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The Journal of Commerce

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 7, 1883.

THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

Under a state of things as illustrated in the concluding paragraph of the article on this subject last week, it is not surprising that the leather trade should have suffered, and every business man in Montreal knows that the suffering has not been in any slight degree. The history of that trade during the last six or eight years, and down to within a few months, plainly proves the existence of something radically wrong in the business. But our concern is now with the shoe trade. Extensive and easy credit in raw material naturally begets a similar state of things in the manufactured article, and it is as difficult under financial pressure to shorten sail in the one as in the other. Our remarks do not, of course, apply to firms of well-known standing, but few will be found to claim that all is healthy with the trade, or that some smaller tanners have not been erring after the examples occasionally set them on both sides of the line, trying to do too much business. The cotton trade is not the only one in which there has been over-pro-

Although "dating ahead" is as common among shoe manufacturers as with other merchants, there are circumstances surrounding the former which furnish; more