

middling uplands, The total sales for forward delivery for the week are 290,100 bales. For immediate delivery the total sales foot up this week 4,651 bales, including 2,050 for export, 2,601 for consumption, none for speculation.

DRESS GOODS.

If a shopkeeper does not nowadays choose his stock of dress fabrics of tasteful color and pattern, it is largely the fault of his own taste and judgment. The proportion of ugly goods is smaller in recent seasons than it used to be, glaring colors, "red-hot" patterns, are much more rare. This departure of loud colors from fashionable fabrics is one of the advantages gained through the caprices of style during the past year. A more delicate color-tone is to be observed in feminine costumes, and instead of being inflamed or dazzled, the eye is now charmed. Ladies no longer seem disposed to "paint the town red," cardinals magentas, and such like having given place to neutral tints, to salmon, to cream, and to white, with here and there some blue and a touch of rich brown, or that peculiar grade of color that comes with looking at the fire through a generous glass of ale of a winter night.

In silks, the variety of texture is great, *Rhadames* is seen in the pervading colors, and so is *merveilleux*. *Snurrah*, which resembles the latter, is in vogue, *Duchesse*, too, is fashionable. There are numerous cheap silks of good color and pattern, silks by courtesy, some of them, but still materials which, if skilfully put together will produce a very rich and *distingue* effect. There is quite a tendency towards stripes this year in dress goods. Ottoman cords are frequently seen, especially in mantlings. A style of costume which will be frequently seen is an overdress in broad stripes over plain goods of the *biege* or *foule* description. *Foules* are shown in plain colors and also in self-stripes. The "Salvation Army" excitement has spoiled the sale of dark blue goods, but bronzes are *en regle*. So also are light browns, coffee brown, tan, and a great variety of tints. Costume cloth suits of dark coloured materials, tailor-made, promise to be a marked feature. It is worthy of remark that black cashmeres, which were quite the rage two years ago are largely replaced by Ottomans, chevrons and foules in black.

If there is a department of female clothing in which loudness is this year permitted it is probably that of bathing suits. Accordingly, says the *N. Y. Tribune*, "there is abroad a taste for red—not the pigeon-blood or brich, but the pure Egyptian tint. One might imagine a flock of flamingoes were disporting in the surf." Of the several new fabrics twilled flannel retains its old place the most agreeable and comfortable. There are other colors introduced this season; shades of brown, gray, sage, olive, green and dark buff, but the familiar dark blue and white flannels are in the majority, and follow the general fashion of trimming wool dresses with a number of rows of white braid. Another late style is the Union garment sometimes made of jersey cloth, and over this the skirt is fastened on the waist band, the waist is plaited like a dress waist with a yoke attached, but usually the loose blouse waist is preferred. These are generally made simply of dark blue serge or flannel, trimmed with many rows of black braid as the least conspicuous. There are bathing suits eagerly sought for of red and white, blue and white, green and white striped serges, others of white with blue braid elaborately laid on in designs and embroidered on the collars with

blue anchors; again these gay styles of stripes are combined with the plain as in a dress. Stockings match the color of the fabric.

HIDES, LEATHER, AND SHOES.

The situation in hides and leather presents few novel features if any. Prices of hides are steady both in the western and eastern American markets. In Boston, the factories are all busy, the feeling is that any improved enquiry for dry hides would force up prices. Hemlock sole is in good demand in New York, the low prices ruling having tempted buyers somewhat, and the excess, so long accumulating, had at the close of July begun to gradually move. In Chicago, last week, there was a slight improvement in prices of leather, but opinions were by no means unanimous at that point as to whether any great advance would take place later on, the boot and shoe manufacturers adhering to very conservative plans of management. At St. Louis, on the 30th ult. there was absolutely no movement in green hides, the cattle-men, the tanners and the shoe men being alike driven into a lethargy by the heat. Philadelphia quotations unchanged as to leather and hides: the shoe manufacturers busy.

The prospect for fall trade in these lines, so far as we can glean it from the trade journals, is moderately encouraging. It is true that the shipments of boots and shoes from Boston for the first half of 1885 were smaller than for the same period of 1884 or 1883, but it is claimed by the *Shoe and Leather Review* that this is partly if not entirely offset by increased production in Chicago and other western cities. "The effects of over production," that journal thinks, "have now nearly been removed in natural course by the necessary consumption;" and in addition to the bountiful harvest, there are other indications that the coming fall "will see a resumption of operations in many manufacturing establishments which have been altogether idle, and an extension in those which have been running either on short time or with a reduced force."

Eastern factories are running busily and the trade at Boston and Lynn is healthy, without the appearance of a boom. Stocks of shoes in the hands of retailers being considered light. Confidence is felt in a good fall trade. The western makers talk pretty sensibly as a rule, and are not likely to indulge in over production. One says, "prices are a little low, but the prospect is fair for a good trade—but there are too many competitors, and we have not arrived at the point where the demand equals the supply." Another declares that "we of the west make a good quality, using solid, honest leather. We have not gone into making cheap, shoddy goods like many of those produced in the east. The point in the past was to see how cheap goods could be sold. Many merchants and makers have dropped out, and it seems to me even now a question of the survival of the fittest—or smartest." Noting an improved demand for neater and more expensive goods, a Chicago maker says: "It is because the farmers are in better circumstances than they were a few years ago, and take the comfort of better shoes and boots." It is noticed by another manufacturer that "we are selling more shoes than boots, both to the agricultural and to other classes. Farmers rarely wear boots now except during deep snow, and the women don't buy the heavy shoes they formerly wore."

Referring to the expensive system of selling through "drummers" and the progress that has been made by trade journals, the *Review*

says: "Probably there is no other industry of anything like the extent of that represented by the shoe and leather trades, where so little general advertising is done. The trade is so old, having comparatively so few important innovations in any recent period, that a large portion of its members go on in a sober, conservative way, very different from the keen strife and competition seen in so many other lines of business. This general character of the trade has been somewhat changing of late, but it has been rather on account of the vigor and enterprise with which the manufacture and trade have been pushed here in the west."

THE RUBBER INDUSTRY.

The rubber industry has not enjoyed any exemption from the common fate which has befallen all forms of enterprise of late. It has felt the effects of diminished consumption, low prices and the discontent of workmen, in about the same degree, probably, that other branches of manufacture have. The business, a year and a half ago, says the *Shoe and Leather Reporter*, "was weighted down by a gigantic combination, formed for the purpose of inflating the cost of raw material. This conspiracy raised the prices of crude rubber to almost double its normal value. As soon as it was brought to an end by the failure of the principal actors in it prices receded below their natural level, and there was some reaction. There was a decline of 45 per cent., but values are a sixth higher to-day than they were twelve months ago. These rates, however, are not sustained by any artificial methods. They are determined by the relations of supply and demand." The corporations engaged in making rubber goods are comparatively few in number, and the officers of them could easily confer and adopt measures to regulate production if an emergency arose which rendered concert of action imperative. Evidently, matters have not gone so badly with them as to compel a resort to such an expedient. They are pursuing the more rational policy of trying to economize by two methods—first, by elevating the quality of their goods: second, by diminishing the cost of producing them. "Of the success of the former effort, no one who has followed the movements of the rubber industry in the past can entertain the smallest doubt. The manufacturers are surprising the public every season by the attractiveness of style and excellence of workmanship of the wares they turn out. They are continually beating their own record."

THE RIO COFFEE CROP.

Almost two-thirds of the whole export of coffee from Rio de Janeiro is taken by the United States, ten-twelfths of the remainder going to Europe. In the crop year 1884-5, for example, out of a total shipment of 4,124,000 bags, the States took 2,681,000, Europe 1,287,000, "Elsewhere" 156,000. That was a good year, the yield being a million and a quarter more than expected—or at least than was estimated by the speculators. A good average crop is indicated this year, and the receipts of this year's crop at Rio have been already very large. There are signs that New York's share of the coffee import will not be relatively so large hereafter. Baltimore has gone up in two years from an importer of 384,000 bags to 514,000 last year and New Orleans, which bought 250,000 three years ago buys now 277,000. Boston is out of the list altogether these two years past, so is San Francisco, while New York declined from 1,806,000 in 1882-3 to