

every woman must long to throw aside the now faded flower gardens for the richer beauty more suited to winter.

Not for years has there been such a demand for fancy feathers. There is something different from previous ideas in every line of this season's goods. Some of the more expensive breasts, quills and wings necessitate the handling of innumerable small pieces of feathers to create an entire article. Goods of this description retain their value, and are not likely to become common. Although birds find a place on many of the most admired new models, feather effects are the more popular.

Any description of the season's millinery would be incomplete without mention of the very handsome quills shown everywhere; they have almost as rich an effect as the ostrich plume; are more suitable for the chapeau, and expensive enough not to become common. Buckles and long fancy pins make stylish ornaments, though the latter are somewhat newer and exceedingly pretty. Few flowers are shown; the occasional rose or foliage always adds brightness to some sombre shade in trimming.

The royal blue is a favorite color and should be more serviceable in winter than summer, as the strong sun and dust of summer soon turn this charming shade to a dingy gray.

FOREIGN JULY TRADE.

That the imports in the month of July would be unusually large was to be expected; German and other foreign exporters whose tariff privileges terminated at the close of the month rushed forward their goods anticipating future requirements. The enormous total value of \$17,083,266 was, however, hardly looked for, as the aggregate value of imports in July last year was only \$9,387,131. The desire to bring in German and Belgian goods before an unfavorable tariff discrimination occurred is not a sufficient explanation of the immense increase. In our last issue we commented upon the large imports of British textile goods during July. The imports of free goods, too, increased almost proportionately to the dutiable goods. The figures for the two months are as follows:

	1897.	1898.
Dutiable.....	\$5,332,596	\$10,520,658
Free.....	3,724,298	6,225,123
Coin and bullion.....	330,237	337,485
	<u>\$9,387,131</u>	<u>\$17,083,266</u>
Duty.....	\$1,514,012	\$2,767,075

The increases in some classes of dutiable goods are rather surprising. The greater movement was general, extending over all lines of merchandise. Of rice, earthenware, fancy goods, flax manufactures, fur goods, glass, musical instruments, sugars, woollens and silks the imports were especially conspicuous. The enormous imports of sugar are the more noticeable because of the recent announcement that one of the Montreal refineries had closed down as a result of over-stocked markets. The following table shows some of the largest increases in dutiable goods:

	1897.	1898.
Books, pamphlets, etc.....	48,028	81,378
Rice.....	30,339	148,505
Coal, bituminous.....	243,349	406,533
Cottons, not dyed.....	20,057	47,811
Cottons, dyed, etc.....	169,339	321,902
Cottons, clothing.....	26,138	47,459
Cottons, all other mfgs.....	100,792	140,691
Drugs and medicines.....	103,670	198,569
Earthenware, etc.....	64,824	169,281
Fancy goods, embroidery, etc.....	110,380	344,400
Flax, manufactures of.....	nil	243,888
Furs, and manufactures of.....	33,803	104,203
Glass, manufactures of.....	87,630	247,821
Iron and steel, manufactures of.....	1,025,687	1,650,288
Jewelry, watches, etc.....	67,127	119,148
Metals and manufactures of.....	25,154	68,302
Musical instruments.....	13,280	53,140
Paints and colors.....	53,979	91,431
Paper, envelopes, etc.....	79,194	127,730
Silk, manufactures of.....	193,857	841,563

	1897.	1898.
Soap.....	19,385	34,034
Sugar.....	58,931	367,194
Woollens, of all kinds.....	801,385	1,968,906

We have already mentioned that free goods almost held their own with goods subject to the import tax. Of Indian corn the imports were more than quadrupled. Enthusiasts who have predicted that Essex and Kent county tobacco growers would soon render Canada independent of foreign producers in the tobacco trade will be surprised to learn of the enormous increase in imports. We append a comparative table of the more important items:

	1897.	1898.
Broom corn.....	\$ 2,228	\$ 7,029
Indian corn.....	407,359	1,892,700
Dyes, chemicals, etc.....	136,155	245,030
Hides and skins.....	132,361	164,265
Steel rail for railways.....	222,103	284,693
Iron and steel, all other.....	135,174	195,400
Tin and zinc.....	42,590	109,693
Silk, raw.....	7,983	28,064
Sisal, manila and hemp.....	49,404	111,735
Tobacco, leaf.....	16,989	415,670
Wood, cabinet making.....	148,208	266,273

The only explanation of this marked augmentation in the value of our imports is that, in addition to the tariff changes the consumptive demand in Canada has improved. In other words, times are better. Merchants who in ordering their fall supplies early in the season were conservative and restricted the amount of their purchases, have grown bolder in the assurance of phenomenal crops. As a result, buying for shipment in July was freer than a year ago. Not only did merchants order more goods but they have also bought better goods and paid more for them.

The exports show a marked contrast to the imports. While the latter have made phenomenal gains the former have suffered considerable losses. The decrease has been principally in animal and agricultural products. We can readily understand the lack of wheat exports, supplies having been earlier attracted abroad by the high prices. The cheese markets have been unfavorable to exporters, and while butter exports for the season are larger than those of 1897 the markets of July were not favorable to foreign shipment. The decline in exports in July is not a matter for any serious alarm. The falling off in goods, the produce of Canada, was \$3,536,307, as shown by following comparison with July last year:

	1897.	1898.
Mines.....	\$ 1,048,695	\$ 887,716
Fisheries.....	903,385	936,348
Forest.....	5,095,834	5,018,803
Animals.....	4,913,326	3,013,394
Agricultural products.....	2,267,029	1,506,644
Manufactures.....	918,928	742,166
Miscellaneous.....	5,539	16,944
Bullion.....	16,024	110,448
	<u>\$15,768,770</u>	<u>\$12,232,463</u>

FIFTY MILLION BUSHEL.

A most pleasing report is that issued by the Manitoba Government on the 24th ult. giving statistics of agricultural conditions within the Prairie Province. An aggregate yield of 50,000,000 bushels of cereals is the estimated production which entitles Manitoba to a proud position among farming countries. Naturally the greatest interest is centered in the amount of wheat production. The average wheat yield per acre is placed at a fraction over seventeen bushels, and the total at about 26,000,000 bushels. This is an increase over estimates made earlier in the year, and is explained by the fact that there was a wonderfully rapid improvement in the crops three or four weeks before maturity, bettering conditions very considerably. There has as yet been no damage of note from insect pests or from the elements. With respect to other cereals the reports of the Government's crop correspondents are also of a generally favorable character. Good reports are given regarding live