

THE

Tanners & Curriers' Journal

AND

BOOT & SHOE TRADE REVIEW.

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In execution of a judgment rendered at Saint-Quentin, by the Tribunal Civil de première instance, on 14th December, 1883.

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THE ADDITIONS TO AND IMPROVEMENTS UPON THESE PATENTS,

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Reserve Price 90,000 frs.
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6. **Or, Mr. PASCAULT, Notary, Depository of Specifications of Conditions.**

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LONDON, MAY 1, 1884.

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THE MONTH.

THE IMPORTATION OF CATTLE.—THE GREAT STRIKE.—
 THE EXHIBITION.—THE MASTER BOOTMAKERS' INSTI-
 TUTION DINNER.

The event of the month, as affecting the leather trade, or more especially tanners, has been the virtual passing by the House of Commons of the measure restricting the Importation of Foreign Cattle. When Mr. Chaplin brought his motion, upon which the Bill is founded, before the House of Commons on the 10th of last July, it was carried by a majority of eight, and we then took steps to ascertain from several eminent members of the trade, gentlemen eminently qualified to form an opinion, as to whether the motion, should it take the form of a Bill and become law, would affect the tanning trade and, as we stated in this column at the time, the general consensus of that opinion was that it would not. During the past month, as we say, such a Bill has been practically passed, and that in the face of strong opinions expressed on both sides of the House, that the effect of placing further restrictions on the landing of cattle on our shores would be most disastrous. The arguments against the Bill have been that it will restrict the food supply, and now the prominence that has been given to the subject has seemingly brought it to the minds of the leather trade that the cattle landed in this country bring hides on their backs, and the stoppage of the 130,000 cattle or so which are annually landed at Deptford means that number less hides!

At the Master Bootmakers' dinner on the 23rd ult., the member for Southwark, Mr. Thorold Rogers, than whom by his knowledge of political economy no man is better qualified to give an opinion, spoke most seriously of the effects of the Bill upon his constituents, nine-tenths of whom are in the leather trade, should it be passed in its present form. It should be noted that at the same time another gentleman, Mr. Henry Labouchere, who represents what may be called a "leather" constituency, and who is closely allied in political

thought with Professor Rogers, stated that he thought the providing of the people with "wholesome" food was a more important matter than the quantity of it, a point we fancy upon which opinions will considerably differ. Anyway, it is clear that a restricted supply of cattle means a restricted supply of hides, and with all respect to those gentlemen whose opinions on the subject we quoted in our issue of August last, we certainly think that such restrictions must be detrimental to the tanning trade, and that it behoves that trade to make, if possible, their influence felt in Parliament when the Bill comes on for final decision.

We are pleased to be able to announce on another page that the great strike in the London shoe trade has, after a severe struggle on both sides, terminated in a compromise, the men returning to work on the understanding that the masters will discuss with them the terms of a uniform "statement." We trust the results of the conference will be mutually satisfactory, and prevent for ever the return of the events of the past four or five weeks.

Notwithstanding the obviously ill effects on the boot and shoe trade caused by the strike, manufacturers came well to the front at the International Exhibition opened at the Crystal Palace on the 23rd ult., and display an eminently creditable array of specimens of the craft. Exhibits of heavy leather are somewhat conspicuous by their absence, but still the samples of the tanning art that are shown could not, in point of quality, be surpassed. By an unfortunate arrangement in the matter of dates the dinner of the Master Bootmakers' Benevolent Institution, to which we make reference above, was fixed for the same evening as the opening of the Exhibition, which, combined with the strike, somewhat heavily handicapped the genial president of the institution, Major Bevington, in making the dinner a success. We are pleased to record, however, that except in point of numbers the event proved everything to be desired, and thanks, mainly to the efforts of the chairman, a very substantial sum was subscribed.