

MILD WEATHER IN MANITOBA.

IT CHANGES TRADE BUT CANNOT AFFECT GOOD TIMES—WINNIPEG BUSINESS BRISK—PRICES TO CONTINUE HIGH—THE FUR SALES.

From THE DRY GOODS REVIEW'S Special Correspondent.

WINNIPEG, November 23, 1899.

YOUR correspondent sent no letter last month because it was between seasons and the very warm weather up to that time had somewhat deferred genuine Fall trade. The weather is still very mild. It is many and many a day since the Red was winding its peaceful way unobstructed by ice or snow on November 22. This condition of things has considerably altered the class of trade. Business has been very good, nobody has a complaint to make unless it should be the fur and coal men. The long-continued fine weather has allowed all kinds of outdoor work to proceed. Railway construction has been continued fully a month later than last year and under much more favorable conditions. Building operations have continued to progress, and to such an extent is this the case that many buildings have the exteriors finished which it was not hoped to complete until next season. This will mean more work also during the actual cold months as the interiors will be completed. This lengthening of the working period has, of course, increased, to a very large extent, the buying capacity of people in cities. In the country also crops have been well saved, well threshed, and much Fall ploughing has been accomplished, so that everything is in fine shape for next season.

MILLINERY.

Millinery has profited by the fine mild weather and the sorting trade has been excellent. D. McCall & Co. report the season fully a month longer than last Fall and with a specially heavy sorting trade. The rage for rough-riders and big tam crowns seems to have passed, and the call is for close walking, sailor and turban shapes. Three quarter plumes are in good demand, and the Prince of Wales effect is seen on many hats, particularly flat black velvet shapes with black plumes.

Mr. Wilson, of Stobart, Sons & Co., has returned from his first trip as European buyer for the house. He reports things good in the Old Land, with prices advancing in all lines. His purchases will arrive during the month. French goods particularly show marked advance. French black woollens are decreasing in popularity, and plain and covert effects will be shown almost exclusively in Spring goods.

R. J. Whittle & Co.'s staff are making preparations to move into their new quarters on December 15. The travelers are all on the road with Spring and sorting samples and lines specially adapted for Christmas trade, such as fancy silks and the like.

THE PRICE MARKET.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Binns have returned from their buying trips in Europe, and report everything advancing in price, particularly woollens. The shortage of the fine Australian wool, and the fact that so many Australian sheep-raisers have entirely gone out of the breeding of small sheep producing this wool, seems to indicate that the matter of higher prices for woollens must continue for several years at least. In cottons, silks and linens there is a present scarcity of raw materials which is materially affecting prices. In addition to all this, the general condition of prosperity is largely increasing the

demand for goods of a superior quality, so that it would seem the reign of high prices is likely to be permanent for some time at least.

Dry goods houses report trade very satisfactory. While the warm weather has curtailed purchases in some lines they have been fully made up in others.

The sale of furs is, of course, very much delayed, and will, to some extent, be permanently affected, because there are always a number of purchasers who, if they do not buy before the middle of November, do not buy at all for the season.

MEN'S FURNISHINGS.

Myron McBride & Co., men's furnishings, report business fairly satisfactory, although heavy lines are deferred, owing to the weather. Their travelers are on the road with a handsome range of sorting goods, suitable for the holiday trade. Among these are novelties in American neckwear for men. There are many of them in basket pattern checks, but wide stripes, and the wider the better, are the very latest thing in neckwear. Almost every color is shown, but there is preponderance of clear red and black in broad stripes, and also of black and white. Silk suspenders, in fancy tints, with gold-plated buckles, are also among the holiday goods, while silk socks, handkerchiefs and mufflers, dress shirts and white kid gloves are in good demand. Fur wristlets are the very last thing out.

This firm is getting out for the Christmas trade a novelty in the advertising line, in the shape of a very handsome illustrated booklet. The illustrations are half tone, and the cover a fancy rough paper, with the name of the firm and seasonable greeting in a chaste gold design.

NOTES.

Mr. Frank Robby has arrived to take the Northwest Territory routes of the D. McCall Co. He has occupied an important post in the house in Toronto for some years, and is deservedly popular. Mr. Robby will have headquarters at Winnipeg.

Retailers are all making extensive preparations for the Christmas trade. E. C. H.

TAKING AN ADDITIONAL WAREHOUSE.

Owing to the enormous increase of their general business, Messrs S. Greenshields, Son & Co., have found it necessary to secure the large warehouse at 138 McGill street, formerly occupied by the late firm of Doull & Gibson. They will occupy these premises, in addition to the three warehouses they now have on St. Helen street, until their new warehouse on Victoria Square is completed, which will probably be about May 1.

NOVEMBER PANSIES IN MANITOBA.

A striking evidence of the mildness of Manitoba weather is a bunch of pansies brought into the Free Press office yesterday. They were plucked from an open air garden.—Free Press, Winnipeg, November 22.