

Plain Facts About the Shoe Leather Situation

An Open Statement to the Public by the Leading Retailers of Shoes in Bismarck

We are united in publishing this statement because we know that the public is fair minded and interested in knowing the facts about the shoe leather situation.

Do you know that every single item that enters into the making of a pair of shoes—leather, linings, nails, thread, etc.—has greatly increased in cost in the last six months? The causes for the advance are briefly as follows:

1st. The demand for leather is greater than the supply—on account of the decrease in the number of cattle in the United States, increased population, and the European war.

2nd. Cost of tanning materials has increased 100 per cent to 1000 per cent owing to blockade of certain ports.

3rd. Decreased supply of raw skins by curtailment of some of the supply centers due to the European war.

4th. The freight embargo of Eastern railroads, due to shortage of ships for carrying.

5th. Increased marine freight and insurance charges owing to the war.

6th. Export of huge quantities of sole leather to Europe.

7th. Increased leather consumption in America, due to the greater employment of labor all over the country and more money in circulation from increased business earnings.

These causes have forced shoe manufacturers to advance prices.

Comparative Wholesale Cost of Leather and Findings for Men's and Women's Shoes

Calf leather; men's weights, medium quality Russia for men's shoes to retail at about \$5.00 per pair:						
1915	June	Aug.	Oct.	Dec.	Feb.	March 1916
	\$.29	.31	.32	.34	.36	.39
Top grades 3c more than above figures.						
Black gun metal finish for men's \$5.00 shoes:						
1915	June	Aug.	Oct.	Dec.	Feb.	March 1916
	\$.29	.30	.31	.32	.35	.37
White calf:						
	Nov. 30, 1915					March, 1916
	\$.38					.45-50

Representative lines fashionable colored kid:				
July, 1915	December	Jan., 1916	February	March
\$.40	.45	.55	.60	
Glazed kid, average grade, used in men's shoes to retail at \$3.50 to \$4.00:				
July, 1915	Dec.	Jan., 1916	Feb.	March
\$.17	.18	.19	.20	.22
For men's shoes, retailing at \$4.50 to \$5.00:				
July, 1915	Dec.	Jan., 1916	Feb.	March
\$.22	.23	.23	.24	.25
On low-grade light weight, spready glazed kid entering into women's shoes retailing around \$2.50:				
July, 1915	Feb., 1916	March		
\$.13	.18	.20		

Full chrome side leather, B grade, men's weight:				
Oct. 1, 1915	Nov.	Dec.	Jan., 1916	March
\$.24	.26	.27	.28	.29
Chrome veals, tan shade, B grade, H-M weight:				
Oct., 1915	Jan., 1916	March		
\$.30	.34	.36		

A representative line of chrome patent side leather, B grade:		
Oct., 1915	Jan., 1916	March
\$.29	.30	.32

Shep leather:		
Black and colored grain, suitable for linings and toppings of men's and women's shoes retailing at \$2.50 to \$3.00		
July, 1915	Feb., 1916	March
\$.08¹/₂	.10	.11

TANNING AND COLORIG MATERIALS.—one pound each, total nine pounds, of the nine principal tanning and coloring materials used in the manufacture of leather cost just before the war 96 1-4c; today's price as delivered on contract, \$3.34. Current prices for spot goods would be much higher. Labor entering into the manufacture of leather has generally increased in cost or decreased in efficiency.

Any colors suitable for linings:		
July, 1915	Feb., 1916	March
\$.09¹/₂	.11	.11
White sumac grain:		
July, 1915	Feb., 1916	March
\$.08	.10	.11

Duck linings, suitable for men's shoes retailing at \$4.00 to \$5.00:				
Per yard:				
July, 1915	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.	Mar., 1916
\$.12¹/₂	.13	.13¹/₂	.14¹/₂	.16¹/₂
Twill, suitable for women's shoes, \$4.00 to \$4.50:				
July, 1915	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.	Mar., 1916
\$.12	.12¹/₂	.13	.16	.16

Laces for \$4.00 to \$5.00 men's shoes, per gross:				
July, 1915	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.	Mar., 1916
\$.40	.50	.75	1.00	1.25
Increase in shoe buttons 50 per cent, within three months.				
Increase in eyelets 30 per cent, within two months.				
Belting butts, first quality, light and medium weights:				
June, '15	July	Aug.	Sept.	Nov. Feb. '16 Mar.
\$.58	.60	.64	.69	.75 .78 .80

Union sole leather, standard tannages tannery run: Packer branded cow backs, medium and light:				
1915	1916			
Jan.	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. March
\$.42	.48	.51	.52	.53 .56

Packer steer backs, plump, middle and heavy:				
1915	1916			
Jan.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Jan. March
\$.40	.40	.46	.46	.50 .52

Women's union or oka cut soles, fine quality, 5 1-2 to 7 iron:				
July, 1915	October	December	Feb., 1916	March
\$.20	.25	.28	.30	.31

Men's union or oak cut soles, fine quality, 9 iron:				
July, 1915	October	December	Mar., 1916	
\$.40	.42	.44	.47	

White & Richmond

Bismarck's
Exclusive Shoe Store

MAIN STREET

Webb Bros.

Ladies' and Children's
Shoes

S.E. Bergeson & Son

Men's and Boys' Shoes

Open Wednesday and Saturday Evening
Closed All Day Sunday

Fourth Street, Bismarck

ROSEN'S

CLOTHING SHOP

Florsheim and O'Donnell Shoes

McKenzie Hotel Building

The Walk-Overs

The Utz & Dunn

The Grey Shoes

A. W. Lucas Co.

Ladies' and Children's Shoes

Shoe Department Next to Ready-to-Wear

BISMARCK