

CITY CHIMES.

Our lady friends should be glad to learn that a long slim foot is now the stylish shape. The cramped-up knotty knuckles have gone out. The girl who wore a 3½ now wears a 1½, with the result that her feet look smaller and more shapely, and feel more comfortable than they ever did before. And is this not common sense? Why should people inflict tortures upon themselves in order to make their feet appear smaller than nature intended them to? Injury to health is certain to result from any such attempt, and the main object, beauty, is not attained after all. Follow the new fashion, a size larger than you have been accustomed to, and there will be a marked falling off in the sale of corn plasters, extractors, etc. Comfortable shoeing contributes to good health, beauty and good temper, which are all very desirable.

The beauty of the moonlight nights recently has drawn many people out for walks in the parks, and boating on the harbor. These nights have been like the old-fashioned kind, not a cloud in the sky, and the moon as big as a wash tub. It is worth while enduring the heat of the day to be refreshed by such nights.

There ought to be a law against the strowing of banana, orange or other peelings upon the sidewalk. If there is already a law on this matter it ought to be enforced at once. Not long since two ladies were passing along the sidewalk in front of the Halifax Hotel when one of them stepped upon an orange peeling and came very near falling flat upon the pavement in full view of the six or eight men who were disposing of their limbs in various striking attitudes upon the veranda of the hotel. It is only a wonder that accidents do not frequently happen, since it is no uncommon thing to find the sidewalk in front of the hotel strewn with peelings and cigar butts. Another nuisance about our streets is the tobacco spit, and the sidewalk around the Post Office is disgraceful in this respect. If our male citizens cannot observe decency in getting rid of their superfluous saliva something ought to be done to teach them better manners. Some philanthropic man might donate a sum of money to be spent in providing cuspidors at every street corner, in order to save ladies the annoyance of having to take a round about course into the street to find clean walking, or else drag their skirts through the offensive matter. Of course this state of affairs is not prevalent in all parts of the city. It is only "where men most do congregate," Water Street being the worst, with Bedford and Hollis Street coming next. Any man caught spitting upon the sidewalk should be prosecuted as a public nuisance. I. they must spit, make them do so outside the curbstone. This is rather a disagreeable subject to touch, but it is quite time something was done about it.

The bazaar in aid of the building fund of the Catholic church in Dartmouth was opened by His Grace the Archbishop on Tuesday evening in the Exhibition building. The articles offered for sale are numerous and handsome, including some beautiful art work and silverware. The building is prettily decorated with bunting. Mrs. Paul Farrell and her host of young lady assistants will probably succeed in raising a considerable sum of money towards the new church.

Last Saturday was a pet day, but one that reminded us most forcibly that "God made the country and made the town," for indeed the heat was awful in the latter, and we were glad to get away to the other place. A picnic, organized by the ladies and gentlemen of Dartmouth, was one of the most attractive outing expeditions of the day. About sixty people assembled on Waddell's wharf, Dartmouth, at 3 o'clock, and when all were safely on board the lighter, together with the provision basket and the Italian harpers, off she started, and after calling at the Lumber Yard Wharf, proceeded to Lawlor's Island, where the party landed. Naturally the company paired off until tea time, and explored the beauty spots of that delightful little island. A more perfect place for a picnic could scarcely be imagined. After the repast had been done full justice to—for appetites are always good at a picnic—the hospital building was repaired to, where on the waxed floor, to the music of harp and violin, the light fantastic toe was tripped until half-past nine o'clock. The moon had then risen and was shedding a golden glory over land and sea. As the tired dancers wended their way down to the landing place again the scene was a fair one. All safely stowed on board again, and the music adding to the enjoyment, a start was made for home. A pleasant feature of the return trip was Mr. Sobieski's singing, that gentleman kindly consenting to sing in response to the request of the whole party. If giving pleasure to others is any gratification, Mr. Sobieski must feel that he is rewarded. During his singing we noticed that some of the finny inhabitants of the briny deep came up to listen, and when he finished they fell back into their element with a sad plunk that almost brought the tears to our eyes. But this is digressing. We were all sorry when he stopped, for we felt what somebody, Milton, we think, called "such sweet compulsion," that we could have listened all night. All good things must have an end, and it did not take long to get home. Sunday morning was coming on apace, so no time was wasted, and everyone had ample time to get to bed before midnight.

COMMERCIAL.

The volume of business continues to increase in most lines as the summer wears on, but a large proportion of country orders are sorting. The feeling of distrust of the future course of trade, and an evident desire to act on the conservative side as regards purchasing goods, causes many traders in the country to hesitate before placing orders. Still, as the growing crops in

almost every direction promise full returns, a more hopeful view of the situation is taken by many than was held by the same parties six or eight weeks ago.

Mr. J. V. Short, an English manufacturer, made the following statement recently in Chicago regarding the price of binder twine:—"You must know that binding twine costs the farmer a great deal of money," he explained, "and for some years this necessary article has brought an excessive price. Now the welcome news is heralded that there will be a big reduction. The high price of recent years has generally been attributed to a combination among the manufacturers. They have formed no trust. Binding twine is made from manilla hemp, which is produced in the Philippine Islands, and from sisal hemp, grown in Yucatan. The supply in these countries is limited, and it requires about four months to bring the manilla hemp to the factories. The rapid increase in the consumption of binding twine had the natural effect of sending up the price. The twine was made dangerously expensive for the farmers on account of the large number of buyers in the market. When it began to dawn on the manufacturers that such a condition could not exist long they reduced the competition where the goods were originally bought. The Canadians engaged in the manufacture of binding twine organized a company—not a trust, mind you—to buy their fibre, and a similar association was formed in the United States. In purchasing raw material these two big organizations will now co-operate. The raw material can be obtained at such a reasonable price that a considerable reduction in the price of the twine is expected. It is said that this combination is only for buying purposes, and that it has no jurisdiction over the selling price. This is to be regulated by the law of supply and demand."

It appears that the scheme to sell all the cotton mills of Canada to an English syndicate has "slumped in," and that the unsuccessful attempts to unload the Canadian cotton mills in that direction have had a depressing and demoralizing effect upon some of the mills. For instance the manager of one of them is reported to have invested in a good round lot of his own stock immediately after Mr. Andrew Gault left for England at a figure which he could not realize to-day by quite a number of points. Canada cotton stock which some time ago was held at 100 is now offered at 80. Stormont which last week sold at 45 has since been offered at 40. The last sale of Hochelaga about a week ago was at 126, whilst poor old Dundas is offered as low as 20. It is feared that the last named Company will have a hard road to travel from this out, as it is known there was some trouble over its bonds recently. News from the Lower Ports state that the manager of the Moncton Cotton Mill has been discharged, and the cotton stripped from its spindles. The opinion is that many of our cotton magnates thought all the mills in the country were going to be taken over by the English syndicate at par, wholly independent of their dividend and non-dividend paying records; and now that the syndicate scheme has fallen through, at least for an indefinite period, the stock holders of those mills that never paid a dividend are suffering from quite a spell of nausea.

All vegetable, grain and fruit crops in this province at present promise well, and, unless the prevalent drought restrains their development, a bountiful yield is anticipated. Hay particularly, especially in the middle and western section of Nova Scotia, is reported to look better than it has for many years.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to					Failures for the year to date.			
	Aug. 1.	1890	1889	1888	1887	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885
United States.....	131	186	213	180	140	6260	5859	6091	5844		
Canada.....	28	22	23	24	21	970	977	1033	746		

DRY GOODS.—A fair sorting trade has transpired during the past week in dress goods—English as well as Canadian—and the volume of business is on the increase in quite a number of lines. Since the more favorable reports of the crops have been received a greater willingness to place fall orders has been manifested.

IRON HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron market has been rather quiet during the week, but the firm feeling still characterizes it and, with freights very firm, there is no prospect at the moment of better terms being obtained. Advices from Great Britain do not indicate that there has been any change so material as to be sufficient to affect values since our last. Actual business here has been of moderate volume, as the dull spell is generally on about now. Tin plates continue firm as recently reported, and we hear of nothing else of importance to note.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market is fairly active and dealers are doing more in a stocking-up way than formerly, being impressed with the sense that prices are as low as they will be for some time. The local demand inclines chiefly to strong baker's and patents. Prices rule firm all round. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat rather easier, corn steady but quiet. Spot corn is weaker. Wheat in Paris firm. The prolonged dry spell in the west has, it is reported, materially injured the grain crops, and the Chicago Price Current estimates the loss to corn at three hundred and sixty millions of tons so far. It thinks that wheat will also fall considerably short of expectations.

PROVISIONS.—In local provisions pork appears to be the only line that is meeting with any attention, and it is only moving in a jobbing way to supply a very small consumptive demand. At Liverpool lard dropped another 3d. while tallow made an advance of 3d. Pork and bacon were without change. The Chicago hog market was steady while the cattle market was easier, prices being 5c. to 10c. lower.

BUTTER.—The butter market continues without change, the weak and easy feeling being without any symptom of improvement. Prices rule easy on the whole, and to effect sales it is undoubtedly that concessions would have to be made—that is for anything except really choice butter.

CHEESE.—The cheese market has been quiet on spot, whatever operations there were being confined to the country. The tone does not show much