

they are taught by members of the Master Plumbers' Association. The pupils must bring tools, but the material used is provided by the school authorities. In addition to being taught how to make seams, joints of various kinds, branch joints and do wiping, binding, &c., pupils have the benefit of lectures on soil pipes, ventilation, trapping, soldering and upon "Common Mistakes in Plumbing." Again, a later circular describes the pattern-making class for boot and shoe makers, twice a week. It is intended for the study and practice of boot and shoe pattern cutting. After instruction, pupils are required to fit and adjust patterns to the last. This class is entirely free, but the pupil must provide himself with pattern-board, knife, compasses, awl and size stick.

### TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

Neither in imports nor exports do the figures of Toronto trade for last month equal those of the corresponding month of last year. According to the Board of Trade returns, the imports at the Custom House were of the value of \$2,133,274 (\$1,721,000 dutiable, \$276,000 free), and the exports valued at \$197,276. Of these last, all but about \$10,000 worth was of Canadian production or manufacture. In February of 1887 imports were put down at \$2,175,692 in value and exports at \$264,963, making a total of \$2,440,655. There is a slight decline in dry goods imports, principally in woollens and fancy goods. Less coal was brought, and there is a slight falling off in iron or steel manufactures. We give below the exports of Canadian products:

#### IMPORTS FOR FEBRUARY.

	Feb. '88.	Feb. '87.
Cotton goods.....	\$258,676	\$ 252,722
Fancy goods .....	116,231	140,489
Hats and bonnets.....	74,270	53,523
Silk goods .....	156,720	158,421
Woollen goods .....	379,354	400,562
Total dry goods ....	\$985,251	\$1,005,717

Books and pamphlets..	28,635	22,526
Indian corn .....	41,814	2,414
Coal.....	75,032	100,485
China and earthenware.	9,342	3,887
Drugs and medicines..	14,700	14,965
Fruits, green and dried	16,731	17,609
Glass and glassware..	13,337	18,945
Iron and steel goods ..	86,098	89,869
Jewellery and watches..	39,541	38,360
Leather goods .....	29,080	35,676
Musical instruments ..	12,473	9,853
Paper goods .....	27,431	27,314
Seeds, garden, field, &c.	18,632	7,629
Wood goods .....	14,635	15,284

In the decline in exports, almost every line participates. There is no export of cattle oceanward at present, but horses continue to go to the States. Seventy thousand bushels of barley has crossed the Line during the month, too, and a little malt. Seeds are an increasing item of export:

#### EXPORTS FOR FEBRUARY.

	Feb. '88	Feb. '87
Produce of		
The fisheries.....	\$ 463	\$ 31
" forest.....	7,111	2,867
Animals, &c.....	49,411	95,311
Field products.....	103,435	107,354
Manufactures .....	26,790	42,740
Total.....	\$187,210	\$248,303

—In addition to putting into force the Federal law, which subjects American banks to a tax of ten per cent. on all the Canadian bank bills they pay out, there is an intention to collect the tax for past years, as far as the law will allow. The law has been in existence since 1864, and it is surprising that the banks have felt themselves at liberty to ignore it. They are now required by the Comptroller of the Currency to perform the impossible task of making a return of all the Canadian bills, other than those issued by the Government, which they have paid out since 1864. The tax is, of course, prohibitory; the banks are required to pay ten per cent. on a currency, on which they have not charged more than one per cent. Some American bankers express a doubt whether the tax can be legally collected: it is quite certain that the amount of it cannot be fixed with any approach to certainty.

—The improvement in the Clyde ship-building trade appears to be giving place to dulness. The extraordinary activity in iron and steel ship-building of late years has given rise to an over-production which depresses freights and depresses the spirits of carriers as well. A fortnight ago, the annual meeting of the Glasgow Shipowners' Association was held, when the president, Mr. Alexander Allan, said that the slight improvement in the shipping trade had passed away, that the earnings were unremunerative, and that the depression would be greater when the ships at present being built were completed. Inquiries for vessels were not numerous now, and he believed before the end of the year there would be quite a collapse. Provost Browne declared that the depression arose almost entirely from superabundant tonnage, and that there would be continued depression owing to the large number of steamers now building.

### DRESS FABRICS.

In this line, as well as in millinery, there is a profusion of new colors, or of old colors with new names. Among those of the present season in dress goods are a few prominent ones, and these run through all-wool fabrics, unions and prints, satteens and drillettes. For example, "Goblin," a kind of slaty blue; "Ruddigore," a reddish sort of salmon, resembling crushed-strawberry; "Flamingo Pink" (whether a real or an imaginary name), and "Electric Blue," which has been heard of before. We observe many combination stripes in plain, checks and stripes, one resplendent line with a gold stripe. French all-wool stuffs are abundant and handsome, in greys, fawns, olive, brown, salmon, &c. Grey and brown beiges are still in demand at a wide range of prices. Plain nuns' cloth and jersey cloth appear in all new shades. Old-fashioned printed delaines are seen, and cashmeres are staple, in all shades. All-wool black and colored lace effects are seen in single and double width dress goods and are in request. Colored unions, too, of similar goods present a cheaper and desirable line, in cream, brown, sky-blue and pink. We may note here the advance of from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 per cent. in values of French dress stuffs for re-orders. In the United States, cotton goods showed an advance some weeks ago, which is still maintained.

For Newmarket short jackets, which are much worn in England, the newest material is called box-cloth, a derivative, perhaps, from its resemblance to the cloth worn by flunkeys in the old country "on the box" of their masters' turn-outs. This is a fine-faced, soft substance, of delicate finish, in drabs and fawns. A line of tufted mixtures for ulsterings has met with much acceptance.

Plushes are used for dress-trimming, in a great number of tints. Cotton dress materials present a very attractive variety of finish. Indeed, the trade in printed cottons for dresses, whether satteens, drillettes, or the ordinary prints, is this spring large. The shot effects in drillettes and satteens are remarkable, and often resemble more expensive materials. Reversible satteens and prints appear, and are used in effecting "combinations," one side being used for the dress body and skirt, the reverse side for the trimming. Printed muslins are in profusion, some very delicate patterns among them. We observe some pretty zephyr gingham in checks and stripes.

"Yes, there are plenty of 'em, everywhere; far too many in fact," said a Montreal importer to whom we spoke of the variety and profusion of dress goods. But he referred to dry goods generally, and explained in further conversation what we fear is too true: that the too great number of importers and the too great anxiety and pressure to sell is working harm. Luckily, there are many retailers who resist the coaxing of commercial travellers, and will not be induced to buy their July and August goods in February and March.

### LUMBER.

The 4th of March was an unusually heavy due-date among lumbermen in Ontario, and dealers are jubilant over the fact that payments were met much better than was expected. The cold weather is retarding trade somewhat, but orders for April and May shipments are satisfactory. Dealers and manufacturers are evincing deep interest in the progress of any arrangements for the removal of the duty that has so restricted trade with the United States. It is conceded on all hands that if the duty be removed prices will advance from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per thousand feet, and it is expected that a market will be opened up at profitable prices for the coarser grades. Considerable long bill stuff is being brought into Canada from the Michigan mills, their pine being better adapted for this purpose than ours, the removal of the duty would doubtless increase this trade very materially.

—A steady increase in business and a very encouraging state of finances is shown in the thirty-eighth annual report of the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company. The assets of the company at the close of last year were \$6,017,802, of which \$303,536 was surplus, after estimating its policy obligations by the highest standard known to the law. The following is an extract from the report: "The history of the Union Mutual sets at rest once and forever the talk of those who believe that life insurance is not founded on a substantial and permanent basis. This company, while disbursing in eleven years for matured obligations a larger sum in proportion to its size than any other company, has paid in dividends to policy-holders during the same period the handsome amount of \$733,094.71, and this sum, added to the increase of surplus \$226,266.38, making a total of \$959,361.09, represents the profit over all expenses and disbursements during the years in question."