

The re-exports of tea from Great Britain also continue upon an encouraging scale. The quantity of tea (in lbs.) exported from Great Britain, from 1st June to 31st March, was:

	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.
Indian.....	3,221,183	2,996,897	2,984,825
Ceylon.....	6,150,797	4,520,819	3,729,476
China, etc.....	16,379,281	17,910,049	22,094,883

Of Indian tea, 25,726 packages were brought forward and met with very strong competition, April 24th, prices showing some advance on rates current last week. Good liquoring parcels especially attracted attention. Exports from Calcutta to the United Kingdom from the commencement of the season to the middle of April are cabled as 121,030,000 lbs., against 114,840,000 to the same date last year; 297 "last of the season" invoices have been sold, against 153 to same date last year.

Of Ceylon sorts, 22,079 packages were brought forward, against 24,088 previous week. A decidedly firm tone ruled throughout the auction, bidding being strong for all descriptions. Teas under 8d. were keenly competed for. A noticeable improvement has recently taken place in the quality arriving from a large number of estates.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS.

At the last gathering of the Institute of Accountants of Ontario, the principal feature of the meeting was the reading of a paper by Mr. O. F. Rice, manager of the Yonge street branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada, on the subject of the "Decline in the Value of Products, and its Effect upon the General Welfare of Canada." His paper was divided into two parts: (1) The cause of the decline; (2) Its effect upon Canada.

Taking as a starting-point the year 1889—according to the Canadian Finance Minister, the initial year of the latest wave of commercial depression, Mr. Rice shows how from that year most pronouncedly, as well as from a much earlier period in a less marked way, production of nearly all kinds of commodities had gone on increasing. "In the worst years, 1893 and 1894, there was a larger actual or potential supply of nearly everything, than there was ever known to be before. . . . There was abundance of all the instrumentalities of production." The world's wheat crop had, between 1889 and 1894, increased by 429 millions of bushels, namely, from 2,137 millions to 2,566 millions, while the price declined. The production of American hogs increased, as did the growth of beef cattle in various countries, but prices kept falling. Bigger packs of salmon, greater crops of sugar, and lower prices for these, as for tea, were events of the period. Coal, iron, cotton, wool, leather were produced in great plenty, and the year 1893 opened with full stocks of manufactured goods everywhere, textiles and metals, while there was a fall in prices co-extensive with this fullness of supply.

The disparity between production and consumption, usually called over-production, was the immediate cause of the general decline in prices, says Mr. Rice, but he adds that we "must go behind over-production to get at the next condition in the sequence of causes. We must remember that the depression began in agriculture . . . one condition appears to contain more of the root of the matter than all others, and that is the bringing of old and new areas under modern ideas and methods of cultivation," and he quotes Argentine, Chili, India and our own North-West. Next, as cheap food makes lower wages possible, it tends to lessen the cost of obtaining raw material for manufactured products; and in the second place, labor saving machinery on farms tends to drive man from the country to the city, and thus tend to reduce wages in industries. Invention, too, is a fertile source of economy, making industries prolific. "What contributed to the further decline in price of manufactured product is the augmented increase due to machinery, which being costly, holding a large amount of capital fixed, must be always at work to be paying a return. Further, the owner realizes that its day may be short if a genius stumbles upon something better. He therefore makes it go while it lasts." Aggravating circumstances were the combines, such as the sugar trust, the leather trust, the whiskey trust in the States. Likewise the demoralizing business of dealing in futures—selling and buying breadstuffs which did not exist, and then the silver crisis fell upon the United States, working tremendous havoc.

Next, as to the effect on Canada, the lecturer noted that the exports of the Dominion in 1892-93 were the greatest since Confederation, and that from 1888 to 1893 the imports increased steadily. "Until 1893-4 we had no decrease in our aggregate foreign trade to assign to falling prices or to any other cause." But last year there came a stop—our imports fell off \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000. Wheat began to fall in value before manufactures did, and this fell upon a body of farmers, many of whom had to pay interest on mortgages and debts incurred for new machinery when grain prices were higher. Their only way of relief was to produce more, and this they did; the prairie farmer raised more wheat, and began to think of other things than wheat; the eastern

farmer went more largely into hogs, beef, and dairy products. At the same time they showed growing unfriendliness to the tariff, so much so that the Government in 1894 lightened the duty on several articles farmers buy, notably implements. Then, too, the cheapening of production lowered prices of store goods for the farmer. "There can be no question," adds Mr. Rice, "that one of the most marked and beneficial influences of the low price of wheat in this country has been its stimulus to agriculture," and he remarks approvingly upon the experimental farms, travelling dairies, farmers' institutes, etc. But the farmer was not the only one on whom the low price of wheat forced a problem for solution. When the paying power of the farmer declined with the price of wheat, the manufacturer and the trader met the situation with more liberal credit. This brought about an increase of commercial failures. "Another cause was fruitful of the same bad results. This was the practice of underselling in trade. . . . The man who had got a bargain must prodigally give the whole benefit of it to his customers, though it might be as easy as it was rational for him to keep some substantial portion of it for himself."

In 1893 and 1894 a special wave of low prices passed over the manufactured articles of this country. It came from the United States. From the sympathy of trade, indeed, we suffered great dullness and depression, a reflection of their condition. But our caution stood us in good stead, for we had no such financial evils as they. "One most pronounced effect of the fall in prices which manifests itself in the trade of this country is the fall in circulation. It takes less money to transact business at low prices than at high ones," and of course the low price stimulates consumption. As confidence grows, Mr. Rice concludes, "though it does not follow that prices therefore will, the congestion of money must, prove to be just the thing this country will have use for to further the development of its own grand natural resources."

POINTERS FOR DRY GOODS DEALERS.

In the Ayrshire lace curtain trade business is quiet.

The Glasgow cotton yarn market has been rather improved in tone at last advices.

Velvet continues to be very much worn in Paris. Tam O'Shanter in light velvet are seen at the theatres.

In Manchester the market for cotton goods at the close of April, while not quite so slow, was still quiet, and prices unaltered.

In American markets stocks of fancy cassimeres and cheviots in medium and lower priced goods are particularly low. Serges will be looked for by nearly all dealers.

The tone of the Belfast linen trade does not improve, orders are less numerous, and as a rule of very small requirements. Trade with the States has slightly fallen off.

Business in the South of Scotland tweed districts is not satisfactory. But there is still a good demand for worsted goods and fine cheviots, and makers of these are well employed.

China silks are made into ravishing theatre cloaks. Some have cashmere bell sleeves, and skirts ornamented either with lovely embroidery, iridescent or jet passementerie, or outlined with feather trimming.

Novelties in bright crépons, canvas cloths, high-class jacquard garland figures, and silk warp shot glacés are still in great request in Bradford. Some of them are "proofed" to prevent their crinkling by being wetted.

In the important textile industries at Kirkcaldy a better demand has been experienced for linen goods. Spinners have satisfactory orders on hand. Floorcloths and linoleums are selling well, and the outlook is promising.

The characteristic of the season, so far as it has gone in the dress trade of Glasgow, is a decided trend towards more expensive goods. Perhaps in no special district is this more marked, than in the ship-building localities.

A call has been issued and sent to prominent men in the South, inviting all southern textile manufacturers to attend a meeting at Atlanta, Ga., on May 13, for the purpose of discussing matters of mutual interest, and, if thought advisable, to effect a permanent organization.

The sale of kid gloves, which in the States was so much affected during the recent warm weather, has at last improved. Many more buyers have been looking for fabric gloves, and probably this is due to a spirit of economy that has actuated certain classes of trade to purchase fabric gloves as a substitute for kid.

Capes are "hanging fire," says the London column of the *Drapeer's Record*, though many of this week's models are attractive. One is in shot blue accordion-pleated glace, lined with black silk, jetted net insertions being effectively employed as a trimming. *Peau de soie* is the favorite fabric, without a doubt, for dressy capes.