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# CANADIAN JOURNAL OF Fabrics

THE JOURNAL OF THE Textile Trades of Canada.

Vol. XV. TORONTO AND MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1898. No. 1.

## Canadian Journal of Fabrics

A Journal devoted to Textile manufactures and the Dry Goods and kindred trades.

Subscription: Canada and United States, \$1.00 per year; Great Britain 5/- Advertising rates on application.

Offices: 62 Church Street, Toronto, and the Fraser Building, Montreal.

E. H. BIGGAR { BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO. } PUBLISHERS R. R. SAMUEL

Agency in Europe: Polsue Bros., 30 Poppin's Court, Fleet St., London, Eng. Toronto Telephone, 1392 | Montreal Telephone, 2589

Business correspondence should be addressed to Montreal; but cuts, news items and editorial correspondence to Toronto; cuts from abroad should be sent by post wherever possible, not by express; changes of advertisements should be in our hands not later than the 10th of each month to ensure insertion.

### THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion, to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition now in hand.

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## Editorial.

**Taxing Department Stores.** The session of the Ontario Legislature just closed has been marked to a most extraordinary extent by class legislation proposed and accomplished.

Whether the acts were levelled at the exploiters of the agricultural fairs by means of the peanut game, or the exploiters of our forest resources by exporting our logs instead of manufactured lumber, or are intended to render the keeping of departmental stores unprofitable, most, if not all of them, have been designed to affect the interests of a single class, and that not in the

direction of extending its privileges. We will only refer to the act respecting departmental stores, which has been very advisedly withdrawn. By this act a municipal council by by-law would have been empowered to tax a departmental store carrying on more than three classes of business, a special tax upon each additional class of business. The tax might be of any kind or amount almost that the council might determine. Such an Act as this is simplicity itself. It cannot have been at all difficult to draw up, and could be evaded, if it had been passed, without any inconvenience whatever. What are departmental stores? What definition will include them and exclude the country general store? If that is settled, who could prevent the real departmental store, which is aimed at in this Act, from forming itself into a number of limited companies, each with the same directors and officers, and each carrying on the lawful three classes of business? Then what would prevent the ill-disposed from prosecuting the hardware merchant who sells cordage that is usually had of grocers, or the dry goods merchant who sells the lamp-wick which could be only obtained lawfully from the hardware store? As far as legislative interference goes, the old adage of letting well enough alone seems very applicable.

**The Trade in 1898.** The prospects of the woolen manufacturers of Canada are much better at the beginning of 1898 than they were a year ago. Tariff uncertainty has been mitigated, and though adequate protection is claimed to be lacking in some lines yet, reviving business generally and the improved outlook do much to stimulate the demand for woolens. The idle mills are few, and most are working full time, and many overtime. The rush to the Klondyke, which has already begun, is the source of much of the present activity, not only in the demand which has sprung up for special goods but also from the enlarged general demand consequent on the considerable increase in population which is already taking place.

**Wool in 1897.** The chief feature in the Canadian wool market in the past year has been the brisk demand caused by the imposition of increased duties in the United States in the face of improving commercial conditions. The manufacturers and wool importers felt that the outlook was bright, and so bought largely, and endeavored to get the importations completed before the Dingley tariff came into operation. The sales of foreign and domestic wool,