

to crawl along, or stand on the booms for exercise or punishment (Hotten).

**Boonder, bounder** (American), a scrubbing-brush. (New York), Dutch, *boender*, a brush. "A rubber, a rubbing-brush. *Boenen* to rub with a brush," implying diligence. Hence the Americanism to *bone it*, to *bone into it*, to apply one's self, to scrub away hard.

**Boost, to** (American), to push up. Generally used in the sense of giving one a lift; "give me a *boost*," as one boy when climbing a tree says to another.

The bull was actually tearing up the earth and *boosting* up the sand like a whirlwind.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It.*

**Booth** (thieves), a house; to "heave a *booth*," to rob a house.

**Booth-burster, barn-stormer** (theatrical), a loud actor, of the good old-fashioned "horse-dung and sawdust" type. The late T. B. Chatterton used to term it "gut acting."

**Booting** (military), punishment inflicted by the men with a surcingle or strap.

**Boot joe** (military), musketry drill.

**Boot-leg plan** (American), by evasion or trickery, in reference to the saying that "the *boot* is on the other leg," *i.e.*, not as

one would naturally understand an assertion.

There is as much whisky consumed in Iowa now as there was before, but less beer, throughout the State "for medical purposes only," and on the *boot-leg plan*, and saloons run openly in the larger towns in defiance of the laws.—*Omaha Herald.*

**Boots** (common), man or boy who cleans boots at an hotel. The term has ceased to be slang.

Well, I must do my best, the post of *boots* My office, which I used to think sublime, This sort of thing scarcely suits.

—*Punch.*

A "bootcatcher" was a provincialism applied to a man at an inn whose duty it was to pull off the boots of travellers.

To "buy any one's old *boots*," to marry or keep a cast-off mistress.

**Booze** (common), drink; to *booze*, to drink heavily. To be "on the *booze*," to be out on a drunken jollification, going from one public-house to another. The word is derivable from "bouse," to drink deep or carouse. In Wright's Archaic Dictionary "boose" is defined as meaning, in some of the rural districts, a cattle "trough," where kine and horses drink. In Warwickshire and Leicestershire the trough is called a "booson." Some etymologists derive this from the Hindostani *boosa*, drink, and others from the Dutch *buyzen*, to tipple—with more reason, as the term was good English in the fourteenth century.