

SHOES AND LEATHER

Mr. A. E. Miklin, of Acton, is making moccasins.

No more "slaughter sales" for the retailer of footwear.

James Sinclair, Shelburne, Ont., has erected a tannery at that place.

"Tan Day," at retail shoe stores, is becoming a popular form of advertisement.

A new boiler will be added to the equipment of the Berlin tannery of Messrs. Lang & Co.

The Union Shoe and Leather Co. of Winnipeg has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$45,000.

It will take a liberal amount of talk and advertising to advance the views of the shoe-wearing public twenty-five per cent., and yet this must be done if shoes are to be profitably made and sold.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a shoe factory at St. Boniface, Man., by the Union Leather and Shoe Company of Winnipeg. The town of St. Boniface agrees to furnish a cash bonus of \$2,000 annually, for five years, and a fifteen years' exemption from taxation; the company, on their part, are to start in with a force of 35 hands, increasing the same to 70 by the end of the second year. They further agree to expend, annually, from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in wages.

The Quebec correspondent of the Montreal *Witness* writes to his paper, that, "Owing to his critical state of health, Mr. H. Botterell (H. Botterell & Co., the extensive boot and shoe manufacturers here) has been advised by his physicians to close up his business at once, and arrangements are now being made to wind up his affairs and shut up his factory at an early day. His commercial travellers have all been recalled, and it is expected that by next month the factory will stop work and several hundred hands will then be thrown out of employment."

Speaking to a Montreal *Herald* reporter, Mr. Cassils, of Shaw, Cassils & Co., says: "Regarding prices, they have been very strong, and it would not surprise me to see a still further advance. It is safe to say that in the last year prices for wet salted hides in the leading markets have advanced at least 125 per cent., while dry hides have gone up 50 to 75 per cent. in the same period. No. 1 sole leather is selling in Montreal to-day at 22 to 23c.; No. 2 at 20 to 21c., and No. 3 at 18 to 19c. A year ago the first mentioned grade was only selling at 19c. and the second at 17c., making an advance of 4c. Slaughter sole is worth from 22c. to 26c., according to quality."

—That was a curious occurrence the other day when merchants in Canadian cities received notices to pass their British goods per Dominion steamer "Labrador" before they had received the invoices, which were sent by another vessel, the "Laurentian." One Toronto firm received notice on Monday, 6th, that their goods by the former steamer were in town—the invoices for those goods did not reach Toronto till the 8th, a most annoying delay. The cause of it is, we are told, mails are no longer sent by the steamers of the Dominion Line, which have given good service in respect of fast time. The "Labrador" arrived at Rimouski at 6 a.m. and at Quebec at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 4th. Her passengers reached Toronto Sunday morning, and if she had carried the mails, they would have been here at that time. But the "Laurentian" carried the mails, leaving Liverpool at the same time as the "Labrador," and did not arrive at Quebec until Monday afternoon, 6th inst., making her mails forty-eight hours later. This sort of anomaly must not be allowed to continue. No wonder that memorials to Government are being sent in by boards of trade.

—By reason of some injurious but unfounded reports set afloat in St. John's, Newfoundland a run upon the Canadian bank branches in that city was begun on Tuesday last. Up to noon on Wednesday, according to a despatch to the *Star*, the Bank of Montreal had paid out \$40,000; the Merchants Bank of Halifax, \$10,000; the Bank of Nova Scotia, \$4,000. A run was begun on the Government Savings Bank also, which bank was supplied by the Bank of Montreal, which has plenty of coin. The general manager of the Bank of Montreal stated on Wednesday night that the doors of his branch in St. John were opened at nine a.m. to pay out gold to any one who presented bills for it, but that the scare was all over in two or three hours. At first, says Mr. Clouston, the people "even demanded the redemption of the Dominion Government notes; in fact it was an anti-Canadian movement altogether."

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, May 9th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	May 9.	May 2.
Montreal .....	\$12,060,006	\$10,771,406
Toronto .....	6,310,145	5,451,359
Halifax .....	1,366,972	1,007,831
Winnipeg .....	1,048,212	778,907
Hamilton .....	677,277	550,701
Total .....	\$21,462,612	\$18,560,204

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,100,867; last week, \$3,087,054. The clearings this week are the largest for three months.

—The assistant cashier of a New York State savings bank, who is now serving a ten years' sentence for embezzlement, was married at the time of his incarceration, says *American Investments*. His handsome wife had quite an expectancy in the way of a comfortable fortune from a distant relative, which was known to a certain lawyer, who was himself married. Keeping his eye on the fortune, Mr. Lawyer first secured a divorce for himself, then one for the wife of the embezzler, and closed the transaction by marrying the handsome divorced woman himself, with the pot of money! And the abandoned, convicted cashier, powerlessly watched events from his dark dungeon cell. Talk about gratitude!

—Winnipeg gentlemen are promoting a new local fire insurance company. A sub-committee recommends that the charter of the Canadian Fire and Live Stock Insurance Company be acquired and stock books opened. The *Free Press* says it is announced that stock to the amount of \$170,000 had already been subscribed. The stock books were opened a week ago, and nearly all the gentlemen present inscribed their names on the list. The promoters will invite merchants and others in Portage la Prairie and Brandon, and other provincial towns, to become stockholders. It is likely that Mr. R. T. Riley will be made managing director.

—Mr. H. D. Troop has written to the Fredericton Board of Trade about buying a fast steamer for the route on the St. John River between St. John and Fredericton, the trip up and down to be made in one day. The steamer is iron and originally cost \$75,000, but it can now be had for \$25,000. She is a side-wheeled steamer, with a saloon on the upper deck. The board has asked particulars, and when these are obtained a subscription list will be placed before the public and an attempt made to secure the necessary amount of stock.

—A week ago, the trusted employe of a large grain firm in Toronto, Alexander J. Wilkie, who had been arrested in Chicago, appeared before the police magistrate and pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzling \$900. In fact he had been stealing money for a year or more, and had probably made away with thousands of dollars of his employers' money. He was sentenced to five years in Kingston penitentiary. Another instance, this, of the dangerous tendency to live beyond one's means and resort to speculation in the hope of repaying what was stolen.

—We hear of the purchase, by a prominent grain firm in this city, of a quantity of American red winter wheat, on which the Canadian duty of 15 cents per bushel has been paid, and the grain sold to a Canadian milling firm. This is the first case of the kind we have heard of for a long time. The purchase of American winter wheat arises from the scarcity of Canadian wheat of the same grade, the price of which has advanced to 85 or 86c. per bushel for No. 2. Manitoba wheat is neither so scarce nor relatively so high.

—The death of Hon. C. F. Fraser, and more recently the death of Mr. A. M. Smith, left two vacancies on the board of the Ontario Bank. These have been filled by the appointment to places on the board of D. Ulllyot, of Peterboro', and Mr. R. D. Perry, of Toronto.

—The Board of Directors of the Standard Bank of Canada have appointed Mr. James Scott, of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, a director of the bank to fill the vacancy on the board caused by the death of Dr. Geo. D. Morton.

—A branch of La Banque Nationale has been opened at Roberval, Que., which is on Lake St. John and at the northern end of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway.