

## DRY GOODS TRADE.

## Leading Goods for the Spring.

Stocks of dress goods for the spring are now pretty well completed, and others are coming forward freely, says the Toronto Globe. In plain goods, while there is a keen demand for cheviot, broadcloth, Venetian, Amagon, etc. in cloths, suitings, etc., there is also a growing feeling for something a little distinct from the plain styles, something bordering on the fanciful. Among the cloths in demand in this connection are snowflake mixtures, mustral, knicker, knicker-velvet, silk-velvet mixtures, shown in black and white, gray and white, blue and white, and a few fancy colors included. Laines and alpaca are great favorites with buyers at present, and will be largely used in blacks, creases and a few of the leading colors. Lightweight fabrics promise well. Crepe de chene, ge-nadines, estamines, voiles and de-laines, in plain and open work stripe effects, will probably have a large sale. The season for muslins is opening up well. Some special lines are being shown in printed goods on white to retail at 10c to 15c a yard. Black muslins are in big demand, and lace-trimmed, mercerized mixtures, are offering to retail from 10c to 15c a yard. The market for muslins is very firm in sympathy with the strong tone of the cotton markets. Some advices tell of a break in values as looked for.

## Dry Goods Trade Notes.

Broadcloths, venetians, mohairs and silks have been in excellent demand. The majority of orders have called for immediate deliveries. Toronto dry goods houses report a steady development in the demand for spring goods, owing to the unusually large demand, repeat orders are expected to show higher prices.

Paris de sole, duchesse, peak de seignie and soft, lustrous silks, both in plain and fancy weaves, are in good demand, and duplicate orders have been numerous. Several lines are reported as well sold up.

Some of the newest lace underwear shows a mercerized stripe in a very faint color. The stripes are widely separated, every other stripe being in a group of half line stripes interspersed by the solid stripe.

Grenadine, both in silk and wool dress goods, continues to have a good many followers in the States. Judging from the re-orders that have been received, it is evident that it is counted on as good property for the entire season.

Cashmere hosiery is very strong, with an advancing tendency in prices. Ribbons are selling freely. The coming season promises to be a big one for ribbons, as they are being used with such a large variety of ways. Prices of ribbons are very firmly held.

The ready-made costume, suit, waist or wrap of to-day represents the highest art in the production of its kind. The talent of the world's best designers is employed in this line, and no time or money is spared to put these productions on a par with, and even in advance of the best custom-made garments.

Old Country prices for dress goods are steadily advancing, and jobbers say that almost every order they send out means an advance in price. In some lines of wools, the advance amounts now to more than 30 per cent. over old prices. These changes are due to the growing scarcity of wool, caused by the Australian drought.

There is no question but that shirt waists will be as much in demand as they ever were. They occupy a place in the wardrobe that is undisputed. Many women will purchase one or more shirt waists, when the warm weather arrives, but there are often times when they will not take the place of the separate shirt waist, and the former will be a necessary, not a substitute to a woman's list of necessities.

The feature of cotton goods lately has been the very strong tone of the new styles in cotton goods, and the advances that have taken place in some leading lines. Wholesale firms have received notices from the Canadian mills of an advance of 1/2c per yard. Cotton blankets have been advanced 5 per cent, and shirtings are 1/2c per yard dearer. The feeling in the domestic markets for all lines of cotton goods is very firm.

Many of the spring skirt models follow the lines of the popular skirted model of the present season—adapts and box-plats, shallow and deep, with or without yokes. When linings are used at all the drop skirt will, as heretofore, prevail and this principally in conjunction with woven goods such as etamines, grenadines, etc. For the most part the skirts will be unlined, the omission causing no loss in the "hang" of the garment and some little lessening of the weight. Moreover the unlined skirt has found considerable favor in the eyes of the fashionable woman.

## Grocery Trade Notes.

Rice mills are crowded with orders and are refusing to take further business. Prices are firm.

Private cables from Bourdeaux report that market as being closely closed up on Chabert shelled walnuts, with quotations showing somewhat above the equivalent of spot cost laid down.

It is stock of cocoa in London, according to mail advices of the date of January 15 was 60,086 bags, against 85,325 bags last year, 84,727 bags in 1901, 80,556 bags in 1900 and 98,750 in 1890.

Mail advices from Sicily report that market as earlier on dried Sicily and Bari almonds. The advices state that stocks of both descriptions are in fairly liberal supply, and the dealers and holders are showing some anxiety to sell.

## Hardware Trade Notes.

Canadian makers of rubber hose have advanced their prices about 10 per cent.

It is predicted that there will be an advance in cotton wrapping twine, cotton clothes line and cotton rope.

As a result of the rising turpentine market, varnishes have, during the past month or so become decidedly stiff in value. Eastern dealers are now quoting a rise of 10 to 20c per gallon in all turpentine varnishes.

Steel manufacturers give as a reason for last week's advance in the price of steel the higher cost of raw materials. They claim that pig iron, soft coal and coke are all costing much more now than they did when old prices were fixed. Sheet steel has also advanced 25 per cent.

The big lead concerns of the United States are forming a combination which will give them the control of the lead industry of that country. The corporation has been licensed in New Jersey under the name The United Lead Co. It includes twenty-five of the largest sheet, shot and lead pipe concerns in the United States.

## Lumber Trade Notes.

By a vote of 47 to 0, and without debate, the State Senate of Minnesota recently adopted a resolution declaring that, as lumber was a natural product and a duty on it was not in accordance with the principle of protection, the senators and congressmen from Minnesota be requested to favor the entire removal of such tariff on lumber.

## Live Stock Trade Notes.

The Argentine cattle question seems nearer settlement now, the South American government having at last issued a decree prohibiting the importation of live stock from all European countries (Great Britain, of course, excepted), and also the scheduled states of the United States. As the Argentine Republic has also withdrawn the rather hastily issued restrictions against pedigree stock coming from Great Britain, it now only remains for Mr. Hanbury to reciprocate by issuing an order scheduling the date of 1900. It is doubtful whether he will do this before the re-assembling of parliament (17th February). Statements from Argentina are not likely to begin sooner than 1st March.

Thomas Southworth, director of colonization and forestry of Ontario, in an interview with Smard, deputy minister of the Interior, asked him when in Great Britain to endeavor to get 10,000 agricultural laborers for Ontario, as the supply is not at all equal to the demand.



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