



THE MONTH'S TRADE.

TORONTO MARKETS.

A FAIRLY brisk month has been experienced by the wholesale trade. The movement generally has been good, and many buyers have been on the market. Laces are in especially strong demand in various kinds, qualities, and colorings. White, creams, and two-tones lead. Summer underwear is brisk, as is light hosiery. Fast black is the color in the latter, except in ladies' hosiery, where colors are again to the front. All kinds of summer dress fabrics have received attention, although the volume of trade in these lines is not extremely large. The staple trade is fairly good, but some lines are being cut, much to the disgust of some of the dealers. Frilling are in good demand, but embroideries are comparatively dead. Some kinds of parasols are scarce, and the general sorting trade in these is fairly brisk, especially in fancies of all kinds. Men's summer vests and straw hats are receiving a great deal of attention, and orders are numerous.

Orders for fall are reviving somewhat, and buying is slightly brisker, which is no doubt due to the fact that brighter weather is fast lightening retail stocks.

W. R. Brock is now in his accustomed place in the trade, and after a six months' absence has not lost his interest in everything pertaining to the trade. He says he saw no country in all his worldwide travels which was as prosperous as Canada, and that while we may not have an El Dorado, yet we have a comfortable and prosperous nation.

In prints the leading varieties are heliotrope flowers on black, pink and cream grounds. There is a rage for these goods. Blue and red, red and black, and white and red are the leading combinations in drilletes.

The latest advices from Germany confirm the 1st of May advance of 10 per cent. in fancy braids, especially in ladies' military braids. The manufacturers are offering candid advice about placing orders for the next six months' requirements before July 1st, as another advance is expected then. The advance is caused by the requirements of fashion combined with the advance in wools. There will no doubt be a brisk demand for braids in the fall season.

Many buyers have returned from the foreign markets. Among the latest arrivals are Mr. D. O. Anderson, of Alexander & Anderson; Mr. Fisher, buyer for Wyld, Grasett & Darling's furnishing department; Mr. Blackey and Mr. Sanderson, buyers for John Macdonald & Co.'s haberdashery and staple departments respectively. Mr. Johnson, buyer for Wyld, Grasett & Darling's woollen department, has left on a buying trip. All the buyers report a rising market to buy in, and had to pay advances in many cases.

Letter orders are very brisk, and the enquiries are for very numerous classes of goods, but especially for the classes of goods which are advertised from time to time or mentioned in the reviews of the trade as published in THE DRY GOODS REVIEW. Hosiery, laces, curtains, summer vests, clearances, etc.; all these

have received attention from the increasing number of merchants who find letter orders a useful and expedient way of ordering goods. Most of the houses are now supplying their customers with order pads.

Angola shirtings promise well. These are taking the place of low all-wool fancy flannels shirtings, being cheaper, and standing well both washing and wearing. The wholesalers give them fancy names, such as Inverness, Loch Lomond, Ceylon, etc.

Payments during the past two weeks have been a huge improvement over the previous six weeks. Since the farmers have finished seeding, rural trade has improved and money has come in more freely from the quarter where it was scarcest. From the Maritime Provinces payments have been, comparatively, above the average, showing that the trade there must be in a strong condition.

Among the distinguished visitors to Toronto during the past month were Mr. Stevenson of Stevenson & Co., manufacturers of the celebrated Irish hand-knit hosiery, Newtonards, Ireland; and Mr. Harper of Harper's needle works, Redditch, England. Both had been to The Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and visited Canada on their return trip.

On the first of June domestic adamantine pins took a drop and now the discount is away down, quotations being made as low as 40, 10, 10 and 10 per cent. It seems that the National Pin Co. of Detroit has been gaining a foothold in the Canadian trade, and are determined to maintain what they have won. The domestic manufacturers resent this and the consequence is that the market is falling, and the manufacturers have given up their profits for the sake of their Irish love of a fight.

Fall underwear is coming in, already, to the wholesalers. Early deliveries of these goods are the best, because when there comes a big rush at the last to fill all orders, the goods generally deteriorate in many points. Retailers should consider this important feature of the trade.

W. R. Brock & Co.'s staple department is in full swing in their fall staples and report large sales. They have two special lines of gray flannel which are particularly good value, and also two lines of all wool blankets which stagger the trade on account of price and quality. They are well satisfied with their share of fall trade.

Wyld, Grasett & Darling have opened several cases of frilling, and now show all the latest novelties in silver light, ostrich, watteau, and hypatia. The latter is the newest thing out, and the demand for it is steadily increasing.

Gordon, Mackay & Co. report a larger demand for art muslins than is usual at this season, which can easily be accounted for when their stock of these goods is examined. It includes single and double fold muslins in a great variety of colorings, and newest designs, marked at their usual close prices.

Wyld, Grasett & Darling have a repeat of shot silk flounced parasols. These are scarce goods.

W. R. Brock & Co. are showing a nice lot of polka dot flannels. Wool delaines and navy and black serges are also moving very freely with this house.

John Macdonald & Co. have just passed into stock the largest shipment they have ever received of the justly celebrated Featherbone corsets. Several cases of art cushions, tea cosies, and head rests are also to hand.

In Gordon, Mackay & Co.'s staple department there is a huge pile of bleached sheetings containing some 300 pieces, 60