WHOLESALING ACTIVE.

WHOLESALERS are rushing trade just now and are enjoying it after the long spell of dull trade. While general business was sluggish, they lay back on their oars, and trimmed their sails for any storm. At the first sign of fair weather all the canvas is again spread. Buyers are rushed off to foreign markets and supplies are coming in regularly. Regular travelers are sent out and special men are ordered on road duty. Advertising is better looked after and is increased in amount.

If the wholesaler went out of business, it would be a sad thing for many thousands of small dealers throughout the country. A few hundred of large dealers could get along without him, but even they would miss him. There is no danger from this source, however, from present indications.

In Toronto, there have been some rumors for the past two months that certain wholesale dry goods firms were going into liquidation. Those who have been watching the signs have seen how utterly unfounded these rumors are. Every house in Toronto is pushing trade with renewed activity and with a splendid confidence in future trade.

In Montreal it is the same. Wholesalers, wholesale agents and manufacturers are active and fully on the alert to take advantage of every turn in the market.

WHITE AND GREY COTTONS TENDING HIGHER.

THERE has been a radical and steady appreciation in the price of raw cotton recently, the advance being equivalent to a rise of over 20 per cent. This increase in the cost of the raw material is causing more or less speculation in dry goods circles as to whether it will affect the price of the manufactured article in the near future. Present values on the staple lines of grey and white cottons in Canada, as elsewhere, have been very low during the past eighteen months or so, and for this reason a recovery in prices in view of the advance in the raw article would not be surprising. The depression across the lines led to an unusually low range of values; away below cost in fact; and at one time money was so scarce at many American centres, that cotton manufacturers turned their attention to the Canadian market. They offered their goods entirely irrespective of cost and duty, so as to obtain the cash. This unusual competition compelled the domestic manufacturers to reduce prices in proportion, and since that period the level of cotton values has been low. Last winter, however, at the New England centres they commenced to show signs of improvement, and since then the market for staple cottons has shown a steadier feeling, some radical advance having been asked on bleached cottons and greys, while recent advices note an advance of over ½c. in dyed goods in the States. Canadian prices have not as yet recorded any actual advance, but THE DRY GOODS REVIEW was assured in Montreal last week by the leading official of a mill that devotes its attention to staple grey and bleached cottons that the manufacturers were seriously considering the propriety of an advance in these goods, and that an announcement to that effect might be made shortly. This determination was arrived at in view of the advance in the price of raw cotton, the improved conditions on manufactured goods in the States, and the low level of prices in Canada. The mills had been experiencing a much better demand from the jobbing trade since the first of the year than for the corresponding period of 1894. The monthly output of the mill in question averaged probably $50,000 worth of goods. Trade exhibited a steadily decreasing tendency during the latter year. For instance, in January their sales averaged possibly $45,000; in February they declined to $35,000, and so on, each successive month recording a decrease. This year, however, though the orders individually were not large, the volume of trade in the aggregate was heavy and more satisfactory. That is, it showed a tendency toward expansion. In January buyers started in to place orders cautiously, and each succeeding month saw an increase in the account sales until, in March their monthly turnover was larger than the production, and they had filled orders from stocks on hand, of which they had a fair supply. Naturally, the advance in the price of raw cotton was receiving a great deal of attention, and though the mills, according to rule, were pretty well supplied with raw material for the season's operations, it would be only natural, considering the conditions, if they took advantage of the advance in price. If there is any advance in white and grey goods for this season, it is quite natural to expect an appreciation all along the line. It may be remarked, however, that colored cottons are sold by the mills with a guarantee of prices until the fall, and possibly this fact will prevent any advance in these goods, irrespective of other lines, on orders now placed for goods to be delivered during the course of the summer, subject to this guarantee.

THE FIRM FEELING IN WOOLENS.

Last month THE DRY GOODS REVIEW exclusively announced the rising tendency of values on woolen fabrics, and gave the first information of the advance in manufacturers' prices on domestic woolen yarns and fingerings. This firm tendency has spread to other lines of woolen goods, and on all repeat orders placed from now on, the manufacturers announced this week that they will ask higher prices, though the exact advance has not been definitely decided upon. Travelers have been out placing orders for domestic woolens for shipment during the summer and fall for over a month past, and it is the traders who have placed their orders who are in a position to make the most of any further rise in prices when they do come. The firm feeling in raw wool, that THE REVIEW referred to last month as a reason why prices should go up, has been fully maintained, and wool dealers generally predict steady, if not higher, prices for the next few months to come.

CANADA'S TRADE IN 1894.

THE trade and navigation returns, just received, lose much of their interest, except for comparative purposes, from the fact that it is ten months, almost, since the close of the year (1893-4) with which they deal. They show that in the twelve months ending with the 30th June last, Canada's foreign trade aggregated $240,999,889, as compared with $247,638,620 in 1892-3, and $241,369,343 in 1891-2. The exports and imports in the last five years have been as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.
1894	$117,524,949	$123,474,940
1893	118,564,352	129,074,268
1892	113,963,375	127,406,068
1891	98,417,296	119,967,638
1890	96,749,149	121,858,241

The percentage of duty on the total value of goods imported, dutiable and free, was 15.69 per cent., compared with