

ABOUT DRY GOODS PEOPLE. •

The English houses in the dry goods trade, which have contributed to the Hull and Ottawa fire relief fund, are not few nor illiberal. The Draper's Record gives a list in which occur the following names contributing to the Lord Mayor's fund: J. and R. Morley, £210; Howard Morley, £105; Cook, Son and Co., £105; J. Shoolbred and Co., £105; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, £100; Thomas Adams and Co., Limited, Nottingham, £100; Copestake, Crampton and Co., £52 10s.; Sir James Whitehead, £52 10s.; Faudel Phillips and Sons, £50; Dr. Jaeger's Sanitary Woolen System Company, Limited, £50; Messrs. Hayes Candy and Co., £21; Stuart, Sons and Co., £21.

We have for a good while been accustomed to hear that textile mills in the Dominion were busy; indeed textile mills over most of the world have long been unusually well employed. But one does not realize how busy Canadian mills are until he goes among the wholesale houses and hears their complaints of the delay in filling orders. One house instances an order given on 1st September for goods deliverable 1st March, which had not been filled on 16th May. Another, a Montreal house ordered goods in June last year which were only delivered on 15th inst. Of course what annoys wholesale dealers in a matter of the kind also discomposes their retail customers, and we know of many instances where the trade of country storekeepers is suffering from delayed delivery of spring and summer goods, but their complaints have been unavailing.

There is a firm feeling in textile markets as a rule, silks being the exception. Domestic cottons are firmly held, and in United States markets there is general firmness with no accumulation of stocks. As to woollen dress goods, high class fabrics are scarce and firm, i.e., European textiles; and in the United States we observe, the mills are well employed on dress goods. Clothiers in Boston and New York are of opinion that the top notch in woollen and worsted fabrics has been reached and are therefore chary about buying. The Boston wool trade is stagnant, the decline of 5 to 10 per cent. at the London sales last week having chilled buyers. Still, holders do not weaken. for the London decline has been anticipated. The cold weather of early May has done much to keep back trade that was expected to be active. This cold wave has affected Quebec as well as Ontario. When warm weather does come, to stay, there is reason to expect a very good turn-over of summer goods.

The writer of "The Fashion End" in the N.Y. Dry Goods Economist makes the startling statement that the great new point of dress for the summer is the low neck. But he qualifies this somewhat, or at least explains it, by going on to speak of an altered outline of dress. This summer will see an entirely different class of gowns—jardiniere in their ideas and outline. "From hat to slippers we may expect a vogue of a very different type from those of the tight-clinging ideas of the past few seasons. Dresses will now come away from the shoulder, the high stock collar will disappear, and in place will be low-cut V's with bertha and draped shoulder effects, shortened sleeves coming up to the elbow, some having a second sleeve falling below and in which the chemise effect covers the exposed throat and upper torso." With the shortening sleeves may be expected a certain growing fullness, which may develop into puffed effects. These new forms, in the opinion of the writer, are very good for business. Their adoption means that an entirely new set of materials, trimmings, accessories—such as gloves, shoes, hosiery, hats and neckwear—will be found necessary by the woman of style.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The price of matches is higher by some 60 cents per case by reason of the Hull fire.

London cable advices report the sugar market, both beet and cane, firm at a slight advance.

The currant market in Patras is extremely firm, shipments to Germany and France having reduced the stock to 13,000 tons.

It is expected in New York that opening prices for Columbia River Chinook salmon will be 25 cents higher this year than last.

Harriston Pork Packing Co. have slaughtered 13,000 hogs since commencing operations. Already an enlargement of the factory is being talked of. New brooms sweep well, sometimes.

A cable from Japan, dated 15th May, says the tea market is stronger than a year ago. Higher freights and exchange will make new teas one to two cents higher per pound than last year.

It is reported that the Sorrento market has been cleaned up on Naples walnuts at higher prices, and while there is a fair stock in New York no further importations are expected on this crop.

For a week so early in the shipping season, last week's shipments of Canadian cheese from Montreal were liberal. The total was 28,936 boxes, as compared with 16,421 boxes for the corresponding week last year.

The combination of raisin growers and packers in the San Joaquin valley of California has turned out a failure, and in their attempt to raise prices the packers find themselves with a heavy stock of unsold goods and a falling market.

A report from Grand Manan says: Lobsters are reported scarce by the fishermen, but the factories at Grand Harbor and Seal Cove are doing a good business this spring. Pollock and shrimp are reported plentiful on the soundings.

Advices by mail from Smyrna are to the effect that about 3,000 tons of Sultana raisins remain there. Of this quantity practically one-half consists of low grade and rain-damaged stock. Fine grades are scarce, the finest being exhausted.

According to the San Francisco Trade Journal the salmon season on Puget Sound will open June 25, but it is not at all likely that packing will become general before July 1, unless the fish runs freer than usual to the seasons up there. The canners are contracting with fishermen at 22¢ apiece for sockeyes, which will make the cost of the canned fish from \$1.25 to \$1.30 per dozen.

At a meeting of the Toronto Retail Grocers' Association, held on Monday night, the members expressed their satisfaction with the action of the city council in supporting the early closing by-law. An address on trading stamps by O. A. J. Anderson, revealed the fact that the majority of the members are opposed to the system. The association will send a representative to the Congress of Grocers, which meets in Paris this summer.

The San Francisco Grocer of last Saturday says that it is confirmed that the Italian prune crop of Oregon and Washington States has been pretty well wiped out by the frost, leaving only the French prunes, which are relatively unimportant, in that section. Of citrus fruits the same authority says: Oranges, with the exception of fancy navels, are dull. The latter, however, are scarce and firm at an advance on last week. Late Valencias are just beginning to come in. Lemons are very dull and marked down.

A NEGLECTED EXHIBITION.

It is matter for regret that so instructive an event as the Applied Art Exhibition in the rooms of the Ontario Society of Artists in this city, closed last week, was so sparsely attended. Possibly, if the managing committee had made a "Society" event of it, or had even arranged, through the Board of Trade or otherwise, to attract the attention of business men to it, spectators by hundreds instead of by the score might have been secured. We can only express regret that so worthy and educative a display of what has been done and is doing by artists and handicraftsmen (and women) amongst us should have been so little heeded.

The Toronto Carpet Manufacturing Co. exhibited Axminster carpets and rugs, some of them executed after striking designs by Canadian artists, Leslie Jones and W. Living among them; the Metallic Roofing Co. displayed their stamped metal; Chas. Rogers and Sons Co., a mantel decorated by G. A. Reid, who also decorated in oils one or more pianos, which were on view. Robt. McCausland's sketches for stained glass were much admired.

Book covers, leather binding and the like were contributed by the Brown Brothers Co., the Mail Publishing Co. and William Briggs, while the Grip Company showed Christmas card