

The Shoe Trade.

Never perhaps in the history of the trade has the situation been so perplexing as at present. Prices are not certain for two days at a time, and stocks of certain classes of leather are so limited that manufacturers are afraid to undertake orders even at advanced prices. In the city of Quebec it is almost impossible to get figures for split or grain goods, and in fact, quantities cannot be bought. Prices have to be fixed on the basis of the immediate cost of materials, and there seems to be no disposition whatever to speculate on futures. Buyers who have just been east report the shoe market as very stiff. Within the past week jobbers have received notice of an additional advance on staple lines. To show the difference in conditions from a few months ago, buff goods have advanced from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent.; splits, from thirty to forty per cent.; grain, from thirty-five to forty-five per cent. Shoes that sold at sixty-five cent., bring ninety-five cents and a dollar; those that sold at eighty-two to eighty-five cents, sell now at from \$1.05 to \$1.20. Even casks have joined the general advance, and dongola goods have been put up fifteen per cent. with further advances expected. From the present outlook it does not appear that shoes will be any cheaper for a long time to come. The hides put into leather for the past three months have been so high that the product must be dearer rather than cheaper than it has hitherto been quoted. Anyone who considers the continued diminishing of cattle receipts and takes all these points into consideration must see that the period for cheaper leather is a good distance in the future. As to shoes, there are three large factories less engaged in manufacturing than six months ago and this will restrain competition still further and keep prices of all lines firm.—Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal.

Grain and Milling.

Parties are offering to put up a flour mill at Strathclair for a bonus of \$3,000.

The flour mill at Moosomin, Assa., formerly operated by Smith & Brigham, has been sold to firm at Elkhorn, Man., and will be taken down and moved to that place. It is quite probable, writes a correspondent, that a larger mill will be built at Moosomin to take the place of the old one.

Comptroller Wood has introduced a bill at Ottawa to amend the grain inspection act. It provides for a reduction of fees at points where the amount received in fees by inspectors is excessive. It also proposes to provide greater facilities for entering the elevators and examining the books kept there for the purpose of showing the quantities of grain exported, and all other particulars that may be necessary. This amendment is to render clear any doubt that might exist as to whether the government had a right to examine the books belonging to the elevators.

A good many flour dealers in the east, who held off when flour was low, bought freely after the advance, and now that the market has declined they regret their purchases.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "About 65 car loads of United States flour have been brought in to this city and re-shipped to points east. The flour was bought before the big rise in prices. Our local millers, finding out that these deliveries of United States spring wheat flour were being made, at once determined to put a stop to any further importations by lowering their prices on Tuesday last to \$1.75 for strong bakers and \$1.90 for spring patents. It seems that a good deal of caution was used in bringing in this flour, which was held here to await orders, and a good portion of it shipped out to country points."

Dry Goods Trade Items

It is estimated that the machinery in this country is double that required to produce the goods used in Canada and in the face of such conditions it would be difficult to make a material advance in prices. The woollen manufacturers of Canada have now got the trade of the country well into their own hands. A careful estimate leads to the belief that they now supply considerably over 75 per cent. of both cotton and wool manufactures in men's, women's and children's goods used in Canada. These goods have given good satisfaction, and the only way to bring about any permanent improvement in the situation appears to be to seek outside markets, as is being done with cotton goods.—Toronto Globe.

A feature of the dry goods trade, says an eastern exchange, is the scarcity of Canadian colored cotton and printed goods of Canadian manufacture. Two years ago the Canadian mills had very large stocks of goods on hand. Now their stocks are very low, and orders going in are generally booked at an advance, but in some lines it is difficult or impossible to get orders filled even at an advance which the wholesaler would willingly pay to get the goods. It does not look as if the Canadian manufacturers intended to allow stocks to increase as they did a couple of years ago.

D. Morrice & Co. have lately been making large sales of Canadian cotton goods in the Australian market, and they are now arranging to rush the trade in knitted woolen goods in the same market and to introduce both Canadian cotton goods and knitted woolen manufactures in the markets in south Africa.

Hardware and Paint Trade Notes

Makers of carriage bolts, machine bolts, coach screws and belt ends and blank bolts have decided to adopt the United States price list, which is a much more uniform one and easier to sell from. This has necessitated a re-adjustment of trade discounts as follows: Carriage bolts 60 and 10; machine 60 and 5; coach screws 70 and 5; and bolt ends and blank bolts 60 per cent off.

The Montreal Gazette of June 24 says: "The feature of this market since our last has been the advance of 25c in the price of leads all round, which is due to the strong market for raw material. There has been quite an improvement in the demand for Paris green from the local trade, and the indications are that the supply will run short, consequently prices are firmly held at 17 to 18c. The market for linseed oil abroad is strong and prices are steadily moving upward. The stock on spot is light and values are firmly held. The feature of the cement market during the past week has been the firmer feeling which has prevailed in English brands owing to the continued strong advices from abroad and the fact that makers have advanced prices some, consequently importers here have put up values 5c per barrel, and are now obtaining \$1.95 to \$2.05. In Belgian brands there has been no change, prices ruling firm at \$1.80 to \$1.90.

The stock of A. Jackson, general store, Thornhill, Man., has been sold to Kilgour & Jordon at 64c.

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