

BRITISH COTTONS IN CANADA.

THOSE who profess to know the cotton market assert that the coming season is going to see a considerable increase in the imports of English cottons. It is well known that the high prices of American goods are interfering with the sales in Canada, and for some time past very few United States cottons have come in here. Now that the prices of Canadian cottons are mounting up so high, the expectation is that Canadian buyers will have a choice between British and Canadian goods.

It is asserted that Canadian buyers who have gone across the ocean intend to buy English cottons much more extensively than before—this will apply to flannelettes, saxonys, shirtings, printed wrapperettes and other lines. So marked is the tendency to buy imported goods, that one firm in Canada has imported a lot of German oxford shirtings. The advanced prices for Canadian cottons seem likely to diminish the retail sale of the very cheapest lines, as people, having to pay more, will probably go in for the better class of goods.

The above information was given to THE DRY GOODS REVIEW before the announcement made on March 23 by the Minister of Finance that the British preference would (after July 1 next) be increased from a quarter to a third of the duty. The increased preference will probably have the effect of accelerating still more the movement referred to.

As to what has already taken place, we have only the details of trade down to June 30, 1899. We have compiled a comparative table which will show the trade what increase took place in imports of British cottons up to that date. It is as follows :

COTTON IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

	1899.	1898
Duck, grey or white.....	\$ 1,666	\$ 720
Embroideries.....	29,496	32,680
Grey unbleached fabrics.....	18,437	15,482
White bleached fabrics.....	276,226	169,515
Printed or colored fabrics.....	2,247,683	1,731,139
Jeans, sateens, etc.....	3,164	1,773
Handkerchiefs.....	138,910	93,895
Cotton yarns (not dyed).....	19,573	2,482
Wadding, hating, etc.....	256	94
Cotton yarns (dyed).....	11,431	2,771
Warps.....	3,015	3,663
Warp on beams.....	106	173
Seamless bags.....	326	804
Sheets.....	829	219
Shirts.....	20,684	16,651
Thread on spools.....	180,543	277,039
Thread in hanks.....	253,062	204,577
Crochet cotton thread.....	1,067	3,700
Other cotton thread.....	2,114	1,182
Bed quilts.....	46,013	35,804
Clothing.....	137,188	114,583
Blouses and shirt waists.....	1,596	2,996
Damasks, etc.....	5,622	4,513
Cotton bags.....	3,697	2,547
Hosiery.....	19,551	15,413
Lampwicks.....	1,331	1,902
Shawls.....	740	1,302
Socks and stockings.....	30,718	24,686
Tape, not colored.....	13,341	7,070
Tape, colored.....	13,151	9,013
Towels.....	29,989	25,407
Undershirts and drawers.....	2,750	1,265
Scrims, piques, diapers, etc.....	130,972	100,399
Velvets and velveteens.....	190,504	198,934
Made-up cottons.....	11,670	10,411

Total.....\$3,757,451 \$3,115,204

From this it will be seen that the total increase in purchases of British cottons exceeds \$600,000. The most remarkable increases are about \$500,000 in colored cottons, prints, etc., and \$100,000 in white and grey cottons. The increase recorded in clothing, scrims, piques, etc., is worth remarking.

CANADIAN GOODS.

Those who ask that Canadian fabrics and products shall get a fair chance in trade are not making an unreasonable demand. There is an undoubted tendency among some people to "cry down" a thing because it is Canadian. An instance of this occurred a few days ago, when a gentleman happened to examine a certain product in a large establishment, and remarked that it was very fine. Quite unconsciously, the clerk replied : "Yes, very good, indeed, for Canadian." The gentleman pointed out that this was pretty severe. The clerk was amazed, and had evidently never heard of any Canadian product being equal to the best in its class.

Not all the blame rests with the consumer and the merchant. They, as a rule, do not know. The manufacturer is to blame for not branding and pushing his goods. We do not know of any case where a brand of high quality in Canadian goods failed to succeed. If the manufacturer is making some lines that he is ashamed to acknowledge, that would account, to a considerable degree, for the low opinion entertained of Canadian products.

TEXTILES AND THE METRIC SYSTEM.

There will probably be conferences in connection with the Paris Exposition for more than one commercial purpose. For instance, an international congress will consider, some time during the Summer, the basis on which tariff duties are often estimated on cotton, woollens, and linen fabrics—namely, the count of threads in the fabric (number to the square inch, centimetre, etc.)

Foreign nations favor the metric system—the kilogram as unit of weight and the kilometre as unit of length. The British Empire retains its own system, and even in France the British system is in vogue for linen goods. The manufacturers of tulle in Calais and Saint Quentin, with a view to their English market, keep to the same method. In the woollen manufacture methods are still more diverse, according to the kind of weaving and the locality.

The commanding position of the English-speaking countries in textile and other manufactures gives them a governing voice in the systems of measures, weights, currency, etc., but there is undoubtedly a movement to approximate all these things to a common system for the advantage of trade.

OPPOSING A TURN-OVER TAX.

One of the ablest business documents recently issued is the report laid before the Toronto Board of Trade from the municipal taxation committee. It states the objections to a tax on the turn-over of a business in clear terms : That in limiting it to sums over \$50,000 it would be class legislation ; that it would burden Toronto concerns, as compared with other places ; that the Winnipeg plan of a personality tax, arrived at by a percentage on rental value of the premises occupied, is preferable. Everyone knows that the turn-over tax is supposed to be the best means of getting after the departmental stores. But if these stores are not paying their fair share of municipal charges there are better ways of making them do so than by discriminating against other and innocent persons.