

A New York fashion writer discourses as follows on shoe styles: "Heels are higher than they have been, even in Paris, for some years. Flexible little glazed tan kid shoes for afternoon wear have heels almost as high as those on evening slippers. They are designed to fill the place between heavy calf-skin morning shoes and the black patent leathers. The toes of shoes and slippers are round and medium, which is much more becoming to any foot than either the extremely pointed or the extremely blunt. Low shoes or ties are shorter at the back and sides, with high Louis Quinze heels. The pointed tip of either patent leather or kid is no longer the style. If a tip is put on at all it is straight across."

Prospects were considered, a month ago or less, as excellent for a banner year in the retail shoe trade of Canada. People bought freely this spring, feeling that the general prosperity would justify liberal stocks and bring a big turn-over. Somehow or other, the expected activity has not quite arrived. The weather must be blamed for part of this, for it has been backward and cold to a degree. Spring stocks are remaining on hand to an extent that the town or country dealer does not like, but June, "dear June," as the New England poet sings, "Now God be praised for June," may bring figurative commercial as well as actual physical birds and flowers. Meanwhile, the slowness of spring goods to move has decidedly checked the appetite of retailers for buying fall stocks just now.

The shoe market is dull both in United States and Europe. A Boston report says: Foreign dealers are not interested in the market to any extent. The shoe trade abroad seems to be suffering from inactivity as much as here, and it is understood that most importers of American leather have good sized quantities of those materials on hand. So far as can be learned, Western shoe jobbers have not yet placed their fall orders, and the amount of goods they will need seems to be a problem which even shoe producers cannot solve at present. The comparatively slow sale of heavy goods last season is supposed to have left distributors and retailers with sizable supplies on hand. If such is the case it is a difficult matter to foresee any material revival of traffic in shoes and leather occurring in the near future.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Sunny weather at the close of May has helped the trade of Canadian retailers and milliners greatly.

Germany exports in a year 199 million marks worth of cotton goods; then follow in the order named, wool, sugar, machinery and coal. Sixth in order comes silk, with an export of 135,000,000 marks.

The exports of silk manufactures from Yokohama, Japan, from January 1st to April 28th were as follows: Silk handkerchiefs, 223,994 dozen, of which 71,083 dozen were for America; silk piece goods, 268,398 pieces, of which 111,692 pieces came to America.

In cotton goods, dark goods, percales, flannelettes, domets and other woven patterned napped lines have sold well for fall, although at the present writing business is rather quiet, says The Boston Journal. Stocks of gingham are small, and both staples and dress styles are steady and quiet in demand.

"I sold a clothier 25 pieces of goods at opening prices. He got frightened and canceled 20 of them. Day before yesterday he wanted me to reinstate the order. I told him I would do so if he wished, but he would have to pay 5c. a yard advance. He wanted the goods, and he accepted the condition and added 15 pieces to the order of that price." So said a well-known goods agent.—Reporters' chats about woollens.

The total production of the Crefeld silk and velvet industry last year was worth 82,167,759 marks, of which 23,091,564 marks were velvet and 59,076,195 marks silk tissues. The average number of looms at work in Crefeld during 1899 was as follows: Velvet looms, 1,162 hand, 1,781 power; velvet ribbon, 191 hand, 203 power; silk piece goods, 7,346 hand, 6,959 power; silk ribbons, 411 hand, 212 power.

It is satisfactory to find the cotton mills of New England increasing their profits to a more reasonable degree. Two previous years, 1898 and 1899, were hard ones on the shareholders. We find in The Economist the showing made by the

Fall River mills for the six months ending with April last. On a capitalization of \$20,500,000 the mills paid out in dividends for the period named \$910,000, which is only a little short of an average of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. For the same period of 1898-99 the dividends were \$428,000, or 2.19 per cent, while in 1897-98 the average dividend was .77 per cent.

"Monotonous dullness" is the phrase used by the American Wool and Cotton Reporter to describe the condition of the manufactured woollens markets of the United States for the last fortnight. The principal cause, however, of the continuous lack of demand for piece goods from clothiers since the close of the initial ordering period is not hard to find. "The wholesale clothier outdid himself in the volume of initial orders placed for goods." Such is the Reporter's view. Still the majority of reports being received from road men now out in the States [May 25th], tell of large orders placed by retailers.

The wool trade of Boston has shown very little life during the third and fourth weeks of May. Manufacturers are not encouraged by the scale of their orders, to buy much wool at present prices; and the strengthening tendency shown by the London sales has not affected the Boston market. In New York also wool is dull, but manufacturers are looking round and nibbling here and there. There is no more interest being taken in fine foreign wools than a week ago, business continuing very flat. Neither are carpet wools moving at all freely. There is a moderate demand says the Wool and Cotton Reporter, for Chinas, Turkish, Russian and African wools, but sales do not total up much.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Rice in New York is slow sale, but stocks are sold up close, and prices are steady.

The only lot of new syrup placed on offer in New York on Wednesday was 90 bbls. of Arbuckle held at 20c. per gallon.

There are reported to be ten more fruit and vegetable canneries on the Pacific Coast than there were last year.

Teas are very quiet in the United States markets, but holders are not disposed to force sales, expecting better prices later in the season.

The opening quotations for California canned fruits are not expected before June 10th. Large crops and better facilities for handling lead buyers to hope for lower prices.

A private letter from Redlands states that the output of apricots in Southern California will not be over half an average crop, conservative estimates placing it at 150 cars less than last year.

Says The Leamington Post: "The Ruthven men have their tobacco factory at Kingsville almost ready. We hear they have 50 hands stripping, and will be manufacturing by the 1st of June."

It is complained by The Halifax Herald that creameries are relapsing into the old habit of giving short weight in butter. Tubs, it says, are frequently short in weight, and prints do not always come up to the full pound.

Receipts of coffee at Rio and Santos the past week were 39,000 bags, against 41,000 bags last week, 96,000 bags last year and 99,000 bags in 1898. The coffee market in New York is firmer, and prices for contracts have advanced.

The quantity of champagne which the Americans drink is astonishing. The statement is made that 109,303 cases of a single well known brand were imported into the United States in 1899. There were some 40,000 cases of another brand, 36,400 of another, and so on.

It is reported that a large outside packer is offering to sell Columbia River chinook salmon, 1900 pack in Chicago, on the basis of \$1.50 for falls. In this market, says the N.Y. Journal of Commerce, there have been no open quotations so far either by inside or outside packers, but it is rumored that some sales have been made here and the stock delivered by an outside packer.

Commercial Agent F. S. Johnson has been writing the State Department at Washington regarding maple sugar in Quebec. He is unable to furnish even an estimate of the total production but states that nearly every farmer in Eastern Que-