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THE TRADE OUTLOOK.

On another page of this issue will be found reports from leading merchants at many points in Canada, giving their views of the trade outlook. These reports are of great value, being from independent sources by men who are practically posted about the conditions in their districts.

THE SEPTEMBER TRADE.

September was a good month for business. The crop reports stimulated trade, and encouraged both retailers and wholesalers to look forward hopefully. The Exhibitions at Montreal and Toronto attracted a large number of buyers, and the crowd of visitors was felt in the retail trade of both centres. In Toronto the wholesale houses had the best Exhibition season they have experienced in several years. "You could sum up the situation in this way," said a leading merchant to THE REVIEW: "Hopeful feeling, cautious buying." This was fully borne out by reports from all quarters. In most wholesale houses the travelers were kept in the warehouses to attend to visiting customers, and the number of customers who personally visited the houses they buy from was the largest 'n many years. While moderate buying prevailed there was a willingness shown to face the advances demanded, and the country merchants seemed to be confident of a good fall's business.

IMPORTS OF DRY GOODS IN 1895.

THE unrevised statement of the imports and exports of Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30 has been issued. It only gives values, not quantities. In this way no exact comparison can be made with the figures of the previous year, since the change in prices makes calculation difficult. On the basis of registered values at the Custom House, however, the imports af dry goods in 1895 were about \$18,146,000, compared with \$19,746,000 in 1894. The details of the dutiable imports are as follows:

DRY GOODS IMPORTS.

	1894	Hays.
Cotton, dyed	\$1,977.057	\$2,2,249.133
Cotton, not dyed	154,1 17	415.137
Cotton clothing	347, Rr.4	362, 118
Cotton, thread, yarn, etc.	190,163	221,512
Cotton thread on spools	255.87)	322,981
Cotton, other manufactures of	179. 19	573.559
Bracelets, braids, fringes, etc	953.537	755,0070
Laces, collars, nettings, etc	616531	547.259
Other fancy goods ,	264.3-6	334.70
Furs, manufactured	714.619	5'4.117
Hats and caps, felt, silk, etc	714.54 1	745.5 1
Hats, other kinds	445. 135	445 273
Silk, manufactures of	2,45%,170	2,217,221
Carpets, brussels and tapestry		71 4.765
Clothing		817.5%
Cloths, worsted, etc	*****	2.55 1.727
Dress goods	*****	2.764.249
Knitted goods	•••••	101,067
Shawls		91.45)
Yarns		14676
Other woulen goods	9.472,514	474.750

This shows considerable increases in imports of cotton goods (or else merely increased values of those goods), but decreases in mostly every other department of the import dry goods trade. The imports of free raw materials for those industries allied to dry goods indicate that a fair measure of activity has been maintained. The imports in 1895 were valued at \$6,305,000, compared with \$5,599,000 the year before. Here again the rise in values, in such cases as those of raw cotton and raw wool, must be kept in view. The details are.

FREE RAW MATERIALS.

Cetton waste	1844.	1894 \$ 18725
Raw cotton	4.540.565	1.224.41.7
Fur skins, undressed	7.7	51 : 344
silk, raw	4 7.2 4	42,49 14431
Hemp, sial, etc	21,1213	1 10,726
Wool	1, 25.454	1,142,457
	\$5.500.74	\$1,315,251