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EDITORIAL NOTES.

MONTREAL is to be beautified by a large block of stores, to be built by James Baxter, broker, on St. Lawrence Main street. The block will be of cut stone, three and four stories high, costing \$275,000, and containing no less than 31 stores and a large hall overhead. This mammoth structure will be completed in May next. Montreal is thus going ahead rapidly. We rejoice in our neighbor's prosperity.

Every dry goods merchant in Canada and the United States has heard of the great store of Marshall Field in Chicago, the largest of its kind in America. On April 10th this honored and wealthy citizen offered the trustees of the nascent University of Chicago the sum of \$100,000 as a contribution toward a fund of \$1,000,000, which he stipulated should be raised by July 10th. The money was raised in time, Mr. Field's munificence has established a great university in Chicago. Mr. Rockefeller has also contributed liberally.

The Dry Goods Review is written for dry goods merchants, but it is also worthy of perusal by every dry goods clerk. The clerk that feeds on air and the crumbs that fall from his master's idea-table, will never have many ideas of his own. He will never be an entity, nor a first-class salesman. Food is necessary to growth. Clerks can get it only through a trade paper, and the employer who does not allow his clerks to read his copy of the Re-

view, or advise them to have copies of their own, so that they can take them home and study them, is losing a great deal by the inefficiency of his salesmen.

The wholesale houses are finding much more satisfaction in handling Canadian goods than in previous seasons. Every class of domestic manufacture—yarns, fingerings, underwear, half-hose, cardigans, etc.—which is being received at this season, is opening up much clearer and regular than ever before. The trouble has been due in the past to uneven color in the bundles, poor sizing, or some other slight damage which rendered one or two articles in a bundle almost worthless. These defects have been overcome to a great extent in this year's manufacture, and both retailer and wholesaler may heave a sigh of relief.

The Strathroy Knitting Company met with a serious loss by the burning of their factory on the 2nd inst. The actual amount of loss will be nearly \$70,000. James Watson, of Hamilton, is president of the company, and Wm. Dewar, of Strathroy, is the other main stockholder. There had been some discussion before the fire regarding a removal to Hamilton, and this may be done now. The Strathroy citizens are seriously disturbed over the prospect of losing the mill, and vigorous steps are being taken to prevent this and to provide for rebuilding. Some of the Toronto dealers in knit underwear say that in fancy striped goods there is likely to be a shortage. This is the third time this season that orders have been seriously disarranged. A fire and a failure stopped supplies from two other mills, and hard-solicited orders went for nought.

France has been experimenting in colonization for some time, and now from the newly acquired province of Tonquin it has received the first cargo of what may be a good supply of cotton.

The Textile Mercury says that "very likely it is closely kindred to the native cottons of China and Japan, which we venture to assert the West has not yet paid sufficient attention to. These cottons are very short-stapled, clean and pearly white, and also very harsh or wiry in the hand, much more so than the well-known hard cottons of Brazil. They have hitherto been consumed at home in the domestic industries existing in the countries where they are grown. During the cotton famine in this country, caused by the American Civil War, when the world was ransacked to provide some material for

the spindles and looms of Lancashire, some of the best qualities of these cottons from China found their way hither, and met with appreciation. When the American supply began to come again the import ceased." Tonquin, as everybody knows, is situated on the east coast of Asia and borders on the southern frontier of China. If France can use this cotton, either by itself or by mixing it with wool, the great hold of the United States on the cotton trade may be weakened. The using of this cotton might lead to the utilization of China cotton.

When the time arrives for the Toronto Industrial Exhibition many merchants all over Canada will take advantage of the opportunity of securing cheap transportation to Toronto, and will come to inspect the well-stocked warehouses. Here they will see goods that they can never see in the travelers' samples, and meet men who will tell them much that will interest them, and benefit them financially. Merchants are more and more learning the utility of frequent visits to their distributing centre, and many of them come often. Bargains of all kinds are secured and wide ranges are seen. But this will be a grand opportunity for the retailer and the wholesaler to meet *do business, besides affording them a chance to renew acquaintanceships.* The live merchant will lay aside his coat with the worn-out binding and frayed sleeve ends, don his best garments, and cast the worries of the seller behind, while he enjoys the pleasures of a trip and the joys and troubles of buying some leading lines for the fall and winter trade.

Considerable trouble has arisen between the railways and some Hamilton firms. It seems that goods have been abstracted from cases in transit. The manner of the thieves was to take out a couple of nails from the iron band around each case at a point on the side near where two boards come together. Then a small slit would be made in one of the boards, a piece taken out, and through the aperture such goods extracted as came easiest to hand. The piece of board could be replaced and the case made to look as if nothing had been done to it. In this way hundreds of dollars' worth of more or less valuable goods have been stolen. It is supposed that the abstractions are made at or near Niagara Falls. The loss is greater to the merchants, because they lose not only the value of the goods, but also the duty that they pay on them. Efforts are being made to capture the offenders and prevent future losses.