

of the country; and the fact that the paper has no interests but its own to consider and is independent of the patronage of advertisers will do it no harm as a representative journal. Its influence hitherto has been all on the side of the official Labor leaders and recognised trades unionism. It has no influence whatever over the unorganised and recalcitrant sections in which most of the labor disputes arise.

UNITED SHOE MACHINERY COMPANY ABROAD.

Although very little is heard concerning the foreign business of the United Shoe Machinery Co. outside the brief references thereto in the company's annual reports, this branch of the business is of considerable magnitude and is increasing steadily.

Introduction of modern machinery has been slow in many European countries, but where the shoe manufacturers have turned from hand work to machinery, the United Shoe Machinery Co. has by far the biggest proportion of installations.

The company's operations in various European countries are as follows:

GREAT BRITAIN.

United Kingdom has over 700 shoe manufacturing establishments outputting \$100,000,000 of goods per annum. In these factories which are equipped with modern machinery the United Co. furnishes 80%. In the Leicester district alone, where the United Company's British headquarters are situated, 25,000 people are employed in shoe manufacturing, output being valued at \$20,000,000 to \$22,000,000 per annum. There is some competition in Great Britain against the United Co., but no other concern is able completely to equip a factory.

FRANCE.

France has 1,000 factories manufacturing shoes by machinery, the more important having complete installations of modern equipment. United Company's proportion of the business is 75%.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland has 40 factories equipped with machinery, the United Co. furnishing the larger part in competition with German and French shoe machinery manufacturers.

GERMANY.

Germany has 634 machinery equipped shoe factories, with United Shoe the largest single factor. Cost of machinery manufactured by competitors is lower, but efficiency is much less.

RUSSIA.

Russia has 49 factories equipped with machinery, of which 60% is furnished by the United Co. Output of all factories is 26,000 pairs per day.

ITALY.

There are 100 factories in Italy using shoe machinery, of which 90% is furnished by the United Co. It was only six years ago that American shoe making machinery was introduced into the country. Competing machines are usually imitations of American equipment, but no competitor of the United Co. has yet put out as full and complete a line.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Austria-Hungary has 128 concerns using shoe machinery, the American make greatly predominating. Daily output is about 42,000 pairs.

SPAIN.

About 90 concerns in Spain are manufacturing shoes by machinery, daily output being 20,000 pairs; 90% of the machinery is furnished by the United Co., which has an organization in Barcelona.

The above countries represent the principal shoe manufacturing centres abroad, and collectively have over 2,700 factories. As there are but 1,200 shoe manufacturers in the United States, the importance of the foreign field is at once apparent.

NEW INDUSTRIES FOR MEDICINE HAT.

(Special Correspondence, Journal of Commerce)

Medicine Hat., Alta., Oct. 21st.

Several carloads of steel have arrived here for the building of the Saskatchewan Bridge and Iron Co., Ltd., which is installing a new industry on the West Industrial Site. In the meantime, the grading of the railway spur to this site has been completed, the steel is all on hand, and the needed ties are now beginning to arrive, so that no time will be lost in completing the rails to the site where this large and important industry will soon be doing business. The new gas well at that site has been completed also, and the company expects to build about 40 homes there for its small army of employees.

This week the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Ltd., which started grinding in its new mill here on July 25th, found it necessary to put on another shift of men, and the great mill is now running at the full initial capacity of 2,000 barrels every 24 hours. In addition to the local and district demand, which Manager Armstrong states has been exceedingly satisfactory, this mill has large orders on hand for England and the Orient. For the latter a shipment of 7,500 sacks, sent out a short time ago, is being followed by another of 15,000 sacks, the first car of the latter order having been shipped this week to Hong Kong, China.

One feature that is pleasing to the management is the facility with which the offal, such as bran, shorts, etc., has been disposed of. Very often this is a problem with flour mills, but in this case, the mill has not been able to keep pace with the orders. This indicates, in some degree, how the farmers are turning more and more to diversified farming and stock raising.

Surveys have been made and the spur track located for the new brewery, announcement of the early building of which was made here this week. C. V. Drazan, the manager, expects to have it under cover before severe weather arrives, so as to get his machinery and equipment housed and be ready for business in the spring.

INSURANCE SHOULD BE TAUGHT.

That the insurance business is a profession and should be so treated, and the principles of the business taught in the public schools, was declared by A. L. Welsh, State Insurance Commissioner, in an address before the Oklahoma fire insurance agents' banquet on "The Agency Problem."

"None but professional men should engage in the calling," said the Commissioner. "It is one of the greatest avenues of industry of the age, and essential to all business transaction. Every agent should be thoroughly conversant with the various forms of policies, riders to be attached and their effect. To secure this knowledge, I would suggest the teaching of the essential features of insurance in the public schools of the State."

ENGLISH INTERESTS TO BUY AMERICAN CO.

Stockholders of the California Fire have under consideration an option on its entire capital stock at \$95 a share to a large English company. The par value of the stock is \$40, but until this offer it was quoted at \$73. If the deal goes through the purchasing company intends to continue the California under the present management and with a large increase in capital and surplus.

VANCOUVER BONDS.

Messrs. N. W. Harris & Son, of Montreal and Boston, are about to make a public offering of City of Vancouver 4½ per cent. bonds to the amount of \$1,626,000, on a 5.10 per cent. yield basis.