quotations are not established, but merchants say that the situation abroad will not warrant a higher price than $5 per bushel for the new seed. The season of 1894 opened at $6, with choice qualities quoted $6.50. The market, however, almost from the outset, began to decline, and continued to weaken, until the present basis of values had been reached. Timothy seed promises to be a short crop, while the season is not yet sufficiently advanced to predict as to red clover.

UNIFORM PRICES AND CREDITS ON PRINTS.

In theory any attempt to regulate prices is wrong. But theory and practice often travel in widely divergent paths, and business men find it impossible to adhere at all times to the hard and fast rules laid down by economists. For years the profit made by the trade in selling Canadian prints has been a bye-word for something that should be, but in reality is not. Prices have been cut so low that merchants have become simply philanthropists distributing goods for the benefit of the general public. Some of the smaller wholesale houses have been accustomed to buy up several hundred pieces and hold them out to the retail trade at cost prices, as a bait to secure other business. Houses who had purchased 10,000 pieces, intending to do a legitimate trade, were compelled to follow suit, and at the end of the season found themselves with their stock unsold, or even worse, disposed of at prices that failed to cover the costs of distribution.

Messrs. D. Morrice & Co., the selling agents of Magog prints, interesting themselves on behalf of the trade, have drawn up an agreement which they purpose to have the wholesale trade sign, and which they believe will bring about uniform selling prices all over the country. To this end they announce :

"First.—That we will hereafter sell these goods only after having received satisfactory assurance that the purchasers of the same will not sell, nor offer such for sale, either directly or indirectly, at less than the regular prices and terms we may from time to time indicate.

"Second.—We shall sell these goods at the stated prices as given and at the expiration of each six months, viz., on the first day of December and June of each year, we will allow a rebate on the different lines, as per list below, to each and every purchaser who has in good faith and to our satisfaction complied with the stipulated prices and terms, but the violation of the above conditions will justify the withholding of said rebate.

"Third.—The prices are hereby fixed as follows, to take effect as above indicated on the 15th September next, until further advised: H cloth, 4¾c.; 1 do., 6c.; 2 do., 7¼c.; 3 do., 8½c.; C do., 9¼c.; D do., 8c. Solid blacks : 1 cloth, 5c.; 2 do., 6c.; 3 do., 8c.; C do., 8½c. Indigoes: P C, 6c.; S C, 7½c.; D C, 9⅜c., G C, 11½c.

"Specials.—Challies, 4½c.; Delainettes, 6c.; Cretonnes, 7c.; Summer Suitings, 7½c.; Fancy Piques, 8c.; Crinkles, 10c.; Skirtings (38 in.), 10c.; Ladas Tweeds, 10c.; Printed Moleskins, 12c ; Sleeve Linings, no restrictions.

"Terms.—Credit on which goods are to be sold not to exceed four months 1st April on all goods delivered prior to that date, and four months 1st of the following on delivery after 1st of April, and up to the 1st of June, or 4 per cent. cash discount 30 days, or prepayment at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum. The 'Mill' terms will be continued as formerly.'

The above selling prices are subject to moderate rebates to the wholesale trade, averaging little over ten per cent. This is surely a very reasonable and moderate remuneration for the work of wholesale distribution. It is not the intention of the manufacturers to prevent the disposal of stocks left over at the close of the season, and between June 1st and September 15th it is proposed to allow each house to sel goods on hand at such prices and terms as may be deemed advisable. This arrangement cannot yet be deemed an "agreement," since one of the strongest Toronto houses is standing out against it and proclaims against the principle of "protection and restriction."

DRY GOODS JOTTINGS.

There is a great scarcity of alpacas in London, England.

In Bradford plain cloths and heavy crepons are attracting good attention for the autumn trade.

Shoddy cloth peddlers are operating near Moncton, N.B., and the good people of that vicinity, in their anxiety to prevent the merchants from getting rich too quickly, lend a ready ear to the peddler's fairy tales. Several farmers, hitherto supposed to be intelligent, have been swindled out of sums ranging from ten to fifty dollars. They mourn alone. The most sensible people can do is to hope the victims will prove an object lesson.

The following Canadian buyers and travellers are reported by the *Drapers' Record* as having arrived in England :--Mr. Paul Shorey (Montreal), Mr. Robert Simpson (Toronto), Mr. George Beardmore (Toronto), Mr. Alexander Bradshaw and Mr. Mathicks (Montreal), Mr. John Birmingham (Messrs. Thouret, Fitzgibbon & Co., Montreal), Mr. Bert Thompson (Messrs. T. Thompson & Son, Toronto), Mr. A. F. McTavish (Toronto), Mr. Dignum (Montreal), Mr. T. P. Williams (carpets, Messrs. McMaster & Co., Toronto), Mr. Wm. Patterson (Montreal).

The retail trade will not rise in arms against the proposal of Messrs. D. Morrice & Co. that wholesale merchants should sell Magog prints at uniform prices and terms. There is nothing in the retail business that gives more annoyance than after having bought stocks at fair prices, to find that a competitor down the street has struck a "snap" and loaded up at prices under the market value. Such a state of things means war, and dry goods stores become slaughter houses. It will be a great thing for retail interests if this element of uncertainty can be removed.

The balance-sheets of sixty-two English cotton spinning companies, made up to the end of June, have now been issued, and they show, says the *Drapers' Record*, even more favorable results than the previous quarter. For example, thirty-eight companies show £24,400 profits, twelve companies show £7,000 losses, while twelve companies, without issuing details, declare dividends from five to fourteen per cent. This is certainly an excellent showing, and since in several cases the losses may be ascribed to labor difficulties, we may consider the English cotton goods trade in a healthy condition.

Woolen goods must advance in price, at least those into the manufacture of which Canadian fleece wool enters. Manufacturers are advising the trade that repeat orders can be filled only at increased prices. Stocks of blankets in the hands of wholesale and retail traders are worth more to-day than they were a fortnight ago. Then why not ask more for them ? The wholesale trade are making contracts for woolen goods for spring business. While there are very natural objections to paying prices in advance of last year's quotations, it would seem that this is the inevitable course. The increased price of wool demands it ; an improved industrial situation warrants it.

Apropos of the prevailing fashion of dress-sleeves, an extract may be made from that delightful novel, "Tom Cringle's Log." When the "Firebrand" had reached Santiago, and the story goes on to describe the Pirate's Leman, a description follows of mother and daughter in a certain Spanish household. Alluding to the latter, the story says: "Nothing is so exquisitely lovely as the upper part of a beautiful woman's arm, and yet we have lived to see this admirable feature shrouded and lost in those abominable gigots. Why won't you, Master Kit North--the story was first published in *Blackwood*--lend a hand and originate a crusade against those vile appendages? I will lead into action if you like--'Woe unto the women that sew pillows to all armholes.'--Ezekiel xiii. 18."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

In British Columbia small fruits have been a good crop.

A cheese board is to be established at St. Hyacinthe, Que.

Smyrna advices concerning figs and Sultana raisins indicate large crops and low prices.

Mr. F. X. Gadbois, grocer, Arnprior, has disposed of his business to Mr. Thos. McCormick.

Essex dairymen, as a result of poor pasture, have advanced the price of milk to five cents a quart.

Some 200 cases of fine California 3 crown and 4 crown Muscatel raisins are offering on the street at 5½ to 6c.

Mr. R. H. Cutt, of Grey township, has purchased the grocery business of his father-in-law, Mr. Hutier, of Goderich, and will give up farming in the fall.

The cheese factory at Upham, King's county, N.B., owned and operated by Brown & Forrester, of Bloomfield, has been purchased by neighboring farmers.

A firm of Berlin, Ont., has just received 27 bales of tobacco imported direct from Cuba, also 15 bales of the best Havana for the manufacture of cigars.

A London cable says the British Dairy Farmers' Association are making arrangements for a representative visit to Canada, the visiting party to consist of 100 farmers.

Bull reports are being constantly received regarding the coming yield of Jordan and Valencia shelled almonds. One estimate places the crop at 60 per cent. less than an average, but this is probably an exaggeration.

Messrs. Fowler and Calhoun, who owned cornmeal mills near St. John, N.B., have formed a partnership and in the future will operate only one mill, unless the necessities of the market are sufficient to warrant the running of both mills.