

MERCERIZED COTTON.

WHAT IT IS, HOW IT IS MADE, WHAT IT DOES.

An Englishman Discovered the Process but Didn't Develop the Wrinkle That Made It Useful—Silk Produced Out of Cotton.

A boy sat before the fire and watched his mother's kettle boil. The lid quivered, rose a little, and the boy gave steam motor to the world. John Mercer, an English dyer, filtered caustic soda through a square of cotton cloth. Thence a new verb—to mercerize—in the language, a new fabric on the market, and a new business, engaging millions of capital, to cheer the unemployed.

The story of the boy, John Watt, is old, but Mercer's story is new and interesting. Mercerized cotton, either cotton yarn or cotton cloth, resembles silk absolutely. It has the luster of silk; it will take on, like silk, the richest and most brilliant dyes, and it has the unmistakable, soft-hair, nestling feel which nothing but silk ever had. Also cotton under this process, does not weaken, as might have been feared, but it acquires strength. A skein of cotton yarn in the natural state that will carry thirteen ounces without breaking, will carry, after mercerizing, nineteen ounces. And if you take three coats, and line the first with a plain cotton lining, the second with mercerized cotton and the third with silk, the cotton and the silk will wear out about together, but the mercerized lining will outlast them two or three times over. Mercerized cotton is used in linings, in underwear, in spindle banding, in stockings, in dress goods, in negligee shirts. There is a profit in mercerizing of from 100 to 200 per cent. In the last year or two many public dyers have added mercerizing machines to their plants, and a good number of mercerizing mills have been established.

Mercerizing began as far back as 1846 in the English town of Accrington, where John Mercer, manager for the firm of Hargreaves, filtered caustic soda through cotton cloth. Mercer, by accident, kept this cloth by him, happened to test its strength, happened to splash it with a dye. He found that it was about twice as strong and about twice as susceptible to dyed liquor as it had been before. He refused for his secret an offer of \$200,000 from a French firm. He had the idea of an immense syndicate, with himself at the head, rolling up millions of profits per annum.

Then it was found that cotton shrank in the mercerizing. A yard of cloth would save in dyestuffs and in raw stock, say five cents to its manufacturers, but it would come out of the mercerizing bath only three-quarters of a yard of cloth. Against the profit of five cents a loss through shrinkage of about ten cents would have to be set. That is why Mercer never formed his syndicate, why mercerizing was of no commercial importance until later.

For the remaining twenty years of his life the man toiled ineffectually on, and he died disheartened. But his name lives. That is because somewhere around 1890, Horace Lowe, in England, and Thomas and Provost, in Germany, began to try to see if it might not be possible to mercerize a cotton thread and to prevent the thread from shrinking in the process. They more than succeeded. They tied the ends of their cotton thread to sticks and then mercerized them. The sticks did not break, the threads did not even show signs of shrinkage. So easy was it to do what Mercer had been failing at for years and years.

But, more than this, they found that cotton mercerized under tension came out glossy, soft and rustling. To their amazement they found that they had transformed cotton into silk. The explanation of the luster that cotton, being mercerized, takes on, is simple. The soda and the tension together change the nature of the cotton fibre. The natural fibre is flat, shriveled; the mercerized fibre fills out, becomes round and smooth. And just as a flat, dried raisin has no luster, whereas the full, ripe grape catches and throws back the light, so there is no luster to the flat fibre of the natural cotton, but on the mercerized sort the light shines and is reflected just as on the grape.

Awful Railroad Fatalities.

More persons are killed and wounded each year in railway accidents in the United States than on either side in the terrific three-day battle of Gettysburg. Looked at in this light, the yearly casualties on the railroads are appalling. According to the latest report of the interstate-commerce commission, those killed in railway accidents in one year numbered 6,859, and the injured 40,882. Of the dead, 1,958 were employees of the railroads, and 21,761 of the injured. In coupling and uncoupling cars 279 employees were killed and 6,988 hurt. Two hundred and twenty-one passengers were killed and 2,945 hurt. It can easily be seen that the combined number of fatal accidents to employees and passengers does not make up the total for the year. There is still left, of persons other than these two classes, 4,680 dead. Of these, 4,063 are classed as trespassers—that is to say, they belong to the vast army of hoboes who steal rides on brake beams and trucks, or on the tops of freight cars.

Men and women agree oftener in love than in money matters.

BLUFF OF LAND.

That Has Been Sliding Toward the Missouri for Twenty Years.

Atchison (Kan.) Cor. Chicago Record: A mile south of this town the entire side of a bluff is sliding into the Missouri River. The avalanche is a quarter of a mile long, and at its base is the most expensive piece of railroad track on the Missouri Pacific system. There is probably not another quarter of a mile of track in the United States which it cost more to maintain. The odd thing about this monster landslide is that it has been slipping down for 20 years, and unless it takes an unexpected plunge will probably be slipping down for the next 20 years, and possibly 50 or 100. The avalanche is moving more or less at all times, but not enough to require watching by the Missouri Pacific except about two months in the spring. During the winter the moisture is held in the ground, and when the first thaws and the spring rains come the great mass of earth begins slipping. Sometimes it comes down a foot in 24 hours, and once in a while it slides six feet. The Missouri Pacific then puts a force of from 20 to 50 men at work pulling the track back to its proper place and keeping it level. A man is employed to watch the track at night and see that it does not get so far out of line as to topple a train over into the river. Orders are issued to engineers to go slow over the bad track, for the jar of a train might cause an unprecedented move. The current of the Missouri River is always very swift in the spring, and it wears away the earth as it slides in, and it appears a few miles below in the form of an island. The bluff is one of the highest of the very high bluffs along the Kansas side of the Missouri River from Kansas City to the Nebraska line. Lying under about 15 feet of earth there are one or more strata of rock aggregating from 20 to 40 feet in thickness. There seems to have been a perpendicular split down through this rock dividing the bluff almost half in two, and extending a quarter of a mile north and south. The side which lay on the river, or east side, slid because there was nothing to hold it, while the opposite, or west side, was up against another bluff. Thus the east side began gradually to sink into the river and has laid bare a wall 30 or more feet high in places. Here and there enormous boulders, which hung for a long time undecided with which side to identify themselves, finally lost their balance and crashed down, dashing themselves to pieces below. It costs the Missouri Pacific several thousand dollars and causes a great deal of anxiety every spring, but there is no way of avoiding it.

A DOCTOR PRAISES TEA.

Declares It Is Refreshing When Taken in the Evening.

"Nature is, after all, to be depended upon pretty thoroughly," says a physician who has made a study of the effects of tea on the system. "For example, it is the exceptional person who craves tea at breakfast, a time of the day at which it is least needed and is frequently most injurious. Tea with dinner, too, is not to be recommended, because even if perfectly made there is sure to be a little tannic acid in its composition, and the stomach, in attempting the digestion of a heavy meal, is much better without this principle. About 5 o'clock, however, the hour that fashion and custom agree in providing tea, is an hour that is also proper and favorable to the system. The supply of energy with which the day was begun is about exhausted, and a cup of well-made tea is often a refreshment and tonic that is both acceptable and desirable." In England it is not only in the households, both modest and elaborate, that 5 o'clock tea is served, but in business places as well, says the New York Post. In some, at least, of the newspaper and periodical offices, everybody, including the office boys, may have his cup of tea in the afternoon. One wonders how the experiment would succeed of a tea-room in lower New York for the revival of the weary crowd that every evening sets its face homeward, many of its members often unequal to the scrambling and jostling necessary to secure even standing room in our public conveyances.—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

Indians Gave Us the Blue Fox Fur.

Most of the furs worn by New York belles come from Unga Island, Alaska, the great center for sea otter and fox skins. The Indians there have caught seventeen sea otter this year—the unknown one a small quantity, yet enough to carry the entire village of 250 persons through the winter. For the skins they receive \$700 each. Blue fox is another popular fur sent south by our Alaskan brothers. The Shumagin group originally was planted with black fox by the Russian-American Fur company to augment the scant supply left. Later the United States leased the islands to different traders and the Aleut chiefs, who stocked the islands with blue foxes. The crossing of the two varieties has resulted in the fine fur so popular for the past two or three years.

And This Was a Man's Throw!

At the Meadville opera house the other night a spectator in the gallery became so enthusiastic over the dancing of a couple of soubrettes that he wildly drew a silver dollar from his pocket and attempted to throw it to the stage. In his excitement, however, his aim was poor, and the dollar, which was hurled through the air with terrific force, struck the head of a lady who occupied a seat in the balcony, cutting a gash which required treatment at a neighboring drug store.—Oil City Blizzard.

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

Begin with Small Farm—Now Does Extensive Mixed Farming.

Within three miles of the town, going eastward, is the farm of Mr. W. Creamer, one of the municipality's largest and most prosperous mixed farmers. Mr. Creamer came to this country in 1880 and settled on a portion of the land which comprises his present enormous farm of 1,280 acres. In common with many others of a similar period, he experienced all the hardships and difficulties common to the absence of railway and market facilities. In no wise daunted, by energy, industry and indomitable will he was able to surmount all obstacles and has achieved an unparalleled success, and is known throughout the district as one of its pre-eminent farmers. His operations extend over 1,280 acres, two sections (the thought alone of so much land makes the eastern farmer dizzy); 800 acres of this is broken and the remainder is excellent pasture land and wood. This harvest he took off a crop of 500 acres of wheat and 200 of other grains. Four hundred acres are plowed and ready for wheat next spring. Mr. Creamer is, as has been stated, a mixed farmer of no mean proportions, having at the present time forty horses, sixty head of cattle and fifty pigs. The most modern farm buildings are found on his premises, the main building being a barn fifty-five feet square on a stone foundation, containing stabling for sixteen horses and a large number of cattle. The loft is stored with twenty-nine loads of sheaf oats for feed, and tons of hay; there is also a cutting-box. Another building of large dimensions is the granary, in which, after teaming large quantities to market, he still has stored 3,000 bushels of wheat. A crushing machine is in the building. There are a number of lesser buildings containing chicken house, pig pens and cattle sheds. The farm residence is a handsome frame structure of ample proportions; in connection with it is a woodshed. The water supply is unexcelled; besides house supply there is a well in the stables and a never-failing spring situated in a bluff, which never freezes. Surrounded by a thick bluff of poplars, extending in a semi-circle to the west, north and east, the winter storms are broken and accumulation of snow unknown. Added to his farming operations, Mr. Creamer conducts a threshing outfit for the season. His success is only one instance of what can be accomplished in western Canada.—Baldur (Man.) Gazette, Nov. 16, 1899.

Patents.

List of Patents Issued Last Week to Northwestern Inventors.

Thomas Forstner, Sigel, Minn., wagon box; Arthur C. Deverell and J. J. Lake, St. Paul, Minn., walkover car seat; George H. Goodell, St. Paul, Minn., throttle valve; Albert F. Kresen and A. Leasman, Buffalo Lake, Minn., mechanical movement; Joseph Latourelle and E. A. Fischer, Sterling Center, Minn., music stand; Carl B. Olson, Canby, Minn., harness.

There is more catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally, and cures in a few days. It acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case that fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Flo's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for cough and cold.—Mrs. C. Beltz, 439 8th Ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, '95.

Almost as Good. "Do you believe you will succeed in having your man acquitted?" asked one lawyer.

"I haven't given much thought to that phase of the question," answered the other. "But I am absolutely confident that we can have the trial postponed often enough to prevent a conviction."—Washington Star.

Her Peculiar Way. "And you feel sure that my daughter looks with favor upon your suit?" inquired the aged parent.

"Well," replied the youth with frankness, "I don't want to be too sure about it. Of course, you are aware that your daughter squints."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MINES AND MINING—Invest in new discovery. Only hard coal mines west of Pennsylvania, anticipated profits 1,000 to 1. J. M. Bennett, County Surveyor, Valley City, N. D.

To know how to grow old is the masterwork of wisdom and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living.—Amiel.

If marriage is sometimes a failure it is probably because so many people marry without experience.

FIT'S Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE 64-page treatise and bottle. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The happening of the unexpected never worries people who are not prepared for anything in particular.

A girl is invariably in love when she refers to the twilight as the gloaming.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

If man hugged his delusions as long as woman does, he would never hug woman.

A clever girl is very seldom pretty. That is generally the reason why she is clever.

An old bachelor is the only one who never falls to get a lot of satisfaction out of marriage.

A girl almost always has objections to either a man's business position or his family connections—till he asks her.—New York Press.

A Disappointed Host. Sandy—"Am telte ye hev a new nebbur, Donald?"

Donald—"Aye." Sandy—"An' what like is he?" Donald—"Well, he's a curious liddle. A went to hev a bit talk w' him th' ither evening, an' he offered me a glass o' whisky, d'ye see? Weel, he was poorin' it out, an' I said to him 'Stop!'—an' he stopp'd! That's the soort o' mon he is."—Punch.

THE GRIP CURE THAT DOES CURE. Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets remove the cause that produces La Grippe. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

Merited Castigation. A certain Youth, full of the Zeal of Immaturity, carefully Instructed an Ancient Gentleman on the question of Future Punishment, explaining to him that No such Thing could Be, whereat the Aged Gentleman Arose and Kicked the Youth with Violence.

"Alas!" cried the Youth. "Such is the Result of Trying to Reform an Old Fogey!"

"Nay, Nay," replied the Elderly Gentleman. "I believe you Fully. I am kicking You for Not Putting me Onto This some Fifty Years Sooner."—Philadelphia Press.

\$18 PER WEEK. A salary of \$18 per week and expenses will be paid to a man with one or two horses to introduce our Fertility Compound and Lice Killer among Farmers. Address with stamp, Acme Mfg. Co., Des Moines, Iowa.

He Was Acquainted With Sarah. "I have got bad news for you," said the neighbor as he rode up to the fence. "SI Peavy has run away with your wife."

"I guess he hasn't," said the farmer, with conviction. "No man livin' could run away with Sal. Maybe, now, she's run off with SI."—Indianapolis Press.

Athletics and Intellect. "I accept one view in politics one day and the opposite view the next."

"Why do you do that, Cousin Amelia?"

"Oh, it keeps the mind young and elastic to change its convictions often."—Indianapolis Journal.

Neglect of the hair brings baldness. Use PARKER'S HAIR BALM and save your hair. HENDERSON'S, the best cure for corns. 15c.

A Practical Motive. Aunt Gertrude—"And what will you do when you are a man, Tommy?"

Tommy—"I'm goin' to grow a beard."

Aunt Gertrude—"Why?"

Tommy—"Because then I won't have nearly so much face to wash."—Collier's Weekly.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children, soothes the sore, reduces inflammation, always pain, cures whooping cough. 25c a bottle.

American in the London Hospital. In no other hospital in London is the religion of any sect especially considered; but here are men's and women's wards reserved for the Jews, where their religious observances are carefully respected and carried out. They have their own kitchen, where food is prepared according to their belief, and from which every Jew in the hospital is served. A rabbi conducts service every Saturday, and I saw on the frames of the doors the places where the commandments are fastened. There are accommodations for eighteen men and fourteen women, but the Jewish wards are not large enough to accommodate all the Jews who seek admittance. There is but one Jewish nurse in the institution, and she is not among her own people, but is in one of the children's wards. Ward after I passed through, everywhere despair and agony and helplessness catching after hope and comfort and rest; everywhere sunshine and flowers, yet the dark shadow of Azrael's wing was on the faces of scores of sunny-haired children and thin-wrinkled men and women.—The National Magazine.

Knew It Would Be All Right. Sir Richard Webster was once in a cab collision near the Law Courts, and on alighting he gave his cabman his card in case he should be wanted as a witness.

The case came on, and Sir Richard, on entering the court, was asked to take a seat near the bench.

The verdict was given in his cabman's favor, and when Sir Richard went out there stood the cabby waiting for him.

"Jump in, sir," he said; "I'll drive yer anywhere. I knowed it 'ud be all right when I saw yer up there squaring the beam."—(Spare Moments.)

O, How Happy I am to BE FREE from NEURALGIA

In what Mrs. Archie Young of 1817 Oaks Ave., West Superior, Wis., writes us on Jan. 22d, 1900. "I am so thankful to be able to say that your SWANSON'S '5 DROPS' is the best medicine I have ever used in my life. I sent for some last November and commenced using it right away and it helped me from the first dose. Oh, I cannot explain to you how I was suffering from neuralgia. It seemed that death was near each time. I thought no one could be worse. I was so very weak that I hardly expected to live to see my husband come back from his daily labor. But now I am free from pain, my cheeks are red, and I sleep well the whole night through. Many of my friends are so surprised to see me looking so well that they will send for some of your '5 DROPS'."

I have been afflicted with rheumatism for 2 years. I was in bed with it when I saw your advertisement in a paper, recommending SWANSON'S '5 DROPS' very highly. I thought I would try it. It has completely cured me. I like it so well that I will write you a letter for fear I will get into the same fix I was before I sent for '5 DROPS,' which writes Mr. Alexander Furell of Vanndale, Ark., Feb. 6th, 1900.

It is the most powerful specific known. Free from opiates and perfectly harmless. It gives almost instantaneous relief, and is a positive cure for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Headache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, La Grippe, Croup, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuritic Headaches, Earache, Toothache, Heart Weakness, Dropsy, Malaria, Creeping Numbness, etc., etc.

To enable sufferers to give '5 DROPS' at least a trial, we will send a 30c sample bottle, prepaid by mail for 10c. A 30c bottle will convince you. Also, large bottles (50c) \$1.00, 6 bottles for \$5.00. Sold by us and agents. AGENTS WANTED in all territories. Write us to-day.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160 to 164 Lake St., CHICAGO, ILL.

FREE! The following Catalogue will be sent to your address on receipt of 5 cents each for postage on each order. A—Fertilizers. B—Harnes and Bangs. C—Shovels and Hoes. D—Agricultural Implements. E—Baby Carriages. F—Drugs and Patent Medicines. G—Cans and Sporting Goods. H—Crops and Farming Goods. I—Dry Goods. J—Ready-made Clothing for men and boys. K—Books and Shoes. L—Ladies' Hats and Millinery. M—Candy and Confectionery. N—Toys and Games. O—Stationery and Printing. P—Miscellaneous Goods. Q—Hardware and Tools. R—Crockery and Glass. S—Furniture and Carpets. T—Lumber and Building Materials. U—Miscellaneous Goods. V—Miscellaneous Goods. W—Miscellaneous Goods. X—Miscellaneous Goods. Y—Miscellaneous Goods. Z—Miscellaneous Goods.

GET SHOT, GUNS AND AMMUNITION AT WHOLESALE PRICES TO EVERYBODY. Our large GUN and AMMUNITION CATALOGUE, containing 32 pages, 24 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches, with sent postage paid, on receipt of 1 cent to any address. IF WE CAN SAVE YOU BIG DOLLARS ON GUNS, WRITE AT ONCE.

FREE! The names and postoffice addresses of all who wish to buy goods at retail at a wholesale price. We will mail our 25-page Grocery Catalogue FREE, giving two weeks' trial to any person who reliable farmers and other consumers. Send at once. Our patrons should bear in mind that this is the largest mail order house in the Northwest and possesses the largest stock of goods in the country. You can always rely on getting your goods at wholesale prices, and prices are the lowest for the quality of goods is never questioned.

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900 DROPS
CASTORIA
A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of
INFANTS & CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.
Recipe of Old Dr. SAMUEL PITCHER
Pumpkin Seed—
Aloe—
Senna—
Cinnamon—
Licorice—
Ginger—
Rhubarb—
Sulphur—
Castor Oil—
A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.
Fac Simile Signature of
J. C. Watson
NEW YORK.
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of
J. C. Watson
In Use For Over Thirty Years
CASTORIA
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

ALABASTINE Is a durable and natural coating for walls and ceilings, made ready for use by mixing with cold water. It is a cement that goes through a process of setting, hardens with age, and can be coated and recoated without washing off its old coats before renewing. Alabastine is made in white and fourteen beautiful tints. It is put up in five-pound packages in dry form, with complete directions on every package. Should not be confused with other Alabastine brands. Alabastine customers should avoid getting cheap imitations under different names, by insisting on having the goods in packages properly labeled. They should reject all imitations. There is nothing "just as good."

ALABASTINE Prevents much sickness, particularly throat and lung difficulties, attributable to unsanitary coatings on walls. It has been recommended in a paper published by the Michigan State Board of Health on account of its sanitary features; its paper strength; its condensed kaolin. Alabastine can be used on either plastered walls, wood ceilings, brick or canvas, and any one can brush it on. A admittance of real changes from wall paper decorations, thus securing at reasonable expense the latest and best of them. Alabastine is manufactured by the
ALABASTINE COMPANY, of GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, from whom all special information can be obtained. Write for instructive and interesting booklet, mailed free to all applicants.

TOWER'S FISH BRAND SLICKER
WILL KEEP YOU DRY.
Don't be fooled with a machintosh or rubber coat. If you want a coat that will keep you dry in the hardest storm buy the Fish Brand Slicker. If not for sale in your town, write for catalogue to A. J. TOWER, Boston, Mass.

Cascarets
REGULATE THE LIVER
PLEASE TRY
10c. 50c.
Druggists.

O, How Happy I am to BE FREE from NEURALGIA
In what Mrs. Archie Young of 1817 Oaks Ave., West Superior, Wis., writes us on Jan. 22d, 1900. "I am so thankful to be able to say that your SWANSON'S '5 DROPS' is the best medicine I have ever used in my life. I sent for some last November and commenced using it right away and it helped me from the first dose. Oh, I cannot explain to you how I was suffering from neuralgia. It seemed that death was near each time. I thought no one could be worse. I was so very weak that I hardly expected to live to see my husband come back from his daily labor. But now I am free from pain, my cheeks are red, and I sleep well the whole night through. Many of my friends are so surprised to see me looking so well that they will send for some of your '5 DROPS'."

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A Grand Farming Country
One of the finest agricultural regions in the country is now being opened up by the building of the Bismarck, Washburn & Great Falls Railway.
The country referred to is the famous Missouri Valley in Burleigh and McLean Counties, North Dakota. The soil is a rich, dark loam, with clay subsoil; good water, a beautiful climate and an abundance of cheap coal. Thousands of settlers are preparing to move into the country this spring. You can get choice lands at \$4.00 to \$6.00 per acre on easy payments. If you are interested write for descriptive maps to
D. W. CASSEDAY,
302 Guaranty Loan Building,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

W. L. DOUGLAS
\$3 & 3.50 SHOES UNION MADE
Worth \$4 to \$6 compared with other makes.
Indorsed by over 1,000,000 wearers.
The genuine have W. L. Douglas name and price stamped on bottom. Take no substitute claimed to be as good. Your dealer should keep them—if not, we will send a pair on receipt of price and 25c. extra for carriage. State kind, size, and width, plain or cap toe. Cat. free. JOHN A. SALZER SHOE CO., Brockton, Mass.

EXCURSION RATES
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