HARDWARE.—Since the opening of navigation, on the upper lakes, and the starting in of fine spring-like weather, people throughout the country have been impressed with the idea that they need their small hardware goods right away. The consequence is that wholesalers are extremely busy. The only change of prices lately has been in glass, a general advance on stock goods having been arranged by the dealers in this country, owing to the strong situation in Germany, consequent upon the high cost of manufacture, etc. The metal trade is holding its own, and prices remain firm at the figures which have been quoted for the past two weeks. The Lanarkshire iron trade has been hampered owing to strikes.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hides, both cured and green, continue easy, the supply being large, with but slack demand. In Chicago, a firm market is reported for common dry hides. Tallow remains about the same.

WOOL.—No change for the better has taken place in the wool market. If anything, the conditions in Boston are less favorable, so there appears to be but slight prospect of any amelioration for some time to come.

BRITISH STABILITY.

The following remarks are possessed of all the more authority, coming, as they do, from an American source, the Engineering Magazine, of New York:

To the outside world, the most impressive lesson of the Queen's death is the magnificent stability of British institutions and the British commercial system. Not a wheel stopped, save as a token of reverence; not a tremor in values disturbed financial centres; not an uneasiness or uncertainty as to national politics caused business undertakings to waver or hesitate. Compare this with the quadrennial upheaval in the United States, where economic legislation of every kind is the football of politics, and industry follows with uncertain feet now artificially raised on an unstable platform of protection, now sinking back from the morass of free silver, certain of nothing but uncertainty with every change of chief executive. The "demise of the Crown" demonstrates anew England's industrial strength, and those who are ready to cry her downfall before her industrial rivals would do well to remember that this stability of commercial organization outweighs much mechanical aptitude. Machinery can be bought, skilful brains and hands can be hired; but stable, political and commercial systems are of slow growth, and not soon attained.

A WOMAN AND AN UMBRELLA.

"Why is a woman like an umbrella?" asked the exchange editor.

"Because she's made of ribs and attached to a stick," replied the information editor. "Why is——"

"Wrong. Guess again."

"Because she always has to shut up when——"

"Naw! You fatigue me."

"Because she stands in the hall and ——"

"Naw! It's nothing about standing in the hall."

"A woman is like an umbrella because nobody ever gets the right one. Why is——"

"Ring off! That isn't the answer, either."

"It's a better one than you've got."

"Don't you reckon I know whether it is or not? Whose conundrum is this, yours or mine?"

"Well, she's like an umbrella because—it isn't because she fades with age, is it?"