

of Canada, Great Britain and other foreign countries."

The Muskoka Leather Company are putting a Northey fire-pump and a tan liquor-pump into their tannery at Bracebridge.

Moderate shipments of black leather are being made to England from Montreal and St. Hyacinthe. They consist, we are told, principally of junior splits.

T. Damien, a dealer in boots and shoes at Gananoque, has been burned out, but we understand that his loss is covered by insurance.

American shoe trade journals report an increased demand for low priced goods. The same tendency is noticed to a certain degree in the Canadian trade. However, it is found that although people are unwilling to pay good prices for their footwear, they are unwilling to wear common looking shoes. And so the order comes to the factory to produce a low looking shoe which may be sold at a low price. It is a fortunate thing for the consumer that values of leather are at present very low; otherwise the material used must of necessity be of very poor quality. As matters stand it is very questionable economy to purchase cheap shoes.

Flexible shoe laces are a novelty. They are made so elastic that by removing them from the two studs at the top, the shoe can easily be put on or taken off. They can be tied at the top in a hard knot and it is not necessary to untie them every time the shoe is removed or adjusted. They are especially adaptable for bicycle and sporting shoes, where free movement of the feet is required.

Last year the sales of the Amherst, N.S., boot and shoe company amounted to \$368,000, and they estimate that the sales for the year ending May 15, 1894, will reach \$420,000. In the first ten years of operation the company's sales averaged \$59,000; in the next eleven years it reached \$350,000, while last year's sales alone amounted to \$368,000; it has paid an average dividend, we are told, of 7½ per cent. per annum for the last ten years. At present the company manufactures 700 pairs of boots daily and gives employment to 200 hands. Five travellers are kept on the road.

The strike of the operatives of the J. D. King Co. is now ended and this factory is once more working to its full capacity. The men have practically accepted the bill which the firm offered them some four weeks ago, the difference between the bill offered and that finally accepted consisting of only some minor details. With the female employees a settlement has been effected by a reduction of ten per cent. from the old bill.

The leather trade is naturally considered to be in a better position because of the settlement of labor difficulties among the shoe operatives. For it is natural to expect that all of the western factories will be benefited by the change. Trade with eastern factories is in a very fair shape; some of the merchants are inclined to think that Montreal is proportionately taking more leather than Quebec;

After much deliberation prices of green hides have been reduced ¼c. per lb. and now stand as follows: No. 1, 30c.; No. 2, 2c.; No. 3, 1c. per lb. Quotations on cured are given at: No. 1, 3½ to 3¾c.; No. 2, 2½ to 3c. per lb.

The J. D. King Co. have introduced a new feature in the Toronto shoe manufacturing trade by importing one combination and two Chase lasting machines from Boston. In the Chase machine there are four nippers on each side, and a toe and heel wiper. Under

the usual system of working these machines three men can do from 250 to 300 pairs daily.

TEXTILE NOTES.

A bonus is talked of in Sherbrooke, Que., for The Royal Corset Co.

The Paris Wincey Manufacturing Co. are putting in a 75-horse-power, steel-made boiler.

Mr. Neil Matheson purchased some time ago the woolen mills of Parkhill from Mr. John Griffith, and arranged to take possession in March. These two gentlemen have since entered into partnership, and the business will be carried on under the name of Griffith & Matheson.

A large brick building is in course of construction near the extensive cotton factory at Montmorency Falls, near the city of Quebec. It is to be used as a carpet and tapestry factory. Operations, it is said, will commence next summer.

The annual meeting of the Wm. Parks & Son Co., cotton manufacturers of St. John, N.B., was held on the 20th ult. The year's output was over half a million dollars, and the gross profits reported at \$55,000. All the payments on account of Messrs. Jones and Turnbull's mortgage were met. Messrs. Thomas McAvity, Robert Blair, S. J. Harding, William Pugsley and John H. Parks were re-elected directors. After the adjournment of the annual meeting the directors met and elected John H. Parks, president; Thos. McAvity, vice-president; William Parks, secretary, and Adam P. McIntyre, accountant.

The building of the Woodstock, N.B., woolen factory is receiving considerable interior improvements before placing more machinery in position. The additions to the machinery being made consist principally of a full set of factory cards and a spinning jack of 168 spindles.

Campbellford, Ont., is to have a new woolen mill which will give employment to about eighty hands. This will make the fourth woolen mill in that place.

The Walkerton *Telegraph* says: "The newest swindle is said to be a shoddy cloth swindle. It is done in this way: The shoddy swindler calls on a farmer and proposes buying his wool in advance of shearing and offers a big price for it; to bind the bargain he pays down a dollar. By this time the farmer is in good humor, and then the peddler produces his cloth and gets in his work."

INSURANCE ITEMS.

A fire took place in the upper flats of the King Street building, in Toronto, the ground floor of which is occupied by H. & C. Blachford, the boot and shoe house. The loss of Messrs. Blachford by smoke and water was considerable. The fire occurred at eleven o'clock in the day; the adjustments were made by four p.m., and by six o'clock two of the companies had sent in cheques in settlement of their claims. This may fairly be called prompt work.

Guelph council has been considering the building of a new fire hall, as proposed by last year's council, and a motion was made to place \$6,000 at the disposal of the Fire Committee for this purpose. An amendment was carried, however, referring the matter to the Finance Committee "to consider whether the money required to build a fire hall can be provided." Some of the aldermen appeared to think there would be a breach of faith with

the Underwriters' Association if a new fire hall were not built, but the mayor explained otherwise.

The Chignecto *Post* learns that there have been so many fires in some Nova Scotia towns, with suspicion of incendiarism, that the Insurance Association of that province decided to increase the rates. In Yarmouth, after Feb. 1st, 50 per cent. is added instead of the 20 per cent. formerly levied; in Lockport there is an increase of 10 per cent., and in Guysboro an increase of 10 per cent.

We learn that Mr. James F. Pierce, who has been for some years superintendent of the insurance department of the State of New York, has been reappointed to that responsible post. The Albany *Times-Union* says of Mr. Pierce that he is one of the most scholarly, able and honorable officials of the State.

UNITED STATES' PATENTS TO CANADIAN INVENTORS.

The following list of United States Patents to Canadian inventors, granted February 13th, 1894, is reported by James Sangster, Patent Solicitor, Buffalo, N.Y.

Stringed musical hand-instrument, James S. Back, Ottawa, assignor of one-half to George Lewis Orme, same place.

Ball-bearing axle, John Bell, Toronto.

Leather-measuring machine, Jules E. Fortin, Quebec, assignor to Edmond Pare and Joseph P. Roy, same place.

Tie-plate for railway tracks, Joseph A. Harris, Moncton.

Reversing-gear for steam engines, Alexander R. Lamb, Fenelon Falls.

Electrolytic cell, Ernest A. LeSueur, Ottawa.

Car brake handle, John Marrissett, Vancouver.

Folding bag holder, Robert Matier, Winnipeg.

Hot water generator for stoves, Aleck Saunders, Goderich.

Wood carving machine, Aleck Saunders and John Story, Goderich.

Caster, Ernest J. Wasbrood, Montreal.

Process of curing and drying fish, Thomas S. Whitman, Annapolis.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

H. J., City.—The amount of the Italian deficit, 155,000,000 lire, though extensive enough, is not so bad as might be supposed, for the lira is a coin of low value. It is of equivalent value with the franc of Belgium, France and Switzerland, the drachma of Greece and the peseta of Spain, namely about one-fifth of an United States dollar. The "Useful Tables for Business Men," compiled by Mr. Milliner, of Deseronto, states the exact value of the lira [plural lire] at 193 of a gold dollar.

E. T.—Joint stock companies incorporated under the Dominion authority do not require to make returns to Government. The only companies requiring to make returns to the Federal Government under this Act are loan companies. See sections 86 and 103 of the Companies Act, R. S. C. In the Province of Ontario it is different: All companies incorporated under the joint stock are there required to make a return at the end of the year.

W. G., Amsterdam, Holland.—We have sent you the issues of July and August enquired for, but have not a copy left of an intermediate issue which completed the series of articles.