

WOOLEN GOODS.

Canadian woolen mills are not as active in their operations as they should be at this season of the year. Some of the small mills which do a custom trade are very busy, their activity depending upon the prosperity of the region in the immediate vicinity where they are located. But many of the mills with a more extended market report trade very dull. One of the largest mills in Canada, which has been running on short time for the past few months, is reported to have closed down "for a few weeks owing to the depressed condition of the woolen trade." Another large mill has made a considerable reduction in wages and offers the same excuse.

Mills engaged in making tweeds and blankets appear to suffer most. In the case of tweed goods excessive competition from English houses is partially responsible for a decreased demand for domestic goods. Certain English manufacturers had expected to do an immense trade with the United States when once the silver question and the tariff bill were settled. The demand failed to materialize, and, to save themselves, they unloaded a large quantity of their stock on the Canadian market. Manufacturers of blankets here, from all appearances, are injured more by their own foolish cutting of prices than anything else. The wool market and the industrial condition of the country do not warrant high prices, but the existence of petty jealousies have led some manufacturers to sell their goods far below a normal value. The knitting goods trade presents, however, a fairly satisfactory condition, and most of the mills are actively engaged.

DOMINION LEGISLATION, 1894.

Why this year's Dominion Statutes should only make their appearance now is incomprehensible. No satisfactory reason has ever been given for the delay in publication which always follows the closing of the parliamentary session. Persons have been heard to attribute the delay to the desire of the publishers to dispose of as many copies of the *Gazette* containing the statutes as possible, before the purchaser is asked to buy them over again in book form.

By this year's legislation permission is given to authorize the payment of a bounty of \$2 a ton on all pig-iron made in Canada from Canadian ore, a bounty of \$2 a ton on all iron puddled bars made in Canada from Canadian pig-iron manufactured from Canadian ore, and a bounty of \$2 a ton on all steel billets made in Canada from pig-iron made in Canada from Canadian ore. Where furnaces are now in operation the bounty is only to be paid for five years from the 24th of March, 1894, while to all products of any furnace commencing operations after the passing of the Act the bounties shall be applicable for five years only after date of commencement.

The Insurance Act is amended so as to prohibit the granting of a license to a company to carry on the business of life insurance in combination with any other branch of insurance, but fire, inland marine insurance, and cyclone or tornado insurance may be carried on together by license, and so may guarantee insurance, accident insurance, plate glass insurance and steam boiler insurance be licensed to be carried on together. No security required to be deposited by an insurance company before being granted a license shall be valued higher than its par value, whatever its market value may be. Contracts of life insurance are not to be avoided by a misstatement of age if that statement is made in good faith; the premiums are, however, to be readjusted.

The Homestead Exemptions Act is repealed. It does not follow that in the Territories owners of land

upon which they have built can no longer exempt their dwellings from seizure under execution, for ordinances of the Legislative Assembly of North-West Territories purporting to exempt real property from seizure by virtue of writs of execution are rendered valid and in full force. The change is rather one of legislative jurisdiction. Buffalo and bison are not to be molested for five years, and changes in the game law generally are made. Indians may now devise or bequeath, by will, property of any kind in the same manner as other persons, provided land in a reserve goes to a close relative or to some one entitled to reside on the reserve.

The duties of Customs Acts are consolidated. It is noticeable that steel rails for street railways are expressly excepted from the free list, a point in doubt, as to importations previously made, till the decision of the Exchequer Court in the Toronto Street Railway case, now awaited, shall have been decided. The treaty with France is sanctioned by an Act to come into force on a date to be named by the Governor-General. Ratifications are to be exchanged at Paris as soon as possible, and the treaty shall come into force immediately after this formality has been accomplished, and continue in force until the expiration of twelve months after either of the contracting parties shall have given notice of their intention terminating the same. But if non-sparkling wines gauging 15 per cent., or sparkling wines, become subject later on to an increase of duty in Canada, the French Government may at once terminate the operation of the treaty.

The Department of Inland Revenue may allow on the exportation of goods which have been manufactured from articles subject to a duty of excise, and on which such duty of excise has been paid, a drawback equal to the duty so paid, with proper deductions for expenses. The excise duty on malt is lowered from 2 to 1½ cents a pound, and malt used in any licensed bonded manufactory in the manufacture of malt extract or other similar medicinal preparation, approved by the Department of Inland Revenue, may have duty thereon remitted under such regulations as the department establishes. The excise duty on vinegar containing six per cent. of acetic acid is raised from four to six cents a gallon.

The amount to which the Dominion may issue notes is increased from twenty to twenty-five millions of dollars, and no change is made in the gold basis. Owing to some inexplicable blunder, the intention to require dollar for dollar of gold was omitted from the Act, but this was remedied by Order in Council.

QUACK METHODS.

Sensible people as a rule dislike quack methods and distrust them. Foolish people, on the other hand, are apt to be carried away by glitter and noise or boasting. Some of our readers will remember that years ago in several Ontario towns certain merchants boasted that they would revolutionize retail methods—would sell goods at cost—would give premiums to the customer buying the largest bill—that they were determined to do the whole business of the county—were bound to give bargains to the dear people "regardless of cost," and so on. At the same time they used curious, quack-like methods of attracting customers, such as dressing up men in outlandish garb; hiring something like a brass band to play; putting spread-eagle advertisements in newspapers; promising untold bargains. For a time people flocked to see the show, but the excitement fell off. Sensible people did not like the methods, and did not find satisfaction in their purchases. What is more, some of the importers who sold goods to these merchants