

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WHOLESALE DRY GOODS SECTION OF THE
BOARD OF TRADE OF THE CITY OF TORONTO FOR 1894.

In presenting the Annual Report of the Wholesale Dry Goods Section of the Board of Trade, I regret that the year which has just closed has been an unsatisfactory one from a money-making point of view; but, while this is true, I may congratulate the members of the Section upon the fact that they have passed through a very trying time of general business depression with their ranks unbroken, and ready to take advantage of any revival in trade that may take place during the present year. It is the opinion of those well informed in trade matters that the stocks of goods at present held by the wholesale and retail dry goods merchants in Canada are much smaller than they were a year ago. This ought to have a beneficial effect on trade during 1895.

The trade returns for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1894, compared with 1893, show considerable falling off in the imports and exports, as will be seen from the following figures:

	1894.	1893.	Decrease.
Total Imports.....	\$123,474,940	\$129,074,268	\$5,599,328
“ Exports.....	117,529,949	118,564,352	1,034,403

For the six months from 30th June, 1894, to 1st Jan., 1895, there is also a decline in our imports and exports. The comparative figures are as follows:

	1895.	1894.	Decrease.
Imports	\$54,572,395	\$60,894,062	\$6,321,667
Exports	72,599,134	77,514,390	4,905,258

From the custom house returns we can get an idea of the falling off in the dry goods import trade of Toronto. In the manufactures of cotton, wool and silk, the amount imported for 1894 was \$750,899 less than what was imported during 1893, the falling of being—

In manufactures of Cotton.....	\$200,288
“ Wool	427,561
“ Silk	123,050

Total as above stated.....\$750,899

During 1893 there was a panic in the United States, and as a consequence, trade in that country during 1894 was in a very depressed state. This, of course, had a serious effect on the general business of Canada. Trade was also bad in Great Britain and the continent of Europe, as well as in India and Australia; in fact, it was bad all over the world, and the year 1894 has been remarkable for the low prices of staples, such as wheat, cotton, wool, iron and sugar, most of these having reached lower prices than ever before.