

## IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Velvet continues to be in good demand.

For hosiery there has been an excellent demand this season in Canada, and the mills have been fully employed.

Domestic manufacturers of cloaks and mantles report trade as having never been better at this season of the year.

Embroidery importers are sanguine over the prospects of the season, the sales already made having been encouraging.

Canadian cotton mills are adding to their plant, but find considerable difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of skilled labor.

Fur as a trimming for hats has been used before, but never to the extent which marks the fashionable styles of the present season. Mink, chinchilla, etc., especially in combination with velvet, are seen everywhere in Paris and New York, and the tendency is pretty sure to strengthen as the season advances.

The strike of the operatives of the Dominion Cotton Co., in Halifax, is still on. The manager says that if the men do not return to work within a reasonable period he will import hands from Montreal. The weekly pay list amounts to \$2,000. The trouble is over the introduction of new machinery, with which the workmen say they cannot make as good wages as before. They demand a change in the scale.

Advices from European textile centres say that the advance in raw silk prices has rendered the ordinary taffeta too dear for some of the purposes for which it has found use in the last two or three seasons. A substitute is offered in pongee with taffeta finish, which is lighter and cheaper than taffeta, and can be used for lining and skirting purposes. Plain and printed pongees are in demand, and some fancies in pongee grounds are being shown.

The Boston Wool and Cotton Reporter of Nov. 2nd, says: The mills making fancy woolen and worsted goods for men's wear that have completed the delivery of their sample pieces are few and far between. Some have done so, and are now engaged in weaving out orders. With not a few of the mills it will be all of two weeks before the sample piece deliveries will have been completed. This will bring us up to the middle of November. Not for a very long time have manufacturers been so belated in their sample piece deliveries.

The Christmas trade will soon be at hand. Amid the preparations for holiday trade, says The Dry Goods Economist, special attention should be paid this season to a line of goods which is always put prominently to the front at the festive period, viz., handkerchiefs. Because, if purchasers don't mind their p's and q's their supply of these recognized trade producers will fall short. Not in years has the production of handkerchiefs, especially the embroidered and fancy kinds, been so inadequate to the demand, and importers are already finding great difficulty in supplying the needs of their customers.

## COSTLY AND CHEAP CABLES.

An interesting illustration of the difference in cost between an electric telegraph cable laid in a shallow sea in a frequented neighborhood and a longer one laid in a deep sea far away is given by a writer in this month's Engineering Magazine. First is given the contract price for the cable from Denmark to Iceland, which, by the way zig-zags over to Scotland, en route. The distance from Denmark to Iceland, with a landing on Scotland, is 900 miles, and the route lies through shallow northern oceans. The contract price for this is 450,000 kroners, equal to \$134 or £27 10s. per mile. The estimate for the Vancouver-New Zealand cable—according to the estimate of the British Commission, which cable is to cover a distance of 7,986 n. miles with one long stretch of 3,561 miles—is £2,000,000, equalling £250 or \$1,220 per mile—more than nine times as much. The annual maintenance cost of this long cable, exclusive of operating expense, is put at \$350,000 annually. Owing to its one long stretch of 3,561 miles, this cable will cost per mile nearly ten times as much as the 900 mile Icelandic cable in two stretches. Of course it requires to be enormously stronger and its construction is more complicated, than a cable which from its nearness and the shallowness of the water it lies in can be readily over-

hauled if anything should go wrong. These above-given are extreme examples, the one of what is probably the cheapest long cable in the world and the other of the most expensive.

## INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Some facts and figures showing the great industrial development at Ottawa of late days are given by The Citizen. It is estimated that at least 3,600 persons are now employed by the various mills, and engaged in construction work on the new concerns. This means a daily output of at least \$5,000 in wages alone. At J. R. Booth's mills about 2,000 persons are employed on the day and night staffs, while the Hull Lumber Company employs about 300 hands, and about 800 are employed in the E. B. Eddy Company's establishments. The MacKay Milling Company employs 60 hands, the Victoria foundry 30 and the lesser concerns employ about 50 more. In the construction work on Bronson and Weston's calcium carbide factory, on enlargement work at the Ottawa Electric Railway Company's power house and in repair and construction work in other quarters, over 300 hands are employed. Indeed it is stated that over \$300,000 has been invested in new plants and machinery now being installed. Of this the Bronson and Weston Company contributes \$150,000, the Electric Railway Company, \$60,000; E. B. Eddy, \$30,000; the Ottawa Paper Company, \$20,000, and the Dominion Carbide Company, \$12,000. The cost of buildings to house these different plants will in itself involve capital of over \$200,000. Lumber shipments are so large to the American markets that lumber for the local trade is at a premium. The winter's work in the lumber shanties promises to be the best in many years.

## INSURANCE MATTERS.

A hundred and seventy-one millions of dollars is a tidy sum in life policies. This is the amount of Australian life company issues. The Australasian Mutual Provident says: Excluding bonus additions, we had in force on the 31st December last policies for £43,426,002. Taking the latest figures available from the accounts of other Australian life offices we find the results as follows:

Mutual Life of Australasia (1898).....	£ 4,681,723
National Mutual (1898) .....	10,149,914
Colonial Mutual (1898) ...	10,474,868
Australasian Widows' Fund (1898) .....	4,367,405
City Mutual (1897) .....	958,094
Temperance and General (ordinary) (1898) ..	1,002,898
Citizens' (ordinary) (1898) .....	2,659,554

Total..... £ 34,294,456

—Delay and discomfort used to be the fate of those who in former years essayed travelling by the Montreal Street Railway. To-day this is all changed; quickly and with comfort the passenger may be whirled from one end of the city to the other. No wonder the business of the road has grown by leaps and bounds. The increase in the number of passengers carried was from 11,631,000 in 1892, to 40,186,000 in the year ending with September. The year just closed showed, also, an increase of 4,833,000 over 1898. One hundred and ten thousand per day is a goodly number to handle even for Montreal.

## CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Nov. 9th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Nov. 9, 1899	Nov. 2, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$19,068,076	\$14,800,614
Toronto.....	11,225,114	10,879,794
Winnipeg ..	3,362,892	3,145,568
Halifax ..	1,798,473	1,358,688
Hamilton ..	883,214	889,081
St. John ..	756,713	589,540
Vancouver ..	1,236,128	827,688
Victoria ..	782,374	774,390
	\$38,912,984	\$33,265,363

Aggregate balances, this week, \$6,102,275; last week, \$5,441,802.