

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Enquiries amongst the dry goods trade elicit generally satisfactory replies as to the state of trade. The experience of wholesale merchants is, in a majority of cases referred to, that business is better than at this time last year, while complaints as to remittances are not serious. The rise in price of wool and woollen goods, while it has not benefitted our importers so far as concerns the goods already brought out, may enable them to get a shade more profit on repeats. But cable repeats are smaller than they would be, probably because it is so hard to get the necessary advance.

The feeling among retail merchants generally is one of great hopefulness, and buying is, on their part, this autumn much more free than in previous seasons. This is probably the result of a conviction that goods of a textile character have long been at too low a price to afford an adequate profit to either maker or handler. Buying goods on a falling market is rarely cheerful work, and this is what all tradesmen had to do for a period that was tediously long. The rise has been reached, and every one who has to handle woollens or cottons seems rather pleased at it. And the advance in woollens is greater than people generally will believe. As examples, cashmere hose, which a few months ago could be sold, with a profit, at 75 cents per pair, if imported now could not be sold at a like profit short of \$1.25. Bradford worsteds are 50 per cent., in some cases 60 per cent. higher, and West of England cloths show a strong advance. In addition to the advance of previous months, French dress woollens have risen a penny a yard this month. Canadian blankets, heavy woollens and tweeds are all higher, 15 per cent. is probably a low ratio; on same blankets 25 per cent. is charged for repeat orders. For a line of Canadian tweeds costing 60 cents per yard at the mill early this season, 67½ cents is asked to repeat. The present outlook is that this advance will be maintained. There are, indeed, some grounds for the opinion that woollens may go higher.

Cottons are firmer all over. An advance of a quarter cent on all bleached goods, declared last month, is firmly adhered to by Canadian makers. In domestic the feeling at the mills is strong and the general tendency upward, with some talk of a further advance. The Manchester market last week while not very active, was more cheerful in tone; print cloths firm, also shirtings in best makes.

The Belfast linen and flax market shows firmer prices and an improved feeling in a number of lines, prime flax being scarce. Linens generally are firm, makers of brown goods have their hands full, with a steady demand also for bleached and finished goods. The Continental, the American and the home trade all showed encouraging demand at the date of last mail service.

—A year ago, or more, the steamer "Quebec" was sunk near Sault Sainte Marie. She has been raised, repaired and her name changed to the "F. E. Spinner." American papers have been granted her.

MANUFACTURED FURS.

Such preliminary whiffs of chilly air as have been borne to our nostrils in the past week or two make the country merchant and his customer think of winter woollens, while the richer class of shoppers in town and country begin to look for furs and over-shoes in addition. We find that manufactured furs are in good demand, and it is quite evident that the proportion of better-class goods of this character sold, increases year by year. The reason for this may at the first blush appear to be that people can better afford to wear them. But another reason probably is that it is beginning to be found out that poor fur goods are not economical, and that consumers are fools not less in buying shoddy furs than shoddy coats or shoes.

The price of raw furs is a little uncertain at the moment, for mutterings of war in Europe over the Bulgarian question unsettle the views of buyers on this side the ocean. An Eastern war would spoil our outlet for raw furs, since America does not use half what it produces and a great share of our exports of them goes to Eastern Europe. It would indeed upset the fur trade over all the America, for it is calculated that nearly eighty per cent. in value of the world's production of furs is taken in North and South America. But any uncertainty of this sort is not reflected in manufactured fur goods, especially the more fashionable lines. These are firmly held, with a very fair movement already and the prospect of a steady demand.

A sharp advance is perceptible, indeed, in raccoon fur, which is in request not only for mens' 'coon overcoats, but as trimming for ladies' jackets. The more expensive bear fur is also wanted to decorate the skirt and front of ladies' cloaks. A small quantity of beaver fur is disposed of in Canada for a like purpose, but New Yorkers and Chicagoese are the greatest customers for this rich and high-priced luxury. The poor beaver is being hunted and trapped in our Northern waters this season with an unusual eagerness. Otter skins are in vogue for ladies' capes, and also for ladies' and men's caps; but mink fur seems to be dropped almost entirely by fashionable people; at all events it has gone down greatly in price. In seal goods, the short walking jacket seems, in the United States, to have largely taken the place of the long cloak. The reason for this may be found in the fact that to have a fur garment cover enormous bustles of the present day, means a waste of costly fur and a sacrifice of comfort besides. Hence the adoption of dolman shapes which come down to the bustle behind and fall on either side of it over the hips and the front of the body in points, tapering down the front.

—We are indebted to Mr. David T. Day, of the United States Geological Survey, for some advance sheets of a volume upon "The Mineral Resources of the United States, 1885." These contain a summary of the quantity and value of mineral products of that country for a series of years. Having no space to-day for a review, we are compelled to postpone our proposed remarks upon these interesting figures.

A. O. U. W.

At the last session of the Supreme Lodge of this Order, some changes were made in the number of assessments which a beneficiary jurisdiction, or state, must make upon its own members for deaths, before being allowed to inflict a Relief Call upon the membership of the whole Order. The following shows the maximum number of assessment calls of one dollar each which must be made in a year before any jurisdiction can appeal for outside help:—

Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa24
Nebraska, Kansas, Dakota, Minnesota24
Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming24
*Georgia, *Alabama, *Florida and *Miss. 24
*Tenn., *N. C., and *S. C., *Ind., *Texas..24
*Kentucky, *La., and *Supreme Juris....24
N. Y., N. J., Del., Pa., N. E. States, Cal., and Illinois26
Virginia, West Virginia and Missouri.....28
D. C., Ohio, Col., Arizona and N. Mexico..30

After Dec. 31st, 1887, the twelve jurisdictions marked by an asterisk in the above table, must submit to 36 local assessments within the calendar year before applying for relief. The reason for this is that experience shows the deaths to be happening much more frequently in those States than in some of the others, even though the Order may not have been so long established in the former. Some of these have already been aided several times by relief calls, causing much dissatisfaction to the members from the more healthy districts.

We notice that the assessments in the Supreme jurisdiction, up to Oct. 1st, 1886, already number 23 for the current year, which is at the rate of over 30 per annum. Those of Ontario number 11 up to the same date. The Order is young in this Province, the members being nearly all fresh from the medical examiner's hands within three or four years, so that few deaths occur, as yet, from the causes by which most men die. A large proportion of the members forming the Supreme Jurisdiction, on the other hand, have been ten or more years in the Order, and are now succumbing to consumption, heart disease, liver and kidney troubles, cancer, whisky-drinking, and other affections or causes which grow increasingly fatal as old age comes on. And very soon, old age itself will appear among the frequent causes of death.

It has hitherto been the arrangement that the Supreme Lodge should introduce the Order to new states, territories and provinces. A year ago it was discovered that this part of the business could no longer be successfully worked. No new Lodge could be formed in any state or province by the parent body, because its assessments had become so numerous. Not only so, but when any old state suffers such heavy losses as to reduce its paying membership below 2,000, such old members as remain are added to the parent body, so that the outlook was for still heavier assessments. No less than six relief calls have already, under the relief system, been made by the parent body upon the other jurisdictions, amounting in all to \$288,000, and another one is now imminent. At the recent session of the Supreme Lodge, held at Minneapolis in June last, it was decided that that body