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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 1, 1883.

## THE WEEK.

THE appointment of Mr. G. W. Ross as Ontario Minister of Education is a deservedly popular one. Mr. Ross is an educated man, a fine speaker, and much devoted to the cause of teachers.

THERE are still hopes that we may have a Wimbledon team again this year. An Ottawa gentleman has succeeded in making arrangements with the Allan Line for a great reduction in the price of fare.

THE German Crown Prince has been well received in Spain, but the reception is evidently official, and does not come from the people. The papers deprecate any German-Spanish alliance, and Marshal Serrano, the new Ambassador to France, has been making speeches of gushing friendship for that country.

THERE are again rumors of changes in the Quebec Provincial Cabinet. One thing is very certain—affairs cannot remain in their present condition. While politicians are wrangling, ministers travelling about, and public money is being spent in useless electoral contests, the Province is allowed to drift, and the condition of things is growing worse day by day.

THE war in Tonquin seems at last to have broken out in earnest. Three thousand Chinese troops attacked Haidong on the 17th. The French garrison, supported by a gun-boat, held the fort from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon, when the Chinese retreated. It is to be hoped, however, that peace may yet be maintained, and there is reason to believe that communications are still going on between M. Ferry, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Marquis Tseng, for the purpose of finding a fresh basis of settlement.

DOM HENRY SMEULDERS, Apostolic Commissioner to Canada, whose portrait we present in the present number, is a native of Belgium, having been born at Moll, near Antwerp, in 1826. In 1843 he entered the Order of Cîteaux, at Bornhem. After being ordained priest he was sent to Rome to continue his studies, and in 1858 was created Doctor of Theology in the Collegio Romano. He was then made Professor of Theology and Philosophy in the monastery of the Thermae at Rome, and subsequently in Belgium. He was successively Secretary and Procurator of his order, and travelled considerably with the Father General Cesari. After holding a number of offices of trust in the Order of Cîteaux, he declined the generalship of the same, and was appointed by the Pope special Commissioner to Canada to settle the ecclesiastical difficulties which have existed in this Province for some time.

ANOTHER military horror occurred during the week. Hicks Pasha and his whole army were

cut to pieces in the Soudan by the troops of the False Prophet. Apart from the loss of life itself, the catastrophe is to be regretted as likely to lead to further international complications. Moslem fanaticism will be aroused, and the Egyptian Government, single handed, is powerless to stem its advances. As the *Times* picturesquely states: The story of the destruction of Hicks Pasha's force will be eagerly told in Constantinople and Damascus and Bombay and Benares. Wandering preachers will carry the tale that an army of Moslems has annihilated an army commanded by English officers. The Mahdi has become the rival not only of the Khedive, but of the Sultan. He holds the Brotherhood of Kaderia, and there is hardly a town in Algeria or Tunis without a Kaderia shrine. He has the aid of the slave dealers, and the tribe he commands are desperately brave. If Colonel Coet Logon and Ibrahim Pasha have abandoned Khartoum and retreated to the Red Sea, then the whole course of the Nile, open and undefended, lies before the conquering Mahdi. The French will experience further trouble in Morocco, and the task of England in Egypt will become aggravated with additional difficulties.

## MESSRS. JAMES McCREEDY &amp; CO.

BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURE.—ONE OF CANADA'S GREATEST ESTABLISHMENTS.

Among the most important industries of Montreal, and which it has been the policy of governments to stimulate and develop as much as possible, is that of manufacturing leather and shoes. They are both articles of necessity, and the demand for them is one that is ever increasing. The business, moreover, in Montreal is so well appointed that nowhere are to be found more extensive or

## IMPROVED APPLIANCES.

The individual who has never gone through a shoe factory, and whose knowledge upon the subject is restricted to what he has seen in the humble cobbler's shop would, indeed, be astonished were he to visit one of the many mammoth establishments of which Montreal is possessed. The old-fashioned cordwainer used to take a long time to make a pair of boots, and frequently the misstatements and prevarications which were made to account for delays were such as to remind one of those champions of the art, Ananias and Sapphira. To-day in one of these factories, if need be, the leather can be taken in the hide, and, in half an hour, a pair of shoes fitted upon the customer. Such, however, it must be admitted, is not even now the custom. Although the rapidity of turn-out is perfectly possible, it is the practice to forward and finish the boots at wholesale, in which way a still greater economy in time is effected, the whole process being completed at

## ALMOST LIGHTNING SPEED.

The boot and shoe manufacturers of the present own plants which may be said to be worth fortunes; they "bore with a big auger," and they rely upon small profits and rapid turns-over. In the days of awls, pigs' bristles and cobblers' benches, the rural shoemaker was the wise man of the locality, he was the individual in whom a great amount of the local information, indeed, of learning was centred, he knew everything and was acquainted with everybody, and, besides, never hesitated to rest from his labours and communicate to enquirers of the stock of knowledge which he had accumulated. He was, or thought he was, as good a theologian as the parish parson, as an antiquarian he was second to none, while upon local events and politics he was an unquestioned authority. But old times have changed, old manners gone, and in these days of steam and telegraph the individual shoemaker, except he is a

## MOST EXCELLENT WORKMAN,

naturally begins to reckon himself with the past. Among the great boot and shoe houses of Montreal, the great manufacturing centre of the Dominion, the establishment of James McCreedy & Co stands prominently forward. Mr. James McCreedy, the head of the concern, originally started about twenty years ago, in the leather and finding business. The current fiscal policy having demonstrated something of the possibilities of the interest he, two years later, devoted himself to the manufacture of boots and shoes, and to-day occupies the position of the most extensive and successful manufacturer in the trade. The house has held its own through the many crises which have supervened; it bent to the breeze, but did not break before the blast. While many rivals have risen and some unfortunately have fallen, this firm has kept on

## ACHIEVING AND PURSUING

and has to-day a manufacturing power larger than that of any other house in Canada. In obedience to business requirements, about four weeks ago, a move was made from the premises formerly occupied to magnificent and eminently suitable quarters bounded by St. Peter, Youville and Normand Streets. The building is of stone, five stories in height, with basement, its dimensions being 140 by 50 feet. In the basement

has been erected a 35 horse-power Corliss engine, the boiler being of steel and built by Mr. White of Montreal. The remainder of the cellar is occupied with the storage of leather. The firm are, we may state, sole agents for Ayer's oiled tan Larrigans, and upon this floor there is a

## HEAVY AND WELL ASSORTED STOCK

of these goods. One of the latest improved hoists by Miller Brothers & Mitchell, connects the various storeys, the apparatus being so perfect that not the slightest danger is incurred either by passengers or goods; the trap doors open and close automatically, the whole working with smoothness which speaks solidity and security. The ground floor is occupied by the business offices over which Mr. C. F. Smith, Mr. McCreedy's partner, presides, and generally manages with singular success and ability the whole establishment from bottom to top. The general office is in charge of Mr. John Hamwell, who, business speaking, has been "raised" in the concern. Alongside the offices is the sample room in which upwards of 300 lines are displayed from the finest ladies' and children's goods to the heaviest and most substantial men's wear. Behind is a very large assortment of

## ALL CLASSES OF GOODS,

the firm having the well-earned reputation of carrying the largest stock of manufactured and unmanufactured material in Canada. This with the packers is under the care of Mr. Hugh McCreedy, one of the most courteous men in the trade, whose arrangements are such that, with the greatest economy of time, the largest orders can be got out. Special pains are taken by this house to meet in every particular the requirements of its friends who, whenever they visit the factory are afforded the very best facilities for making their selections from the latest and most popular lines. The shipping facilities from the Normand street entrance are of the very best, goods being received on Youville street. Near the St. Peter street front of the next story are the tables of the cutters, whose business it is to shape the leather for the making of uppers. There is here also an extensive supply of fine leather. Ranged along this room are a number of steam wax thread machines for stitching uppers, while further on, occupying the other half of the flat, are the cutters of sole leather. Here the hides are

## STRIPPED, SKIVED AND ROLLED.

The soles are then cut out by the aid of two beam sole cutters, each with a daily capacity of from 1,000 to 1,200 pairs. The Bigelow heel presser is capable of turning out over 2,000 pairs per day, so that it will thus be seen the appliances are neither few nor small. Besides the machines enumerated there are leather splitters, moulders and other apparatus, while the arrangements for the keeping of this part of the stock appear to be about perfect, an excellent system regulating the whole concern. The flat above is used entirely for the manufacture of pegged work. The enumeration of the machinery used will at once show how complete it is in every particular. There are 30 lasters, 15 nailers, 3 pegging machines, 2 steam peg breakers, a Bigelow heel attachment, 2 Cote edge trimmers, 3 Cote heel trimmers, 2 friction rotary heel setters, 2 Union edge setters, 2 Tapley heel burnishers, 2 sand paper machines, and 2 rotary brushes. A number of employes are also engaged on

## HAND RIVETTED WORK.

The precision which characterizes each of these machines fully bears out the contention of the paramount excellence of machine work, the best grades of which are barely distinguishable from the much more expensive work still done to a limited extent by hand. The portion of the flat above, fronting on St. Peter street, is taken up with sewn work upon which 2 Mackay sole sewing machines are employed. Here there are 1 beating out machine, 1 Buzzell edge trimmer, 1 King's steam heel trimmer, 1 Cote heel trimmer, 1 Union edge burnisher, 1 Tapley heel burnisher, 1 scouring machine, 1 Naumkaeg buffing, sand paper machine, 1 rotary sand paper machine and 1 rotary brush. The different processes with sewn goods are

## EQUALLY AS INTERESTING

as those among the peggers, in both of which departments some of the most surprising automatic processes are performed. At the other end of the top story a number of treers and cleaners are busily at work finishing goods prior to being taken into stock, and wonderful, indeed, is the change which they make to come over the hitherto unfinished productions. There are always here—even when the season is over—stocks of seven or eight hundred cases of long boots of which the house makes a speciality, if, indeed, such a remark is applicable to a concern which does nothing by halves either as concerns extent or excellence. As if by way of contrast with the powerful and ceaselessly working machinery sit several hand workmen upon one of the floors, whose methods as thus illustrated do, indeed, seem quaint and old fashioned. One of the most satisfactory features of the firm's new building is the excellent way in which it is lighted, which it is said causes an economy almost equal to the rental. There is in addition every provision for safety, in the event of fire, while the ventilation and sanitary accommodations are all that could be wished for. Messrs. James McCreedy & Co., have constantly upon the road ten travellers who represent them in all sections, from

## THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

Their present manufacturing output is about \$500,000 annually. They consume over \$100,000 worth of sole leather, over \$200,000 of upper leather and findings, and pay out over \$125,000 for labor. The firm buys all its goods and materials for cash, which gives it special advantages.

This establishment produces about 9,500 pairs of boots and shoes per week, their staples being in buff, pebble, kip and split leather, though as has been stated they do an extensive trade in the finer sorts. The present premises into which they have just moved have an easy capacity of from 12,000 to 15,000 pairs per week, which they could have easily disposed of last year. Owing, however, to the lasters' strike and the recent removal, it may be said that manufacturing operations were last year confined to about ten months, nevertheless as much actual business was done as during the previous twelve, with numerous and large orders that it was found impossible to fill.

Mr. James McCreedy was for some years before he embarked in business on his own account, assistant to Mr. Thomas Hawkins, leather inspector in this city. He was ever a friend to his workmen, and though difficulties have at times arisen and been somewhat awkward to adjust, on account of complications, he is

## HIGHLY ESTEEMED BY HIS EMPLOYEES.

Indeed, the best proof of this is that despite the strikes some of the men—at least a third—have been employed by him for eight, ten and twelve years. But not only is the last mentioned observation peculiarly applicable; it is the common remark, as commercial men frequently testify, that the firm of Jas. McCreedy & Co., besides being leading manufacturers are accustomed to deal liberally, indeed generously, with their customers, no matter whether the times be good or what it is the practice to regard as hard and unsatisfactory. This gives them an additional claim, which salesmen are not slow to appreciate.

## THE MARQUIS TSENG.

The Marquis Tseng, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Courts of London, Paris and St. Petersburg, and who is now one of the conspicuous figures of European diplomacy, is the eldest son of Tseng Kivo-fan, the first Marquis, who was the most distinguished statesman who had appeared in China for many years. He is a native of Hunan and about forty six years of age. He succeeded his kinsman, Kivo-Tai-jeu, as Minister of China to Great Britain and France in 1878, and afterwards when the question of the retrocession of Kuldja threatened to lead to a rupture of friendly relations between Russia and France he was also accredited to St. Petersburg, replacing that of Livadia, was negotiated, and, as everybody knows, it is he who has conducted the negotiations with France on the subject of Tonquin. The Marquis is a fine English scholar, and his personal manners are those of a polished man of the world.

## CREMATION IN PORTUGAL.

The conflict which has been waged for a long time between the priests and the physicians throughout Portugal in regard to cremation has at last been brought to a temporary settlement. The authorities of Lisbon and of all the principal municipalities of the kingdom have issued decrees making cremation absolutely optional in all cases, and compulsory in every case of death occurring in a district in which diseases of the nature of plagues shall be officially declared epidemic. These decrees are uniform, and contain substantially all the legislation sought by the cremationists.

The agitation has been long and bitter, and has been carried on with all the expedients known to religious power and prejudice on the one hand and to scientific persistence and radicalism on the other. The cremationists intend eventually to endeavor to have the burning of the human dead made compulsory throughout the kingdom, and the present authorities sympathize with them to such an extent that if they dared they would at once abolish burial. Both the authorities and the doctors, however, believe that the agitation will be found to have so abolished prejudice that cremation, now that it is encouraged by the Portuguese law, will rapidly supersede interment. To prepare the way gradually for this change, the new decrees ordain that hereafter, at the end of every five years, all the cemeteries in each municipality and large town throughout the kingdom shall be cleared entirely of human bodies, all of which shall be burned in the public crematories.

Most of the priests oppose the operation of these new laws, and their opposition is taking the form of pulpit and confessional insistence on burial. The Progressives intend to undermine the clerical influence by making cremation so cheap and by surrounding its performance with ceremonies so simple that the poor will be drawn to its practice by their interest in its essential economy.

AN English glove-maker has brought out a new glove with a pocket on the inside of the palm, to suit the habit indulged in by the fair sex of carrying money in that position.

If your lips save from slips,  
Five things observe with care:  
Of whom you speak—to whom you speak—  
And how—and when—and where.