

breaking up of the combination, but the English makers have escaped without serious loss. Very little business has been done in foreign steel blooms, as prices still keep too high for American buyers." The anthracite coal trade is assuming larger proportions, a general advance of fifteen cents per ton having been ordered for October 1st.

#### COTTON AND WOOLLEN TEXTILES.

After a long period of falling markets and low values for textiles, a point seems to have been reached where merchants, as well as manufacturers, may reasonably hope to make some profit. From Great Britain as well as the United States advices are of a more favorable character, and our own textile industries share in the improved conditions. The past month has witnessed, says the *Textile Record*, of Philadelphia, a gradual and healthful improvement in the condition of general business. The distribution of all kinds of merchandise on home trade orders has steadily increased. "Everywhere in the United States the fall trade seems to be opening up under encouraging auspices, and merchants and manufacturers talk cheerfully and hopefully of the business outlook. The condition of the dry goods trade and the general prospects for business are better than for a number of years past. Large quantities of all kinds of manufactured goods are going forward from day to day in execution of orders."

During the years 1884 and 1885 production was very materially curtailed, it will be remembered, by American factories, and buyers were very conservative. The effect of this curtailment and caution is now apparent in the reduced stocks resting between makers and consumers, and in the gradual betterment of values in that country. Manufacturers are beginning to realize fair margins of profit in the cotton goods trade, as is evidenced in the recent resumption of dividends by certain New England mills, and by an increase, in many cases, over the meagre returns made to stockholders last year. "The jobbing trade throughout the country is now quite active; and while there is no speculative tendency apparent in any quarter, the purchases of dealers in all sections, give evidence of the general and growing confidence that is felt in the prospects of trade."

Turning to woollens, we find it stated by the same authority that satisfactory orders have been booked for attractive lines of spring weight clothing woollens, but prices show little improvement except in a few leading specialties, and the higher cost of labor and material keeps profit margins within narrow limits." All branches of the woollen goods trade, however, are in exceptionally good shape as regards supplies and orders in hand, and the conditions and surroundings of the business are more favorable to an improvement than to a decline in prices. Autumn weights and styles of both men's and women's fabrics have seldom, if ever, been so well sold up as they are at present. The market throughout is firm and promises sustained strength and activity for some time to come."

It may prove instructive to enquire to

what extent the advance in wool has been carried, and what effect it has had and is having upon woollen manufacture. The *Economist* of 25th ult., commenting upon the further decided advance in prices sustained during the current series of colonial wool sales, says that the rise established in wool during the past four months is very considerable indeed. According to a Liverpool circular "the advance in that period in clothing wool averages 50 per cent., in lustre kinds 27 per cent., and in carpet and blanket descriptions 22 per cent. Some of the defective and inferior clothing wools have, however, advanced as much as 75 per cent. since the lowest points touched in April last." The advance in clothing wool, Messrs. Bowes state, follows upon two years' depression in this class, owing to the uncertainty as to the continuance of the fashion for women's dress fabrics, which in 1876, changed from the stiff cloths made from lustre wools to the soft goods made from Australian and River Plate merino. "This fashion, which ruled without dispute until 1884, then partially gave way to mixed or stiffer cloths, which, however, do not appear to have taken any decided hold upon the popular taste, and the sharp rebound in merino wools may be accepted as an evidence that soft cloths are to have a further lease of favor. This would indicate a continuance of the depression in worsted wools, and also in those used for carpets and blankets, for the latter suffer from the competition of the large quantity of English worsted wool, which, when no longer wanted for the Bradford trade, becomes available for carpets, &c."

Good average English alpaca wool, which was worth on an average during the years 1867 to 1876, say 81d. per lb. fell, during ten years 1877 to 1886 to an average of 17½d. and is now quoted at 14½d. Australian merino wool, which brought an average of 12½d. in the early period named was worth 12½d. in the second period and is held at 18d. now. Buenos Ayres clothing wool, merino and mestizo, maintained its average price of 6½d. for each period and is now at 7d. We quote further:

Description.	Sept. '86.	Period		Period	
	Current Prices.	per lb.	'77-'86.	Av. 10 years.	'67-'66.
Clothing Wool—					
Australian, merino..	18		12½		12½
B. Ayres, merino and mestizo.....	7		6½		6½
Lustre Wool—					
English Wool, Lincoln hogs.....	11½		14		22
Alpaca, good average	14½		17½		31
Mohair, fair average	15½		26		39½
Carpet & blanket wool—					
East India, 1st white					
Candahar.....	10½		11½		13½
do. yellow Pac Pathan	7		8½		9½
Noils, medium English.....	11		11½		13½

As to prices of raw cotton, we learn from New York and other points that the market is quiet. Pending developments as to old cotton and the new crop, with market conditions has restrained active dealings, either in actual cotton or in futures. A well-informed journal finds that "Prices have yielded gradually under the pressure of speculative liquidation, more favorable crop advices and unfavorable reports from Liverpool and Manchester, and all markets

are fractionally lower than at last report. Estimates of the probable crop yield now range from 6,250,000 to 5,500,000 bales."

#### TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

The figures of imports and exports at Toronto for September last have been sent us by the Secretary of the Board of Trade. They show a somewhat increased aggregate as compared with the same month last year, thus: September, 1886, value of imports, \$1,617,283; value of exports, \$215,589; total \$1,832,872. September, 1885, value of imports, \$1,466,406; value of exports, \$204,293; total, \$1,670,699. The principal items of import are compared, in the subjoined table, with those of last September. It will be seen that there is an increase in many items:

IMPORTS.		
	Sep. 1886.	Sep. 1885
Cotton goods.....	\$73,402	\$ 85,611
Hats and bonnets.....	27,247	30,458
Fancy goods.....	48,675	44,753
Silk goods.....	82,708	67,506
Woollen goods.....	327,192	276,854
Total Dry goods.....	\$559,224	\$505,182
Books and pamphlets..	50,937	44,948
Coal.....	65,143	112,981
Drugs and medicines..	19,689	.....
Furs, dressed.....	25,090	25,347
Glass and glassware....	30,505	18,947
Fruits dried, and nuts...	27,948	.....
Iron and steel goods....	133,341	114,202
Jewellery and watches..	56,350	47,366
Leather goods.....	43,897	40,584
Paper goods.....	33,409	29,214
Musical instruments...	16,828	.....

As to exports, they were slightly larger last month, but their character was not materially changed. We tabulate only the products of Canada, omitting any foreign goods which may have been shipped. Less grain was sent abroad than in the previous September, but more of our manufactures were shipped.

EXPORTS.		
Produce of	Sep. 1886.	Sep. 1885
The Forest.....	\$74,521	\$55,950
Animals and products..	93,484	95,208
Field products.....	7,634	27,494
Manufactures.....	37,905	25,641
Miscellaneous.....	2,045	.....
Total.....	215,589	\$204,293

#### THE ROYAL TEMPLARS.

The above is the title of a temperance institution first organized in Buffalo some ten years ago, and which has seen considerable ups and downs and changes in its short history. It has a beneficiary department in which the members may have amateur life insurance for either \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000, upon a scale of graded assessments, commencing with \$1 for the ages between 18 and 25 and running up to \$2.50 for the ages between 50 and 60 inclusive, fixed at the time of joining and remaining so throughout life. In 1882 a Grand Council was formed for the Province of Ontario, and later on the Dominion Council was established, and this latter body was granted the power of levying its own assessments, separate from those ordered at Buffalo. Each Canadian member pays a fixed monthly rate, according to age of entry, which is to remain stationary and which is thought sufficient, by the leaders, to yield a small reserve.

We learn from a recent report of the Dominion Council that the number of benefi-