

DOMESTIC COTTONS AND WOOLLENS.

The cotton market is in a quiescent state at present. The mills are making lots of colored cotton goods for which there is no demand. If they would only keep their production down to the level of the demand everything would soon be in a very satisfactory state. Grey cottons are practically in the hands of the Dominion Cotton Company and prices are fairly maintained.

The demand for Canadian woollens is fairly good. No large stocks are being carried over, and as the season advances retailers are placing orders with more freedom and confidence. If there is to be any change in prices it will be upward instead of downward.

GENTS' FURNISHINGS.

While chatting with the genial John C. Fisher, of Wyld, Grasett & Darling, after his return from the old country, we elicited the following information regarding gents' furnishings for the fall and winter season: There has seldom been a season with so little change in the style of neckwear. The four-in-hand scarfs are still in largest demand; knots are bought in very limited quantities, being suited only for country trade. The patterns are somewhat varied. Scroll and sprig patterns will be mostly in request, set checks and stripes being of no use. There is a growing tendency for a figured pattern. There is also a slight feeling for puff shapes in large sizes. The old black gros grain scarf is being superseded by Surah or some kind of fancy pattern; the inclination seems to be to get away entirely from the old gros grain.

Collars remain about the same. There is a new shape being worn by dukes in the West end of London, but it is not expected there will be much of a demand for it here. Its distinguishing feature is the curve upwards in the fronts and then the bold rounding off and the points so rounded off are turned over. All collars are still worn deep. Cuffs are very deep, and the stitching of both cuffs and collars is slightly broader than last season.

Underwear will be in natural wool and Scotch lambs' wool. The lower and medium qualities are being gradually crowded out by the Canadian manufactures.

Rubber coats will have long capes; from 24 to 30 inches are in demand, and there is a growing tendency for the Inverness—a coat without sleeves.

Shirts show an increased demand for open fronts and large full bosoms. It is a matter of option whether they have one, two or three studs.

Black hose is still in great demand.

Silk handkerchiefs, colored brocaded, are dropping out, and gents are using only white or black Japanese hem-stitched silk handkerchiefs. Very artistic effects are to be seen in ladies' hand-embroidered Japan silk handkerchiefs.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A movement is on foot in England to induce women of nobility and wealth to wear only silks of British manufacture in order to encourage the proposed revival of the British silk industries, which have been on the decline for many years.

Among the customs' decisions for the month of May are the following: Buckles, clasps, loops, etc., for suspenders, 35 per cent.; embroidered cotton or linen lap robes or dusters, 30 per cent.; embroidered woollen table covers, 30 per cent.

Mr. Warring Kennedy, of Samson, Kennedy & Co., wholesale dry goods, Toronto, had the unique honor conferred upon him at the opening of the annual session of the Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church, on June 11th, of being elected secretary, which is the first instance of a layman filling that position in the history of the Methodist Church in Canada or elsewhere. He obtained 120

votes out of 207 (necessary to election, 104). This is but a just recognition of the unwearied efforts and invaluable services of that gentleman to further the cause of Methodism.

Owing to a quantity of cheap inferior grades of cotton spool coming into our markets, the standard makers have decided to reduce prices by fifteen per cent. so as to meet the cut. This will, it is expected, result in driving the cheap grades out of the market.

The recent rains have done much to help the growing crops, and there is now every prospect that the harvest will be good. In Manitoba and the North-West the prospects were never brighter for an abundant harvest. These good indications should give an impetus to trade which is badly needed at present.

The total value of linen manufactures exported from the United Kingdom for the month of April was £350,694 as compared with £405,684 for the same month of 1890, and £448,021 for 1889. For the four months of this year, ending April 30th, the total value was £1,726,781 as compared with £1,874,394 for the corresponding period of 1890, and £2,018,795 for 1889.

The report of the statistician of the United States department of agriculture for June makes the acreage of cotton 97.7 per cent. of the area of 1890, and the average condition 85.7. The reduction of the area is attributed in some districts to concerted contraction on account of low prices, but it is evident that it is mainly due to unfavorable conditions for planting and germination.

At the annual meeting of the New York cotton exchange on May 26th the yearly report favored the adoption of a standard for American cotton and also a uniform classification of cotton in all markets. The transactions in cotton for future delivery aggregate 26,389,500 bales for the year ending April 30, 1891, against 21,081,100 bales for the year previous. The sales of spot cotton for the same period were 197,648 bales against 315,443 bales.

Dry goods merchants everywhere should feel honored by the elevation to the peerage of Sir George Stephen, whose title now is Earl Mountstephen. He was born in Dufftown, Banffshire, in 1829, and commenced his career, at the age of fourteen, as an apprentice to a draper in Aberdeen, Scotland. After serving his apprenticeship of four years he went to London with, it is said, only half a crown in his pocket and made application for employment with Messrs. Fawcett & Co., Limited, but was told they had no opening. It is related of him that he replied, "I have come to London to get a situation in your establishment, and get it I must." This bold reply had the desired effect, as they thought there must be push and grit in such a daring youth, and he got the situation. He remained with that firm for three years and then came to this country, starting out in the manufacture of woollen goods. His progress upward was rapid, and soon he became president of the Bank of Montreal, and head of various syndicates, the most notable being the syndicate that obtained the contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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