and owing to general quiet business in the shoe line, Quebec manufacturers are reported as operating only partially, while a large local shoe concern has temporarily shut down a plant it operates at St. Hyacinthe. Sole leather men claim to be doing a good export trade, and say that improvement in local trade will likely lead to some advance in prices. In black leathers nothing specially new is reported.

Metals and Hardware.—The movement in these lines is fairly sustained, and in heavy metals the railways are reported to be doing some active buying. Pig iron is steady at $18.50 to $19 for domestic brands; No. 1 Summerlee, $19; No. 2, do., selected, $18.50, ex-wharf. Bars, nails, wire, etc., are unchanged. Ingot tin and copper are easier at 32 to 32½c. for the former, and 15¾ to 16c. for the latter; lead, $3.45; spelter, 6¼c.; antimony, 9c. Plates and sheets show little change.

Oils, Paints and Glass.—Since last writing there have been pronounced advances in both turpentine and linseed oil. The former article was put up the end of last week to 90c., and again since to 93c., the single barrel, and it is prognosticated that the price will be 96c. before the week is out. Linseed oil is advanced a full 3c. per gal., being now quoted at 53c. for raw, and 56c. for boiled. Other lines have not undergone any recent change.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

Henry Clews & Co., New York, in their circular dated May 20th, 1905, say:

Conditions have hardly favored stock market activity during the past week. Recent liquidation and change of attitude amongst the prominent leaders naturally checked speculative operations for the bull account, although an expansion of the short interest induced more or less buying to cover and consequent periods of strength. At present there are neither indications nor reasons for anything more than transient recoveries. The speculative situation has been somewhat improved by the elimination of weak accounts and through a drop of 10 to 20 points. General business conditions are satisfactory, and if security values were only at a more tempting level there would undoubtedly be renewed general buying, provided present disturbing issues could be promptly settled. The immediate outlook for the market, however, is for periodic rallies, followed by reactions which may result in ultimately bringing the market to a lower level. Speculative activity during the summer will probably be largely influenced by unsettled outside conditions, as well as by the fact that the season is approaching when many operators will be absent. For some time to come the political situation promises to be a disturbing element in the stock market. The rather aggressive attitude taken by the Administration upon railroad and tariff problems is somewhat unsettling to large financial interests. We are likely to see during the next three or four months a good deal of discussion regarding railroad rates; and when the public begins to appreciate the injurious consequences to all parties arising from the Government fixing the rate they will be less likely to sanction any such socialistic policy. Bank clearings are still showing large gains over last year at all principal cities, but the increases run in the neighborhood of about 25 per cent. over last year, which compares with increases of about 50 per cent. a few weeks ago. This diminished activity is largely the result of lessened speculation and the fact that many important financial deals which were in process of negotiation have since been completed. Railroad earnings continue large and generally average between 8 and 10 per cent. ahead of last year. These figures probably represent the real gain of business over last year more correctly than any other. Easy conditions exist in the money market and promise to continue until crop demands assert themselves in the autumn. Foreign exchange has been strong and in good demand, and there is still some talk of gold exports at no distant date. Towards the end of the month some heavy remittances will have to be made on account of the Japanese loan placed in this country, and whether this will be provided for by previous purchases of exchange or by gold shipments remains to be seen. Moderate gold exports will cause no concern, owing to easy money rates here, and our own abundant supplies of the precious metal.