

to the break-up of the combination of Canadian mills hitherto maintained in these goods. But as the compact in bleached goods continues, there is no decline in this article and none is likely. An advance abroad in silks and cashmeres is announced, equal to about 5 to 10 per cent. compared with spring importations.

It is significant of a more conservative method of doing business than has often prevailed in Canada of late that some of the Montreal dry goods houses will not send their travelling representatives out until the middle of October, seeing that there has as yet been no weather such as should create a legitimate demand for fall goods or to break winter stocks in the hands of retailers. We append a comparison of imports during June, July, and August at two cities of different textiles or other goods:

DRY GOODS AT MONTREAL.

	1887, 3 Mos.	1888, 3 Mos.
Cottons	\$ 448,529	\$ 335,527
Woollens	1,702,297	1,605,390
Silks	362,910	400,682
Fancies	172,478	182,134
Hats and caps	82,148	72,216
	\$2,768,362	\$2,595,949

DRY GOODS AT TORONTO.

	1887, 3 Mos.	1888, 3 Mos.
Cottons	\$ 329,006	\$ 238,968
Woollens	1,411,092	978,750
Silks	270,942	270,121
Fancies	182,433	179,738
Hats and caps	75,301	63,571
	\$2,268,774	\$1,731,048

THE BREWING TRADE.

A rise in the price of raw materials for brewing is one of the features of the present autumn, and it is not a very encouraging one for brewers. Hops, which have long been low in price, have been advancing for some time in all markets in consequence of reported short crops in Britain and N.Y. State, and now there is a decided rise, 26 cents being paid in Prescott this week for Canadian, and the New York advices of yesterday show 30 cents freely offered for best new State, holders asking 32 to 33 cts. Malt, too, is higher. The London *Economist* devotes some columns to discussing the effect upon breweries of the rise in malt and hops. In the opinion of that journal, brewers will this year have to contend with an advance of 15 per cent. in the price of malt, and of probably 100 per cent. in the price of hops. "Since the close of July there has been a gradual rise both in barley and malt, and at the present time the latter commodity is three or four shillings a quarter dearer than it was a year ago. Some people anticipate a rise of fully ten shillings a quarter; but if we take it at only five shillings a quarter, that would mean an addition of about 15 per cent. But it is in regard to hops that the prospect for the brewers is most serious. It is matter of common knowledge that the hop crop now being gathered is an exceedingly bad one. Experts speak of its being likely to prove the worst on record. The Continental hop crops are, for the most part, little better than our own, and though the American crop promises to be a very fine one—the Pacific crop being spoken of as unprecedentedly abundant—the rise in the prices of American hops has been quite as

great as in the home-grown article. The first bale of new Californian hops received in this country was sold at Yeovil last Saturday, and realized 180s. per cwt., where Mid-Kent are bringing 135s. and Sussex-Weald 90s., against 50s. and 34s. respectively in June last, and 147s. and 115s. respectively in October, 1883."

The effect of this rise in materials upon the shares of leading breweries in Great Britain has been marked. For example, those of Allsopp's, which were 180 a few months ago, fell at the end of last week to under 80. Guinness' ordinary stock has also fallen from over 330 to but little over 300, and in some other brewery securities the fall has ranged from 10 to 20 per cent., every attempt to realize being followed by a further decline.

It appears that the total capital invested in brewery companies in the United Kingdom is something like £25,000,000 sterling, the example of the Messrs. Guinness, of Dublin, in launching their porter brewery as a joint stock affair having been followed by many others. Allsopp's did 7½ per cent. less trade in its last year (ended June, 1888) than in 1887, and its profits fall off £51,000. Its profits for three years ended with June, 1886, averaged £229,826, but last year they fell off to £176,227, and that too in a year when raw materials were cheap. In that establishment, the *Economist* estimates, "150,000 or 160,000 quarters of malt a year are used, and in Guinness' about 400,000 quarters; and if these figures be roughly accurate, it follows that a rise of 5s. per quarter in the price of malt means an addition to the expenses of nearly £40,000 in the former case, and of about £100,000 in the latter. To these figures have to be added the increase in the cost of hops, and if we put the increase at 6d. a pound, or 56s. per cwt., and assume that about 10 lbs. of hops to the quarter of malt are used by such a firm as Allsopp's, the increase in the cost of hops would be something like as much as the increased cost of malt." Thus the increased cost to that concern would be about £80,000 on a year's product. As it takes £66,000 to pay 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, there would thus be no ordinary dividend, and £14,000 would be lacking of the preference dividend." The position of the Guinness Company is much less serious, no doubt because the proportion of used hops is smaller, but if we assume that, taking stout and porter together, 7 lbs. of hops are used to the quarter of malt, there would be an additional cost of £70,000 for hops, making, with the increase of £100,000 in the cost of malt, £170,000, or not far short of one-half the amount absorbed by the 15 per cent. dividend paid to the ordinary shareholders for the year ending June last." For the coming year, then, the conclusion is, the prospects of the brewery companies are anything but satisfactory, for a large addition must be made to the cost of the two principal raw materials used in brewing, and a consequent diminution in the profits of the industry.

—The secrets of much success in this world are cash, confidence, cheerfulness, and constancy.—*Baltimore American*.

CANADIAN COMPANIES' FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

It seems from the report of the Inspector of Insurance, from which we quoted last week, that the home business of Canadian companies for 1887 was more profitable than their foreign business. This is shown by the following tables:

	Premiums in Canada.	Losses paid.	Loss ratio.
British America ..	\$211,585	\$131,933	62.35
Citizens	206,340	170,235	82.00
Quebec	84,670	61,254	72.34
Royal Canadian ..	162,212	126,196	77.80
Western	338,010	172,064	50.90
	Premiums in other countries.	Losses paid.	Loss ratio.
British America ..	\$533,757	\$376,045	70.45
Citizens	15,160	31,807	209.81
Quebec	1,448	Nil	Nil
Royal Canadian ..	125,800	74,806	59.46
Western	820,547	554,465	67.57

The assets of the six Canadian companies doing fire business amounted at the end of the year to \$4,097,436, covering a total insurance of \$288,066,931, being at the rate of \$1.42 for every \$100 of insurance. In addition to the above they have a reserve capital of \$2,406,288. The liabilities of these companies amounted to \$2,406,288, made up as follows:

Unsettled losses	\$ 318,890
Unearned premiums	1,956,476
Sundry	130,922

Total

The capital stock of these companies, paid up or in course of payment, amounts to \$1,588,797, showing a surplus of this capital to the amount of \$112,351. At the end of 1886 there was a surplus of \$299,720, which goes to demonstrate that the rates of insurance are not higher than they should be, to meet the losses and expenses incident to the business.

The following table shows the standing of each Canadian stock company at the end of 1887, in reference to their surplus or impairment of their capital:

Company.	Subscribed capital.	Capital paid up or in course of collection.	Surplus over all liabilities including called up capital.	Impairment of called up capital.	Reserve of subscribed capital not paid up.
British America	\$ 500,000	\$500,000	.....	\$ 7,431 62	None.
*Citizen	1,000,000	+ 79,557	.....	122,256 05	\$920,000
Quebec	+ 225,000	+ 99,240	\$14,512 32	.....	125,760
Royal Canadian	+ 500,000	+ 400,000	96,806 05	.....	100,000
Western	1,000,000	500,000	36,416 85	.....	500,000

*This is on the whole business, including life.

†As reduced by Act of Parliament.