

increase, and with constantly increasing acquisitions, some idea may be had of the great possibilities of what may be attained.—*Railway Review*.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the St. Croix Cotton Co., held last week, a new board of directors was elected, which was given the necessary power to complete the transfer of the St. Croix mill to the combine. The only two mills now remaining out are the Parks and Gibson mills, but the output of the latter is controlled by the combine for ten years.

PARAGRAPHS FOR GROCERS.

Owing to the severe frosts in California a large number of bitten oranges—thousands of tons—are being offered for sale for a mere song.

The prospectus has been issued of the Vancouver Wine Brewing and Malting Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000. The company proposes to do an export and import business.

Apropos of the Lenten season, a good story, says the *Lindsay Post*, has leaked out, a well-known south ward resident of an economical turn of mind being the victim. Shortly before the commencement of the penitential season he placed an order with a Toronto dealer for a barrel of herrings, instructing him to forward by express. In due time it arrived, and shortly after the barrel had been unloaded the customer dropped in to the express office to enquire about it, and espied his property. Turning it up on end to see if all was tight and sound, he read his name, and underneath in large type the letters C. O. D. Spelling them over slowly a look of deep disgust overspread his countenance, and he ejaculated: "C.O.D.—ood; the dashed blankety-blank ejit. I ordered herns." And the staff smiled.

If we could talk as eloquently about our goods as we can about ourselves, it would not take us long to earn a fortune.

Coffee was extremely dull in New York, by last Monday's advices. Brazilian markets continue to show a fair disposition to accept any bid, and sold on the basis of 13½ to 13¾c. for 7's. The world's visible supply of first day in March shows an increase of 107,000 bags over February. Warehouse deliveries in New York continue exceedingly large.

"I now understand," said Scrimps when the grocer 'charged it' for the third time, "why men feel so much affection for a noble charger."—*Washington Star*.

The *Youths' Companion* tells of a little fellow who asked the grocer for a package of decorated codfish. After a moment's reflection the clerk gave him desiccated codfish, which was doubtless satisfactory to the family.

The tea trade of China and Japan seems to be changing in favor of the latter. The trade of Japan in this article is increasing at the rate of 3,500,000 pounds per year, while the China tea trade is diminishing. Japan's best customers for tea are the United States and Canada.

Coffee tea is one of the coming articles of commerce, and is being already sold on the London markets. It consists of the leaves of the coffee plant dried as tea leaves are, and is said to be a good substitute for coffee. If it proves to be anywhere near as good as coffee it will be a great boon to humanity, as the foliage of the plant can be produced in parts of the world where the coffee bean cannot be made to appear.

Reporter—Here is an item about a boy who

went wading in Florida and was swallowed by an alligator. What head shall I use? Editor—Try "Wade and Found Wanting."—*Elmira Gazette*.

SHOE AND LEATHER ITEMS.

Bicycling has become so popular among all classes that American manufacturers find wide ground for the exercise of their ingenuity in this specialty in shoes. One of the latest productions which lays claims to advantages in this line is, says the *S. & L. Reporter*, a combination of leather and rubber in the surface of the sole which unites viceability and elasticity of pressure.

Lady (angrily).—Ah, how clumsy! My foot is crushed all to pieces.

Gentleman (equal to the occasion).—Foot! Why, was that pretty little thing a foot that I trod upon! I thought it was the rose dropped from my button-hole. I really beg your—

Lady (all smiles).—Pray don't mention it, sir; if you have lost your rose pray let me replace it from my bouquet.—*Commercial Bulletin*.

The National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives in Great Britain is a very business-like organization and issues a semi-annual balance sheet for the inspection of the public. For the last six months of 1891 the expenditure was \$39,000. The Dundee lock-out cost about \$9,500. Sick and funeral expenditures were \$28,500. The total membership is 43,483. The union has on hand at the present time \$150,000.

A London cobbler, in connection with his repairs, advertises to give music lessons at five shillings per quarter. A contemporary thinks the combination a happy one, as the shoemaker could beat time while hammering a new sole on a well-worn shoe.

Department stores, says a Boston exchange, often use shoes as decoys to draw customers. Prices are marked down below the profit line to attract bargain hunters. Sometimes a grade of shoe is put at such a low figure that quantities of them are sought after. Then there are difficulties. The shoe can be had at one counter and only a small proportion of applicants can get waited upon. And many, after being jostled in the crowd for a time, turn to another part of the store and buy shoes at regular prices.

According to the *Shoe and Leather Review* twenty-five per cent. of the leather received at Cape Town, South Africa, last year, was from the United States. Much of the leather credited to England originally came from the States.

A hand-made welt—the imprint imparted to a bad boy by the maternal slipper.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter*.

A NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY.

Subscribers to the "Canadian Newspaper Directory" can well afford to overlook the delay in the publication of the book, which has just made its appearance. There may be some mistakes and short-comings not apparent at a first glance, and such as are inseparable from a first edition, but Messrs. A. McKim & Co., of Montreal, have sent out their work in a creditable shape, an earnest of what may be expected from them in the future. The 365 pages of this work are substantially and taste-fully bound in cloth, printed on excellent paper and in typography that is pleasant to the eye. The arrangement of the book is according to

provinces, with the names of the journals printed therein coming alphabetically under the heading of the cities and towns in which they are published. Then follows a condensed list for ready reference, and after that, newspapers by counties. The volume is prefaced by a *fac simile* copy of the *Halifax Gazette*, published 140 years ago on the 23rd of this month, and a "Sketch of Canadian Journalism" by Mr. E. B. Biggar, of Montreal, who has treated his subject in a way to include as much of historical interest as the few pages at his disposal would admit. We note in closing this hasty reference that 1,044 different newspapers, from a daily to a quarterly, are reported on by Messrs. McKim & Co. The price of the book is \$2.

SAILORS PREPARING FOR SPRING.

A stroll along the Owen Sound harbor just now reveals a scene of great activity. A reporter of the *Owen Sound Times* saw that the steam barge "Kincardine" is being rebuilt and will in the course of a few months be a new ship from the water's edge up. When completed she will probably be engaged in the wrecking trade on Georgian Bay. The tug "Heather Bell" is receiving a general overhauling. The fitting up of the steamer "Cambria" for the Lake Superior trade is also being pushed ahead, and the rebuilding of the tug "King" is progressing rapidly. The C. P. R. steamers are, of course, being fitted out for the season's traffic, which is expected to be heavy. Work is now in full blast in the rebuilding of the Smith docks. The contractors are hurrying things ahead so that the new dock may be ready for the opening of navigation. This will complete the new harbor front on the east side of the river, making one continuous line of sheet piling from the C. P. R. slip south as far as the swing bridge. The dock improvements are the principal features in the harbor, this spring; and, when finished, the *Times* does not hesitate to say that along the east side Owen Sound will have as fine a harbor-front as any port on Canadian waters.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for the week ended Thursday, 17th inst., were :9,633,282. Balances, \$1,311,513.

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended March 17, 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
March 11	\$1,256,919	\$101,776
" 12	927,526	90,357
" 14	778,711	129,659
" 15	1,005,207	111,446
" 16	1,068,204	108,764
" 17	922,874	168,954
Total	\$5,958,941	\$710,956

HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending March 12th, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

	Mar. 7	\$180,515 67
Monday,	" 8	203,815 42
Tuesday,	" 9	217,007 72
Wednesday,	" 10	175,243 37
Thursday,	" 11	172,601 57
Friday,	" 12	160,686 02
Saturday,		
Total		\$1,109,869 77