

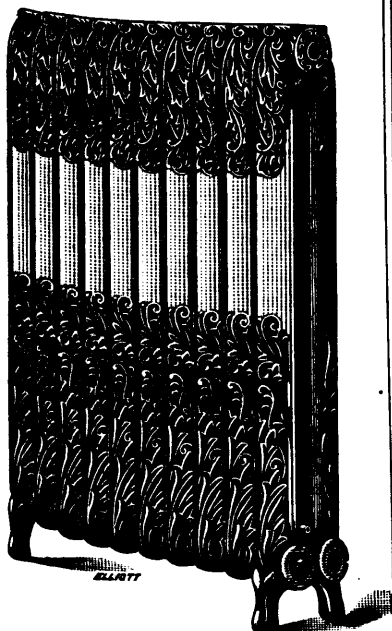
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MONTREAL.

AMERICAN SHOES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The effort to sell American shoes in this country, says Mr. Halstead, the United States Consul at Birmingham, England, has certainly had a very marked effect on the style of shoe worn, and, though they have not gone to quite the extreme, the shoes exhibited in the shoe-shop windows in Great Britain to-day are of the pointed type worn in the United States a few years ago. It is also a singular development of this international dealing that the shoes sold in the United States to-day are broader soled and broader toed than anything worn in England, and this must be due to the creation of a market for the broad shoe in the United States at the time the demand for the same type fell off in Great Britain, owing, no doubt, to the early efforts in Great Britain of the United States manufacturers to sell the kind of shoe then worn in the United States. The splendid finish of the American shoe and its flexible leather won a way for the shoe, carrying with it the pointed toe under the mistaken impression that it also had a share in the new foot comfort.

The many American shoe salesmen, with whom I have acquaintance, report very great progress in this market, and find that they are now sought, where formerly they had to plead for an opening chance. One salesman, who was in Birmingham lately, told me that his books for the year recorded the sale of \$300,000 worth of shoes in Great Britain alone, and stated that his books would not show all the sales he had made here, because there were so many of his customers who could not be persuaded that they could not buy better by buying from the home house direct.

These figures, it should be noted, represent the sales of one concern, and there are, I understand, at least twenty other shoe houses represented in England.

One New England shoe manufacturer has established a retail store in London, where he sells his goods, has shining parlor, etc., and this establishment has already proved so profitable he is opening another one in a different section of the city and contemplates an extension throughout the provinces.

Large manufacturers have found it to their advantage in the United States to establish their own retail stores throughout the cities of the country, and this is much more important here, as the average English shopkeeper gives such long credits and has so much of his money represented on his books that he cannot keep an extensive stock. The result is that, while in the average shoe store in the United States one has the chance of selecting from a stock with five widths and half-sizes in lengths—seven widths in some establishments—in the average shoe shop here only three widths are kept and no half-sizes in lengths. . . . Low-priced cash dealings, and the one price system of plainly marked figures are just as acceptable to buyers here as at home.

The Toronto Medical Health Office have recommended the acceptance of the National Sanatorium Association's offer of \$20,000 towards the erection and equipment of a free consumption sanatorium for Toronto.

—The final inspection of the O. and N. Y. bridges was made last week by Mr. R. C. Douglas, C.E., of the Department of Railways and Canals. The road was opened on Monday last. There are two express trains a day from Ottawa, connecting with the New York Central, at Tupper lake, for New York, and two trains every day for Ottawa.

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TORONTO

Consumers' Gas Co.

The Annual General Meeting of the stockholders of the Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto, to receive the report of the Directors, and for the election of Directors for the ensuing year, will be held in the Company's Board Room, No. 17 Toronto Street, on Monday, 29th October next, at 12 o'clock noon,

W. H. PEARSON,

General Manager and Secretary

Toronto, 27th Sept., 1900.

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