

wanted 3c. on Tuesday. Three-crowns are in limited supply, and firmly held at 3½ to 4c. For four-crowns 4½ to 5c. is quoted; but buyers take little interest in this grade. Four crowns, as well as threes, are in light supply. Currants are very quiet.

A circular to exporters of live stock to the Old Country, is issued announcing the C.P.R. rates for the season. The circular reads as follows: "Until further notice, cattle and sheep in carloads for export via Montreal must be way-billed on Hochelaga stockyards at full tariff rates, and at minimum weights, as per Canadian joint classification. On production of proof of exportation, shippers will receive in Montreal a rebate of three cents per 100 pounds on shipments from points west of Toronto, the maximum net export rate from points west of Chatham to be 28 cents per 100 pounds. From C.P.R. stations east of Toronto to Ivanhoe, inclusive, the next export rate will be 17 cents per 100 pounds; from stations east of Ivanhoe full tariff rates will be charged."

Is it true that people in the United States are giving up eating beef and have taken to eating mutton and pork? It looks as if they were, when we read the following figures from the *Drovers' Telegram*, of Kansas City, which show a large increase in the slaughter of sheep and hogs, and a decrease in the number of cattle killed. Following is the actual kill at Kansas City for four months, giving comparisons with former years:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
1896	245,619	786,987	247,619
1895	249,408	761,066	174,862
1894	252,199	664,812	140,825
1893	248,484	494,913	134,528
1892	162,498	585,179	78,265
1891	114,792	705,802	67,749

IN AND ABOUT THE DRY GOODS STORE.

The total imports of dry goods at New York this year have been \$8,258,546 less than for the corresponding time last year, and \$16,488,670 greater than for the corresponding time the year previous.

In silk mitts there is a preference for white in the States, many lines of which show black stitching. In addition to these, blacks and a good assortment of tans and French grays are the favored sellers.

The silk ribbon manufacturers of St. Etienne, in France, have had a good season. The styles which at present are believed to be the coming favorites are thus: Moire, gauze, changeables and taffetas.

The wages of the operatives in all departments of the Pepperell and Laconia Mills, Biddeford, Maine, will be reduced an average of 9 per cent. on May 18th. This places the wage rate practically where it was before the advance in June, 1895.

In walking sticks Congo seems to be leading the American trade. Wanghee has a large demand also. There are some very tasteful things in black bamboo trimmed with sterling silver. The Penang cane is much used by the swell trade.

In Zurich the silk fabric manufacture is dull, American advices being discouraging and English buyers being very cautious. Warp printed silks are in large supply. Changeable taffetas are in demand and in limited supply. For fall and winter the tendency seems to be toward plain silks.

The exports of American domestic cottons from New York and Boston since January 1st, have been 82,693 packages, valued at \$3,881,284, as against 61,798 packages, valued at \$2,708,851, for the same period last year. The principal shipments for the week from New York went to China, Brazil and the British West Indies.

The kid glove trade this spring has been unsatisfactory. White and ficelle colored gloves with black stitching will be the summer seller. Delicate shades in the lighter weights of piqué gloves, finished with two large metal clasps, are also being shown. Long gloves will be prominent for June weddings and commencement purposes.

If shoppers who at any time feel irritated or annoyed by apparent indifference of an attendant would consider for a moment what it means to be actively engaged at one duty from 10 to 14 hours a day, generally on one's feet the greater part of the time, in a crowded space, and getting but small salaries, it would have the effect of softening their abrupt manners, and bringing about more pleasant relations between clerk and purchaser.

On the subject of remnants of stock the suggestion is made that instead of stimulating dry goods salesmen to work on stock that will sell quickly, conditions should be reversed, and the salesman disposing of the most hard stock should wear the crown. The plodding salesman whose glimpses of sunshine are few and far between, would appreciate an occasional half-holiday. Friday being usually a dull day, it would be a saving of P M's to offer a half-holiday to the salesman selling the largest amount of hard stock the preceding week. In short, place a premium on the sale of remnants and slow sellers.

What is said to be the largest single shipment of dry goods ever made in America was made to the Swofford Dry Goods Company, of Kansas City, last week. The goods comprised the entire stock owned by the Samuel C. Davis wholesale dry goods company, of St. Louis, which recently went out of business. The stock was sold in a lump for \$245,000, and the shipment was made with much flourish, the cars being decorated with banners and bunting and run only in daylight. The weight of the shipment was 557,000 pounds.

Some sensible and kindly suggestions as to shopping are made by the *Dry Goods Economist*, thus: "Shoppers could very much lighten the burdens of the saleswoman in the performance of her everyday duties by making their holiday purchases early in the season, to avoid the overcrowding of the departments and overworking of the clerks. Shop during the earliest part of the day, when the attendants are fresh. Do as little shopping as possible on Saturday afternoons, so that eventually all shops will give their help half holidays. Each woman shopper should see that her patronage goes to stores that exercise a proper regard for the comfort of their employees."

SHOES AND LEATHER.

There is a firmer feeling in both hides and sole leather in Montreal this week.

Look out for a crop of soft corns and agonizing in-growing toe nails as a result of the prevailing craze for narrow-toed shoes.

We hear from Montreal that a sale of 2,500 Canadian calfskins has been made to go to France. The lot of hides and calfskins reported shipped in April for that country is not announced as sold yet.

Women are more particular than men as to bicycling outfitting. She wants every thing in her attire to correspond; hat, dress, gloves, shoes. This season she has adopted knee boots, and the sales of them in the States are large. Some of the more piquant of the new women wear those of red Russia calf, which, with brown and black kid, are elling. A high cut canvas boot is a novelty.

The operation of shoe factories by electricity seems to be making encouraging headway. A few weeks ago the *Electrical Review* noted the equipment of the large Drew-Selby plant in Ohio with electric motors throughout. The same company, it is now stated, is about to undertake the electrical equipment of the Norway Shoe Co., Norway, Maine. Seven motors, aggregating 100-horse power, will be put in.

In at least two American cities that we know of, Cleveland and Detroit, and probably in many other places, retail slaughter sales of boots and shoes are common, being urged upon the notice of the buying public in fly-by-night shoe stores, whose proprietors, when they have done all the damage they can, and sold all the cheap stuff they can, flit away, paying neither debts nor taxes. Detroit proposes to license these concerns, which injure legitimate stores.

A subordinate body of lasters belonging to the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, of Lynn, Mass., thought they would like a Saturday half-holiday. So they sent out circulars saying that it was "unanimously voted at a special meeting to take a Saturday half-holiday commencing Saturday, June 6, 1896, and continue the same for one year." So far good. But they go farther. In the same circular these adventurous young men make the "request that the manufacturers pay them their wages at 12 noon, so that they may not have to wait or return for their pay," but proceed to enjoy their holiday. This request the manufacturers have taken time to consider.

"What more can be said about shoes that is new or interesting, anyway?" Such is the question asked by one of the old-time retailers who changes his coat only once in about five years, and changes his stock only when urged by pressing necessity. The *Review* replies to this fossil: "Just as well ask: What more is there to be said about politics, religion, art, science or progress in general? There is a great deal more to be said about shoes, because shoes, like politics, are constantly changing; because shoes, like religion, will always be an interesting theme; and because shoes, like all other arts, are rising higher and higher (though always under foot) in the useful arts, and are now mingling unabashed with the fine arts."

The most recent and expeditious process in tanning, according to the *Revue Scientifique*, consists in pressing a current of hydrogen gas or a current of some gaseous compound of hydrogen containing a certain quantity of arsenic through the liquid in which hides are immersed. The hydrogen is obtained either from the action of commercial sulphuric acid upon zinc or iron, or from that of steam upon iron, the calculation being, in fact, that in this case the hydrogen obtained will contain a sufficient quantity of arsenic. The gas, collected under pressure in a gasometer, is introduced into the bottom of the tanning vat through a pipe provided with a series of apertures, and, after bubbling up through the liquid, it flows out through another pipe affixed to the cover of the vat; vats of very large dimensions are employed, and the tanning proceeds very rapidly.