

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The attitude of the factory hands is at present troublesome; there are now two labor societies, with all their peculiar plans, and they are after "a new bill," which the manufactureres, with their present high price of labor, do not see their way to grant. Orders from the country are not large, but some of them are for spring stuff in a hurry. Payments are not satisfactory, and the attitude of some wholesale houses in giving long terms and renewals is not likely to improve matters.

DRY GOODS.—The feeling among the wholesale trade is better this week. A fair demand exists for sorting goods, especially on bright days, but no retailer can be easily coaxed to buy with any freedom. All descriptions of Old Country goods maintain their firmness, some lines are even higher. In Canadian cottons, it is unfortunately true that at the inception of the season a few jobs have been thrown on the market; aside from this the tone is good. In domestic woollens there is comparative quiet. Buyers who are in town are taking their time in looking over stock, and are buying for the most part shyly and carefully. Wholesale dealers on their part appear to realize the folly of offering long terms and low prices to weak men, and are more disposed to agree upon unanimity in restricted terms. Payments by the "cash-discount men"—no longer a small class—are good, while from the slowcoaches they have been very unsatisfactory.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Still further advance is to be noted in flour; the American market having advanced again since last week. Sales of all grades have been made at the advances noted below, but the principal demand is for

straight roller, which is 10 to 20c. higher, at \$4.40 to 4.50; patents, both spring and winter, are worth \$4.60 to 4.90; and strong bakers' \$5.10 to 5.25 firm. Oatmeal is also higher, after a long dull spell, an advance of 30c. per bbl. being now insisted on by millers. There is not much movement, but standard is quoted at \$3.75 to 3.80 here, and granulated \$3.90. The demand for bran has fallen off, as stated last week, and \$12 to 12.50 will probably represent present value.

GRAIN.—The principal feature is the continued advance in wheat, which has carried spring wheat up to a dollar. Indeed, we are told that, on Tuesday, \$1.00 per bushel was offered and refused for No. 1 spring; No. 2 we quote 97 to 98c., and No. 3, 94 to 95c. For both white and red winter, our quotations are \$1.00 to 1.02 for No. 1, of which there is none in market, 97c. to \$1.00 for No. 2, and

95 to 96c. for No. 3, and there have been transactions in the lower grades at these figures. Manitoba hard is unchanged, but everything is firm, the American market having advanced steadily for two or three weeks past. As to barley, it has been mostly cleared away from this port, prices are nominally unchanged; there is no No. 1 bright to be had. Oats are a little higher, No. 1 are worth 37 to 38c. per bush., and No. 2 a cent less. Peas are in demand for the mill and for export; we quote them 59 to 60c. for No. 1, and 57 to 58c. for No. 2. Indian corn and rye are purely nominal.

GROCERIES.—There is no special activity. All sweet good drawing teas are selling in small or moderate parcels at firm prices. Congous are likely to advance. The Japan tea market has opened on the same basis as last year, with the exception that exchange is

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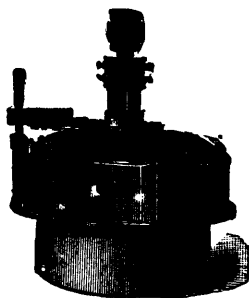
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