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The severe weather now over we can safely ship ink. Note the variety of our stock. In STEPHENS we have Blue Black in quarts and pints, half pints and quarter pints. COMBINED in quarts and pints. COPYING in quarts pint and half pints. VIOLETTE NOIRE in quarts, pints and half pints. DWARF in glass and stone. ENDORSING in quarter pints in black and violet. SCARLET in pints and half pints. In STAFFORD'S we are stocked in Office Combined and Commercial in all regular sizes. Universal Jet Black, quarts and cones. Violet in pints. Violet Black in quarts. Blue and Violet in cones. Stylographie, Indelible, Architects, Drawing and Liquid India in Red, Green and Black. Carmine and Scarlet in all sizes. MUCILAGE—Stafford's Office, sponge top, cones, pints and quarts. Also Carter's Arabian Mucilage in quarts. STAFFORD'S WHITE PASTE in 1½, 3 and 6 oz.

Orders for Inks and all lines in Stationery respectfully solicited.

The Consolidated Stationery Co., Ltd.

41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

The Boot and Shoe Trade.

Whatever may be said about the dullness of trade in general, the term does not apply to the boot and shoe industry, as manufacturers both here and in Quebec report a very active demand for spring goods, and some houses admit that they have not been able to fill their orders fast enough although they have been working overtime. In fact, one large firm has had to refuse recent new business, on account of being so hard pushed in the execution of orders on hand. The principal of a Quebec firm stated a few days ago that he was never before so crowded with orders as he is at present, and that the volume of his trade this spring is 20 per cent. larger than at this time last year. Owing to the great rush for spring orders, manufacturers have been able to secure an advance of 10 per cent. in some lines without any grumbling, and a still further advance in the price of fall goods is said to be assured, as there are no prospects at the moment of any change in the firm tone of either hides or leather. It mittances on the fourth and subsequent days showed an improvement on those of the two previous months, although it is admitted there were more renewals than expected this month. Some firms have their fall samples out, but there is scarcely anything doing in this class of goods as it is too early in the season.

A Boston firm has a large assortment of samples of ladies' and men's boots and shoes which it is showing to the trade here at very reasonable prices; but those who have seen the goods say that they will not compare with our own manufactured goods in quality. Sales of same, however, are being made to some of our wholesale and jobbing houses.—Montreal Trade bulletin.

Cash or Credit.

The present thorough discussion of the method which have made the department stores successful has served to emphasize the importance of merchants placing their trade upon a cash basis, or at least to reduce credit within the narrowest limits. The Maritime Merchant reports a Halifax dry goods trader as having stated that there was no difficulty in adopting cash methods, provided the merchant had back-bone enough to carry out the proposition in its entirety. On the assumption that 30 days is equivalent to cash, or is a means towards attaining such a desirable basis, firmness and promptness in sending out and collecting the bills would seem to be one of the strongest levers that can be used to gain the desired end. The great evil of a large portion of the retail dry goods trade in Halifax is caused by the six month credit system which has been so prominent a feature of the business in the past, and merchants who are tied down by the

existence of such a custom, would but make an effort, steady and persistent in reducing this long term, it would not take a great while to educate the customers that the short time or spot cash method was the most satisfactory in the long run. As it is at present, when the long-term system is in vogue, a customer looks upon the receipt of a bill in the light of an impertinence, and if the amount is at all large the dealer stands a chance of offending a person who owes him, and every one knows that it is very much easier to offend a customer who is largely indebted to you than a cash buyer."

Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been no important change in the situation of the sugar market since our last. Advices generally from primary markets continue firm in tone, and the recent advance in prices has been fully maintained. A private cable received from London to-day reported the market for cane dull, best quiet at 8s 10½c for April and May. The demand on spot for the refined article has fallen off considerably owing to the fact that buyers generally have filled their wants for the present, consequently business at present is quiet. Granulated is quoted at 1½ to 1½, and yellow at 3½ to 3½; as to quality, at the factory.

The market for molasses is without any new feature. Advices from the island continue of a conflicting character, some calling quoting the first cost at 8c and others at 9c. Although a number of orders have been called for from local houses it is stated that no purchases have been made yet. On spot business is dull and prices difficult to quote.

There has been no change in the syrup market. The demand is limited and business quiet at 1½ to 1½c per lb., as to its quality at factory.

Business in rice continues of a hard to-mouth character, and the market in consequence is quiet and without any feature to note. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B., \$3.50; Patna, \$4.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

The demand for spices has been principally for small lots to fill actual wants and the market rules quiet but firm. We quote: Black pepper, 8c to 10c; white, 11 to 11c; Jamaica ginger, 20 to 25c; cloves, 7½ to 10c, and nutmegs, 60 to 90c.

Coffee continues dull and the tone of the market is easier as holders show a disposition to make concessions, but no actual change can be noted. We quote: Maracaibo, 17½ to 18c; Santos, 14½ to 16c; Rio, 15 to 16c; and Mocha, 21 to 26c.

The speculative demand for teas referred to in our last report has not been so buoyant during the past week, owing to the fact that such buyers have, no doubt, filled their

wants and are now waiting anxiously for the tariff to be announced. On the whole the market has been quiet and the volume of business light, with sales confined chiefly to small lots between houses. The feeling, however, continues very firm and values are fully maintained, especially so for all grades of Japans, of which stocks are small in first hands.—Gazette, April 9.

Montreal Drug Prices

Bleaching powder, \$2 to 2.50; bicarb. soda, \$2.25 to \$2.35; sal soda, 60c to 70c; carbolic acid, 1-lb. bottles, 25c to 30c; caustic soda, 60 per cent. \$1.75 to \$2.00; do. 70 per cent., \$2.00 to \$2.20; chlorate of potash, 17½c to 20c; alum, \$1.40 to \$1.50; copperas, 60c to 75c; sulphur flour, \$1.75 to \$2.25; do. roll, \$1.75 to \$2.25; sulphate of copper, \$1.25 to \$1.50; white sugar of lead, 7½c to 8½c; bich. potash, 10c to 12c; sumac, Sicily, per ton, \$50 to \$60; soda ash, 48 and 58 per cent. \$1.25 to \$1.50; chip logwood, \$2.00 to \$2.50 cream of tartar, per lb., 27c to 32c. Glycerine, per lb., 22c to 25c.

South Africa Mining Depression.

A cable from London says: The effect of the public disquietude respecting South Africa is to depress the Rand gold mining shares, even when the money market has been eased by the reduction of the bank rate, and when other classes of securities have arisen under the influence of the hopeful outlook in the east. The Economist prints a cable today, showing a decline during eighteen months of \$79,220,000 in the aggregate valuation of forty-one Rand companies. The Kaffir circus is frequented only by brokers having stocks to sell. There is no demand for mining stocks from any quarter, enormous losses have been entailed upon investors by this unparalleled depreciation of mining securities.

The Canadian Pacific Railway trackmen have had their wages increased 10 cents a day on all divisions. The men now receive \$1.25 a day and the foreman \$1.70. The advance dates from April 1st. The men asked for an increase of 25 cents a day, but decided to accept the offer of the company.

E Caniff, of Winnipeg, has perfected his machine for preventing prairie fires. He has arranged to keep a machine on exhibition on a vacant lot at the northeast corner of Point Douglas avenue and Rachel street, near McClary & Co.'s warehouse, in order that farmers who visit the city may have an opportunity of seeing it.