

Thermometer wood-burning stove

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P.T. wood stove thermometer. Légaré identifying “warm”, “hot” and “very hot” temperature zones.

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Marchand P.T. Légaré Limited

Date 1950

Materials glass, metal

Measurements 3,7 x 13,2 x 8,2 cm

Historical context

Pierre-Théophile Legaré (1851-1926) of Charlebourg founded a farm implement business with his father in the late 1860s. The company grew steadily, and by 1912 had 11 branches and several changes of partners. In 1916, P.T. Legaré bought the Percival Plow and Stove Company Limited. This became a veritable business empire in Quebec. The name P. T. Legaré Limited was adopted definitively in 1921. A key element in the company's success was the catalog, which was available on request in all regions of Quebec and neighboring provinces, in both French and English. There's plenty of high-quality farm machinery and equipment to be found in the catalogue, as well as the knowledge that these publications help to disseminate. The other half of the catalog offers other types of merchandise: sewing machines, safes, etc., and several models of wood-burning stoves and thermometers like this one. The wood-burning stove has long been part of Quebec family history. Necessary for both heating the home and preparing meals, these "traditional" stoves were present in Quebec kitchens until the 1950s. The chain of stores, which has become a veritable business empire, has contributed to the agricultural modernization of Quebec. The Legaré

catalog keeps everyone, wherever they are, up to date with the latest technical developments. Legaré does business with several North American manufacturers (as is the case for the thermometer shown here), and sometimes even obtains exclusive agreements. Legaré died in 1926. The company went bankrupt some ten years later. However, the company was restructured and, although no longer as successful, remained in business until 1998.

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