

Never before in the history of shoemaking were such pretty things turned out for the feet as now. This is the season of tinsel and glitter in all sorts of feminine apparel, including shoes, says the *Shoe and Leather Reporter*. There are some beautiful slippers for dancing or receptions made of the gilt open work passementerie, some of which is as fine and delicate as lace. This is made over cream colored satin, and the effect is very rich. The heels are gilt, and they are silk lined. Just now there is a great fancy for the black and gold combinations. For street use the shoes do not run much into this blending, but for house wear there is no limit to it. For home service there are also the pretty black velvet slippers, with pointed toes and French heels, finished off with a large full rosette of gold lace. Black silk stockings are worn with these shoes. For dancing shoes, some of the prettiest are of cloth of gold, embroidered with the finest cut jet beads.

Hamilton MacLaren Caldwell, of the tanning firm of Hamilton, Caldwell & Co., Glasgow, Scotland, died there last month, aged 70 years.

Referring to the uses made of the trimmings of leather, we learn that considerable quantities of the common cuts of heads, shoulders and bellies taken off sole leather are exported from New York. Lots of from 5 to 16 tons bring prices ranging, for hemlock, at 9½ to 10c. for heads, and 9½ to 10½c. for bellies; union 9½ to 11c., and 11½ for rough oak bellies and heads. These goods are used to make shoes for wear in the mining districts in Europe. The bottoms of these being filled with hob nails, any poor grade of leather can be used.

"Check your baby while you shop" is the cry from Harlem. The shopping woman develops rapidly.

Jobson—"Why do you call this line 'outing shoes'?"

Jaggson—"Because I'm out twenty-five cents on every pair I sell; see?"

#### PARAGRAPHS FOR GROCERS.

The steamship "Michigan" carried away from Vancouver, on the 22nd April, seventy-five barrels of sugar, from the British Columbia Sugar Refinery, for Portland, Oregon, says the *Columbian*. The company has orders for several hundred barrels, to be forwarded in a few days to the same destination.

"Perambulator," in the *Interstate Grocer*, says: An ex-canned goods broker told me that he made the first and only sale of canned rhubarb ever made in the St. Louis market. A consignment was shipped here for sale, but no buyer could be found among the jobbing trade, the gentle "pie plant" being considered an article of too precarious a nature to "bank on." At last, after being held about six months, during which time the acid of the fruit had been holding high revel in the cans, the lot was sold to a dealer who did a direct business with the farmers. In about two weeks the broker received the following from his purchaser: "You will please and call for them rubrubs i sent some them to a kustmer in kansas and his wife and childrun is all ded. i doant minde that so much but if he dise, yule have to pay me dam ages for lusin a kustmer."

It was a graceful thing of the grocers of Toronto to give a banquet to Hon. Senator Frank Smith, on Monday last, to mark his retirement from the wholesale grocery trade. Mr. William Ince, president of the Wholesale Grocers' Guild, occupied the chair on the occasion, and Mr. Robert Barron, president of the Retail Grocers' Guild, the vice-chair.

Some sixty gentlemen attended, and the evening passed most pleasantly. The gentlemen just named were the signatories of a handsome address presented by the grocers to the worthy Senator. It referred to his "sound common sense, business insight, never-failing energy and sterling integrity," and closed with the sensible words that "your business career is an example and incentive of the best kind to the young men of Canada." Mr. Smith's reply showed how much he appreciated the kind feelings expressed towards him. His sketch of a long and active business life was most interesting and instructive. When asked to what he attributed his success throughout life, the hon. gentleman replied, with a snap of his bright eyes, "Perseverance and courage."

—A man who has made a study of fruit-treeology, tells the *St. Thomas Journal* that the fear of a failure in the apple crop, this season, because the blossoms are covered with a small green fly, is groundless. The aphid, or green house fly, is common on house plants, and he is of the opinion that they will not do any damage to the apple crop of 1891.

Petroleum, we know, has long been carried across the ocean in tanks in the holds of vessels. It is now proposed to carry molasses in a similar way. The grocery trade of New York is much interested in an experiment that is being made in the transportation of molasses in bulk in sailing vessels. An American schooner is on her first trip as a bulk carrier from Cardenas, and arrangements have been made to provide other sailing vessels with tanks. Heretofore, carrying molasses in bulk has been confined to steamers. There are two English steamers that have taken bulk molasses to Philadelphia, one carrying 600,000 gallons, the other 150,000. The tanks are of wood, but it is intended to fit up future vessels with iron. The time now required to load hogsheads is about 20 days, and to discharge 7 days—a total of 27 days. There is, therefore, a distinct saving of 22 days in time by the new method. Last year the importations of molasses were about 160,000 hhds. Another scheme that is under consideration is to build tank barges, and have them towed between Cuba and the United States. The insurance companies, however, seem to object to this system. "Last year," said a gentleman interested in molasses transportation, "molasses was selling at 20 to 30c. This year it is selling at 12c., and it is the decline in price that has brought about the demand for cheaper transportation. For myself, I believe that molasses will eventually stop coming here altogether. It will be turned into sugar in Cuba."

#### MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 30th April, 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
April 24 .....	\$1,835,875	\$296,622
" 25 .....	1,225,588	122,354
" 27 .....	1,089,516	173,364
" 28 .....	1,567,201	272,892
" 29 .....	1,826,802	452,224
" 30 .....	1,435,675	260,551
Total .....	\$8,980,657	\$1,578,007
Last week .....	\$8,724,601	\$1,255,669
Cor. week 1890 .....	\$8,200,128	\$1,308,707

—There is hope for the importing and store-keeping community, bothered and burdened as it is with too much credit. There's a good time coming, boys, wait a little longer, is the tenor of the note uttered by Mr. John Rae, in the *Contemporary Review*. In his paper on

the natural history of credit, he finds in the course of his researches that in advanced countries the tendency is to shorten the term and diminish the occasions of credit in whole-sale trade, by reason of the steady improvement of the means of communication and the suppression of intermediate agents, or as we would say, middle-men. "Goods come sooner to market, and long credits are less necessary." This tendency, he states, will be strongly reinforced when cash payment gets to be the rule, as it is rapidly doing, in retail transactions, for if the retailer is paid in ready money he will be better able to dispense with credit for himself. It is further argued that the growth of the cash system has been partly promoted by the abolition in most modern countries of personal imprisonment for debt and arrestment of wages. As the shopkeeper's risk is increased he tends to exact cash. But the main instruments of the change have been the spread of wealth among the general population and the progress of the co-operative and provident movement. Mr. Rae declares that the salaried and wage-earning classes are becoming the great money-lenders in the more advanced countries, through the aggregation of deposits in savings and county banks.

—Politics has been defined as that branch of ethics which has for its subject the proper mode of governing a state so as to attain its prosperity, peace, and safety. A noble aim, truly. But now-a-days politics has come to mean too often the dominance over a state by means of my views, or of my methods, regardless of peace or safety. And the claims of party have been projected into municipal matters, commercial matters, even social matters. In fact the art of politics has been studied in Canada to the ignoring of the scientific principles which should govern politics. We observe that the editor of the *Dundas True Banner* rebukes a contemporary which refers to the Board of Trade in that town as a Conservative board of trade, "a statement which the board itself would be the first to repudiate." \* \* "To call the Dundas board of trade a Conservative board because it has more Conservatives than Reformers on its list of membership is a mistake, and nothing would kill the organization more quickly than to keep that idea to the front. Our business men see the advantage of keeping the board a non-political institution if it is to preserve its usefulness and be of any benefit to the town." Parties are necessary and proper in politics. But the partisan spirit that can see no good in anything that emanates from the party opposed to our own, is opposed to progress and to peace.

—We have received other communications respecting the West India line of steamers than that which we published a fortnight ago. But as the company had made the plainest possible admission of the unfitness of the steamer "Loanda" for service by withdrawing her, "in consequence of it having been found necessary to make certain repairs" to her, as their circular runs, we did not think it needful to publish them. We learned from Mr. Weatherston, the Toronto agent of the Intercolonial Railway, that the place of the "Loanda" was taken by the "Taymouth Castle," which has been built for the West India trade, and has a speed of twelve knots. She possesses, so we are informed, good cabin accommodation, in addition to a civil captain. She has already sailed from Halifax for Demerara, calling at Bermuda, Antigua, Barbadoes, Trinidad, &c.