

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Wm. Benjamin & Co.
John Douglass & Co.
Gilmour, White & Co.
Lewis, Kay & Co.
Thomas May.
Mundeloh & Steeneken.
Ogilvy & Co.

Ringland, Ewart & Co.
A. Robertson & Co.
Stirling, McCall & Co.
William Stephen & Co.
Thomson, Claxton & Co.
Alexander Walker.

THIS week opens with considerable movement in the wholesale department of our trade. Some pretty large shipments of spring goods are now forward, and others fast following.

A couple of weeks will be required to mark off, arrange, &c., after which all will be anxiety to catch the most desirable marks visiting the market. The fifteenth of this month has generally found a few of the leading buyers here, coming from the section west of Hamilton, and as far west as Windsor. The impression abroad is that the trade will open out much later than usual. The country trader complains of the tightness of the money market, and the hopelessness of expecting a liquidation of outstanding debts due by farmers and others. It is important that they should make other effort to reduce their obligations to as low an ebb as possible. Their anxiety in this respect will cause them to remain at home to the last moment, or until compelled to go to market by the demands of the season. Even those buyers who are easy in their finances, will, we think, be late.

At the present moment there is a large quantity of snow on the ground,—much more than is usual at this season of the year. This gives the country a wintry aspect, and will, in some measure, affect the early purchase of spring goods.

Generally, people here are still uncertain as to spring prospects: there are still clouds hanging around the commercial horizon, and the tone of uneasiness is only half quelled. There are too many bankruptcy cases altogether, and we fear that the Act as at present constituted is faulty. Dishonest men are rushing into the Bankruptcy Court as carelessly as if it were only an amusement. The question is, will a number of them get out as easily as they anticipate? Will they all be willing to state how much they may have robbed their creditors of before making their assignment? how much cash may they have accumulated and placed in the hands of wife or brother or child? It will remain with creditors, we presume, as to how many of such defaulters are allowed to escape or perjure themselves, swearing to a poverty they do not feel or fear. Indeed, coupled with the fact of two or three absconding cases of late, it is conclusive that there is a very low state of business morality abroad.

The stocks in this market will not be large. Staples in many lines are an overstock from last season, and heavy goods will not be imported beyond the actual anticipated requirements of the trade. It may not be impossible that before the end of the season there will be a strong speculative local demand for certain classes of goods. Fancy goods will as usual be a good stock, and the market will be well supplied with novelties.

Before the positive approach of the busy season, would it not be well that some steps were taken by the wholesale trade of Montreal in the matter of the delivery of their goods at points west as soon after purchase as possible. There is no question about our spring business having been injured from the absurd delay in other seasons during the spring months from the non-delivery of goods by the Grand Trunk Railway. The season promises to be worse in this respect than any we have yet had, judging from the detention occurring on the road at this moment; and it were well, if it be possible, that some general arrangement were entered into by the merchants at large for the instant delivery, as far at least as practicable, of spring purchases. In the spring season it is not unusual for Western traders to refuse orders to commercial men on the ground of delay; stating at the same time that they prefer to purchase at Hamilton or Toronto, goods required for immediate demand. We give the hint: those interested may make what use they think proper of the same.

Among trade reports we have to notice Grey Cottons. There is a marked difference in better class goods in favor of the buyer. Low goods are about the same. 54 inch and 72 inch Sheetings are about the same as last season. Cotton Yarns are lower. White or Bleached Cotton, in certain prices there are plenty in market from last season. The change in price is not remarkable, some standard marks retaining last season's value. In White or Bleached Shirtings, 54 inch, 72 inch, and up to 90 inch, prices are equal to last season.

LINEN GRAY.—This make of goods promised to be much used,—the demand for them having been large last season. They do not seem to have answered expectations, and no large quantity will be imported. In Shirtings, Denims, &c., linen is a decided failure for this market: in fact, it is not suited to our climate.

PRINTS.—Are perceptibly lower in all grades. Holders of stock will have to give way.

BAGGINGS.—In this class of goods prices maintain their position. The demand is still good, and likely to continue. A Twilled 40 inch is popular, being much used for grain-bags.

HOLLANDS.—In good demand, and likely to continue for some time. Prices firmer. No overstock in the market.

LOGGING CLOTHS.—Will be much in demand. Never too many in the market. Prices firm.

ROLLED LININGS.—Too many in the market: holders will have to give way in price. Coming importations are lower. The same remark holds good in the matter of Casbans, Silecias, and in all classes of highly dressed goods.

DRESS GOODS.—In 3-4 there will be the usual variety of Printed Delaines, Challies, and Lustre Checks. In 6-4 there will also be a large variety. Broken Checks and Mottled Grounds seem to be popular. Of course, it is impossible to state what the latest novelties are or will be: they are generally very late, the best things often coming too late for our wholesale trade.

SHAWLS.—No decided change in style. Tissue will be much worn. The Printed Cashmere, once so popular, is now scarcely seen; at most, imported only in very small quantities. Tissue makes a graceful shawl, and in low and medium qualities is much sought after. The novelty this season seems to be a clear ground, with deep rich gold border. The contrast is handsome, and will please.

Among arrivals of London goods are Parasols, Ribbons, Gloves, Hosiery, &c. In Parasols the pagoda style is fashionable, plain and brocaded. The Fringed Parasol seems to have gone completely out, very few being imported. In Ribbons, the taste for tartan checks seems to be on the increase, as nearly all fancy Ribbons, in better class, are strongly tartan in their style. Plain colors will be worn freely. The new color seems to be a deep shade of *caviere*.

In Trimmings, gold braidings are again becoming fashionable. They are quite ornamental, and are likely to be much worn.

Ladies' Hats and Bonnets have materially changed in style. Bonnets are close fitting, slightly flat on top, no curtains, and slope from the crown down. A fashion-writer remarks that "Bonnets have become less and less Bonnets." Hats are high, with square crown; feather trimmings. Hats are still quite fashionable, and will be much worn.

THE GROCERY TRADE.

James Austin & Co.
J. Buchanan, Harris & Co.
Bacon, Clarke & Co.
H. Chapman & Co.
Converse, Colson & Lamb.
Jas. Douglas & Co.
Forrester, Muir & Co.
Fitzpatrick & Moore.
Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.
Jeffrey, Brothers & Co.
B. Hutchins.
Law, Young & Co.
Leeming & Buchanan.

E. Maitland Tylee & Co.
J. A. & H. Mathewson.
H. J. Gear.
Mitchell, Kinneir & Co.
William Nivn & Co.
Rimmer, Gunn & Co.
Robertson & Beattie.
David Robertson.
Haviland Routh & Co.
Sinclair, Jack & Co.
Jos. Tiffin & Sons.
David Torrance & Co.
Thompson, Murray & Co.

BUSINESS in Groceries continues inactive. One Auction Sale of Teas, &c., took place on Wednesday; but the prices obtained could not be satisfactory to the owners. There seems to be but little disposition on the part of the Trade to purchase beyond actual requirements.

TEAS.—Remain quiet. A few transactions have taken place in fine Young Hysons; and at Messrs. Cuvillier & Co.'s Auction about 200 half chests Un-colored Japans 42½c. to 44c.; but most of the Teas offered were withdrawn.

SUGARS.—Stock very light. Some small sales of Muscovado are reported. Present range of prices 8½c. to 9c. for good and bright Cubas; and 9½c. to 9½c. for bright Porto Ricos.

MOLASSES.—In moderate demand at quotations.

TOBACCO.—Sales of considerable parcels of Manufactured 10's are reported. Sales for the week probably approach 1000 boxes, mostly on terms not made public. 23c. net for round lots is still the lowest quotation for common sound 10's, and at that rate not plentiful. No sales of Western States Leaf reported. Some parcels of Canadian have been sold at about our quotations.

BRITISH MARKETS.

ADVICES to 18th, intimate that notwithstanding the purchase of £1,500 of the new three per cents by the Government brokers towards the reduction of the National Debt, the funds ruled heavy,—Canada Government Stocks being an exception, and reported firm; Six per cents 90, and Five per cents 80. Compared with the previous statement, the Bank of England had improved in every line, the average demand for discount and money, ranging from 5 to 6 per cent. for first class paper. On the continent the following rates prevailed: Paris 4; Vienna 5; Berlin 5; Frankfurt 4; Amsterdam 4; Turin 6; Brussels 5; Madrid 9; Hamburg 3, and Petersburg 5½ per cent.

The peace news had a most singular effect upon the money market; American Securities were enhanced in value, and British stocks depreciated. The effect of course, like the cause, was but temporary.

The Cotton market shared a declining tendency, and prices were in favor of the buyer; American ranging from 16½d. to 22d. per lb. In Manchester, the general tendency of the market had been unfavorable during the week, and little hope of improvement in the face of increasing supplies of raw Cotton.

The American struggle still occupies the first column of the *Times*, and a summing up of the probabilities regarding the issue is thus expressed: "It is impossible not to recognize the high qualities which have been displayed on both sides, and ardently to desire a termination of so terrible a conflict. All such hopes must, however, now be abandoned for some time to come. The war must go forward until it is brought to an end by the inability of either the one party or the other to prolong the contest."

The gross public income of the United Kingdom for year ending 31st Dec. last, is £70,125,374 15s. 1d., and the ordinary expenditure £67,163,404 13s. 4d. The net excess of income over expenditure £2,241,969 13s. 4d. The balance in the Exchequer £6,580,922 14s. 6d.

The Great Eastern is being freighted by the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, and is expected to finish the work by midsummer.

A writer from the North of Scotland says, on Feb. 11th, this is the seventh week of a most protracted snowstorm without the faintest indication of a change. Live stock and also wild animals are suffering. The snow lies two feet deep, and drifts piled very high. There has not been as much snow since 1837. At Glenish no less than 400 deer came down the glen, in search of food.

Tobacco.

The market for manufactured has been more animated, and some large transactions have taken place at full prices. A brisk demand from all parts of the country for every grade of this article is now experienced, and the stock being very small, and manufacturing carried on only on the most limited scale, tend to advance the views of holders.

The leaf market in the Western States shows an advancing tendency, and the new crop now coming forward is found to be of very inferior quality, so that really desirable lots of good manufacturing leaf are found to be scarce. Upper Canada Leaf remains dull of sale, and no change can be noted from last week's report. We do not alter our quotations for plug tobacco; although some difficulty would be experienced in filling orders at last week's prices.

Fur Trade.

We have nothing worthy of special notice to remark, except the advance in some kinds, which will be found in the list of *Prices Current*. The rise is in consequence of the late European demand.

The London March sales, of which advices will be received in the course of a few weeks, will likely establish prices for the season, unless the local demand for some kinds may cause a change.

Boots and Shoes.

We have to note a slight improvement in the trade during the week, and a moderate supply of orders. Dealers are exercising great caution in filling orders, as prospects are anything but encouraging, and they are inclined to discriminate closely as to their credit.

Ashes.

During the week, Pots have ranged from \$5.30 to \$5.25, gradually declining, and closing at \$5.20 to \$5.22½ per 100 lbs, at which prices they are steady at present.

Pearls nominal at \$5.40 to \$5.45.