



TRADE IN MONTREAL.

THE cold backward spring has had a most adverse effect upon the sorting up trade in dry goods during the month. From the good placing trip that the travellers for all the houses experienced the general expectation was for a business considerably in excess of the turnover for the corresponding period last year. The failure of the sorting up trips to pan out as expected however has made this impossible now, for although some of the houses have done fairly well the aggregate is not expected to show an excess. In fact travellers report that stocks in country dealer's hands have hardly been broken into at all. If the weather brightens up, however, trade may improve and in fact the last few warm days have already had visible effect in brightening up the city retail account in fancy dress goods, spring suitings and millinery.

The demand on fall account is beginning to be felt, and some fair orders have been placed in this connection of late, but naturally until something more definite is known in regard to the future crop prospects, buyers are disposed to observe a conservative course in respect to arranging for supplies of this sort.

There has been quite a demand for colored linings and cottons, one firm finding it impossible to execute all the orders it received.

A leading feature in regard to values has been the advance in the price of cloakings for fall delivery, all lines having gone up from 10 to 20 per cent., and the advance has been firmly maintained.

Light summer dress goods, both cottons and woollens, are firm but unchanged, and a good demand has been experienced for them.

Remittances have not been as good as they might be, but as the season advances and produce commences to move an improvement will undoubtedly ensue. They are especially slow from Manitoba and the North-West, and quite a few country failures have been added to the list, but lately the returns have shown some improvement and the trade are hoping that it is the beginning of the change for the better.

AMONG THE JOBBERS.

Brophy, Cam's & Co. report that they have turned over more English prints during the present season than last year. They hold that these goods cannot be approached for durability or style by anything on this side. They have experienced a brisk call for British Oxford shirtings also.

Mr. R. J. Whitelaw, of the Winnipeg wholesale dry goods house of that name, was in town during the past fortnight looking up business matters. He reports business very quiet in his section.

Messrs. S. Greenshields, Son & Co. are receiving some handsome lines of silk goods in shot and tartan designs which promise to be in big demand owing to blouses being the fashionable idea. They look for a big velveteen season also, owing to the

prevalence of puffed sleeves. Bright green and the "Eminence" shade of purple continue to be the rage in colors.

Lindsay, Richardson & Co., who bought out the stock of the late firm of John Patterson & Co., from Mr. E. S. Clouston, have moved across to the other side of St. Helen street, where they are offering some nice lines of millinery.

Messrs. Gault Bros. are receiving their fall supplies. Among their heavy lines are some handsome box cloths, ulsterings and costume cloths, for which a good demand is anticipated for ladies' wear this fall. They report also that the better class of the tailoring trade are more disposed to do business with wholesale houses in the local market instead of importing direct, as has been their custom.

Jas. Johnson & Co. are opening up an extensive line of velveteens, shot and tartan silks and surahs just now. They anticipate a brisk demand on this account, which does not seem to indicate any great degree of poverty.

S. Greenshields, Son & Co. anticipate a big season for braids, in fact for all goods into the composition of which mohair enters owing to the demand for trimmings of this nature on fall account. They are opening up just now also a handsome and varied line of Crum's celebrated standard British prints, the prevailing designs being in the usual fashionable shades of green and "Eminence" purple.

H. Shorey & Co.'s travellers are now out on their sorting up trip for spring and summer account, and are placing orders on fall account in the Lower Provinces and the North-West. The reports in this connection from down below are good, but in Manitoba and the North-West the tone is bad. Within the past few days, however, since seeding began, a more hopeful feeling has been apparent.

Jno. Mackenzie & Co. are pushing their line of ladies' mantles in the North-West and British Columbia.

Green, Sons & Co. are daily receiving their lines of fall supplies. They anticipate an improvement in the sorting up demand for negligé shirts, etc., now that the hot weather has come in earnest. They have on hand quite an extensive and varied line of these goods.

Mr. Macdougall of Gault Bros. reports encouraging prospects in regard to placing orders on fall account, and also that there is a good demand for gent's furnishings, shirts, collars, etc. The firm is going more heavily into dress goods this season, Mr. Leslie Gault having just returned from his English trip. He anticipates that lines in shades of green will be the best for the fall trade. Purples will also go to a certain extent, but whether they last or not is not definitely certain. The firm are offering some handsome lines of silks and satin "Duchesses" in the popular shot and tartan designs, for which a brisk demand is looked for.

In a trip around the houses it was learned that the buyers were returning homeward in detachments each week. Among those who are at their old posts are Messrs. Radford