

History of Hosiery.

The first silk stockings made in England were knitted by Queen Elizabeth's silk-woman, Mistress Montague, who presented her Majesty with a pair of black silk ones, which she liked so well that she kept the donor knitting silk stockings as long as she lived. Before the end of her reign stockings were made of silk, jarnsey, worsted, crewel, or the finest yarn and thread that could be had, and Stubbs remarked the ladies were "not ashamed to wear hose of all kinds of changeable colors, as green, red, white, tawney, and else what not, cunningly knit and curiously indented in every point with quirks, clocks, open seams, and every thing else accordingly."

The fashion thus introduced by royalty was soon adopted by the under ranks. The first peer who indulged in silk stockings was that William Herbert called the "Proud Earl of Pembroke." Prouder than ever, we can fancy him, in the days of trunk hose, long waisted doublet and huge ruffs, appearing at Court in his new fashionable knit hose, and perhaps dancing a measure with the "virgin queen," her head covered with feathers, her feet glittering in gold and silver embroidered slippers, wearing her black silk stockings as she coquetishly raised her broadened skirt and shook her feet in the dance.

King James I., it is said, not only wore silk stockings, but was so fond of them that he lowered his kingly dignity so far as to ask one of his courtiers to lend him a pair.

This was royalty going a-begging with a vengeance, when we read in a letter still extant of how the King asked the loan of the "scarlet hose with the gold clocks," on one occasion, when he desired to give the French Ambassador an "extraordinary idea of his magnificence."

It was a fancy with some lovers of the olden time to have stockings made from their ladies' hair, they desiring, I suppose to have their feet, as well as their hearts to be entangled in the meshes of their mistresses' tresses. *Philadelphia Press.*

Grain and Milling Notes

About 50 is the highest price paid for wheat in Vinden.

Wheat still brings from 50 to 52c at Portage Prairie, and oats 30c.

About 52c is the highest price paid for wheat in Morden. Oats are quoted at 27c. Thirteen bushels of wheat were shipped on Tuesday.

A by-law will be submitted to the electors of the Salaberry municipality, Man., to grant aid to the amount of \$3,000 for the establishment of a flour mill and butter factory.

There is not much activity in the Manitoba grain market as yet, farmers evidently holding back for higher figures whilst prices are gradually getting lower. During the early part of the week 52c was paid for the best grade of wheat, at the close the price was 51c per bush. Rye, 25c, oats, 26c, with very little offering.

Wheat was quoted from 2 to 3c lower at Brandon last week, prices ranging from 48 to 50c, the latter price for best samples only. About 30,000 bushels were taken in during the

week. Large shipments went east, but were to fill orders taken some time ago, which owing to a scarcity of cars, could not be forwarded sooner. From ten to fifteen cars went out on some days. Barley has not been offered. Oats were in good request at 25 to 30c.

General Notes.

Apples are being sold in Halifax at from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per barrel in large lots.

A permanent exhibition of manufacturers will be opened in Toronto about the first of the year.

An engine using petroleum as fuel is successfully drawing trains between Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt.

A bill poster in Walkerton, Ont., has been fined for covering over posters whose date had not yet expired.

A movement is on foot in Halifax to start a Building and Loan Association on the Ontario model, and some well known capitalists of that city have the matter in hand.

Under the recent treaty between Great Britain and Spain the latter country and her colonies are opened to Canadian trade on the same terms as the most favored nations.

An effort is being made to prevent, by injunction, the Montreal Street Railway Company from paying its current half-yearly dividend, on the ground that it has not been earned.

The Moncton Refining Company, at a meeting held on Tuesday last, were to be asked to abandon half their paid up stock, in order that \$100,000 preferential stock might be floated.

According to the calculation made by a scientific writer lately, it requires a prodigious amount of vegetable matter to form a layer of coal, the estimate being that it would really take a million years to form a coalbed 100 feet thick.

The total assessment of Toronto, as finally adjusted, is \$83,556,811 being an increase of \$10,841,278. The total population is 118,903, an increase of 6,603 on the year. If Parkdale and other suburbs are added, the population will be close upon 130,000.

Notice is given in the last Canada Gazette of an application for the formation of a company to manufacture patent stovepipe elbows and all sheet metal goods, headquarters Montreal. Among the incorporators are the names of Jas. Bissett and Edwin Hudson Bissett, Winnipeg.

A new textile product is coming out, made of merino wool, at present manufactured only on the coast of Sardinia. It is peculiarly soft in texture, and so durable that a shawl costing about \$12 can be worn in all kinds of weather for years. It is called bisso or golden wool. Textile manufacturers, who have been experimenting with jute, assert that it is capable of more extended and artistic applications than are yet known, since it can be made nearly as fine as silk.

The business of making iron seem to be slowly slipping from the hands of iron makers in eastern Pennsylvania. The returns of iron furnaces in blast Sept. 1 show a decrease of 2,200 tons weekly in capacity, an increase in charcoal and bituminous iron, but a decrease of 3,600

tons in anthracite iron. Since the maximum, July 1, the decrease in weekly output has been 4,700 tons. For the first time the average weekly production for three months has been equivalent to more than 6,000,000 tons of pig iron yearly, sixty per cent of the anthracite, 63.5 per cent of the bituminous and forty six per cent of the charcoal furnaces being in blast. The longer headed iron makers are buying ore and non properties in the south and west.

From the report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the condition of the coal miners of Mono, a district of Belgium, it appears that the maximum earnings of a coal hewer, or, as we would term him in this country, a miner, are 60 francs a month, say roughly, \$12. It was learned from some of the witnesses that appeared before this commission that girls 16, 17 and 18 years of age are kept at work underground in the mines of this district from 16 to 18 hours a day. For this exhausting labor they receive from 1 1/2 to 2 francs, or from 30 to 40 cents a day. It would appear from this report that all of the shocking stories as to the brutalizing and demoralizing influence of the labor of women and girls underground in the mines brought out in the investigations in England some years since are being repeated in Belgium.

Personal.

W. F. Heffernan, of Charles Huston & Co., wholesale clothing, Montreal, is making a business tour of the country.

Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, of Lyon, Mackenzie & Powis, left last week on a business trip to eastern Canadian and American cities.

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