

A WHOLESALE FIRM'S STOCK AT AUCTION.

THERE was a big attendance at the auction sale of Samson, Kennedy & Co.'s stock in Toronto, January 3. Representatives of leading firms were present from Montreal, Hamilton and other places, and bidding was brisk. It was expected that the stock would bring at least 65c. on the dollar, and more than one wholesale firm were willing to bid as high as that figure, and perhaps a little higher. The large Toronto retail firms, like W. A. Murray & Co., the T. Eaton Co., the John Eaton Co., McKendry & Co., etc., were all represented by bidders, and when the price got high the wholesalers seemed to drop out, and left the situation to the retailers. Among those present in the auction rooms were Messrs. David Morrice, W. R. Brock, J. S. McMaster, P. H. Burton, R. W. Spence, Messrs. Thibaudeau & Nadeau, of Montreal; John K. Macdonald, Fraser Macdonald, R. R. Stevenson, Montreal; Geo. Cams, of Greenshields & Co., Montreal; John Knox, of Knox Morgan & Co., Hamilton; W. C. Fowers, of Matthews, Fowers & Co., Montreal; B. B. Cronyn, Charles Cockshutt, J. Drynan, of W. A. Murray & Co.; R. Simpson, Thomas Long, F. A. Cousineau, Alex. Ewan, Montreal; P. Hughes, Jas. Lockhart, S. Brush, Frederick Wyld, and many others. The auctioneer announced the value of the stock at \$184,000 odd, and assured the audience there was no reserve bid. The stock was absolutely in their hands. Bidding began at 55c. Then it went to 57½, then quickly to 60, 62½ and 65. There was a pause, and assurances were again given of no reserve. In five more bids the figure went up to 70, when small bids began to be taken, and as 71, 71¼, 71½, 71¾ were given, it was seen that the wholesalers were dropping out and the retailers staying in. Mr. Peter Ryan, who was understood to be bidding for W. A. Murray & Co., went as high as 72½, but declined to go more, declaring that the figure was too high. The next bid, that of 72¾c., was the last, and though the auctioneer pleaded for an even 73c., no one responded, and the stock went at 72¾c. to the John Eaton Co., Ltd., Toronto.

The keenest interest beforehand was taken as to the sum the stock would bring, and among some of the onlookers a pool of guesses was made up, each member of it selecting the figure he thought the highest bid likely. Mr. Fowers came nearest to the correct figure, and won.

The auctioneer then put up Samson, Kennedy & Co.'s warehouse on Scott street, but as there were no bidders it was withdrawn.

TRAVELERS AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. Thomas Swalwell has had some correspondence with Hon. Richard Harcourt, Ontario Treasurer, regarding the hotel accommodation for commercial travelers throughout the province. Mr. Swalwell pointed out that in the towns, owing to keen competition, the accommodation was improving, but in outlying places it was very bad, and in some cases a deplorable condition existed. He suggested that the license commissioners, who have the power to grant licenses, should take these cases in hand and impose the necessary reforms. Mr. Harcourt replied that the hotel men were satisfied that the travelers' deputation to the Government had spoken moderately in the matter. There can be no doubt that the proper solution of the difficulty lies in instructing the license commissioners, who are the appointees of the Provincial Government and responsible

to the Provincial License Department, to carefully scrutinize the accommodation of rural hotels, just as they do the record of the applicant and his past observance of the law regarding selling liquor.

A SILKY GLOSS TO WOOLENS.

VARIOUS revelations have found their way into the textile press as to processes of imparting a silky gloss and feel to woollen yarn, which up to recently have been kept secret. That a similar appearance and handle are characteristic for woollen prints is well known, and it might accordingly have been surmised that in either case the effect was due to the one peculiar and essential manipulation practised by woollen printers, viz., to "chloring." With a reaction, not yet scientifically defined, it is not to be wondered at that, as regards proportions, time and temperature, and the entire manipulation, the reports from different sources are somewhat at variance; the quality of the fibre dealt with alone may be the cause of much uncertainty. A lengthy process, calculated to impart the maximum of silky feel and gloss, is thus described by *The Wollengewerbe*. Loose wool, yarn, or piece goods, are first worked for half an hour in cold 1 per cent. hydrochloric acid, then squeezed, or centrifuged, without rinsing. The next bath, which must be most carefully prepared, contains per 150 litres (20 gallons) the clearly soluble portion of 2 kilos (4½ pounds) of chloride of lime. Manipulate in this bath for three-quarters of an hour, drain well, and again work for the same length of time in cold 1½ per cent. hydrochloric acid. Finally, rinse well in cold water. Now follows a bath of 500 grams (1 pound) of Marseilles soap, per 100 litres (10½ gallons), temperature 75 deg. C. Centrifuge, again work for half hour in dilute hydrochloric acid, and rinse well. Wool thus prepared (no doubt owing to the presence of free fatty acid, which may also in other respects play an important part) unless the water be very calcareous, absorbs acid dyestuffs without any addition of free acid. The usual saving of dyestuff, well known to printers, is also noticeable, and may amount to as much as 20 per cent.

With low-class goods the whole process may even be carried out in a single bath. First work in the acid; then add the chloride of lime gradually, raise to the boil, and add the dyestuff.

As far as white yarns or light colors are concerned, the process has the great drawback that, unless it is pushed far enough to turn the wool yellow, the result aimed at is but partially attained. Moreover, it is stated that goods finished in this manner have again on storing gradually lost the crisp, silky feel so laboriously attained. Finally, the treatment deprives the fibre of felting properties, and can therefore be applied in certain cases only.

GAULT BROS. & CO.

The incorporation of Gault Bros. & Co., wholesale dry goods, Montreal, is a matter of convenience and arrangement satisfactory to the partners, and has no special signification. The firm having been dissolved by the death of the late Mr. R. I. Gault, it has been reconstituted as a limited liability company, with a capital stock of \$750,000 in one hundred dollar shares. The members of the company are: Messrs. A. F. Gault, R. W. MacDougall, Leslie H. Gault, James R. Rodger and Mrs. R. I. Gault. The business continues exactly as before, in the same hands and under the same management.