

Cables report an advance of 4s to 8s in the price of Shelly shelled almonds in the primary markets. Jordan shelled have also advanced 5s 6d and Valencia shelled 3s 6d on the other side.

A much stronger feeling has developed in the molasses market during the past few days, owing to the very light stock held, and prices have advanced 2c per gallon for choice Barbadoes. There has been considerable enquiry for round lots, and sales have taken place at 39c, but holders now are firm at 40c.—Montreal Gazette.

Already another sharp advance has been made on matches, though it is less than two months since the last advance went into effect. On Sept. 25 there was an advance of 30c per case of sulphur matches. On Tuesday of this week Winnipeg agents received advices by wire to advance prices again. Winnipeg jobbers' prices now are: Telegraph, \$4.15 Telephone, \$4.00; Tiger, \$3.90. This is an advance of 25c per case on Telegraph and 30c on Tiger and Telephone. Eddy parlor are now quoted at \$1.75 and Safety at \$2.50.

A California exchange has the following to say of a car of oranges which was shipped to the Macpherson Fruit Company, Winnipeg, from that state and now in stock here: "The first car of California oranges of the season 1899-1900 was shipped from Porterville, Oct. 30, by the Earl Fruit Co. The car comprised Sunflower brand, Washington navels and budded seedlings, and passed Omaha at eight a. m., Nov. 9, en route for Canada. On examination the fruit was found to be good color and fine smooth stock. The above car was sold f. o. b. California."

Brooms were advanced 50c per dozen by manufacturers on Tuesday, this advance going into effect at once in the local market. Whisks were advanced 20c at the same time. Less than a month ago brooms were advanced 25c per dozen. This was on October 25. These two sharp advances within a month, aggregating 75c per dozen, or over 6c per broom, are due to the enormous advances that have taken place in broom corn within a few weeks. Indeed it looks as if the top has not yet been reached, and unless the raw material takes a tumble soon even higher prices may be looked for.

Broom corn has advanced in price over 100 per cent since this year's crop came into the market about six weeks ago, and the prevailing price in Illinois where the bulk of it is grown is now \$125 per ton. The market opened at \$60 per ton and at that price farmers thought they were making good money as the corn can be produced for about \$40 per ton. Speculators have, however, been bidding keenly for the crop and the result is high prices. Very little stock is held from last year so that practically manufacturers are dependent upon this year's crop for their supplies and at present prices of corn will have to materially advance the price of the finished broom. Already United States factories have added from 10 to 20 per cent to old prices.

THE HARDWARE TRADE

METAL PRICES AT MONTREAL.

The Gazette in its review of the metal market for last week says: "With the exception of block tin and ingot copper, the uniform tendency of the iron and metal situation is one of

firmness. The latter is easier at 13 1-2c and the former at 34 to 35c. Lead on the other hand has shown remarkable strength lately, and some large consumers have paid \$1.30 to \$1.35 for 100 ton lots, and now jobbers are asking \$1.50 in small lots. This rise in lead has been reflected in an advance in lead pipe, which is 2 1-2 per cent. higher than it was, and though makers have not put up the price of shot they have withdrawn old quotations. Pig iron is strong, round lots of Summerlee realizing \$20, and makers have advanced the price of bar iron 10c per 100 lbs, to \$2.50, car lots of course being obtainable at \$2.37 1-2. Galvanized iron is scarce, and jobbers this week are asking 5 to 10c advance for No. 28, at \$4.45 to \$1.70 as to brand, and No. 26, \$4.15 to \$1.50, as to brand. Tin plates have also advanced 10c, case lots of coke being quoted at \$1.50, and charcoal at \$1.80. Canada plates show similar strength, being held at \$2.50 to \$2.60. Terne plate is unchanged at \$8.00, while Swedish iron has advanced 25c to \$3.75. Sheet zinc is 1-4c lower at 7 1-2 to 7 3-4c, and spelter 1-2c to 6 1-2c. There has been a radical advance in coil chain, the rise ranging all the way from 50c to \$1.25, according to size. Makers have also advanced values on all sorts of bolts, the rise being from 2 1-2 to 5 per cent."

HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

Dry white lead advanced 1-2c per pound last week at Montreal.

Linsol oil scored an advance of 2c per gallon at Montreal last week. Further advances are anticipated.

United States firms have been buying pig iron extensively in Great Britain. One Scotch firm sold 10,000 tons for delivery in America.

A large volume of business is being done in refined petroleum at Montreal, and prices for Canadian advanced 1-2c per gallon last week.

Makers of plated tinware have reduced their discount 5 per cent to 40 per cent. The sheet iron and steel ware discount is also down to 45 per cent instead of 50.

An advance is announced in the prices of jute and flax twines at United States factories. The new quotations applying to jute twine in general and to flax in the small size. In the case of jute, the advance is 1-2c, and of flax 1c per pound. The large demand for twine, and in the case of jute, difficulty in getting the raw material is responsible for the advance.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

SPRING SHOE STYLES.

Foot and shoe travellers are now on the road for spring orders, and merchants throughout the country are having a chance to decide to some extent what kinds and styles of footwear their customers shall wear next year. Travellers have probably never gone out for spring business in this country under more favorable circumstances not only as regards the probable demand for their goods, but also as regards the class of goods they have to offer. The shoes of next year will be eminently sellers. No one will hesitate about going in for a new pair of shoes when they see the styles even if they have comparatively new shoes left from this year's wear, as more comfortable and better looking articles of footwear have never been offered to consumers. The needle and razor toes are now de-

clined a thing of the past, and the styles are running to broader and more common sense shapes. Now that the tide has turned an era of broader toes may be looked for and 1901 shapes as far as they can be foreseen will be even broader than those of 1900.

Fancy figured cloth tops are also to be largely worn next year, that is in laced boots. These are shown in men's, women's, misses' and children's sizes. Another distinctive feature of next year's shoes, particularly women's, is the increased thickness and weight of the soles. The taste has heretofore favored thin soles which are generally regarded as being hard on the feet. Next year much thicker and consequently more comfortable soles will be in style.

With regard to tan shoes, these may be said to be more popular than ever in men's shapes, but almost out of the market in women's. The popular shades in men's will be light tans and dark chocolate.

White canvas shoes seem to be regaining their old time popularity and are being made for next year's trade in much better qualities than ever before. This will have a tendency to keep the prices up, and thus confine their use to the better class of trade. These make a neat and cool summer shoe, and for that reason should be much worn by ladies and children at least.

As already noticed repeatedly in The Commercial, all kinds of boots and shoes will cost more next year. The round rate of advance is about 15 per cent. Makers are holding very firm views just at present regarding the value of their products, and the retail trade may as well expect to pay the full amount of the advances unless where they can find a jobbing house willing to sacrifice its profits for the sake of keeping down prices—a doubtful way of stimulating business. As showing the way in which prices have been forced up by advances in raw material the case may be noted of sole leather, which has lately advanced about 1 1-2c per pound. This means an advance on each pair of finished shoes of about 4c.

While on this subject of shoes, a word may be said regarding winter goods. Stocks of these of all kinds are low in Winnipeg. Both leather, rubber and felt goods have met with an almost unprecedented demand to supply, which neither jobbers nor makers have been quite prepared, and the consequence is a shortage of stocks. The requirements of this country have unfortunately been somewhat underrated, and the consequence is that some lines are already exhausted and that with the sorting demand scarcely commenced.

SHOE AND LEATHER TRADE NOTES

The tanners section of the Toronto board of trade met last week and decided to advance leather prices to correspond with the advance of 25 per cent in raw material. This does not mean a full 25 per cent advance in leather, as plant and labor have not appreciated in value to the same extent as hides, but only enough to cover the 25 per cent advance on the latter.

WANTED—SEVERAL BRIGHT AND HONEST persons to represent us as Managers in this and close by counties. Salary \$500 a year and expenses. Straight, bona-fide, no more, no less salary. Position permanent. Our references, any bank in any town. Its mainly office work conducted at home. Reference. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. THE DOMINION COMPANY, Dept. 3, Chicago.