

GENERAL TRADE NOTES.

GORDON, MacKay & Co. are showing extra value in some new shipments, the chief being three hundred pieces of navy all wool serge and five hundred pieces gray shaker flannel.

The fingerling and other yarns of domestic manufacture have gradually displaced the foreign makers. With the exception of the Baldwin, no other foreign brand has any very great sale, while there is a good market for domestic yarns.

John Macdonald & Co. are handling a new article called the Twin dress stay; it is well adapted for the purpose and surpasses most other kinds in quality. They are also showing dress shields, for wearing under the arms, in stockinette and silk, both of domestic and French manufacture. They have received large shipments of Baldwin's fingerling yarns, and in domestic yarns are selling Queen City and Standard, which brands can be readily distinguished by the Royal British Standard.

Caldecott, Burton & Spence have received about the last of their shipments in Canadian shirtings, flannels, flannelettes and other cotton staples, thus giving them a very full and varied stock of the latest productions of the Canadian mills. These goods were ordered early in order to avoid the later advances.

John Macdonald & Co. have just received very heavy shipments of tapestries, Brussels and Wiltons, and especially varied in their stock in hems, which includes all qualities and widths. Their orders for fall delivery of carpets has been unusually large.

Gordon, MacKay & Co. have an extra fine line of 45 inch black flouncings in black and colored embroidery. In kid gloves they are showing a very fine line of gauntlets on which they are quoting a special price, which the shrewd dealer should investigate.

A new thing in embroidery and crochet cotton—E.S.C. is of German make, and the new feature is that it is sold by weight, each ball weighing 25 grammes. It is put up 10 balls in a box, and in several boxes in a gross is found a small pasteboard box, into which one of the balls just fits and the lid of which is provided with a hole through which the thread runs out, thus securing the ball from being injured or soiled. Enough of these are provided to furnish one each to the best customers. By this method of weighing consumers get the fairest treatment, as they do not pay for spools or their substitutes. This cotton sells for \$6 a gross.

W. R. Brock & Co. have a job line of lenos in all colors, which are having a strong demand, to protect goods from the black flies. Their honeycomb shawl, which is sold to retail at a dollar, is a genuine bargain. They are showing a nice line of silk umbrellas. One kind of umbrella has quite a novelty handle; the bone handle is fashioned at one end into a dog's head, and at the other end into a street car whistle, by a simple twist of the wrist the handle is disengaged and shows a handy corkscrew.

In mantle materials some very new brocaded effects are seen, but sealettes, plain beavers and Bedford cords are very promising.

John Macdonald & Co. are selling

the Hygiene corset. This corset being fitted up with shoulder straps and straps for holding up the skirt, is designed to relieve the waist of the load of garments and place this load on the shoulders. This is the proper way according to dress reformers and physicians, and this corset is meritously popular.

Wyld, Grassett & Darling are showing some beautiful ranges of linen goods. Their linen and bleached tablings are very clean made and serviceable goods, and their range is large. In towellings the variety they carry in all widths and makes is very large, and renders selection easy. Very large ranges of flannelettes, shirtings, tees, and other Canadian goods are to be seen in the warehouse, and prime value in grey flannels.

John Macdonald & Co. are showing bargains in braces, having bought the over-make of an American manufacturer at much below regular prices, and consequently are showing special value in farmers' braces, overshoot silk and fancy Jacquard.

Gordon, MacKay & Co. are showing a very fine range of blankets which are being sold at close prices. These are, undoubtedly, exceptionally fine goods. The fault of a too heavy nap is avoided in their manufacture. They are showing greys in unions and wools, and whites in unions, wools, supers, and extra-supers. This house is also showing a large range of comforters in choice patterns and all sizes.

Wyld, Grassett & Darling are showing a large range of Canadian and imported underwear, in fall and winter weights. The natural color so popular in the past two seasons is increasing in favor.

John Macdonald & Co. are still receiving shipments of carpets and linoleums for fall delivery. In their linoleums they have a large variety of patterns and qualities.

W. R. Brock & Co. are showing some new styles in flannel embroideries in silk and cotton and thread, and a large range of dress and mantle pearl buttons in plain and fancy patterns and in all sizes from 18 to 60 lines. Among other things worthy of attention in the house are a range of the celebrated Hercules suspender and a range of fingerling yarns and Saxony in several grades and colorings. They are showing some plush lines for the fall trade in hosiery, gloves, cardigan jackets, and men's socks.

John Macdonald & Co. are opening up ten bales of travelling and driving rugs. These are beautiful woods, being shown in fringed plaid rugs, striped and checked bound rugs, and printed scale and black mohairs. The patterns are entirely new and very artistic, consisting of printed sporting effects, crests and checks. The new Lamsden rug is very pretty, having a nice silk curly surface.

The handkerchief trade during the past two weeks has been very strong on low priced goods, but the higher priced goods have been very slow in movement.

Prospects for fall trade are quite encouraging, and the wholesalers are stocking up very heavily in anticipation of a good demand. In another week stocks will be nearly complete. Many dealers throughout the country are holding off and are missing the cream of the goods. The late buyer may save a little on some lines, but he loses the best patterns and the best-value goods.

THE COMING BI-METALLIC CONFERENCE.

There has been no end of opinions published in the press of this country and of England, during the month, on the coming bi-metallic conference of the great commercial powers of Europe with the United States, and no end of the diversity of those opinions as to the outcome of the same. The majority, however, favors the belief that no immediate result will be reached at this meeting; that the silver, or bi-metallic countries will not consent to materially lower the existing standard of value for silver compared with gold, and that the single standard countries will refuse to accept a ratio fixing the price of silver, much if any above its present value. This is regarded as the stumbling block in the way of immediate practical results from the conference. On the other hand, the increasing interest taken by the manufacturing, industrial and commercial classes of Great Britain, in favor of the adoption of silver as a part of the circulating medium of that country, as shown by the increasing number and influential character of the deputations that have waited upon the British officials in charge of this conference, shows a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of the double standard in that hitherto strongest hold of the single standard theory; and, it is not expecting too much, that the commissioners appointed by that government will be empowered to make concessions that would hitherto have been impossible on the part of any administration, either Liberal or Tory. As the question is undoubtedly one that will be finally settled by the action of Great Britain and the United States, it certainly seems as if everything was favoring the final adoption of the double standard by the great commercial nations of Europe. Such action, even though delayed by radical differences of opinion and interests at first, will no doubt eventually dispose of the vexed silver problem that has threatened the finances as well as the commercial interests of this country. With the removal of this silver mill stone from the neck of trade, the outlook for both financial and commercial interests in this country would decidedly improve, by establishing a future basis of value that is not likely to be interfered with by new legislation at Washington when ever there is a change in the party controlling congress or the administration of our government. Could the other great stumbling block to our industries and their permanent prosperity also be removed in the shape of constantly changing tariff legislation, and some settled and permanent policy fixed upon that should not be upset with every change in the administration of our government, the chief causes in the present depression, in all branches of trade and industry would be permanently removed, and this country would enter upon a period of general prosperity such as has never been experienced. Happily, both these problems seem to be approaching a solution that shall be just to all interests, and one which will take them out of party politics, as has been done in England years ago and removed from the political arena, where business interests are subject to party necessities.—H. A. Pierce, in *The Bankers' Magazine*.