

# CANADIAN JOURNAL OF Fabrics

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### THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion, to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition now in hand.

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### THE CHINA COTTON TRADE.

The following gives the amount of shipments of Canadian and American cottons (so far as they go over the Canadian Pacific) to China, the figures being for the calendar and not the fiscal year. These cottons run at about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  yards to the pound:—

	Can. Cottons, Lbs.	Am. Cottons, Lbs.	Totals, Lbs.
1887.....	1,742,205	4,055,970	5,798,175
1888.....	2,009,974	6,816,798	8,826,772
1889.....	886,322	12,245,150	13,131,472
1890.....	2,279,150	17,079,730	19,358,880
1891.....	2,466,944	7,413,167	9,880,111
1892.....	1,825,259	4,322,452	6,147,711
1893.....	1,742,312	9,321,205	11,063,517
1894.....	2,770,343	4,303,701	7,074,044

### THE RAW COTTON TRADE.

The situation in raw cotton is an unusual one. This staple is now lower than at any time since 1844-46. At that date middling uplands went down to 5cts., while last month and this month it is quoted at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ . The American crop of last year (the cotton year running from September to September) is estimated by some authorities to be 9,500,000 bales, eight and a half millions of which have come into sight already. The *N. Y. Financial Chronicle*, reviewing the trade to the close of February, and therefore covering the first half of the cotton crop year, gives the total brought into sight in February as 579,062 bales, compared with 358,497 bales in the same month last year. The shipments overland to Canada since last September amounted to 69,108 bales, against 38,562 bales for the same half year in 1893-4, and 37,047 bales for the half year of 1892-3. This would indicate not only a larger consumption by the Canadian mills, but larger purchases of raw material, under the belief that the staple has gone as low in price as it will go. One point of interest in connection with the crop of the present year is that the average weight of the bale is 504.27 lbs., against 496.28 lbs. last year, which shows the actual weight of the crop to be still greater than is apparent. The problem of the future is a serious one for the Southern cotton planter. A commission of inquiry by the late Congress elicits the fact that the crop of last year was produced at an actual loss; that the general opinion is that cotton cannot be raised to yield a profit at less than 8cts. a pound, nor without loss at less than 7cts. Many of the planters are said to be insolvent now. Other investigators say that it can be raised at 3 to 5cts. by the use of modern machinery and more skill and energy, and that the planters can get out of their difficulties by going into mixed farming, and reducing the area in cotton. It must be remembered, however, that India is increasing her area in cotton cultivation, while Russia is rapidly extending her cotton plantations in central Asia, and it will not be many years before east and central Africa will figure in cotton raising. What the American cotton grower, therefore, wants is to improve his methods and increase his skill and energy, if he wishes to hold his old position, rather than restrict his production. Bad weather or a new pest will shorten the crop at any time, when that is needed in the plans of Providence.