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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures
of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and
retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion; to which is
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Editorial.

THE COTTON CROP.

There is this year a reduction in the cotton acreage estimated at from 3.20 to 4.50 per cent. The poor prices of last year have not had so great an effect on planting as might have been supposed, because there appears to be a profit in five cent cotton, and of late years, even on the poorer lands, through more general and intelligent fertilization and cultivation, the productivity of the soil and the yield per acre have been con-

siderably increased. This has entailed no increased expense aside from cost of additional fertilizers and more labor in the picking season. Much of the later annual additions to acreage had been in the richer lands where, entirely without fertilization, a large product per acre is secured. Those lands are consequently now a much more important part of the whole area in cotton than they were a few years ago. In other words, they have come to be the factor in production that rules price. This has proved so because the very character of the development acted to enlarge the yield of the staple on the acreage planted; to consequently cheapen the average cost of production; and to thereby compel the planter cultivating the poorer lands either to go out of the business or to devise means for making the cost of his crop less. The condition of the plant is somewhat later, but otherwise about equal to last year. There has at no time in recent years been so much complaint of defective seed as in 1899.

The Washington weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions for the week ending August 7th, says: "While rust and shedding are quite generally reported, the condition of cotton over the central and eastern portions of the cotton belt is somewhat improved. In portions of Louisiana, Arkansas, and over the greater part of Texas, rain is badly needed, and the condition of the cotton is less promising than at the close of the previous week. Picking has commenced in central Texas and over the southern portions of the central and eastern districts, the first bales having been marketed in Alabama and South Carolina."

The first new bale of Georgia cotton, for the season of 1899-1900, arrived at the New York Cotton Exchange August 4th, and was sold for 6½ cents a pound, basis midland uplands, as against the open market quotation of 6⅓ cents. Stoddard, Haserick, Richards & Co's Egyptian cotton market report of August 9th, says: "The market remains quiet with the irregular demand usual at this time. On account of the limited selections in Alexandria some buying has had to be done on the Liverpool market. There has been some operating by Americans in new crops, the prices of which remain firm. The premium for October shipment is higher than paid last year, indicating an expected delay in the picking."