

Everything white meets with approval just now. Especially favored, however, are the white crepons, of which the handsomest mid-summer costumes are made. Ruby, velvet or black velvet Figaro jackets are sometimes effectively worn with such dresses.

The variety of ladies' vests is immensely attractive. The leading colors are blue, pink, flesh color and white; the quality and prices vary in balbriggan, lisle, silk and cotton.

The generally prevailing tone of shawl designs and colors for fall is quiet to sombre in beavers and velvets, although some of the clan designs, on which domestic production runs considerably, are cheerful enough, as are the natural wool wraps from the prevailing lightness of the color. The French broches and Paisley and the India shawls show what effects can be produced by the manipulation of rich but not brilliant hues. The China and Japan silks furnish plenty of bright shawls.

The attention of hosiery manufacturers and dealers is directed by the *Wool and Cotton Reporter* to the increasing indications that the demand for black hosiery is approaching an end. The market the present season has intensified the demand for fancy goods, though it must be admitted that the increased demand for these goods has been manifested chiefly in fine goods, and that the low and medium grades have not as yet been appreciably affected, except on men's half-hose. It may be noted that the tendency of the market can be judged by the demand for fast black dyes, which has fallen off very considerably the past year, and to a greater ratio in Germany, the head centre of hosiery manufacturing, than elsewhere. The dye market necessarily reflects the character of the weaving trade.

BRITISH COLUMBIA BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade was held at Victoria on Friday, the 8th instant, the president, Mr. T. B. Hall, in the chair. The thirteenth annual report shows the present membership of the board to be 164. On the subject of improving the harbor it is stated that the approaches to the wharf have been dredged to a uniform depth of about 30 feet at low tide, and when the wharf is completed there will be facilities to dock from eight to ten ocean steamers at once. There are at present three lines of steamships running between Victoria and the Orient, and the quarantine station at Albert Head should be placed in a better condition. Some recommendations as to pilotage on the coast are made, the erection of buoys and lights between Victoria and Port Simpson urged. That a better hydrographic survey is required seems to be proved by the wreck of the "Quadra" on a rock on the coast of Queen Charlotte Island, not indicated on the official chart. The northern mail service is pronounced unsatisfactory, and the following extract respecting telegraphs is significant: "With the expansion of the Vancouver Island trade the urgency of an alternative line to connect with the United States telegraph systems becomes more apparent. Until an alternative line is in operation the demands of our merchants and business men cannot be satisfied."

The pack of salmon on the Fraser was under half of the usual size, and on the northern rivers it was an average one. The pack was disposed of as follows:—

To England 220,761 cases.
To Canada..... 60,950 "

To Australia..... 23,534 "
Local and sundries..... 9,648 "

Total 314,893 "

"The prices obtained were not satisfactory to the canners, the amount on hand being in excess of the demand. On this account the canners of British Columbia and Alaska decided to reduce the pack one-half this year. On the Fraser 50 per cent. and on the Northern rivers 25 per cent. of the estimated capacity will be used. This action has brought the supply within the demand and caused a uniform advance in prices. A large part of the pack has already been disposed of at 21s. to 22s. 6d. per case."

The report backs up the protest of the Canners' Association against Mr. Wilmot, appointed by the Ottawa chairman of the fishery commission, whose action it is declared has "imposed further hardship upon this struggling industry by increasing the license fee and extending the weekly close season." It avers that the only proper way to regulate the salmon industry is to appoint a local board.

It is gratifying to find so large an increase in the output of coal in British Columbia. Last year the quantity raised was 1,029,097 tons as compared with 678,140 tons in the year 1890, and 3,194 men are now employed in the collieries of Vancouver Island. "The need of facilities for shipping ores has retarded the progress of the mining districts."

Industrial progress in the province is referred to with satisfaction. Grain growing and fruit growing have been stimulated by the erection of oat and flour mills and fruit canneries; two lager beer breweries have been built, and the paper mill at Alberni will soon be finished. Objection is taken to the action of the Imperial Government in renewing the *modus vivendi* with respect to sealing in Behring's Sea, and to the "indifference shown by those in authority" to the growing seal industry.

A strong paragraph advocates the building of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway to connect the rich Kootenay mining region with the transcontinental railways. The board protests against the Dominion Government's refusal of a charter for this road, declares this was done in the interest of the C. P. R., and that "it is a palpable wrong and injustice that the development of the province should be retarded in the interests of this particular corporation." A measure which will provide for the equitable distribution of the assets of insolvent estates is declared desirable; and since it does not appear forthcoming from the Ottawa authorities, it is suggested that the boards of trade of British Columbia cities should agree upon some measure which the provincial government may sanction, to meet provincial requirements. During last year, about one million acres of farming land and a million and a half acres of grazing land were located in New Caledonia, in which part of the province, gold, galena, iron and copper exist. The Crofter project, for settling immigrants on the seacoasts and islands of the province, is mentioned, and private enterprise is urged to support the Government by exhibiting liberally at the Chicago Fair. The Dominion census of the province is criticised, and the board declares that the true population is 121,351. That of Victoria, asserted by the census of 1891 to be 16,841, an "unaccountable inaccuracy," is found by a later municipal recount to be 23,153.

A matter deserving attention, says the report, is the easy credit and open account system prevailing amongst the wholesale merchants and retailers throughout the province,

and the committee suggests that a stricter mode of collections should be enforced, and accounts should be more generally closed by notes. "Meantime a great advantage is given to Eastern merchants who supply goods to retailers in this province; and it too frequently happens that drafts drawn against their invoices are protected at maturity, to the exclusion of local creditors whose claims are more justly due."

Five new members of the board were re-elected. Mr. T. B. Hall was unanimously re-elected to the presidency, in spite of his protests that he had now served long enough, and that he could not afford the time. Mr. A. C. Flummerfelt was chosen vice-president and F. L. Elworthy secretary. The gentlemen whose names follow were elected members of the council and board of arbitration: Messrs. A. B. Gray, F. H. Worlock, D. R. Ker, H. F. Heisterman, Col. Prior, C. E. Renouf, W. H. Ellis, G. Byrnes, D. W. Higgins, W. F. Bullen, E. A. McQuade and H. Croft.

SHOE AND LEATHER NOTES.

In speaking to the *Boston Shoe and Leather Review* of how the prices of shoes had fallen, a manufacturer informed that journal that a shoe that sold for half a dollar when pieces first began to be used, now sells for twenty-one and a quarter cents a pair. Every one can appreciate the closeness of the competition on the statement that a cent is quartered in placing orders.

The English retail shoe trade seems to be very hard pressed to induce custom, and the gift system is rampant. The latest idea is of presenting a purchaser of a pair of shoes with a coupon entitling him to a photograph. The life insurance gratuity system has assumed such an acute form that coupons for £100 death assurance, having retailer's advertisement on the back, can be obtained without even making a purchase, by simply asking for them, or, in some cases, plucking them from a string outside the shop doors.

A French journal, the *Franc Parleur*, says that a movement has set in in favor of a special kind of leather of a fine appearance, which is especially recommended for boots and shoes. It goes by the name of seal leather. It is waterproof, takes the polish very well, and sells at a rather high price, but it is nothing more than goat leather, made tough and goodlooking by a process which robs it of its durability. At first this leather, which comes from the United States, obtained a great success on account of its toughness, weight and beauty, but it soon became evident that it was nothing better than the worst of goat leather.

It is safe to say that ninety-nine out of every hundred women wear shoes that are too large in the instep. Shoes that are too large in the instep allow the feet to crowd forward into the toes, and the result is there is a deformity of some sort. When a woman's foot hurts her, nine times out of ten she will have the buttons of her shoes set so they will be made larger in the instep, and if her toes are troubling her the mischief is only increased. The buttons should be reset so as to make the instep smaller and the shoe fit the better. The slovenly fitted shoe is the cause of most of the trouble.—*Boot and Shoe Recorder*.

The inspector of hides and leather at Winnipeg in his annual report to the Board of Trade says that "the condition of trade in the city has improved, while trade in the country has not, owing to the deal-