

## SHOES AND LEATHER.

The Amherst, N.S., Boot and Shoe Company were threatened with labor troubles a short time ago, but everything is, we believe, now happily settled.

Montreal manufacturers report that most of the spring orders are now in, and they will have all they can do between now and May 1st in working off orders on hand. No sorting orders have been received yet, as the spring goods so far delivered have not been broken into to any extent.

Shoe manufacturers have during the last several years suffered a great deal by strikes. This is undoubtedly due to the great improvements made in the machinery of this trade. Recently the lasters of James McCready & Co., Montreal, went out on the strike, but through the influence of arbitration are now again at work. May all labor difficulties be thus happily ended.

Some large sales of Chrome and Dongola skins have been made since our last report, and other large lots are in course of negotiation. One firm has sold about 24,000 skins during the past few days, and several large outside buyers have intimated their intention of visiting the city to make extensive purchases. The demand is good, and values are very steady.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin, March 22nd.*

Upward the course of the markets take their way. Hides and leather are rising like thermometers in July, and the best judges are unable to forecast the future. The Milwaukee and Chicago tanners have advanced the prices of calfskins and grain leathers, and the eastern sole tanners are revising their rate cards. The upward movement is logical and practical, and the most skeptical men in the trade are becoming convinced that for a time at least low values cannot rule. Hides continue to increase in cost. All the markets show great strength. Light packer cows sold this week at 7½c., which is ¾c. higher than they were at this date in 1894. This is an advance of more than 50 per cent. Buff hides in the Chicago country market at 7c. indicate a proportionate rise in value.—*Chicago Review, March 21st.*

The industrial revolution which began at the close of the last century is not yet accomplished. Two hundred thousand operatives have left the boot and shoe factories of England rather than suffer the introduction of improved machinery. This extended strike, reaching as it does all over the country, has been expected for some time, and English leather merchants in Toronto foretold its advent several months ago. The first power looms introduced into Lancashire and Yorkshire were broken by rioters, but with little avail. The progress of improvement cannot be stayed by the narrow prejudices of men. It is unfortunately true that much misery is caused in the transitory stages from the old to the new order of things, and employers, mindful of this, should do all in their power to alleviate the wretchedness around them.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

AMERICAN BANK REPORTER.—The present issue is revised and corrected up to 1st March, 1895. All new banks are reported to date, all suspended and liquidated banks removed, and all changes in officers made to date. The volume is published by Stumpf & Steurer, 49 Church street, New York, at \$2 in paper and \$2.50 in cloth.

GREAT BRITAIN AND GREATER BRITAIN.—This is the title of a fifty-page quarto illustrated pamphlet issued for distribution in Australasia. It bears the name of Murdoch, Barber & Co., colonial agents, Toronto, and is compiled by Mr. A. W. Murdoch, of that firm. Its purpose appears to be the promotion of preferential trade between the colonies, and it contains extracts from the Earl of Jersey's report, a reference to the Canadian Pacific cable, excerpts from the Canadian Census and Trade Returns, as well as statistics relating to Canadian banks and loan companies.

STREET RAILWAY STATISTICS.—Many of our readers are familiar, doubtless, with the Investors' Supplement, published by the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, of New York, of which W. B. Dana & Co. are the publishers (P.O. box 958). We have now received from Messrs. Dana a copy of their Street Railway Supplement, issued on 9th instant. Here is furnished in convenient tabular form particulars about street railway properties in the United States, their organization, earnings and securities. The Supplement consists of about 100 pages, is handsomely printed and remarkably complete.

NEW YORK BANK CURRENCY.—This pamphlet, whose author is L. Carroll Root, constitutes the fifth number of the Reform Club's Sound Currency series. The first chapter deals with events prior to 1829; the second with the "History of the Safety Fund System," then the "National Banks." On the one hand the bond-deposit-secured currency of the "Free Banking" system was that upon which Secretary Chase planned the National Bank acts; and on the other, we are told, 'The Safety Fund' system—which had not merely preceded it, but

ran concurrently with it until both were pushed aside by the National Bank system—was the model upon which Canada has developed her bank note currency system, and from which the now famous Baltimore plan for an elastic currency was sketched." Copies may be obtained by enclosing 5 cents to the Reform Club, 52 William street, New York City.

THE CURRENCY FAMINE OF 1893.—It is probably correct to say that the experience of the United States in the year 1893, with respect to their financial affairs and their currency, was unique. The storm burst while most people were unprepared for it. The currency famine, and other concurrent conditions, produced disaster upon a scale so great as to be appalling. In this pamphlet Mr. John Dewitt Warner summarizes the conditions, and uses them as a background for a detailed sketch of the currency famine. He adds a mass of detail as to emergency currency—accompanied by some fifty fac-similes of paper substitutes for money—that to him appears most significant. This and other literature on the subject of sound currency is issued by the sound currency committee of the Reform Club, New York.

ANNUAL REPORT, HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—This report, for the year 1894, gives the following particulars: Library opened Feb. 19, 1890: total number of volumes in the library on December 31, 1894—21,639, divided as follows: 16,931 in Circulating Department, 4,708 in Reference Department. Volumes issued during the year, 213,628, an average daily use of 698 volumes (home use, 130,029.) Borrowers' cards in force, 10,762. Number of visitors to the library during the year (estimated), 345,000. Number of papers and periodicals for use in reading rooms, 214. The classification of books shows that almost as many relate to history, travel and biography (4,460) as to prose fiction (4,776). General literature embraces 2,751 volumes; sociology, 2,277; natural science, 1,187; useful and fine arts, 1,840; religion and philosophy, 1,167. The president for 1894 was Mr. George Lynch-Staunton; the new president is Mr. Fred. Walter, and the librarian is Mr. Richard Lancefield.

## CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, March 28th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	March 28.	March 21.
Montreal .....	\$8,528,008	\$11,031,140
Toronto .....	4,781,836	4,996,259
Halifax .....	875,532	871,448
Winnipeg .....	601,910	695,454
Hamilton .....	473,990	524,657
Total .....	\$15,261,276	\$18,118,958
Aggregate balances this week,	\$1,983,053	last week, \$2,734,131.

## PATENT RECORD.

The following list of United States patents granted to Canadian inventors, March 12th and 19th, 1895, is reported for this paper by James Sangster, patent attorney, Buffalo:—

- Robert S. Anderson, Toronto, pneumatic tire for bicycles.
- Alexander Barhite, Toronto, assignor to J. N. Barhite, Buckeye, Iowa, road-grading machine.
- Edmond H. Casgrain, Quebec, apparatus for casting metals.
- Edmond H. Casgrain, Quebec, vulcanizer.
- Thomas C. Edwards, Chatham, sad-iron.
- George W. Green, Kingsville, assignor of one-half to J. N. Mendenhall, Lexington, N.C., bed-brace.
- William B. Hamilton, Toronto, printing form.
- Newman H. Holland, Montreal, automatic telephone switch.
- Stephen S. Kimball, Montreal, street car fender.
- Samuel Knighton, assignor of one-half to C. E. Kavanagh, Winnipeg, band tie.
- William Kyle, Brockville, torsion spring gear for vehicles.
- John R. Meadowcroft, Montreal, valve.
- Andrew Schrag, assignor of one-third to D. Dempster, Brantford, grate.
- John Velie, Winnipeg, cooking utensil.
- Oscar Beaudry, assignor of one-half to C. Leblanc, Ottawa, device for operating switches.
- Frank P. Birley, Toronto, paper box.
- Frank P. Birley, Toronto, paper box.
- Ferdinand P. Brunneau, Lyster Station, nut and screw tightening machine.
- Joseph Carter, Blyth, overdraw check bit.
- William A. Clark, Toronto, apparatus for purifying milk.
- Ethelbert M. Fraser, assignor of one-half to W. Georgeson, Winnipeg, mechanism for operating elevators.
- Charles J. Lewis, Grimsby, mold-oiling device.
- Edward Seybold, assignor to Eclipse Office Furniture Co., Ltd., Ottawa, letter and bill file.