



THE MONTH'S TRADE.

AT the time of writing the dullness of the last two weeks in April and of the first week in May has been displaced, in the general dry goods business, by a normally active trade. More buyers have been in the market from the larger towns, while the city dealers have placed many orders for immediate delivery. The rural trade has not awakened to any great extent, but a continuation of the present weather for even a short time will work a favorable change.

Then there has been a steady movement in staples, such as cotton goods, and wash fabrics. Men's furnishings, such as summer underwear, collars, shirts, and neckwear, have been perhaps the most active branch of the trade. Small wares are extremely quiet. Laces continue to be shown in large range of patterns and qualities with a fair demand, and with the bright weather, parasols, which have been slow, have begun to move freely. The movement in dress goods has been very fair, though hardly up to expectations. Prints have been also in fitful demand. In dress goods the plain goods find the greatest favor. Some very fair orders have been executed in household linens, such as napkins, tablings, etc.

So far May has been much better than April with regard to payments. But even yet money is not forthcoming as promptly as it should be, especially from the country merchants. Wholesalers are hoping that another week will see an improvement in this matter.

Fall and winter goods are receiving very scant attention from the retailers.

Mr. P. H. Burton has just returned from his European trip. He looks well and hearty. Mr. Dingwell, buyer for the silk department of John Macdonald & Co., has also returned. So has Mr. J. Fraser Macdonald, who has been on a pleasure trip through Switzerland, England and Scotland.

Black ground delaines are very scarce in this market. Wholesalers are unable to have their orders filled by the English firms.

A feature of the month has been the firmness in prints. The advance reported from Manchester will have an effect on prices, and few cuts will be secured by the retailer. Repeats can only be obtained at advances, and this will have the effect of making good English prints scarce towards the close of the season.

NOTES.

A strange sight in the hosiery, underwear, and glove department of W. R. Brock & Co. is a solid pile eight feet square and twelve feet high of ladies' ribbed cotton vests. It is composed entirely of the goods themselves, no boxes being used, and is the result of an extraordinary purchase of a job line of goods, which probably comprises more dozens than any order ever placed in Canada. The firm seem to know when to make a venture in an extraordinary way, and their success with the line shows careful judgment. They are sending but sample dozens to all merchants who request them to do so.

In staples John Macdonald & Co. are cleaning out odd lines. Broken lots of prints are being offered at clearing prices, Ceylon

flannels are also being run off; as are also a few gingham. Awning cloths are shown in great variety and in numerous qualities.

Gordon, Mackay & Co. are showing something new in American white crochet quilts in the way of an extra heavy weight in floral designs 11-4 only.

Wyld, Grasett & Darling are opening up a magnificent range of cretons, art furniture styles, very effective goods. A line of bleachers' jobs in linens is to hand, and they are able to offer it at cut prices. A range of sizes in American quilts is shown, and are attractive goods. Box cloths for dress goods are in good demand, and they show a nice range.

John Macdonald & Co. are showing a full range of ladies' circulars and men's rubber coats. These goods are of the best quality and at proper prices. Ladies' Windsors are in good demand at present and they are showing good ranges. Blue grounds with white spot, cream grounds with a colored spot, plain creams and whites are the leading novelties.

W. R. Brock & Co. are showing a very large range of embroideries in cambric, nainsook, and Swiss effects in edgings, insertions, setts, flouncings, allover, etc. These goods were purchased early in the season before the heavy advances in the Swiss market some months ago.

Heliotrope and purple spot veilings have been stocked by Alexander & Anderson. These goods are strong in demand at present and bid fair to continue.

W. R. Brock & Co. are cleaning out a variety of odd lines of prints, and customers wanting goods to sell from 5 to 10 cents would do well to examine these lines, as the value of these drives is much higher than is regularly offered for these prices. Travelers cannot inform dealers of these bargains, and only visitors will secure them.

Wyld, Grasett & Darling are showing a large and extensive range of ladies' and children's lisle, taffeta and pure silk gloves and mitts. Silk lace mitts are shown in lines of special value. A line of these at \$2 is exceedingly meritorious. The enquiry for all classes of gloves is fairly brisk at present, and will continue until the end of June. This house endeavor to keep their stock well assorted all through the season.

Caldecott, Burton & Spence have a full stock of quilts in honey-comb, Marseilles and satins in all sizes and in various qualities.

Wool delaines in cream, navy, and black grounds are being shown by Gordon, Mackay & Co. in an extensive range of scarce designs.

Alexander & Anderson have received a large repeat of imported prints which are being sold at old prices. These orders had been placed before the recent advance in Great Britain and on the continent, and will be sold at old prices. Scarce shades in venetians have been filled up; these include fawns, browns, slates, navys, etc. All wool French delaines in black grounds are worthy of inspection on account of the latest patterns and designs being included. They have received shipments of their celebrated black wool cashmeres, making the range in this line of goods complete at present. Colored Henriettas, such as cardinal, garnet, navys, and other scarce goods have been repeated several times, and still are in good demand.

The Central Agency reports an advance in crochet cotton of 10 per cent., which may indicate a further advance in spool cotton in the near future.