

## A Distributing Centre.



THE wholesale trade of London is of comparatively recent origin, only three wholesale houses being here in 1863, but in the last quarter of a century the City has become an important distributing centre, and now stands third in the Dominion. To-day it has scores of wholesale firms, including dry goods, groceries, drugs, boots and shoes, hats and caps, clothing, millinery, crockery and glassware, furniture, wall paper and paints, hardware, leather, fruits, pianos and organs. These are represented by an army of travellers, who are to be found in every city, town and hamlet from Halifax, N. S., to Vancouver, B. C. Some of the finest blocks in the City are devoted to the wholesale trade. The Waterloo Building cost \$200,000, the Birrell Building \$110,000, and the Granite Block about \$100,000. Although the City's development in this respect has gone forward with marvellous rapidity within the last few years, it is as yet only in its beginning, for as its superior transportation facilities, which so eminently fit it as a distributing point, become more widely known, it is bound to grow to still greater proportions. It is estimated that London's wholesale houses represent a business of about \$12,000,000, and certainly they are one of the main causes of its growth and prosperity.

The retail trade has also kept pace with the City's growth, and some of the finest stores on the Continent are to be found on Dundas and Richmond Streets. All told there are in the neighborhood of 600 retail stores in the City, and others are being constantly added.