

a loss to know the actual position of the market. The prospects for the beet crop are bright, but the markets now hinge upon weather conditions. Favorable weather depresses values, while reports of unfavorable weather give encouragement to the bulls. The visible stocks seem large, but in the invisible stocks, which were recently reported excessive, considerable reduction has been made of late. Cuba is no factor in the situation, or, at least, the curtailment of production in that island, as a consequence of political disturbances, has been discounted months ago. The United States Sugar Trust has reduced prices twice within ten days, but it would be misleading to count this as an important indication of Canadian sugar market affairs. The manipulation of the Trust is confined to American markets, and has no bearing here. For some time the Trust is said to have been working upon an excessive margin, which has been estimated by some at 1½ cents per pound. Within the fortnight past, prices have held very steady in local markets, and with the exception of a decline of one-sixteenth cent in the price of granulated, no fluctuations have taken place.

#### TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

The statistics of September foreign trade, inward and outward, at the port of Toronto, have been received from the secretary of the Board of Trade, as compared with the corresponding month, 1895. The imports during the month do not compare very favorably with last year, as will be seen from the following table:

IMPORTS, DUTIABLE GOODS.	Sept., 1896.	Sept., 1895.
Cotton, manufactures.....	\$ 90,333	\$ 91,923
Fancy goods, laces, etc.....	47,239	62,625
Hats and bonnets.....	26,285	35,067
Silk, and manufactures of.....	49,737	94,374
Woolen manufactures and others, n.e.s.	240,649	289,982
<b>Total dry goods.....</b>	<b>\$454,243</b>	<b>\$573,970</b>
METAL WARES	Sept., 1896.	Sept., 1895.
Brass and manufactures of.....	\$ 7,576	\$ 8,283
Copper.....	329	365
Iron and steel.....	91,842	99,129
Lead.....	989	5,136
Metal comp.....	6,901	10,007
<b>Total metals.....</b>	<b>\$107,647</b>	<b>\$122,920</b>
Books and pamphlets.....	\$45,257	\$38,179
Bicycles.....	9,607	2,825
Coal, bituminous.....	25,054	22,825
" anthracite (free).....		
Drugs and medicines.....	17,849	18,359
Earthen, stone and chinaware.....	18,161	23,605
Fruits, all kinds, and nuts.....	9,689	28,916
Glass and glassware.....	23,756	20,326
Jewellery and watches.....	25,883	38,699
Leather, all kinds.....	19,253	33,185
Musical instruments.....	9,983	726
Oils, paints, colors.....	18,296	14,579
Paper and manufactures of.....	29,377	31,427
Spirits and wines.....	7,250	7,622
Tobacco.....	2,118	4,494
Wood and manufactures of.....	13,196	13,240

There has been, as will be seen from the table, a marked falling off in the importations of dry goods. In woolen goods the imports total a value of almost \$50,000 less than during the same month a year ago. The deficiency may be the result of falling prices, for a depreciation in values has taken place during the year. The decrease in the importations of silks and manufactures amounts to almost 50 per cent.

The returns as to exports indicate an increased trade, although during both months the aggregate value of the outgoing products is scarcely satisfactory.

#### EXPORT PRODUCE OF CANADA.

Produce of	Sept., 1896.	Sept., 1895.
The Mine.....	\$ 51	\$ 259
" Fisheries.....	90	
" Forest.....	46,389	31,602
" Field.....	65,505	27,660
Animals, etc.....	185,487	134,428
Manufactures.....	85,693	80,632
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$383,215</b>	<b>\$254,581</b>

#### REDUCED HARDWARE PRICES.

A number of reductions have been made by the manufacturers of hardware within the past few weeks. The makers' association have been in session in Montreal and decided to make certain reductions. In the Province of Ontario, instead of a discount of 70 and 5 allowed in wire nails, the trade are now given discounts of 70 and 12½, the terms of delivery remaining unaltered. For the Province of Quebec the discounts are 70, 10 and 5, sales f.o.b. Montreal, and freights equalized on Montreal. In the Maritime Provinces discounts of 70 and 12½ are allowed, terms of delivery as before, for car lots in one delivery, 10c. per keg extra allowed off invoice. In British Columbia the trade is

allowed discounts, 70, 10 and 5½ f.o.b. factories; freights equalized on cheapest factory point. For Winnipeg, as are sales made by Eastern manufacturers and jobbers, the discount is 67½ and 5 per cent. delivered, freight not to be prepaid, but deducted off face of invoice. Winnipeg manufacturers and jobbers sell the Winnipeg trade at 67½ and 5 f.o.b. Winnipeg, and outside Winnipeg at 67½ and 5 f.o.b. Winnipeg. For points outside of Winnipeg in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, Eastern manufacturers and jobbers sell at 67½ and 5, and equalize freight, so that goods cost the purchaser the same delivered, as if sold by Winnipeg manufacturers or jobbers. The depression of trade in the United States has caused the holders of stock there to look for an outlet in another country, and Canadian makers of hardware have been forced to meet their competition. The independent mill, at Brantford, has found a ready market for its production, and competition from this quarter may have been a factor in causing a reduction in the association price lists. The discounts on screws has been revised and stands as follows:—Flat head, bright, 80, 10 and 10 per cent.; round head, bright, 75, 10 and 10; flat head, brass, 77½, 10 and 10, and round head, brass, 72½, 10 and 10 per cent. The reduction on screws amounts, as will be seen in a comparison with the previous list, to about 5 per cent. The reduction made some time ago in the price of barb wire, placing the Toronto and west of Toronto price at \$2.85 per 100 lbs., does not include towns on the Midland Railway

#### THE CANADIAN UNDERWEAR TRADE.

The autumn season of 1896 is now drawing to a close and has not been marked by very satisfactory results. At the moment, however, there is a very good demand for general lines of heavy underwear. The outlook in June, when the season began, was not particularly bright, and manufacturers determined not to make goods in advance of wants, taking chances as to improvement later in the year. Since then they have almost uniformly followed a conservative policy and made goods as they were ordered. The cold weather of the past few days has brought about a brisk demand from the public for heavy goods. Should the winter season open up early, and if the autumn weeks experience cold weather, the demand for these goods should be strong. Stocks are not excessive, and manufacturers should receive more than the usual number of orders in the assorting trade. The competition in the knitted underwear trade has been very severe of recent years. A number of new mills have entered the field as competitors for business, and in the consequent competition prices have been seriously reduced. It is estimated that in general lines there has been an aggregate reduction of about 20 per cent. in values. Prices were never lower than at present, and although there has, perhaps, been a tendency in some of the smaller mills to cheapen the cost of production by degrading the quality of goods, the public is receiving excellent value in underwear. The low price of Canadian goods has naturally had the effect of crowding out imported wears. For some time the amount of our fall imports has been falling off. The trade, however, imported large quantities of underwear for the spring and summer use, as the Canadian mills did not make complete lines of these goods. Until last year balbriggan underwear was not made to any extent by Canadian mills, but recently, attention having been turned to this department, domestic manufacturers have been able to take a strong position in the market. The canvass for next spring's business has been commenced by manufacturers' agents, and in some instances the wholesale trade have started the campaign, but the wholesale houses will not be active in their work until November.

#### NEW DRESS GOODS MATERIALS.

There is hardly any perceptible difference between French and English modes this season, says the *Draper's Record*, as regards materials and trimmings, and especially ribbons. In fabrics, for instance, plain cloths, tweeds, and coatings, mixtures, homespun, and checks, France has shown a decided preference for English manufactures, as well as for our strictly severe tailor-mades. As to striking novelties, we must confess that in woolen materials, at least, they are "few and far between." The boucle effect, which can hardly be designated as new, is introduced into a large number of them, thrown on to checked or striped grounds, or on tweed mixed cloths. Once more we meet with the large tartan in three or more colors, with light contrasts in the shape of double lines of silk intersecting the pattern and forming a check. Softening the effect of these large and sometimes vivid checks are the black mohair curls or knots, which give to the whole a clouded effect that is very effective.

The tendency, however, in woollens is towards neat checks. In green and black and in various checks this cloth is exceedingly popular, though it has a serious rival in the striped Venetians, claret, or petunia and black, navy blue and white, and black and grey combinations form-