

and leather in the United States to over-production in the spring. The journal states that stocks of leather are smaller than a year ago and there is also a reduction in the supply of hides. Under these conditions leather and hides should naturally be firmer but for the depression in boots and shoes. This is accounted for as follows by *Bradstreet*: "The advance in leather last year stimulated the demand for boots and shoes, which in turn caused increased production. Both jobbers and retailers took heavier stocks than usual. An inability to dispose of these has delayed the usual orders for fall shoes. The factories have been running on reduced time for months. They were well stocked with leather last year, and the greater part of it is said to be still unused. The present depression is thus seen to have resulted from over production."

Raw Furs.

Following are the particulars, by cable, of C. M. Lampson & Co's, London fur sales, held the last week in May, as compared with last March sales:—Lower, skunk 12½, red fox 10, raccoon 20, wolf 5, marten 5, beaver 15, otter 5, fisher 10, silver and cross fox 50 per cent; higher, gray fox 10, opossum (average) 10 per cent; unchanged, mink, bear, lynx, muskrat, Japanese fox, Australian opossum, and dry hair seal. Another cable says: The following declined; skunk, first black and short stripe 15, raccoon 10, red fox 10, beaver 5, mink 7½, marten 7½, American otter 7½, unprime otter 10, Japanese foxes 5 per cent; Prime opossum advanced 35, Thibet crosses advanced 20 per cent; the following were unchanged bears, lynx, fisher gray fox, and musquash.

The *New York Fur Trade Review* for June says: The fur trade is very active and manufacturers are much busier than they were last year at this time; the long expected boom appears to have arrived, and orders are being placed with marked freedom and at full prices. All kinds of fur will be very fashionable next season, and the demand takes in nearly all kinds of skins. The cloak trade is bestowing unusual attention to furs suitable for trimming various styles of garments; large orders have already been placed, and considerable activity can be expected from this quarter as the quantities consumed by these consumers are by far in excess of what the fur trade proper would require. Prospects are excellent, in fact they have not been so good at any time in recent years as they are at present. Some kinds of furs have already advanced in price, and while we do not look for any extreme figures until very late in the year, we certainly have all the indications that the market will be very steady, with a firm undertone and an advancing tendency.

The *London, Eng.*, correspondent of the *Fur Trade Review* writes that journal as follows:—As regards American furs there is very little doing at the moment, everybody being anxious to await the result of Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co's sale this month (May), and there seems to be a general idea that most articles will decline, indeed some of the Leipzig merchants who bought heavily in January and March, and who did not succeed in cleaning out at the Leipzig fair, are dreading these sales. Our own opinion is that there will be very little difference in prices, except that *Raccoons* will have to be cheaper, because they are neither wanted

here nor were they much sought after in Leipzig. *Skunk* we do not think will be much cheaper, because this article will be wanted largely here this autumn.

Eastern Business Changes. ONTARIO.

John McGill, hotel, London, is dead.
S. Cunnor, mill, Tp. Arran, has assigned.
M. J. Laneham, hotel, Athlone, has sold out.
Chisholm Bros. tins, Oakville, have assigned.
Thos. McMyler, Furniture, Alliston, has sold out.
Wm. Hawkshaw, hotel, London, has sold out.
R. N. Faragher, tobacconist, Toronto, has assigned.
John Valliant, jobber, Westmeath, has assigned.
F. B. Skinner & Co., furniture, Guelph, has sold out.
Peter Ferguson, general store, Minden, has assigned.
C. C. Lee & Co., general store, Alliston, have assigned.
W. Heather, jr., stoves and tins, Guelph, has assigned.
J. Bernhardt & Co., tobaccos, etc., (Guelph), have sold out.
A. Dinwoodie & Co., general store, Campbellford, has sold out.

QUEBEC.

Z. Pilon, shoes, Montreal, has assigned.
Z. Laplante, shoes, Montreal, has assigned.
Zel Gagon, general store, St. Agnes has assigned.
J. English & Co., manufacturers of shirts, etc., Montreal, have dissolved.
G. Lewis & Co., manufacturers' agents, Montreal, have suspended.
Mrs. R. Sutherland, general store, Coteau Landing, is offering to compromise.
G. W. Gilmour, general store, Watloo, has sold out this business and continues in drugs.

Freight Rates.

East bound freight rates are practically demoralized. Reductions in one class of freight after another have followed until it becomes almost impossible to follow the changes which affect not only grain and provisions, but flour, oil-cake, metals, and nearly every class of traffic. It is stated, indeed, that the boat lines are accepting whatever they can get from day to day for the transportation of corn and oats. Some of the strong lake and rail lines seem to have decided that the quickest way to secure peace is to force rates down to a non-paying basis as soon as possible. In the meantime the all-rail lines are maintaining their 25c. rate on grain and flour from Chicago to the seaboard and watching the struggle between the lake and rail lines for business. The western connections of the Trunk lines are also in a difficult position in consequence of the unsettled rates. By a recent decision of the commissioners of the Western Traffic Association the railroads in that agreement are prohibited from quoting through rates from western points to the seaboard on the basis of reductions made by their eastern connections unless such reductions are in the form of regularly published tariffs, duly filed with the Interstate Commissioners. When a lake and rail connection reduces a rate they must not quote it until they receive a cer-

tificate that the law has been complied with, and the frequency of the changes naturally causes confusion. On the other hand, the Canadian Pacific-West Shore combination has again issued a tariff reducing through rates between St. Paul and New York. —*Bradstreet*.

That Paint and Oil Combine.

As far as we can learn there is no combine on the tapis in the paint, oil and varnish trade just now. In the early spring there certainly was an effort made to put some such scheme into execution by amalgamating all the paint, oil and varnish manufacturing concerns into one company, in order to save expense and prevent any indiscriminate cutting. Nothing, tangible, however, came of this project, it being found impossible to bring all the companies into one mind regarding the basis of value upon which to work. The chief cause of the cutting so much complained of to-day is not on account of the number of people engaged in the business, but owing to a pre-concerted and narrow attempt to keep out an old country firm which came here to take up and extend the business of a defunct firm. Upon the advent of this house in Montreal prices were immediately slammed down to costs and under. Experts were then sent through the country to praise up different brands of goods, and travellers followed at their heels to make sales, which entailed an enormous expense without securing adequate results; and when dividends were found to be non est, and profits at the end of the year nil, a great howl was set up for a combine as a salve to heal the soreness occasioned by their own rash acts, for which, however, they have only themselves to blame.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

Want a Duty on Eggs.

The egg dealers of Montreal have held a private meeting and decided to send a delegation to Ottawa to impress on the government the advisability of placing a duty on eggs imported from the United States. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, Canada imported 639,051 dozens of eggs valued at \$91,773. Of these the United States supplied 625,165 dozens valued at \$89,444. These eggs were divided among the provinces as follows:—

	Dozens.	Value.
Ontario.....	103,211	\$15,449
Quebec.....	151,933	20,720
Nova Scotia.....	2,236	331
New Brunswick.....	675	124
Manitoba.....	107,271	13,681
British Columbia.....	254,919	40,832

The last named province also received 32,837 dozens from China and 647 dozens from Japan. —*Gazette*.

The agent of the British Columbia salmon syndicate says the *Montreal Trade Bulletin* is offering to sell at 1.40 here. Last year contracts for the new pack of British Columbia canned salmon were made at \$1 per dozen, but this year prices possess such a strong and pungent smell of the syndicate, that buyers here consider them too high for consideration \$1.20 to \$1.35 being asked according to brand. It is thought that the Pacific coast syndicate already referred to in the *Trade Bulletin* will have to recede from their present exalted notions on prices if they intend to place the usual quota of goods in this market.