

## THE PRICE OF RAW COTTON.

SINCE the middle of March there has been a steady appreciation in the price of raw cotton. Since March 5th prices have advanced from 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  to 6 $\frac{13}{16}$  cents per pound, or an increase of 21 per cent. This advance was noted in our last number, and has since been well maintained.

The following quotations show the course of prices during the past year, values now being nearly equal to those of a year ago.

## NEW YORK QUOTATIONS.

June, 15, 1894	7 5 16	to	7 9 16	cents.
Nov. 26 "	6	to	6 1 4	"
March 5, 1895	5 5 8	to	5 7 8	"
April 6 "	6 3 8	to	6 5 4	"
" 18 "	6 7 8	to	7 1 8	"
" 27 "	6 15 16	to	7 3 16	"
May 4 "	6 13 16	to	7 1 16	"
" 13 "	6 1 4	to	7	"
" 15 "	6 13 16	to	7 1 16	"

From March 1st, 1894, to March 1st, 1895, there was a decline of 25 per cent., while on the latter date there were 400,000 bales more in stock than on the former. Hence, the shorts felt perfectly safe.

But cotton had touched its lowest notch since 1848, and cotton growers were producing at a loss, the net amount received by a Southern grower being about 4c. Right at this point came an increased demand from the mills at home and abroad, and a report of an increased acreage. The bulls immediately got in their work and prices were driven up to an average of 7 cents. Brighter prospects in Liverpool and Manchester aided this advance.

On May 15th the market was weakening slightly, but Neill's Circular struck the New York market, showed a decrease in acreage, a decrease in the use of fertilizers, a backwardness of spring planting conditions and an improving trade everywhere. This strengthened the market again.

The estimated crop this year is 7,500,000 bales, and this would put the visible supply of cotton by October, 1896, with a consumption equal to last year, at 500,000 bales.

The present prices will be maintained unless more favorable crop reports make their appearance.

## THE ADVANCE IN COTTONS.

In our last issue we recorded an advance in sheetings. Since then one line of low grade grey cottons has been advanced 9 per cent. and another 5 per cent. On June 1st, A. B. shirting, as sold by D. Morrice, Sons & Co., was advanced 6 per cent. These are said to be but the precursors of advances all along the line. This is plausible, considering the advance in raw cotton and the lowness of the prices of manufactured goods, as compared with January, 1894.

The mills outside the combine have, it is claimed, been selling lately at 10 to 15 per cent. below regular prices to unload. But they have stopped this, and are again well filled with orders at regular prices. Wholesalers who have been selling on the basis of the old prices will thus be forced to make a 10 per cent. advance as soon as present stocks are exhausted.

Colored cottons do not follow the market so closely as greys and white, and prices are not so firm as in the latter, but still no weakness is exhibited.

The trade was much taken aback on reading a recent announcement in the daily press of the meeting of the Cotton

Company in which it was stated that prices were likely to be lower than ever. This was specially hard on those houses that had been pushing cottons on the strength of an advance. Mr. Gault was blamed for giving publicity to these statements, but he explains that he did not mean that prices would be any lower just now, but that owing to the improved machinery they had put in they were able to reduce the cost of manufacture.

The Montreal Cotton Company have made no change in any of their lines but one, a dress canvass, which they have advanced slightly. At present, they are working on old stock, but as soon as they have to go on the market to buy, they will have to pay more for raw material and will consequently have to ask higher figures for the manufactured product.

## STOCKS REMAIN LOW.

The Canadian cotton stocks declined last November, and have remained low:

NOVEMBER 1ST, 1894.			
	Bid.	Asked	Last Sales
Colored Cotton Co.	60	70	...
Dominion Cotton Co.	118	114	...
Montreal Cotton Co.	120	130	...
NOVEMBER 24TH, 1894.			
Colored Cotton Co.	55	60	...
Dominion Cotton Co.	93 1/2	96	...
Montreal Cotton Co.	120	127 1/2	...
MARCH 5TH, 1895.			
Colored Cotton Co.	40	45	41
Dominion Cotton Co.	89	92	91
Montreal Cotton Co.	118 1/2	122 1/2	116
MAY 28TH, 1895.			
Colored Cotton Co.	50	60	57
Dominion Cotton Co.	95	102	100 1/2
Montreal Cotton Co.	122 1/2	130	127

The Montreal Cotton Company has recovered more than either of the other two, while the Colored Cotton Company's stock has gone steadily down, up to a very short time ago, and even now is very low.

## MILLINERY INFORMATION.

Many congratulations have been showered on THE REVIEW for its splendid articles on spring millinery. During the past four months special attention has been given to this department of the paper and the efforts have been appreciated.

Last month a lady artist was engaged to help in this and the cloak department, and her drawings from the hats and cloaks shown by Canadian jobbers and manufacturers were very instructive, as were her descriptions.

Millinery and cloak dealers may rely on THE REVIEW for the latest and best information concerning these two classes of goods. Original illustrations and reliable information will always be forthcoming for each season's trade.

## DEPARTURE IN COVERS.

Appearance is a great feature in many ways. A man's appearance tells in the success of his business if it betokens carefulness, thoughtfulness and shrewdness. A woman's appearance, to a very great extent, makes her life happy or unhappy, a success or a failure.

Especially in the printing and publishing trades, says Printer and Publisher, is appearance important. The publishers of THE DRY GOODS REVIEW, a monthly trade journal issued by the MacLean Publishing Co., Montreal and Toronto, seem to recognize this and are now putting a new design in colors on every issue of their journal. The "Spring Trade Number,"