

Montreal Dry Goods.

A few sorting up orders have been received by some houses, but business generally is quiet, and not expected to show any marked increase before the middle of May. Canadian tweeds have met with a splendid spring consumptive demand owing probably to their unprecedented cheapness, and it is to be expected that a still more extensive enquiry will take place for fall goods. Payments are variously reported, some houses having had their paper met well, whilst other speak in a quite different strain, two wholesale houses, having already had applications from country customers to take care of their notes falling due in the first week in May, whilst others have remitted from 25 to 50 per cent of their amounts falling due, asking renewals for balance. On the whole, however, a good year's trade is confidently looked forward to. The cotton mills are fairly busy.—*Trade Bulletin.*

The Steel Rail Outlook.

Recent reports from Pittsburgh say that a further advance in steel rails is probable before many days. It is likely, a manufacturer says, that rails will reach \$38 for small lots. The prices there are still quoted firm for heavy selections at \$36 and \$36.46 cash at the mill. One authority on steel rails in Pittsburgh has this to say of the condition of the trade:

"The railmakers have before them quite a number of inquiries for steel rails for projected roads, mostly in the West. Railroad builders who must have rails between now and November will, no doubt, be obliged to pay better prices for them than are now being asked. With all the advance that has taken place, manufacturers will now come out much ahead. One railmaking establishment in this State booked orders for between fifty and sixty thousand tons at prices ranging from \$27.50 to \$30. Another took several large orders at \$29; all of them loaded up last fall with orders at low prices, many of which have been filled, but some are still on hand. Since then prices of labour and material have advanced, and the makers are naturally anxious to obtain their share of the profit. There are fair presumptions for the statement that building will be actively prosecuted during all of this year and most of next year.



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