the state, and the design and practice was to cast stove plate directly from the reduced iron as it ran from the blast furnace, no intermediate pig iron or remelting being employed.

Mr. Lazard Kahn was born in France, and when a very young man landed in this country with a bundle of clothes and a trifle of pocket money. He started West and on the way his bundle was stolen and his pocket was picked, leaving him penniless among strangers, but there were no lazy bones in his body and he went earnestly to work. He blacked stoves for a living and did it up to the Queen's taste. He traveled some through the country



selling lamp burners and such things, and finally selling stoves, and finally drifted into rather intimate contact with the stove trade. He, with his brother Felix, developed strong commercial instincts and business energy and saving habits, and in 1873 they were able to purchase each a one-fifth interest in the stove foundry of Martin, Henderson & Co., then producing about four hundred tons of stoves per year. In 1876 Mr. Martin retired and the Messrs. Kahn bought his interest, the firm name being changed to Henderson, Kahn & Co. In 1879 Mr. Meis of the firm retired, the Messrs. Kahn and Mr. Henderson buying him out. In 1881 the Messrs. Kahn, joined by another brother since deceased, bought out Mr. Henderson, the foundry then producing eighteen hundred tons of stoves per annum, and the firm name was changed to F. & L. Kahn & Bros. as it has since remained. In 1884 the establishment was moved to Hamilton, the sales office still remaining in Cincinnati where it had for sometime been located, and in moving to Hamilton they followed the usual line of thought that the local trade of the city must

still be specially fostered. They had not long been located in Hamilton before their market began to greatly expand and the Cincinnati salesroom was abolished and their products began to find a market in every locality in the United States, supplemented by extensive shipments to China, Japan, Spain, France and England. The establishment is now producing twenty-four hundred tons of stoves per year.

In 1887 Mr. Samuel Kahn became a member of the firm and now has charge of outside sales department, Mr. Felix Kahn having charge of the general office business, while Mr. Lazard Kahn gives attention to the technical management.

The new shop built in Hamilton is a model affair, occupying five acres and employing two hundred men. It was planned by Mr. Lazard Kahn and it is so perfect in its arrangement that the plan has since been identically copied by several enterprising stove foundries, after visiting the establishment and procuring the plans thereof from the owners. Everything about their diversified line of stove work is done complete in the establishment which is provided with its own extensive sheet-metal shop, plating room, and art department. The designs turned out by this establishment are always in the lead. The constructions are upon well studied scientific principles and the artistic designs are of great originality and most pleasing character. Mr. Lazard Kahn has long been recognized as a man of special practical attainments in the stove trade, and in the council of the stove makers association, where he is an active member of the Executive Committee. In the Paris Universal Exposition of 1889, the President of the United States appointed Mr. Lazard Kahn as a member of the International Jury in Class 27, and in recognition of his services upon that jury the President of the French Republic has lately honored him with a very gratifying diploma and a handsome medal.

It is usual in the stove trade to distinguish the various designs by fanciful trade-mark names, and the present establishment early adopted the term "Estate" as a fundamental trade mark, and the product has become extremely popular. The line of stoves and ranges now includes about five hundred different styles and sizes, and new patterns are being constantly produced. In 1888 the manufacture of gas stoves was taken up as a special department and this line now includes two hundred different styles and sizes, and new patterns are constantly under way.