

DRY GOODS CHAT.

Reports from Barnsley would indicate that the demand for linens continues to be of a satisfactory character.

It is now generally recognized, by the writers of advertisements, that the best place for the firm name is at the top rather than at the bottom of the space occupied in the newspaper.

It is reported that the negotiations for a combination of the South German cotton manufacturers, which failed in the spring, have again been resumed, and this time with more promise of success.

That the summer season is drawing to a close is evident from the sacrifice sales of summer goods, such as colored shirts, inaugurated this week by the department stores and men's furnishing establishments.

Letters from Paris all agree that self-colored materials in dress goods are more and more in evidence as the season advances. Self-colored materials are said to number five to one, as compared with fancies in woolen dress goods departments. Cloths are announced as being particularly favored for tailor-made suits. Grenadines and gauzes retain the vantage ground for evening wear, and fancy effects in black are given special mention.

"No starch," writes the Paris correspondent of the Economist, "is the chief characteristic of fashion in its very latest development. All the starch or stiffness has been taken out of the skirts of dresses and costumes. As soon as they begin to widen out, folds are formed at the back and sides, and in some of the newest creations in the front also. Shaped flounces begin to show unstudied plaits. Jacket basques conform to the outlines of the figure, and even lapels have lost some of their firmness. Collars alone preserve their rigidity."

At Exhibition time last year, we chanced to meet an old acquaintance, in the person of a merchant from the town of ———. Asking him what he thought of a certain department store in the city, we were surprised to learn that he had not visited it, alleging, as a reason, the harm it had done to his business. We do not believe there are many merchants as silly as our old friend X. As things go in the present day, half the battle lies in learning what ammunition and weapons the other fellow is using, and, if possible, turning his own guns back upon him or else spiking them.

Referring to fall dress goods, the N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce says: It can be safely said that plain goods predominate. Even the fancy weaves lack the brilliancy of former years, the colors employed showing a more subdued tone. As yet the filling of back orders has been the chief occupation of the department men, as stock transactions still rule light. The feeling prevails that buyers now coming along will delay selections until the last moment. This is chiefly due to the uncertainty regarding styles, but so far a decided preference is shown for crepons, mohair and other bright fabrics, while serges, henriettas and cheviots figure in the orders to the usual extent.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The world's visible supply of raw sugar is 1,630,000 tons, against 1,665,000 tons last year.

A letter from Smyrna says that the 1898 fig crop is likely to be nearer 25,000 than 30,000 camel loads.

Ottawa is the latest Ontario city in which unknown capitalists are asking encouragement from the council to establish an abattoir.

The brigantine "Gabriel," Capt. Mundy, arrived in Montreal on Saturday from Barbadoes with a full cargo of molasses, consigned to Messrs. W. S. Goodhugh & Co.

A sardine factory is being fitted up at Letang, N.B., by J. S. Clark, of St. George. The machinery was purchased in the province of Quebec, by Mr. Clark. It came from France originally, and is said to have cost in the neighborhood of \$80,000.

Mail advices from Holland state that it is estimated that the fall crop of Zanzibar cloves will be only 30,000 to 32,000 bales. Predictions have been made that within 60 days prices

for cloves will advance 50 per cent. Damage to the growing crop by drouth has been the principal bull point of the market, the rainfall at Zanzibar for a number of months past being only 5 inches against 22 inches during the same time last year.

A letter from Patras, dated August 2nd, says: "In most districts partial cuttings have already been commenced, and by the end of this week will become general. The weather, fortunately, continues very fine, and if it keeps as dry and warm right through, we will have this season an exceptionally fine quality, the reports from all parts agreeing that the fruit is thoroughly sound, entirely free from rot, and in first-rate condition."

Dried apples, Consul Brittain, of Nantes, France, says, can be disposed of at a good price. He finds that during the past year 12,000 barrels were received by the merchants of Nantes. He further adds that these apples are chopped into slices just as they come from the trees, including stems, seeds and skins. After being dried or evaporated, they are packed into barrels ready for shipment. They are used for making cider. The apples are soaked in water, to which a little sugar is added. They retail for from 16 to 18 centimes a kilogram, which is a little more than 7 cents a pound. In nearly every grocery in Nantes one can find these American dried apples for sale. Owing to the light crop in France last year, there was, no doubt, a special demand for the foreign product, but from present indications, there will not be more than half a crop there this season.

The Winnipeg Commercial has some harsh things to say of Ontario fruit. In the issue of July 30th we find the following: "Ontario shippers have never yet been able to lay down soft fruits in Winnipeg fit for consumption. Ontario apples are all right, and in the fall of the year we also receive large quantities of Ontario grapes, but most other varieties of Ontario fruits invariably arrive here in a condition unfit for consumption. This is no doubt mainly due to the careless and slovenly way in which Ontario shippers handle the fruit. The fruit is evidently often too ripe when packed, and there appears to be an utter absence of care in handling. No attempt appears to be made to properly assort and pack the fruit. Peaches, plums, etc., are dumped promiscuously into baskets, and they arrive here in a mushy condition, with the juices streaming from the baskets. The distance from the point of production is not the trouble, as California fruits are arriving here constantly in car lots in perfectly sound condition."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The report of the chairman of the Board for 1897, Mr. J. T. Routh; the ninth annual report of the librarian, Mr. Richard T. Lancefield; a classification of the books and their circulation; a financial statement and illustrations of the interior of the building, are contained in this neat pamphlet of sixteen pages, printed by the Spectator Company, Limited.

THE MILLIONAIRES.—That there is a deal of human nature about millionaires who have worked and dared for their money; that they are susceptible to sentiment and to passion; that they are quite as likely as poorer folk to have trials and adventures, are shown in an entertaining way in this book, published at fifty cents by the Toronto News Company. A man or a woman, going away on a holiday, may do worse than add "The Millionaires" to his or her reading matter.

OUR LADY OF THE SUNSHINE.—We have already, in a previous number, outlined the scope of this publication of Mr. George N. Morang. A good purpose will have been served if, in subsequent issues, as in the present, the aim be kept in view of showing, by description and illustration, the real characteristics of Canada and Canadians. The list of writers represented is a fairly representative one, the contents of this number are sufficiently varied and the colored illustrations are properly reproductions of the work of Canadian artists. Mr. R. S. Cassels' "Wild Flowers of Canada," with half-tone cuts, is an attractive paper, while Dr. Drummond's "The Habitant's Summer," is delightful in its graphic description. The paper on the climate of Canada is an appropriate contribution. Altogether this Midsummer Annual is a good one and deserves an extensive sale.