

Prince Albert.—That in view of the importance of Hudson Bay as a natural outlet for western products, the Dominion Government be requested to build a railroad from some point on the North Saskatchewan River to Fort Churchill.

Regina.—To reduce railway rates in Alberta and Saskatchewan to the scale in force in other sections of the Dominion.

Lethbridge.—That in the opinion of this convention immediate provision should be made for the establishment of Local or County Courts with resident judges in the main centres of the Province. That in the opinion of this convention there is urgent need of some legislation providing for the arrest of absconding debtors.

In the twenty or thirty resolutions here foreshadowed are to be found a good number which clearly merit approval. Especially practical are those looking forward to future growth in our Western country. Of these are the propositions of a comprehensive plan for providing good roads—setting apart forest reserves and conserving the timber growth of the two provinces—collation of statistics as to values of merchandise abroad, with a view to the extension of foreign trade—paying higher salaries to school teachers, and grading them to accord with individual merit and responsibility. In this class may be placed the suggested codifying of laws which relate to the commercial interests of the new provinces. And there is a shrewd request from one body that the Imperial Government formulate the reasons for its embargo upon Canadian cattle reaching the shores of the United Kingdom, and that a commission of British and Colonial members decide upon the justice of these reasons, if they can be elicited.

It may be said, broadly, that the recommendations to be placed before this important body for discussion, are eminently sensible. While there may be some amongst them that appear of small consequence to people at a distance, it must not be concluded that because local they are unimportant. The fact that they are presented by commercial bodies or committees of those bodies for discussion seems to be a guarantee that they are not merely the personal notions of "cranks." And even if such be the case, their ventilation before a still larger deliberative body will tend to discover whether or not they are paltry or impracticable.

Much good should come of these three days' deliberation by Western business men upon matters which come day by day under their notice. They have the future of a vast and valuable region to consider, and many problems in nation-building will be theirs to ponder and to solve. From what we already know of the composition of the coming assembly at Edmonton, we feel great confidence that its outcome will be not only the perfecting of much that is now crude, and the correction of what may be at fault, but the carrying out in the future of valuable suggestions now made looking to the betterment of conditions in our Great West.

SHOE AND LEATHER TRADE.

Quite satisfactory conditions may be said to prevail in all the branches of the allied trades, hides, leather, boots and shoes. In the Toronto market, the receipts of hides have been fairly liberal, but the im-

provement generally prevailing in the quality of the same has had the result of keeping up the price without difficulty, thus offsetting any tendency to decline. The high prices, therefore, which have prevailed for so long continue unabated. Indeed, tanners would appear to have become reconciled to the situation, and while they have been doing little or no speculative buying, they have been more disposed to enter the market and purchase their requirements without waiting for the easier conditions which never come.

One thing which may have affected the situation advantageously is the fact that leather dealers in their turn have found a diminution in the difficulty of keeping up the value of their products on a scale commensurate with the enhanced price of their raw materials. Heretofore a certain proportion of the leather men would seem to have felt no compunction in easing down their prices a little to suit the immediate requirements, in spite of the well-understood agreement of the majority. During the last month an improvement has set in in this regard. The cause, no doubt, is that all concerned have become reconciled to the true position of things, and are convinced that the high values reigning are not merely speculative, but truly representative of the inner state of the market. Splits and sole leather have been conspicuously strong during the past two weeks.

Coming to the boot and shoe trade, most accounts given by the manufacturers and dealers are to this effect, that their business has taken on a brighter aspect than for some time past. Orders have been both large and frequent, and the fall trade is "moving along in good shape." Particularly brisk has been the sorting trade, which indicates that the retailers now at least are cognizant of the fact that prices cannot well go lower, and that they are quite likely to go higher. From all accounts this satisfactory state of things seems to be general in all parts of the Dominion. Trade in the North-West is particularly active just now. From the Maritime Provinces come similar reports. In Quebec there was some slight dullness a month ago, but this is not complained of now, while in Ontario the tone of the market is very good indeed. Our Montreal market report of yesterday indicates no marked activity in either hides or foot-wear at the moment, though good orders are awaiting the shoe factories when they resume in earnest on autumn work after stock-taking.

So far as we can learn there are no striking new features in the style of boots and shoes asked for. Tans retain a conservative popularity, while patent leathers may be said to do the same, the refusal to guarantee the latter having apparently been acquiesced in by the public to their own better feeling and the advantage of both retailer and jobber. One line of shoes which is selling with an especial degree of activity just now is the summer or sporting articles for which demand has set in on a large scale at an earlier period than usual. All kinds of boots and shoes show, of course, a material elevation of prices compared with a year ago, and in many cases, customers complain. But this is not nearly so much the case now as it was at first, the public, no doubt, seeing a just cause for it in the prices for all kinds of raw material and labor.

We observe that in the United States shoe centres a feeling of conservatism prevails. Trade has been active, prices have advanced, but now the manufacturers would appear to have adopted a waiting attitude. It is not the feeling exactly that values of materials have reached their top limit, and that they must

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