

market there will be nothing to prevent this leather rising several points. There is a strong tendency to substitute lighter leather in place of the heavy grades which were formerly used. This will strengthen the market for both grain and buff. The manufacturers are well stocked with sole leather, but the supply is so limited that stocks in first hands will not accumulate. Rough leather, though quiet, is firm, and there is no reason why there should be a decline in the quotations for several months at least."

BOOTS, SHOES AND RUBBERS.

The remarkable advance in the material used in the manufacture of boots and shoes, has placed manufacturers in these lines in an awkward position. They find it difficult to convince their customers that they cannot sell goods at former prices, and unless they can get a considerable advance upon their wares, they might as well shut up shop at once. At Boston, a great shoe market in the United States, it is claimed that an advance of 10 to 15 cents per pair on boots and shoes will not cover the increased cost of raw material. The increased cost is proportionately greater on coarse goods, and as a consequence manufacturers are turning their attention more to fine work. What is true of shoe manufacturers in the United States is also true of the boot and shoe trade in Canada, as the advance in raw material has also been very sharp in this country.

In rubber the same features exist. Fine crude rubber has advanced within the past six months from 60 cents to 80 to 90 cents, and the best qualities go as high as \$1. The supply of crude rubber is said to be only about half what it was a year ago. This means high prices for rubber goods. Manufacturers have advanced prices about 10 per cent. in the United States, but this it can readily be seen will not cover the advance in the raw material. Higher prices are looked for. There is likely to be considerable changing around of customers in the boot and shoe and rubber trade, in consequence of the advancing prices, as it is always hard to induce customers to accept advances. A situation such as prevails in the boot and shoe trade, affords those who are inclined to cut prices in order to secure new customers, a fine opportunity to get in their work. This is not altogether a legitimate way of doing business, but there are always some ready to take advantage of an opportunity in this direction.

Northwestern Ontario.

The first sale of iron lands on the Atikokan range was made recently, according to the Port Arthur Sentinel. The property sold consisted of three mining locations of 30 acres each, covering 1½ miles on the range situated on the Atikokan river. The purchaser was W. H. Pattison, of Superior, Wisconsin, one of the chief owners of the F. G. Chandler mine on the Vermillion range. The consideration is \$15,000 spot cash. It is said that the outcroppings of ore on this property assay from 63 to 69 per cent. metallic iron and that it is Bessemer ore.

The new steamer, the Monarch, of the Beatty line, built at Sarnia, has been completed and will be put on the route between that place and Port Arthur at once.

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