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Armstrong Clothing Comp'y

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HIGHER PRICES FOR LEATHER

Predictions Made by Shoe Men Because of Artificial Shortage

Chicago, Nov. 16.—Predictions of a serious shortage in shoes and increase in prices were made by Chicago shoe merchants today while discussing the action of representatives of the leather interests, who are trying to bring an influence to bear in Washington to have the duty on South American hides repealed.

The cause of the shortage is placed at the doors of the big packers, although it is conceded that leather

naturally is not so plentiful as it once was. One wholesale shoe dealer said that the duty placed on leather has netted packing interests from \$3,400 to \$4,000 daily since the tariff law went into effect.

Others said that it was no secret that since the safety valve of the immense hide imports of South America was closed the Armours and some other big packing men have been forcing tanners to sell their plants to the combine until it now controls more than three-fourths of the output of tanneries in the entire country.

An instance was cited of a large tanner in Pennsylvania who would not sell. The packers had so completely cornered the hides last July that he was forced to seek his hides from them. He wrote asking for prices for 1,500 hides, and was told that the houses were 500 carloads behind, and could not sell him any.

The situation of the leather and shoe market was outlined by three leading wholesale men, all of whom contended that the only possible relief at present is the removal of the tariff duty.

Will Discuss Railways

"Railway Dealings With the Public" will be the topic for discussion at the meeting of the Omaha Philosophical society to be held in Omaha on November 26.

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