

DRY GOODS ITEMS FROM THE WEST.

THE AUGUST BARGAIN SALES IN WINNIPEG THIS SEASON.

WHOLESALE HOUSES BUSY—FAVORABLE TRADE REPORTS—BUYERS LEAVE FOR EUROPE—NOVELTIES IN MEN'S WEAR—NOTES OF THE TRADE.

From THE DRY GOODS REVIEW'S Special Correspondent.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 27, 1898.

IN the retail dry goods trade the past month has been devoted to remnant and end-of-the-summer sales. The ladies of Winnipeg have availed themselves freely of the bargains offered, and, in most cases, they really were bargains. The house-mothers of Winnipeg like a bargain (as what woman does not?), but the custom of spending days in bargain-hunting is unknown in Winnipeg, and long may it remain so. A good many of the retail merchants have left, or are leaving, for foreign markets. Mr. Archibald Wright, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Myron McBride are among the absentees. Miss Bain, head of one of our leading retail millinery establishments, is now in New York selecting fall stock.

The Imperial Dry Goods Co. have been experimenting in manufacturing their own ready-made blouses, skirts, wrappers, flannelette underwear, and the like. They report the results so encouraging that they are increasing their staff, and will shortly put in an electric motor to operate the machines. They claim that this branch does not interfere with their regular dressmaking department.

By next month, Robinson & Co. will have their new millinery and mantle showrooms open to the public. They bid fair to be one of the finest rooms for the purpose west of Toronto.

This is always an extremely busy time in the wholesale dry goods trade, shipping out orders booked in June, July and August. In fact, so pressed with business are they that correspondents have to content themselves with scant attention in these days. At Stobart, Sons & Co.'s, everybody seemed on the jump, and each department piled high with goods. This firm does a very large share of the business in grain bags, and, as the harvest is earlier than last year, these are moving freely, being forwarded chiefly in carload lots direct from the manufacturer. Mr. Whener, chief buyer for the house, left on August 9 for Continental markets, in order to select the importations for next spring in good season. He will be absent about four months.

In ready-made clothing for men, this is a quiet month, as country merchants usually wait until they can form a fair idea of the result of the harvest before loading heavily with goods of this class. The firm report a highly satisfactory summer trade.

Mr. Slater, western representative of The

Robinson-Little Co., of London, has just returned from a trip through the Province and Territories, and reports a first-class trade.

R. J. Whitla & Co. I found simply immersed in business. On the first floor, devoted to staples, it looked as if there were goods enough to supply the entire country and yet the news is more arriving every day. However, they are being shipped out almost as fast as they come in. The dress-goods floor was not opened to inspection as they were busy unpacking a large consignment of Continental dress stuffs, but, on the third floor, Mr. Campbell, the head buyer, kindly devoted half an hour to your correspondent. First we inspected the new furnishings for men, this department having the full stock of new goods in place. There is a most bewildering array of decoration for the neck masculine, Irish linen collars in the latest English shapes, (this is not an Irish bull) such as the York, Salisbury, Rosebery, Listernon, Richmond, Regent Street, Westminster, Zola, and Dublin. In Canadian-made collars, the Strand, Clyde, Ascot, Windsor, Hypatia and Henley are first favorites. A fine line of dress shirts with long and short bosoms have the advantage of opening both back and front. The ties and scarfs are, many of them, very pretty, particularly the Derby and New Osborne shapes in light brocades and rich Roman stripes. The Comet bow is another natty tie, while Emperor, Empire Champion, Oban, To-day, Laurier and Klondyke are also fashionable neckwear.

A novelty likely to be popular with the men of the west is the black cashmere half-hose with soles fleeced on the inside. Looking at all the contrivances for the comfort and convenient clothing for the men it is marvellous how anyone dares to say it is the business of women to marry and sew on their husbands' buttons and mend their socks. What man wants buttons sewed on when he can have patent adjustable ones? The studs, cuff links, cuff holders, tie holders and the like, are legion.

This firm are making a great speciality of women's flannelette garments, wrappers, nightdresses, chemises, knickers and skirts, also blouses in flannelette and fancy woollens, with laundried collar and cuffs.

A most comfortable garment for fall is the little Empire coat, in sizes for young children and misses. These garments have

furred capes and come in green, brown, crimson, bluette and fawn.

Mackie Bros. expect to be in their new store, in the Trust and Loan block, in time for later fall trade. The premises are well lighted and conveniently arranged.

Miss Maycock, fancy goods and children's wear, has moved to 364 Main street, the premises recently occupied by Brown the hatter. All her stock is new since the McIntyre fire, and a novelty is the souvenir china, showing views of historic points in Winnipeg. E.C.H.

SALE OF MILLINERY STOCK.

The wholesale millinery stock of the firm of Reid, Taylor & Bayne, now in liquidation, was sold by auction, August 25, at 58c. on the dollar. The purchaser was Mr. Hugo Block, who was a partner of Reid, Taylor & Bayne, and who is now a member of the firm of Charles Reid & Co., the stock being purchased for this latter firm. There was considerable interest taken in the sale, and a number of wholesale millinery and dry goods merchants, besides all the solicitors for the different partners in the firm of Reid, Taylor & Bayne, were present. The stock was invoiced at \$77,000. No one was permitted to bid who had not put up an accepted cheque for \$5,000, and the terms of the sale were one-quarter cash, balance in two, four and six months. Bidding was started by Mr. S. F. McKinnon, who offered 40c. Mr. Nicholas Garland went 5c. more, to 45c. Mr. Hugo Block bid 46c., and then the bidding was confined to Mr. Block and Mr. Garland. The last bid made by the latter was 57½c., and when Mr. Block bid 58c. Mr. Garland dropped out, and the stock was sold to Mr. Block.

A CHINESE TRADER'S EXCUSE.

A Chinese trader at Wellington, Australia, known as William Joe Gett, formerly a Chinese interpreter, has just filed his schedule. Here is an extract from his "statement of the causes of bankruptcy," which, written in red ink, covered four pages of foolscap. After detailing his trading experiences the Celestial writes: "I see my troubles endless to come. I can't get my money to pay. I am helpless. During last three years over thirty six creditors support my business. During last two months not a one let me have a penny on tick. Fish never can live in a dry pond without water. Engine can't move along without well supply of coal. Boy can't fly his kite without tail on it. Housekeeper pour out all tea to the cup no refilled water, how she give you more tea you require? All empty out just the way like my business."