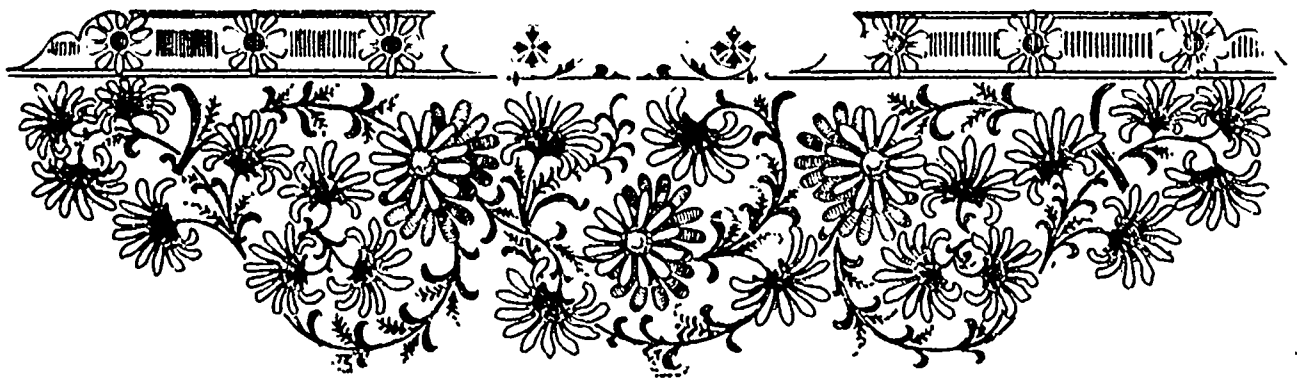




Clothing and Woollen Trade.

THE MARKET AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THOSE who have analyzed the wool situation in England declare that the higher prices now being paid for colonial wools show no signs of easing off. They assert that, but for the shortage in merinos and the large consumption, the prices for finer wools would subside. But, both these factors being in force, the outlook for lower prices is by no means assured. An English exchange gives the following table of the advances in wool since the movement began :

During 1898.....	7½	10	10 per cent.
January series, 1899.....	5	7½	"
March " ".....	7½	10	"
May " ".....	20	25	"
July " ".....	5	7½	"
September " ".....	10	15	"
November " ".....	10	15	"
Total rise.....	65	90	per cent.

As a heavy shortage in merinos is again predicted for Australia, and Cape wools will be affected by the war, the outlook is not believed to be in the direction of lower prices.

In Canada, the higher prices paid for all imported woollen materials, especially worsteds, is generally acquiesced in. As to domestic goods, which are always slower to advance, the past month has put some backbone into the manufacturers. The selling agents of a large woollen concern issued a circular in December to this effect :

"In view of the recent very marked advance in the price of our raw material (wool, supplies, etc.), and the possibility of a still further advance in the future, we find it necessary to advise our customers as follows : All goods made by us are subject to an advance in price at any time, without notice. Orders not actually in our possession the day an advance may be made, will be filled only at the new price. Orders held by any house, waiting for one of our salesmen to call, or for any other reason, cannot be considered. Only such orders will be recognized as have been duly received and acknowledged by our firm. The above particulars are given not only for our own protection, but that our customers may not oversell any line of goods purchased from us, with the surety of being able to record repeats at the same price as their original orders."

Some of the mills, in showing samples for next Fall, have been embarrassed by the uncertainty as to prices, and some have not yet ventured to show fancies at all.

A. S. Campbell & Co., the semi ready clothing manufacturers, of Montreal, are at present holding an extensive sale of overcoats, etc., at manufacturing prices. They had a contract with the Kennedy Co., semi ready clothiers, and have termin-

ated it, and Mr. Campbell intends to devote himself solely to the retail trade in future, in which department he has had 25 years' experience. He intends to pay particular attention to the making of the finer grades of clothing.

Among the many novelties in the juvenile clothing, says an English authority, which are being put on the market for the Spring trade, those having any connection with the war in South Africa are sure to attract a large amount of attention. By far the best I have seen as yet is a juvenile suit, an exceedingly natty suit, made up in khaki, the material so prominently brought before the eye of the public by the military off to the war. The coat is of the Norfolk style, with four pockets, each with a broad box pleat and a flap buttoned with brass buttons. Two brass buttons are on each sleeve and on the belt, and the buttons down the front are of the same metal. The jacket has a wonderfully smart appearance, and is capitally made up and finished. Quite apart from sentiment, the cloth is almost an ideal material for juvenile Summer wear. It is waterproof and light, healthy to wear, and washes well. The manufacturers of khaki claim for it, that washing the material not only is not detrimental to the cloth, but actually improves it. However this may be, it certainly will stand hard wear, and should, during the coming Summer, prove a most popular wear amongst all classes.

The range of woollens shown this season by importers for the tailoring trade contains some attractive goods. The buyer for The W. R. Brock Co. declares that in trouserings the patterns comprise small checks, narrow stripes and overchecks, and materials range from moderate-priced goods to the finest French worsteds. In suitings, there are some nice fancy worsteds, both domestic and imported goods, principally in small grey checks and overchecks, both in pure botany and crossbreds. For Spring overcoats, the latest novelties in coverts and whipcords are both plain and herringbone pattern, while cheviots in greys and blacks are also in favor. What fashion may decree between now and the incoming of actual Spring weather is doubtful. Black and blue serges will again be popular for young men's suits.

Thornton & Douglas, of Stratford, Ont., are not only enlarging their making-up department, but are opening a new branch in Chatham, Ont. It will be the corner store in the new Victoria block, and is being fitted up as one of the handsomest and best equipped clothing stores in Western Ontario. Its size is 27 x 95 feet, and it is being fitted up inside with hardwood finish and all modern conveniences, including the