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-The retail shoe store is becoming a favorite theme for the omnipresent newspaper reporter. He frequently evolves from his inner consciousness a romantic story in which a pretty girl, a susceptible salesman, a pair of dainty shoes, shapely ankles, and silken hosiery figure more or less prominently. Such effusions—always fictitious of course—tread too often the somewhat indefinite boundary line between raciness and immodesty. As a matter of fact retail shoe salesmen learn at an early stage of their career that sentiment can't be profitably mixed with business. There is not the slightest suggestion of indelicacy in the trying on and fitting of shoes to ladies by salesmen of ordinary sense of propriety.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 20th March, 1889.

ASHES.—Receipts continue small, and the month is likely to run behind last March materially: shipments, too, have been few of late and there is little "go" to the market. What few barrels of pots come forward are being taken up at \$4.00 to 4.05 for firsts, and \$3.55 to 3.60 for seconds; pearls are altogether nominal, probably \$5.25 as close a figure as could be quoted, seeing that there have been no late transactions.

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.—We note some further failures in the wholesale shoe trade, particulars of which will be found in our summary columns. The more important of these can hardly be called new, as it has been a case of fighting against fate for some weeks, if not months, past. The atmosphere is now considered pretty clear, and no further complications of any import are anticipated. The local trade are all fairly employed, and leather men report rather more business doing. Stocks, however, continue full, and there is no gain in firmness of values. We quote:—Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 21 to 22c.; ditto, No. 2, B.A., 18 to 19c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 19 to 21c.; No. 2 ditto, 17 to 18c.; No. 1, China, 18 to 19c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 21 to 22c.; Am. oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 34c.; ditto, heavy, 24 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 33 to 37c.; splits, large, 16 to 23c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 70 to 80c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 21 to 28c.; buffed cow, 11 to 13c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 14c.; rough, 21 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55.

DRY GOODS.—The only noteworthy feature of the week is an improvement reported by some houses in remittances, but this does not apply to western sections, whence money comes in very slowly still, and there is yet a large margin for improvement on payments as a whole. The warehouse staffs are generally busy shipping off goods, and travellers are home revising samples preparatory to the sorting trip. Values are steady in all lines.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business is of a healthy character, and general firmness is to be noted, with strong upward tendency in a good many lines. Cascara sagrada is in very limited supply, and famine prices are likely to rule before any new lots get to market; chamomiles becoming very scarce at producing points and high prices expected; gums all very firm except Senegal and benzoin; in roots, ipecac, jalap, and mandrake are firmer, rhubarb and serpentaria rather easier; acids active, citric and oxalic firm, tartaric still low but shows gaining strength; quinine still sluggish and flat, and salicine easier. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.00 to \$1.15; bi-carb soda, \$1.90 to 2.00; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70; biochromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 9 to 11c.; cream tartar crystals, 30 to 34c.; do. ground, 32 to 35c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 50 to 52c.; do. powder, 51 to 55c.; citric acid,

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FISH.—The supply has kept up well, and prices are firm, indeed there is increased firmness in green cod owing to light stock and some wholesale enquiry from outside points; some few lots of herrings have come to hand from lower ports. We quote:—Labrador herrings, \$5.25; Cape Breton, \$5.75 to 6.00; dry cod, \$4.50; green cod, No. 1, \$5.00; No. 1 large, \$5.25 to 5.50; large drafts, \$5.75 to 6.00; N. S. salmon, \$14.00 to 15.00 for No. 1; B. C. ditto, \$13.00 to 13.50; sea trout, \$10.50 to 11.00. In fresh fish, haddock is worth 4 to 5c.; cod, 3 to 3 1/2c.; herrings, 75c. to 80c. a hundred; tommycods, 90c. to \$1.00 per barrel.

FURS.—Fair lots of raw furs are coming in, for which the owners are holding out for highest prices. The London sales begin Monday next. We quote:—Beaver, \$4.00 to 4.50; bear, large, \$12 to 15.00; bear, medium, \$10 to 12.00; bear, small, cub, \$5.00 to 6.00; fisher, \$4.00 to 5.00; red fox, \$1 to 1.35; cross fox, \$2.50 to 4.00; lynx, \$2.50 to 3.50; marten, \$1.00; mink, \$1.00; winter muskrats, 15c.; raccoon, 75c.; skunk, black, \$1.00, 75c., 40c., 20c.; other, \$10.00 to 12.00. These prices are for prime skins.

GROCERIES.—There is still a very heavy movement in sugars, pretty well taxing the capacity of the refineries, and increased firmness is to be remarked; yellows are up half a cent, lowest figure in these at refinery being now 5 1/2c. per lb., ranging up to 6c.; granulated 7 1/2c. at factory, with some talk of another eighth being put on; granulated in New York is still quoted an eighth dearer than here. Molasses in fairly steady request at 38 to 39c.