

Jos. Beaumont, woolen manufacturer, Glen Williams, Ont., met with a serious accident a short time ago. He has added glove-making to his business, and a quantity of benzine, which is used in this department, had been placed in a large drum. He approached the vessel with a lighted lantern when the benzine exploded, blowing out the windows and burning Mr. Beaumont severely about the face and hands.

Users of belting will be pleased to note that the well-known firm of D. K. McLaren, with head office and factory in Montreal, and branches at Galt and Ottawa, Ont., has opened a stock depot at Toronto, where the firm will endeavor to keep an assorted stock of the "Genuine Oak" belting, which it is claimed gives entire satisfaction to all who use it. This branch is in charge of James T. Craig, late Craig & McArthur, who will be found at the old stand, No. 69 Bay street.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Merchants' Cotton Company held in Montreal recently there were present: R. B. Angus, Robt. Mackay, J. P. Cleghorn, James Crathern, T. B. Brown, J. K. Ward, Jas. Tasker, John Turnbull, Geo. A. Greene, J. H. Scott, Jas. Walker, A. Robertson, Hy. Barbeau, and others. The report presented was considered most satisfactory, and the following were elected for the ensuing year: President, A. A. Ayer; directors, R. B. Angus, J. P. Cleghorn, James Crathern, Jonathan Hodgson, Robt. Mackay and W. G. Cheney. The company has within the last year increased its capacity by the erection of a large addition to the plant so as to be in a position to meet more fully the requirements of the trade. The number of operatives now employed is 1,200.

A somewhat exciting episode occurred at the Kingston, Ont., penitentiary, January 23rd, when a small revolt occurred. Forty men who are engaged in the binder twine factory refused to eat soup offered them for dinner. They ate the bread and drank the water and were marched out to work. Thirty-three refused to work and the balance demurred. The guards were called in and the men marched to the dome. Five of the ring-leaders were put in the cells and the majority of the balance said they would return to work provided they could see the warden at a later period. The food is that provided by the inspector. The officers say that they have assurances that the strike was to have been general, but that a misunderstanding must have occurred as to the time. The men concerned will likely be punished.

The Cornwall, Ont., town council was recently petitioned to exempt from taxation for a further period of ten years the portions of the Canadian Colored Cotton Co.'s mill on which the exemption had expired in January, and the part on which exemption would expire in 1902. This was not granted, but the council has passed a by-law commuting the taxes on all the company's property, both the Carada and Stormont mills,

for ten years to an assessment of 40 per cent. of a \$625,000 valuation. The by-law takes effect when ratified by the Ontario Legislature. This by-law revokes the one passed some years ago, commuting the taxes on the Canada mill to 40 per cent. The company has entered into an agreement to expend a hundred and fifty thousand dollars in new buildings and machinery before January 1, 1904, to employ at least 900 hands for not less than an aggregate of nine months of twenty-six days, ten hours each, in each year, exclusive of all stoppages caused by accident or otherwise. Failure to observe this agreement will be penalized by the cancelling of the by-law and collection of the full amount of taxes.

Recently the machinery in the newly constructed addition to the factory of the Merchants' Cotton Company, Montreal, was set in motion for the first time. A. A. Ayer, the president of the company presided at the ceremony, and Miss Ayer, daughter of the president, and Miss Hawksworth, daughter of Alfred Hawksworth, superintendent, opened the valve and the engines turned. The rope drive consists of thirty ropes, or cables, are $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and the combined power is 1,500 indicated horse. There are many things in favor of this style of transmitting power from the engines to the shafting. Its weight is less; it is noiseless in operation and the slip is reduced to the minimum. The drive-wheel is 26 feet in diameter, and is 76 inches across the face and weighs sixty tons. Upon the face are thirty grooves two and one-half inches from centre to centre. These contain the cables. The engines, built by the Laurie Engine Co., are of the cross compound variety with twenty-four and fifty-two inch cylinder and each has a stroke of sixty inches. The total weight of engines, drive wheel, etc., is 150 tons. The Holly system for carrying condensed steam back into the boilers is also used. Four Babcock and Wilcox boilers manufactured in Glasgow and fired by four automatic stokers made by the same firm give the necessary steam. The smoke from the fires passes through a Green's economizer, thus heating the water before it is introduced into the boilers. At the base of the chimney an automatic damper has been placed. This acts by the rising and falling of the steam and water pressure. When the steam rises the damper closes and when the water rises the damper opens. Every device which in any manner will save labor or coal has been introduced. The addition to the mill is of brick and in general architecture the same as the older portions. The new building is 100 by 286 feet and is four stories and a basement in height. The chimney is of brick and is 166 feet high and has a 7 foot flue. This addition will give the mill some 750 additional looms, making a total of 2,300 in the factory. It was on the 17th of April that the new building was started and in June the first of the machinery was put in place. The plant is ready to operate immediately.

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