

ditto; Persian trimming for ditto; pair rubber overshoes; pair of new scissors; new feather for hat; new hat; new travelling bag; new clasp for ulster; bottle of smelling salts; three pairs of cheap gloves; two lace ties; spring parasol.

April 9.—It's time I ordered another pair of shoes. My best silk is really getting shabby. And I must go out to day for I'm out of pins!"

### GAIN AND LOSS.

It is many a step up, and but one step down. To reach a point in business where success seems assured requires many a long pull and many a strong pull; many ups and downs must be realized and difficulties overcome. At a certain altitude most men grow giddy, and become careless. Because they have gained an eminence, they become defiant, and forget that it is but one step in the wrong direction that leads to ruin. A merchant whose trade has grown larger than his neighbors', has nothing to boast of, unless he credits the people with his success, and uses with utmost delicacy the influence he has acquired.

The true theory of trade is simple, and, if followed, will as surely lead to success and lasting wealth, as time continues. Economy must be the ground-plan of every business undertaking. Extravagance the people will not pay for. What merchandise actually costs is by no means what it may cost the spendthrift to live who sells it. Private expense accounts are frequently allowed to creep into business calculations, and the sharp, selfish dealer is foolish enough to think that one price can be had as well as another, and so marks up when he ought to mark down. This merchant never takes off without adding on somewhere else. High prices and large profits become a disease with him, and he adds here a little and there a little until his former patrons pass by on the other side. His sales diminish year by year, and the blind man sees not, until some day the scales fall from his eyes, and he discovers that he is but a mere cipher where he was once, as he imagined, the biggest Somebody in the community—*Exchange*.

**BUSINESS ON SUNDAY.**—By a judgement of the Superior Court rendered last week in Quebec, the city by-law and local statute requiring the closing of stores on Sunday were declared unconstitutional. One Hudon had been convicted by the Recorder and condemned to a fine and imprisonment in default of payment for keeping open his cigar store on a Sunday. His application for a writ of *certiorari* to revise this judgement has been granted by the Court, on the ground that the only power given the Corporation by-law is to pass by-laws to prohibit selling or exposing for sale on Sundays, and not to compel the closing of stores. A statute of the local Legislature speaks of closing, but this the Court holds *ultra vires*, as being in restraint of trade and as interfering with a matter of trade and commerce with which the Dominion Legislature is exclusively vested. The Court also holds that, under the law, the Recorder could not condemn to fine with imprisonment as an alternative, but only to fine or imprisonment.

**CANADIAN RYE AND BARLEY.**—A letter, recently received in this city from Belgium by one of our foreign consults, contained the following interesting paragraph:—"There is a lively enquiry for rye at Antwerp, as there is very little in the warehouses. Canadian rye would bring here 24 francs (\$4.68) per 100 kilo. (A kilo is a fraction over 2 lbs.) Recommend our Canadian friends to ship as soon as possible." Many of our readers may not know that Canadian rye and barley is heavier and of better quality than that grown in the States, and is worth an average of three cents per bushel more.

Antwerp imports about 10,000,000 bushels of rye annually, and last year 300,000 bushels were taken from Montreal. She also imported last year 6,300,000 bushels of barley, 14,000 bushels of which were Canadian. If further encouragement is wanted to induce Canadians to sow heavy crops of both classes of cereals, it is afforded by the imports into Germany for 1879, which were obtained from official sources in this city, and which are as follows:—Rye 29,591,461 cwt; wheat, 18,482,402 cwt; barley, 6,441,146 cwt; oats, 6,420,739 cwt; maize, 4,083,808 cwt.

**AN IMPORTANT FACT.**—At a recent meeting of the Manchester Geological Society, Mr. Peter Spence gave the following important information. He said that no boiler on his works had been chipped for the last 15 years. This was simply due to his keeping the water supplied to the boilers alkaline, by adding from time to time a little carbonate of soda or soda-ash. Dr. Kasman finds that zinc, introduced into steam boilers to prevent incrustation, effects the purpose where the waters are selenitic; but where the waters contain carbonates of lime, magnesia and iron, zinc first becomes brittle and porous, and then is rapidly reduced to powder.

**ENGLAND'S BEST CUSTOMERS.**—English people are getting to know that "Greater Britain" in proportion to its population, is the most extensive consumer of English manufactures. It appears from a table prepared by Mr. Frederick Young that the annual consumption of English merchandise per head is represented by the following figures:—United States, 78; Germany, 98 2d; France, 7d 8d North American Colonies, £2 2s 9d; and Australia, £8 10s 8d. A more elaborate analysis by Doctor Forbes Watson brings out this striking result, that Australia actually consumes, in proportion to its population, a larger quantity of English manufactures than Englishmen themselves. This is all very fine; but it may be as well to remark that the same fact was pointed out by Alison in his *History of Europe*, 1815-52, written some thirty years ago. It received no attention then, in presence of the rushing foreign demand; but in view of a slackening of it in our day is likely to be deemed of some importance should the disruption of the Empire be again advocated as a step in "the path of progress."

—To prevent nickel plating from scaling off from iron or steel objects, says a technical journal, copper them first by battery or by simple immersion in a strong solution of sulphate of copper (blue vitriol).

—Mr. McLaren has 125 men at work in his mills at Carleton Place. They produce thirty thousand feet of lumber daily.

—A farm in Marmora, on which is an asbestos mine, is said to have been bought by some Americans for \$15,000.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 18th May, 1880.

For the middle of the month of May, the wholesale business of Montreal in almost all branches seems to drag along slowly. The late arrival of the spring fleet tells against some lines of business, and cargoes are anxiously looked for to replenish stocks. The ship laborers on the wharf, went on strike yesterday for higher wages, a few have gone to work to-day

and the authorities are taking active steps to prevent the strikers from interfering with those who are willing to work on present terms. This disturbance is much to be regretted, both for Quebec and Montreal, as it gives these Ports a bad name, in the estimation of shipmasters. The stocks of flour in store on the 15th inst., shows a decrease of 17,984 brls., and wheat an increase of 51,117 bushels as compared with the stocks held here on the 15th of May, 1879.

**ASHES.**—Business has been quiet during the week and prices have kept remarkably steady the quotation being still \$3.65 to 3.75; *Pearls* in the absence of sales are still nominal at \$6.50. The stock at present in store is 648 brls., Pots and 323 brls., *Pearls*.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—The trade is very quiet only a few sorting up orders are being received, and the volume of business is not likely to increase for a few weeks, prices are steady and remittances are moderate. We quote prices unchanged as follows *Mens kip boots* \$2.75 to 3.25; ditto *French Calf* \$3.50 to \$3.75; ditto *Buff Congress* \$1.90 to 2.25; ditto *Split Brogans* \$1.00 to 1.10; *Boys Split Brogans* 85c. to \$1.00; ditto *Buff and Pebbled Congress* \$1.50 to 1.75; *Womens Split Balmorals* 85c. to \$1.10; ditto buff and pebbled bals \$1.20 to 1.40; ditto prunella boots 50c. to \$1.50; *Misses split bals* 85c. to \$1.00; ditto buff and pebbled bals \$1.00 to \$1.20; ditto prunella balmorals 70c. to \$1.25; *Childs split bals* 57 to 65c.

**CATTLE.**—As has been the case for the past few weeks the supply of cattle on the market is much above the demand. Prices for cattle fit for shipment to Europe, are pretty well maintained at 5 to 5½c per lb. Butchers cattle had a downward tendency yesterday and 4½ to 4c were the best prices obtained for the city demand. *Hogs* Canadian stock is not large and prices obtained yesterday was 5½ to 6c per lb. *Lambs* are advancing in price owing to scarcity, prices paid yesterday were \$2.50 to 4.50; *Calves* very few good offering those sold brought from \$2.50 to 4.00.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—The market has been rather quieter this week and prices of Bi Carb and Caustic Soda are quoted lower. Borax, however, has advanced, but as a rule prices are weak though not quotably lower. We quote *Bi Carb. Soda*, \$3.50 to 3.60; *Soda Ash*, \$2.75 to 3.00; *Bi Chromate of Potash*, \$15 to 16½; *Refined Borax*, 13 to 14½c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 32½ to 35c; ditto ground, 35 to 00c; *Caustic Soda*, \$2.50 to 3.00; *Sugar of Lead*, 12½ to 15½c; *Bleaching Powder*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Alum*, \$2.00 to 2.25; *Copperas*, per 100 lbs \$1.25; *Sulphur* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Roll Sulphur*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Epsom Salts*, 1.75 to \$0.00; *Sal Soda*, \$1.30 to 1.50; *Saltpetre*, \$9.00 to 9.50; *Sulphate of Copper*, \$7.00 to 8.00; *Whiting*, 65 to 70c; *Opium*, \$9.50 to 10.00; *Quinine*, \$4.00 to 4.25; *Iodide of Potass*, \$6.50 to 6.75; *Bromide of Potass*, 50 to 55c; *Morphia*, \$4.10 to 4.25; *Castor oil*, 11 to 12c; *Cod Liver oil*, \$1.00 to 1.10; *Shellac*, 45 to 50c.

**DRY GOODS.**—It is still the same old story with the wholesale trade "business quiet." Some small orders are coming in from travellers, and the total amount of business done so far this year will probably equal that of last but certainly will not exceed it. Cotton keeps firm and manufacturers are still pretty busy on orders which have been given ahead. Woolen goods are steady and in fair demand. Remittances are much complained of.

**FURS.**—Some few lots of Spring rats are still coming in. Advices from the country state that the catch this Spring has been very large, and that trappers are holding back the skins. We have nothing to note in the local market, which