

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS

THEY TOOK THE WALL PAPER OFF.

THE present war in South Africa recalls to mind a somewhat remarkable instance which occurred in those parts a few years ago.

It seems that a miner went to South Africa with a couple of thousand dollars, and shortly thereafter invested his money in a "fly-by night" mining company, who owned some ground which was alleged to contain diamonds. His certificates of stock were numerous and handsomely engraved, but in a short time the company went out of existence and they were worthless. The man and his wife drifted out into the hills of South Africa and he commenced prospecting. One day he came across the old certificates, and the sight of them disgusted him so that he threw them out of the window. His wife, however, thought they were pretty, and, recovering them, used them as a wall paper for his cabin. Shortly after this gold was discovered in the grounds which were owned by his old company, and the value of the land went up with a bound.

It took them some time to get their costly wall paper off, and where it could not be detached they sawed the boards out and took them into the city, proved their claim and eventually sold them for several hundred thousand dollars.

So far as I can learn, the miner's wife had her rooms covered with the most valuable wall paper that has ever been made.—American Upholstery Journal.

NOVELTIES IN WALL DECORATIONS.

The New York wall paper shops are fascinating places these days, says Geyer's Stationer. They show the seeker for novelties tiny models of rooms with toy furniture, miniature rugs, etc., to illustrate the proper tones and colors necessary to produce harmonious effects. They also build rooms out of screens and paper them before one's eyes, so that the careful purchaser may see clearer than in imagination how her dining-room will look hung with tapestry, her drawing-room in Watteau effect, and her library in red or green brocade.

The striped papers in two shades of one color or in one shade, with alternate stripes of simulated satin and silk, are very much used. They come in all the aesthetic tones of green, red, and purple, and in rooms where the woodwork is enameled in white these soft colors are especially effective.

Sometimes, a richly flowered paper is used with the plain striped paper, the former serving as a frieze, although friezes are not in favor now—or being used for the upper walls, with the striped paper for a dado. A room treated in this manner has the walls hung with an exquisitely tinted lilac pattern. Great feathery clusters of the beautiful flowers, shading from creamy white to palest rose and then to purple, are scattered over the walls, from the ceiling to within four feet of the floor, where white papelling separates them from a plain striped paper in one shade of soft lilac. The furniture in this room (which is a little waiting room opening out of a white and yellow drawing-room) is white wood and white wickerwork upholstered in lilac and cream, the only touch of warmer color being a rose-colored cushion on the sofa.

CLEANING WALL PAPER.

It is not always desirable or possible to repaper a room where the wall paper has been soiled in a few places. To be able to clean such paper without injuring the gloss and general effect would be a great relief to many a housewife. This can be accomplished without much difficulty. The method of procedure is to take four ounces of pumice stone in the fine powdered form and mix it with one quart of flour. When the two have been mixed with the hands add enough water to knead the mass into a thick dough. Form the mass into several rolls about as long as the width of each strip of wall paper and two inches in diameter. Wrap some white cotton cloth around each roll and stick it in place, and then boil about three-quarters of an hour. By that time the dough rolls are firm, and the cloth covering can be removed. These rolls of hardened flour and pumice stone are then used for rubbing over the soiled portions of the paper. Not only will ordinary dirt spots be removed, but grease will be absorbed by the rolls. After rubbing the paper should be dusted off carefully with a clean cloth, and if any dirt remains the process should be repeated. This removes dirt much better than the bread process.

DISTRIBUTES WITHOUT MANUFACTURING.

St. Louis is the great wall paper distributing point for the West and Southwest in the United States. No wall paper is manufactured there, but there are two large

wholesale houses in that city that handle an immense amount of the product of the Eastern factories. They sell their goods all over the South and West, frequently receiving orders even from as far as New Mexico. The local trade in wall paper is quite extensive. There are half a hundred firms engaged in it and they do quite an extensive business annually. The dealers say the demand for high-class goods is increasing each month and that conditions generally are very favorable.

BAZAARS.

THE action of His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi in prohibiting the holding of church and charity bazaars will meet with approval on all hands, and many are only sorry that there is not a Protestant potentate who would have power to utter his voice to such good purpose when occasion calls.

Recent developments in Montreal have made it plain that the gambling evils connected with such means of raising money are many, and insidious in their nature, and police intervention has become necessary. But, apart altogether from the harm of lottery wheels, etc., the decree is of interest to the trade, because of the effect which these bazaars have on their business.

Especially at this time of the year, when holiday presents of all kinds are in demand, do people throng such places, and the injury to the trade is of a double nature. Not only does the dealer lose the amount of purchases which are made at the fair, but he is forced to contribute his quota of material to the same, whether interested or not.

It amounts to little less than blackmail, when rich lady customers come and demand anything from handkerchiefs to a piano for charity. Fearful lest he should lose a good customer, the merchant is obliged to acquiesce "for charity's sake." Cases are on record, in different towns throughout the country, where the smaller tradespeople have been put out of business by such agencies as the "talent" system.

This sort of thing cannot, with justice, be upheld, and the sooner churches, hospitals and like institutions are able to break free from such questionable methods, and persuade their constituents to support worthy objects in a worthy manner, so much the sooner will a great deal of animus withdraw from the name of charity.

Mr. James P. Taylor, Toronto, has compiled and published (\$1, cloth, 228 pp.) a book entitled "The Cardinal Facts of Canadian History." It is a list of events, chronologically arranged, from 1492 to November 1, 1899, and, despite some printer's errors, will prove useful for schools and libraries. The B. N. A. Act, 1867, is included in the volume.