

returns of the agriculturist toiling, it may be, on the steppes of Russia, the plains of India, the vast stretches of Argentina or our own fertile prairies of Manitoba. To how much greater an extent can the farmer within the Empire be benefitted by the necessities of the United Kingdom and contribute to render it independent of other countries in the matter of the necessities of life, can only be understood by remembering that at present Britain buys annually from foreign sources quite outside the Empire about 75,000,000 cwt. of wheat and flour.

We might profitably notice the great transactions in raw cotton in Liverpool, of timber and deals in the same great port, the great iron and shipbuilding interests of Glasgow and the Clyde, the great coal districts about Newcastle, the wonderful manufacturing industries of the midland counties of England and of the north of Ireland, all of which have contributed to the supremacy of British manufactures throughout the world, and while the struggle to maintain that supremacy is each year becoming more intense, the trade returns of last year show that John Bull as a merchant has more than maintained his ground.

To make the subject one of more practical importance to us as Canadians we may ask how are we to benefit by the sudden prominence we have achieved? Certainly not by making it a subject of conversation among ourselves and congratulating ourselves upon our own cleverness. Our opportunity has arrived. Let us ascertain what we can develop in the way of foreign trade, of articles we can profitably manufacture. Numerous lines have come under the writer's observation in the different countries of Continental Europe the product of the United States, that could profitably have been furnished by Canada. Each year I meet in different cities of Central Europe a commercial agent of the United States Government, a keen, sharp, observant gentleman, who has had a thorough commercial training, whose business it is to watch opportunities for the introduction of manufactured or agricultural products. Of his success, his continued retention of the position is the best evidence. He informed the writer that his efforts to induce the consumption of Indian corn in the armies of Europe had been so successful, that an advance equal to three cents per bushel had been secured to the American producer over what he would have received had not such a quantity been removed from an already glutted market. Let our Minister of Trade and Commerce follow this example by placing a Canadian thoroughly acquainted with every part of Canada and its capability of furnishing what these people require, a man with a Canadian business training and loyal to Canada, with a thorough knowledge of the German language and his value in opening new avenues for our exports would be incalculable. Let positions of this kind not be the reward for political services, but the sole consideration be fitness for the position, irrespective of political leanings. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Is Canada not now in this tide? Aye, and at its very flood. And shall we not, as Canadians, labor, shoulder to shoulder, to be in the van of the world's progress? The continued supremacy, nationally and commercially, of the Anglo-Saxon race is assured, if only we adhere to high ideals of life and see to it that the "righteousness that exalteth a nation" is ours.

NOVELTIES IN FURS.

James Constine & Co., Montreal, are out with some decided novelties in electric seal, Alaska sable, Persian lamb and seal caperines, collarettes and victorias. These goods are taking the popular fancy and are having a very large sale, which they justly merit.

SO MUCH PER LEG.

From a sign in the window of a Toronto tailor we see that he is giving bargains in a certain line of ready-made pants, at \$1.99 per leg.

NOTES ON FALL DRESS GOODS.

ALL the houses report a very good dress goods trade, and current styles are taking well.

Wyld, Grasett & Darling state that they are finding an increasing demand for cashmere twill serges, French coating twills, two-tone coverts and plain coverts. They have a special 54-inch pearl serge. Heavy shipments have been made of fancy dress goods. Shot knickers, silk and wool armures, dresdens and matalasses are also among the leading lines; double repeats have already been made upon these. Tweed effects in all-wool are sellers. White creponnes are still in demand for street and evening wear. A prevalent feeling seems to be the desirability of a higher class of goods.

John Macdonald & Co. have already made heavy shipments from their immense stock. The leading line is the German goods in boucle, both colored and black, niggerhead effects, checks, tinsel and fancy boucle effects in tweed. Plaids continue to be in good demand. They have some pretty things in Scotch and German tweeds. The silk warped cloth is a popular high class of goods. Their creponne effects are very pretty and, they say, are selling well.

Caldecott, Burton & Spence report that the demand for covert cloths in whipcord finish, soft finish heather mixtures and diagonal, in greens, wood shade, browns and navy's, has been very great for the fall trade of 1897. They also report that knicker tweeds, two-tone brocades, shot serges, repps in mixed colors, particularly greens, blues, cardinals and browns, are much asked for. They also report an active call in better lines for fleece-lined muscovite henriettas, bengalines and armures, and silk finished rich jacquards, and for low-priced, servicable goods the demand appears to be for tweed mixtures, assorted shades. This firm are dress goods converters, bringing out most of their goods in the grey and dying and finishing them in Toronto. Their famous line of two-tone brocades, Nos. 200 up to 208, have been great sellers for the coming fall trade.

S. Greenshields, Son & Co. are showing some handsome designs in fancy silks suitable for blouses and evening wear. They have now a full stock of their celebrated Stanley velveteens in black and all staple shades, also silk velvets in blacks and colors.

In dress goods they are showing a large range in boucle effects, changeable repps, silk and wool figures, etc. Their stock is now complete in this department. They have now a complete assortment of plain goods, muscovines, victoria cloth, serges, cashmeres, etc.

In Priestley's dress goods S. Greenshields, Son & Co. report that the assortment they have comprises crepons, frises, figured broches, soleils, black and navy serges, silk warps, eudoras, union cashmeres, cravenettes, etc.

Kyle, Cheesbrough & Co. report large sales of dress goods. As we mentioned before in these columns, their stock has been very carefully selected, and the success it is meeting with is a proof of the good value it contains. A new hussar bolero is one of the novelties.

Black figured mohairs are in steady demand by the trade. James Johnston & Co. have received two new lines, exceptional value at 19 and 55c. They have also a specially cheap line of checked tweed dress goods at 19 and 22 1/2c. Write for samples.

FOR THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MARKET.

The representatives of James Constine & Co., Montreal, are now in British Columbia soliciting orders for the spring trade. They are showing a very choice range of wool and fur felt and straw hats, especially selected for the B.C. market.