A Montreal telegram of yesterday states that J. and T. Bell, shoe manufacturers, of that city, have signed a contract with the president of the International Brotherhood of Boot and Shoe Workers in preference to the Canadian boot and shoe workers. "A strong canvass had been made by representatives of both unions, but the International won. It is said the employees are satisfied."

Word comes this week from Windsor that the well-known merchant, Robert Henry, former M.P. for Brantford, will for the next five years represent the British Columbia Packers' Association, the big packers of canned salmon. He will have supervision of their business in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and a part of the Province of Quebec.

Word has been received, says a wire of Monday last from Victoria, that the threatened strike at the Crow's Nest coal fields has been averted. A new agreement has been signed by Fernie union officials, agreeing to an eight-hour day. Both sides made concessions. The agreement is important, as it insures an uninterrupted supply to the mines and smelters of the Kootenay district of British Columbia.

The Great Northern Railway Company announces that it will extend a line from some point on its Republic branch to Princeton, B.C., a distance of eighty-six miles. Work has already begun at Oroville, in the Okanagan district. It is announced that the population of Brandon is 8,529, which represents an increase of 1,523 in a year. The total assessment of the town amounts this year to $4,134,820; in 1904 it was $2,657,123, an increase of thirty-five per cent.

M. J. Haney, contractor, Toronto, has arranged to take twenty acres of land in Ashbridge's Marsh, Toronto Bay, on which he proposes to erect an iron plant. The land will have to be reclaimed and cribbed at a cost of over $200,000.

The Ontario Government has granted a charter to J. J. Milliken and others under the name of the Cuban Realty Company, and they will carry on an immigration, colonization, land and development company business. The capital stock is placed at $200,000.

The Napanee Canning Company, Limited, has been granted a charter by the Ontario Government, and will manufacture, purchase and deal in fruits, vegetables, jams, jellies, poultry, etc. It will also acquire the concessions and grants made by the town of Napanee to W. A. Carson. The latter gentleman is one of the directors of the new company. Capital and stock authorized is $40,000.

A report from Chicago says that cold and stormy weather has prevailed during the week in the leather trade, yet the trade does not appear to be affected adversely. The general activity in all lines noted in our last report is still in evidence, and the volume of business well sustained. Orders from travelling salesmen are fully up to the normal, both for immediate shipment and fall delivery. On medium-priced staples the advance of five or ten cents that manufacturers are obliged to charge causes friction when the jobber attempts to get a remunerative price from the retailer. In some instances he is obliged to yield his profit or lose a customer. There is however, very little talk about prices of late. Under existing conditions in the hide and leather markets, prices on manufactured goods must remain firm. City retailers are having a lively trade on all goods for Easter. Colors and whites will be in brisk demand this season for men, women and children. Local manufacturers continue busy. Collections are reported good.