

# SCANT LEATHER SUPPLY Has Caused Sharp Advances in Shoe Prices in England.

## WORKING CLASS SUFFERS

**Manufacturers in Sore Straits—  
American Makers Also Feel Effects  
—Great Quantities Are Brought  
From This Country—Control Rapidly  
Passing Into German Hands.**

A crisis has arrived in the boot and shoe trade of England, the results of which are already apparent in this country and will be felt with increased severity in the future. In spite of her free trade policy, England is unable to get sufficient leather to meet the demands of her boot and shoe factories and the retail prices of shoes are being advanced in every direction. With a leather shortage abroad and our New England manufacturers of shoes clamoring for free hides in order to keep their factories going, the interesting possibility is suggested of a famine in the world's supply of leather.

The troubles in the boot and shoe trade of England are described by Consul Hamm, of Hull, who writes: "The great improvement in the general trade of the country which took place in 1904 had an effect upon the purchase of boots and shoes, but for some time the retailers and factories were able to cope with this increased demand by using up their reserves of stock. Shoe manufacturers had been keeping themselves going by cutting prices on a basis so tempting that the big multiple shop concerns had enough to go on with and could afford to be indifferent. As the year progressed, however, the leather market continued to advance and producers of boots and shoes found themselves unable to continue at the old rate and were forced to hold out for stiff advances. Having used up all available stock, they found themselves compelled to accept the demands of the shoe manufacturers for advances equal from 15 to 25 per cent. on all lines. It was at this stage that the retail section of the trade began to feel the effects of the severe advances. Until the present time, however, no attempt has been made by shoe retailers to educate conditions. The single shop man has awaited with great concern the action of his big competitors, the multiple shop owners, and pending some announcement from them not unnaturally feared to make a move in the direction of raising his quotations, in view of the possibility that his multiple competitors might announce their intention of continuing the old values.

"The big multiple shop firms have protested themselves to a large extent. One firm owning over four hundred shops throughout the country stated that they held largely increased stocks which had been laid in as a precaution against the present scarcity. Other firms had followed their example to some extent, but in spite of this prices will be raised generally for all classes of goods. They had also, in order to secure supplies of good quality, agreed to pay advances to the manufacturers, and prices will be raised in proportion to retail customers.

"It is a noteworthy fact that ninety per cent of the leather used in Leicester comes from America. The imports from Australia are nearly all bottom leather, and the French and German tanners have been completely put out of the field by the Americans. The leather dressers in America produce nearly all the glue kid and box calf now so extensively used for uppers and American red sides are also very heavily consumed. The great scarcity in skins in America thus practically dominates the English market.

"As far as Leicester is concerned, boot and shoe manufacturers never entered on a spring and summer trade with such gloomy prospects. For the last half of 1905 they could not get the orders; now that they have got the orders they cannot secure the material."

British manufacturers are now ready to admit that the control of the hide market, and with it the control of the boot and shoe trade, has passed from England into the hands of American and German traders. A London expert accounts for this change as follows:

"Not so many years ago continental and American leather alike had a deserved reputation for inferiority, for light skins as well as for the heavier varieties employed for footwear and for belting for machinery. The foreign material was all badly tanned, spongy in texture, and the hides always failed to stand the test of our damp climate. But since the period the foreign tanners and curriers have made great progress in their craft. The fact appears to be that the English merchants have practically lost the control of the hide and skins trade all out of their hands. Germany and America have usurped the foremost position in the market. It is stated that the hides of American live cattle sent to this country to be killed and eaten are by arrangement all sent back across the Atlantic, there to be tanned, and may be shipped to England as leather or in boots and shoes. All around the Atlantic coast are to be found the American and the German traders, industriously buying hides and skins, and almost anything that will sell for a profit."

## FATHER OF GERMAN STEEL.

**Manufacturer Died Poor, But He Brought  
His Purpose to His Son.**

Frederick Krupp, the founder of the Krupp steel industry, died with all the work he had outlined uncompleted, but he had satisfied that all he had wished to do and all he had planned would in the course of time be brought to fulfillment. The first Krupp possessed a little money, and in 1818 he built a tiny furnace at Essen, in Prussia, and started in to manufacture steel. His declared intention was to make the little Prussian town of Essen a greater steel center than Sheffield, England.

In four years he lost all his money and his home. He moved to a small cottage, borrowed a few thousand marks, and again began operations. In four years more his health was shattered, the borrowed money was gone, and he died in absolute poverty.

The heir to his debts and his desire to manufacture steel was Alfred Krupp, a boy fourteen years old. The only thing else the boy had was the



Possessor of Krupp Fortunes.  
dilated furnace around which his father worked until it killed him. There was, however, a command from his father that he was resolved to obey.

"You are to make Essen the most famous steel manufacturing place in the world," the dying Krupp had said. "Your mother will help you do it."

The boy and his mother then began to conduct the business. There were four workmen ready to assist them, and ready to trust them for the future payment of the wages that could not be paid during the first few months of operation. Every foot of the way had to be fought. Prussian-made steel was mistrusted, for at that time England was supreme in the art of steel working. But the elder Krupp had been on the right track, and would have won if his strength had held out. Alfred Krupp, though a boy, was not afraid to do a man's work in the foundry during the day, and at night he attended to the business end of affairs. His mother assisted him in everything, working in the office, collecting orders, performing the work of an overseer in the foundry and attending to the household. By the time young Krupp was twenty-one the business had begun to move, and he was employing a score of workmen.

When the business was on such a solid basis that the future was assured, Alfred Krupp was urged to marry. He steadfastly refused. His father had left to him the task of looking after his mother, as well as that of building up the business of steel-making and it was not until after Mrs. Krupp died in 1852 that her son took a wife.

Even when the business had begun to prosper, all was not easy for him. The Prussian Government placed obstacles in his way, and it was not until 1855 that he received a government order for cannon. The "Cannon King" had at last been recognized, and it was he who thereafter armed the Prussian soldiers, and he made the batteries that wrought such havoc in the French forces in the war of 1870.

When he died in 1887 he left a plant in which 20,000 men were employed. In Essen alone, at the present time, 50,000 men find work, and for the Krupp shipyards, where the German battleships are constructed, and in the subsidiary Krupp industries, 50,000 more are employed. And owing to the multiple system of voting prevalent in Germany, the head of the Krupp business—at present a woman—alone can select one member of the German Reichstag.

**Wireless Telegraph to Save Birds.**  
Sportmen in France are becoming furious advocates of wireless telegraphy. It appears, says a French paper, that after carefully watching for three years a kilometer's length of telegraph wire in a district not overpopulated with birds, an interested observer has proved that one and a half head of game, such as partridges, pheasants, quail, and so on, is impaled yearly on every wire of this length in France, which means a total all over the country of forty thousand annually. Many of the victims, especially of the migratory kind, lose their lives through nocturnal flights; so unless these can be induced to travel by day, wireless telegraphy seems the only French game law in future worth supporting. It would be interesting to find out if in England also bird intelligence is still of the pre-telegraphic period.

Every week our country spends \$23,000,000 for intoxicating drinks.

## SOLOMON IN NEW YORK

**His Mission to Stay the Flood  
of East Side Lawsuits.**

**INTERVIEWS, FIVE CENTS**

**A Court Established by the Educational Alliance in the Ghetto to Which Thousands Resort—Contrast Between Solomon's Ways and the Regular Judges.**

Not arrayed in all his glory, but whirling easily in a revolving chair, garbed in ordinary citizen's clothes, a stenographer at his side, Solomon sits in judgment. He sits in a small office partitioned off from a larger room, in which his trouble ridden visitors await the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. One at a time they are ushered into the room by the stenographer, stepped beyond her years in the sufferings of the East Side.

Solomon is Bernard Rabbino and his office is the Legal Aid Bureau. Solomon's visitors are what would be lawyers' clients or even prisoners at the bar if they did not come to him before resorting to the court. Solomon practically never takes their affairs to court. He is Judge, Jury, lawyer for the plaintiff, and lawyer for the defendant all in one. He settles disputes which might be taken to the Municipal or Magistrate courts, Special Sessions, and Supreme Court. No compulsion drives his visitors to him. They come voluntarily.

They pay five cents for as many consultations as Solomon may deem necessary. When the plaintiff appears his statement is taken down by the stenographer, and a letter is written to the defendant asking him to call at the Legal Aid Bureau. Sometimes Mr. Rabbino arranges to have plaintiff and defendant meet, sometimes he defers the second coming of the plaintiff until he has seen the defendant alone. Of course, the defendant does not always appear at the summons.

The Legal Aid Bureau is in the fourth year of its existence. Its work has grown astonishingly. In the first year 4,000 persons applied; in the second, 10,000, and this year the number may rise to 25,000.

The bureau employs two stenographers, an office boy and several voluntary assistants, who have the legal knowledge to help Mr. Rabbino. It is the outgrowth of genuine East Side needs; and its purpose is to end the enormous amount of petty litigation which is an actual menace to the East Side.

In Russia the oppressed Jew had not the privilege of righting his grievances in court. Here, the privilege granted, he avails himself of it to the full. Every little difficulty is presented for solution to the Magistrate, who has neither the time, nor, perhaps, the complete comprehension of peculiar race psychology needed to enter into the details of each petty misunderstanding. The Magistrate is there to apply the law to Irishman, Italian, Pole and Jew alike.

Moreover, a still deeper historic cause may account for the frequency with which the Jew resorts to the court. From time immemorial he has been accustomed to consult the rabbi on points of the law; and the law, be it remembered, prescribes for every possible act of daily life. If a bit of meat seemed not to be kosher the Jew carried it to the rabbi for inspection and abided by his judgment. Thus it is that Mr. Rabbino is Magistrate and rabbi in one.

His clients, almost without exception, trust to his decision as of old the pious Jew relied on the judgment of the rabbi. Their demeanor toward him is respectful, not cringing; they listen to his words as though spoken from the Torah.

To prevent petty litigation and keep the poor people from the courts is but one of the many advantages of the Legal Aid Bureau. It has carried on a campaign against abuses to which the ignorant immigrant is subjected on his arrival in this country. Ordinary wage cases form more than one-fourth of the total number handled in the bureau.

Next in number are the domestic difficulties cases. Here is where Solomon and the bureau show at their best. They have restored many a husband to his wife, many a child to its parents, prosecuted many a bigamist and by their fight against the "get" (rabbinical divorce) prevented many a crime against the marriage laws of this country.

When the immigrant casts loose from his moorings, his standards unconsciously change. He is free to cast off restraint. He has come to America, the land of freedom. Why shackle himself with the burdensome fetters of the old country?

He has come to America to make money and stretch his limbs a bit. Temptations assail him undreamed of in Russian Ghettos—theaters, music halls, cafes. He is weaned from the customs of his forefathers, and his new habits militate against the peace of family life. Wife desertion and bigamy are frequent.

**Around the Earth.**  
The time required for a journey round the earth by a man walking day and night, without resting, would be 428 days; an express train, 40 days; sound, at medium temperature, 32 1/2 hours; light, a little over one-tenth of a second, and electricity, passing through a copper wire, a little under one-tenth of a second.

## JOHN CHINAMAN'S HOUSE.

**Must be Built at a Special Time and in a Special Way.**

When a Chinaman has decided to build himself a house the first person he consults is not an architect, but a sort of wizard.

This individual examines the site and marks the exact spot for the front door. In China front doors must never face due south, though a partly southern aspect is highly desirable. Only houses of the Emperor and of high governing officials may front due south.

The wizard, or geomancer, next prescribes the exact size of the front door. An inch too much or too little might have disastrous consequences.

A screen of wood or of bricks must be erected about three yards in front of the door. This is to keep out an evil breath. Not human breath, nor malaria, nor bad odors, but some mysterious and fatal something which is only to be kept out by that screen.

The wizard next locates the spot for the kitchen fireplace. This is not to face south, because the south represents fire, and the kitchen fire and the south fire, working together, would be so powerful that the house would just naturally burn up.

Having settled the question of place, the wizard figures out the time when work may be begun with some degree of safety. For instance, if the earth god should be at home when the workmen begin digging they might stick a spade into his august cranium and then there would be the devil to pay. The family living in that house would die out.

The would-be builder must also find out what he is a year when he may with safety begin anything. A man must not be married, for instance, when his age is 24 or 26, or any even number.

Having picked out a favorable year, John must next consider his two lucky months, for there are only two out of the twelve which are favorable to his undertaking new things. Then his yellow road days or good ones must be determined. There are more black road days than yellow ones, so the auspicious moments for starting his house are finally reduced to a pretty limited number.

But that isn't all. The lucky days of the whole family must next be figured out, compared with John's own yellow road days and the result built down. The proper moment for putting the front door in place, for building the kitchen fireplace and so on are then decided on, and after waiting perhaps several months for the auspicious day to arrive, John can at last begin work.

## Seagulls as Pirates.

There may be an advantage in birds living in colonies, but I cannot see how any other birds would want to live near a colony of gulls. A gull in his own country will steal like a politician and murder like a pirate. They swam about us like vultures after a battle. The minute our approach drove a murre or cormorant from its nest, the saintly looking sealawg swooped down to eat the eggs and young. While the gulls are icebooters and robbers on the island, it is only when other birds are frightened from their nests that they have a chance to carry on their nefarious trade. Eternal vigilance is the price of the latter pay for their eggs and young. Except when they are frightened by the approach of some person, their possessions are never left for an instant without a guard. But the latest message to survive on the rocks, and these gulls are the most useful birds in the bays and rivers about the water fronts of our cities. They are valuable as scavengers and should be protected in every way. Three of them are equal to a buzzard. Ten of these gulls are equal to a pig.—The World Today

## Borra Loses \$10,000.

The American owners of the Guadalupe de los Reyes mines, situated in the State of Sinaloa, are mourning the loss of \$100,000 in gold and silver bullion, which was lost in a remarkable manner. The train of merchandise, loaded with bullion, were on their way to Mazatlan, at which point the precious cargoes were to be shipped to San Francisco by water.

The animals were going along a narrow trail bordering high above the Mazatlan River when the roadway, softened by the rains, suddenly caved into the river, the animals and bullion and a number of Mexican drivers disappearing in the current.

As soon as the news of the heavy loss reached the owners of the mines a large force of men was sent out to search for the treasure, a search that continued for several months, but not a single bar of the bullion has been discovered. It is supposed that the animals, with their freight, were swept down the river in the Pacific Ocean. The hunt for the bullion is still on, and a group of employees of the mines is patrolling the river day and night for a distance of more than one hundred miles to keep outsiders from searching and getting away with the treasure.—Mexican Herald.

## Atmospheric Effects on Lungs.

A physician writes of the effect of London's smoky atmosphere upon the human lungs: "The coal miner's lung is black, the lung of the Eskimo is a pearly white, the lung of the Londoner is rich gray. Natural selection evolves beings adapted to meet all sorts of natural circumstances—among which a carbon-laden atmosphere is not included. Such an atmosphere is a product of man's own stupidity and nature has had no chance of protecting him against its consequences."

## WILD ASS IN HIS DESERT HOME.

**High Spirited and Untamable, Difficult to Capture.**

The rare and beautiful leather made from the skin of the wild ass is never likely to become vulgar, since the supply is so small and the difficulties of tanning the animals so great. The wild ass is almost the antithesis of domestic species. High spirited and untamable, one is as remarkable for its speed as the other for its slowness.

The wild ass is of a creamy white, shading to fawn on the back, with a darker stripe running from wither to tail and a corresponding marking on the forehead. The eyes are as bright as a gazelle's and the legs shapely and as long as a deer's, while the head is finely moulded, the ears being shorter than those of the domestic donkey.

It inhabits a great salt marsh in the Indian province of Kathiawar, which stretches for miles in dry seasons a sheet of glaring sand, with here and there a scattered oasis of prickly thorn and bitter grasses. In this wilderness of salt and sand roams one of the most beautiful of animals not to be surpassed in speed by the fleetest horses.

It is almost impossible to get within rifle range of a wild ass. They are extraordinarily shy and make for the centre of the marsh at the approach of man. The only way to procure a specimen is in the spring, when the young are only a few months old. Then the dam separates from the herd and brings her foal to the edge of the salt desert adjoining more fertile land for the sake of food for her progeny and for shelter in time of danger. Then the Kathiawaris, mounted on their fleetest horses, lay their plans to trap these beautiful animals. Reys of horsemen are placed at convenient spots, and one or two of their number make a determined dash for the dam, who, to divert attention from her little one, runs off in an opposite direction. The rest of the party ride swiftly but cautiously to the spot where the chase began.

The young one, seeing the enemy in pursuit of its mother, emerges from the thicket where it has been hiding and is at once pursued. The hunters, joined and aided by their companions, succeed in turning and sometimes in running down the foal to a standstill. A cloth is then thrown over the head of the animal, which, timid and bewildered, allows itself to be captured, but not until it has exhausted many of its pursuers, for even at a tender age its fleetness is amazing.

Wild asses have been held in semi-captivity on the edge of this desert, but have never been known to allow anyone to mount them. One peculiarity about these animals is the rareness of males. There is never more than one to a herd, and it is rare to find a male among the young ones captured.

## Queer Fancies in Dress.

If the great costumers of Paris would reveal the size of the sums paid them for gowns we should come to realize how fads in dress run into enormous figures. Worth once confessed that a Peruvian heiress paid him \$24,000 for a single gown, but whether it was the fabric of which it was made or the exquisite work put upon it that made this price possible he refused to say. The coronation train of the Empress of Russia was a mass of silver embroidery, upon which eight girls were at work in relays night and day for six weeks, and the bill came to \$45,000.

If a gown is made of lace the price may be anything the purchaser wishes to pay. Probably the Worth gown already mentioned was made of this material, and this would account for its price. As an example of lace price it may be mentioned that the lace handkerchiefs made in St. Gall, Switzerland, are charged for at the rate of \$11 a piece, and these are, of course, modern make. Lace is like wine in that its value increases with age. The Queen Dowager of Italy is said to be the possessor of a lace handkerchief two hundred years old and valued at \$10,000.

"Point Tresse" lace, which was made of flax mixed with human hair, is also immensely valuable. A French collector owns a tiny square made from the gray hair of Margaret Countess of Lenox, the mother of the unhappy Lord Darnley. This is valued at \$6,000.

But it is in the garments made of unique materials that the faddist in dress has full sway. And the garments are often kept as wonderful specimens of what the art of man can accomplish. Of this type is the beetle wing dress, which made a fortune for its lucky owner, and is still worth a fortune today. Mrs. Sam Edwards, the wife of the clever actor, is the possessor of this wonderful garment, which was sent to her as a wedding present by an Indian Rajah in recognition of services "done him by her husband. Fifty thousand wing cases of an Indian beetle are sewn upon the material, and lend a green, shimmering radiance to its folds. There have been many attempts to duplicate it, but it has been found impossible owing to the rareness of the beetles and the difficulties of affixing the delicate wing cases to the material.

## Loved Her Not.

A little 6-year-old girl friend of mine came running to me and threw herself into my arms, sobbing as if her heart would break. "God doesn't love me any more," she wailed. "God doesn't love me." "God doesn't love you! Why dear, God loves every one," I assured her. "Oh, no, he doesn't love me. I know he doesn't. I tried him with a daisy."—Harper's Bazar.

## RECOGNITION OF SEA SERPENTS.

**Many Are Whales, Lines of Birds or Patches of Seaweed.**

The sea serpent, at least in many modified forms, is an accepted scientific fact. It is coming to be generally believed that the many and oft recurring stories of the sea serpent cannot all be visions, pictures of the fancy.

Many of the supposed sea serpents are whales, lines of birds or patches of seaweed, but it is the consensus of opinion among conservative naturalists that there is some gigantic animal in the deep sea yet unknown to science which occasionally comes to the surface, showing portions of its form to the amazement of the mariner who may chance to be in the vicinity. As to the nature of these unknown animals we have several suggestions. Several eel-like sharks have been taken, long serpentine-like creatures that when large must be the sea serpents of the deep sea, and have convinced observers that the tales which have aroused the credulity of people are not without foundation, and that this mysterious realm conceals strange and gigantic forms which only rarely rise to the surface.

The eel-like sharks found in some instances luminous, emitting a strange light over the entire surface—the light givers of the deep sea. Those animals of the deep sea, which live habitually in water just above the freezing point, in darkness that is profound, are among the most grotesque and singular of living beings.

The fishes so far as known are of small size, but this does not prove that there are no large animals in the deep sea. The method of taking deep sea forms precludes the capture of any except the small and very sluggish ones which lie in the deep ooze, but the time will come when a large dredge will be invented in which the monsters of the deep will be taken, as there are few naturalists who have given the subject any attention but believe there are in the greater depths some gigantic animal which is occasionally seen.

An interesting form of the sea serpent is the so-called ribbon fish, several specimens of which the writer has seen on the shores of Santa Catalina Island. This creature is one of the most beautiful of all fishes. It resembles a white or silver ribbon flashed with black. A long fin extends its entire length and over the head forms a number of plumes or pompons of a vivid red that in long specimens might easily be taken for a mane waving to and fro.

That this delicate ribbon fish attains a very large size is generally believed, as good sized specimens have been captured. Some years ago a fisherman was hauling a net on the coast of Scotland, when it was found that some heavy weight was holding the net back. Additional help was obtained, and a dozen men finally hauled in a monster fish, which was estimated to weigh eight hundred pounds. It was a gigantic ribbon fish, thirty feet or more in length, so long and heavy that it required the efforts of half a dozen men to carry it along the deck.

It was a veritable sea serpent, and extending from its head were tall deep red or scarlet plumes, like fins, which formed a sort of mane, frequently described as being seen on the typical sea serpent. If these fishes attain a length of thirty feet there is no reason why they may not exceed this, and it is very possible that some of the "sea serpents" which have been observed at various times were gigantic ribbon fishes, which came up from the deep sea and moved along with undulating motion at the surface. One of the most remarkable as well as gigantic animals of the deep sea is the giant squid—a favorite tidbit of the sperm whale.

The size to which these animals grow, their strength and their hideous appearance place them on a par with many of the weird and grotesque creatures of a past age. The squid undoubtedly attains a length of nearly, if not over, one hundred feet.

## Prince Whan's Spirit Parrot.

Min Yung Whan, the Korean prince who killed himself as a protest against the Japanese protectorate, lived in a magnificent palace of his own, which came down to him by hereditary right, and was surrounded with an army of retainers, fighting men, slaves and women. He had a table of beaten silver, crusted with the most precious sapphires, and his state dress was so heavy with gorgeous jewels that it took two men to lift it over his head. He carried with him on his travels a great white parrot, with rose-colored lining on his wings. The parrot's beak was perforated and on either side was set with priceless sapphires.

The ignorant natives believed that the great white parrot was Min Yung Whan's familiar spirit, and that when he died, Min Yung would die, too. When Min Yung Whan's body was found lying on the purple cushions of his couch, the great white parrot flew screaming out of the window and disappeared in the palm trees.

## Science Finds a New Pillow.

A new industry, the making of mattresses and pillows of sponge, has been started in Florida. The sponge material is cleaned of all foreign matter by a scrubbing process in large tanks of water, then run through wringers and the drying continued by subjecting it to a cold-air blast. It is then shredded by machinery, sterilized and rendered odorless by chemical treatment and subjected to cold-air drying, when it is ready for use.

Something is going to be wrecked when you try to make a cart keep pace with an automobile.