



Since our last issue, the weather has not been favorable to a big demand for spring suits and overcoats. Retailers, however, report that sales have been as good as last year and prospects are bright. One striking fact is the general superior quality of the goods, both in style and workmanship, to be seen in the leading store-. There is no doubt that in the cities and larger towns the demand for ready-made clothing is gradually assuming larger proportions, custom made clothing being reserved for the wealthier classes. But it is astonishing how cheaply a suit made to order can now be purchased from some merchant tailors. A fashionably made pair of pants of good material can be got as low as \$3.50 and \$4, with prices for suits to correspond.

Manufacturers and wholesalers have been busy during the past month with sorting orders for spring and summer, and are now preparing samples for the fall trade. They report that business has been very good and payments on the whole satisfactory. The trade in the Maritime provinces, particularly, for spring, has been splendid.

CLOTHING IN MONTREAL.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

Clothing is the most hopeful feature of the dry goods trade and allied industries. The travellers are all in and the month of March was spent in filling orders and in preparing samples for the fall trade. The wholesalers have ground for satisfaction in the improvement of payments and in an increased number of repeat and letter orders. The winter of 1890 was a slow year for overcoats and retailers bought sparingly, but last winter there was a general activity and the small stocks remaining, really the surplus from the year before, were well cleared out, so that now the shelves of country stores are emptied. Travellers will shortly be out for the fall trip, and they look with confidence to increased sales. The orders for the summer have been extensive and as clothiers are adapting their goods to localities and weather they are obtaining a large trade that formerly went to custom tailors.

REMOVAL.

W. R. Johnston & Co., wholesale clothiers, Toronto, will, about May 1st, vacate their present premises and take up their quarters in the large and commodious building on the corner of Bay and Front streets, recently occupied by Boyd Bros.

THE ROCHESTER LOCK-OUT.

A strike, or rather lock-out, which threatened to throw about 20,000 people in the city of Rochester, N.Y., out of employment, has ended satisfactorily to all concerned. It appears that on March 7th the cutters, about 350 in number, employed by the firms comprising the Clothiers' Exchange, received the following notification.—"We have been so hampered and interfered with in our business by intermeddlers that we feel compelled to stop work from now on until we can adopt means to conduct our affairs in a manner satisfactory to ourselves." This was the culmination of a long struggle between the manufacturers and the Cutters' Union. Two days after the lock out the manufacturers issued a statement to the public in which they said. "The manufacturers, under the edicts and oppression of their rules, have not been at liberty to engage the services of

persons necessary for the proper conduct of their business, nor to dispense with the services of such persons whose presence has been unnecessary or injurious, and they have been deprived of the co-operation and assistance of their employes, which have been indispensable to the proper conduct and growth of their respective establishments. These labor agitators have endeavored to direct trade from our market by threats, and the growth of the clothing business in this city has been greatly retarded and its prosperity checked by improper interferences and practices, aside from the tribute in money which has been exacted, until now the conditions are unbearable and inconsistent with our vested rights, and we have determined to throw off this tyranny and provide safeguards for future security." In reply the Cutters' Union issued a statement in which they claimed that the sole object of the manufacturers was to flood their shops with apprentices instead of employing journeymen cutters. On March 17th the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration held an investigation into the causes which led to the lock-out, during which the manufacturers produced evidence showing clearly that the chairman of the National Garment Workers and Trimmers Assembly levied boycotts on three firms, and then extorted from them sums of \$1,200, \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively to lift the boycott. Seven prominent members of the National Assembly, including the chairman, were afterwards arrested for attempting to prevent and hinder the firms in question from carrying on their business and with a further charge against the chairman of extorting money from them. On March 23rd the Clothiers' Exchange publicly notified their late employes as follows:—

"It is unnecessary for us to rehearse to you the unpleasant events which led to the closing of our respective cutting-rooms on the 7th of March. We are now ready to resume work, and any of you who wish to re-engage your services are requested to make formal application to your late employers on or before the 28th day of March, 1891, as after that date we shall fill any and all vacancies with other applicants. We shall at all times insist upon our unrestricted right to hire and discharge employes. The hours of labor will be the same as before March 7th, and those whose applications are favorably considered will receive the same wages as were paid them on the last mentioned date. We will, however, employ no person who is a member of an assembly of the Knights of Labor."

On March 27th the clothing workers met, and passed resolutions advising the men to apply for employment in a body, for the following reasons:

"First, that any employe who is refused employment has reason for an action against the employer who so refused, which will be pushed to the strict letter of the law with the understanding that we know a clear case of conspiracy. Second The reason we take this unprecedented move is because we desire to give the consumers of Rochester clothing the opportunity to know the men who conspired against American workingmen and women in the city of Rochester, and as it will take several weeks to notify the consumers of Rochester clothing, it would be unprofitable and inadvisable to remain out of work during that time."

On the 30th the cutters, formerly employed by one of the leading firms, met and voluntarily signed a declaration condemning the resolutions of the 27th, severing their connection with the Knights