

only to the inherent beauty of the material, but in a great measure to the artistic taste displayed in its arrangement. The exhibit proper consists of a pillar five feet high, built up of colored spools of machine silk. In this pillar the colors are beautifully graduated and contrasted. In the four corners of the case are towers of ottoman, satin and faille, faille and picot edge ottoman ribbons, crowned with a cascade of embroidery silks in bright shades, making a very pretty effect. Between these towers are displayed a beautiful assortment of high color, in machine silks and embroidery silks. The colors are charmingly shaded in red, white and blue. There is shewn embroidery, black machine silks, black and colored tailors' twist, filoselle, button-hole twist, knitting silks and Kensington embroidery silks on patent cards, &c. Their large sign is a decided novelty. It is made of different colored silk cocoons, raw silk and mulberry leaves, making a very effective and artistic sign. Altogether the exhibit is a most creditable one, and it has apparently greatly surprised the English people to learn that such goods are manufactured in Canada.

A London journal, which writes with some intelligence on Canadian exhibits, has a favorable notice of the goods shown by the Cobban Manufacturing Co., of this city. These are mainly gilt and fancy picture frames and cornice mouldings, which are shown on the south side of the Main Court. "It is a little curious," in the opinion of that journal, "that this firm are the sole representatives from Canada of this important manufacture, seeing that moulding trade has been a prominent industry in Canada for some considerable time." Referring to the design and excellence in quality of the wares shown, and to the further fact that the Cobban Manufacturing Company carries on an extensive manufacture of frames of every description, looking-glasses, mantels, over-mantles, easels, etc., that journal says these goods might be introduced into Britain by her merchants in competition with American goods of the same class, and to the advantage of the English dealer.

DRY GOODS ITEMS.

J. H. Parks, the St. John cotton manufacturer, will send his exhibit, now at the Colonial Exhibition to the sample warehouse and commercial office at Sydney, N. S. W. We are told that the Paton Manufacturing Co., of Sherbrooke, will do likewise with their exhibit of tweeds and other woollen goods now in London.

The recent formation of a Cotton Manufacturers' Association and its agreement not to cut prices below a certain point has had prompt and decided effect upon the shares in various mills. The stock of the Hochelaga Mill, whose previous quotation was 106 to 110, sold last week at 130 for two parcels and is this week 130½. Shares in the Montreal Cotton Co., would have been sold at par a few months if not weeks ago; they now command 118½ to 119. The Stormont Mills, which had been as low as 65, sold recently at 75 and is now held at 80. Then the Canada Cotton Company's shares, which were down to some very low figures at one time, have changed hands lately at 95 to 97 and on Monday last sold at 99. Shares in the Dundas Cotton Co., are quoted at 76 at which price they sold within the week.

A rise of cotton shares equal to 20 to 30 per cent., in the opinion of the Halifax Herald, "ought to be encouraging to the stockholders of the Halifax Mill, and confirm them in hold-

ing on to their shares, for we have heard of none of the mills in Canada that can show a better report than did the Halifax on the 4th August."

The Quebec Worsted Mills at Hare's Point, we are glad to hear, are about to be re-opened. The Hon. J. G. Ross, Hon. P. Garneau, G. R. Renfrew, Robert Brodie and M. Snowdon, are applying for letter patent under the name of the "Quebec Worsted Company," and will resume the running of the mills. The capital stock is \$60,000.

Upwards of 65,000 pounds of fine graded merino wool has been procured from this season's clip in Alberta Territory. It is the same class of wool as in the United States bought from 22 to 25c. per pound. A wool grower's association has been formed in the district. The flocks in Alberta are, we are told, all imported Montana sheep, and produce the grade of wool which bears the now well recognized name of Montana.

The fall season's make of the Cornwall Manufacturing Co. has been, we understand, satisfactorily sold, and it would not have been difficult, the agent tells us, to sell vastly more than the capacity of the mills. Having accomplished his mission for the time in the Eastern provinces, Mr. McEwen hies him away to Manitoba, full of *mens (et womens) conscia recti*, and bent on holiday domesticity. This establishment, in other years distinguished for its blankets, runs now entirely on tweeds.

Residents of Port Dover, Tilsonburg, Norwich, Simcoe, and other points to the south of Brantford, received invitations to visit that city per excursion train on 26th inst., at reduced rates of fare. On looking more closely into the blue hand-bill to see what occasion it was that gained them this privilege, the good people of those places found that it was no anniversary, or pic-nic. The scheme—original in this shape, so far as we know—was one of Mr. Thomas McLean's, and its object was to get the people of surrounding places to visit his dry goods establishment in Brantford. Here are some of the inducements and facilities offered:—

"Coupons will be distributed to excursionists entitling them to 15 and 25 per cent. cash discount off purchases from Thomas McLean. Be sure to get a Coupon!"

Excursionists have nine hours in the delightful and rapidly prospering city of Brantford. Arrangements have been made for the parks and all other objects of interest to be thrown open to the visitors. N. B.—Pic-nic parties can proceed to the Agricultural or Recreation Park, where hot water will be supplied gratis by the caretakers.

Do not forget name and the place. Come and spend a happy day. Take advantage of the cheap rates and the golden opportunity to get great bargains of every description at the lowest prices."

This idea is worthy the attention of the Toronto MAMMOTH, and would do credit to Wanamaker, of Philadelphia. By the way, we congratulate this Brantford man on his prices. If he can afford to give 15 and 25 per cent. discount off purchases and not lose money he is assuredly making a living profit, despite all that is said of close prices these days.

American inquisitiveness and ingenuity united have produced thread made from the blossoms of the common milk weed, which has the consistency and tenacity of imported flax or linen thread, and is produced at a much less cost. The fibre is long, easily carded, and may be readily adapted to spinning upon an ordinary flax spinner. It has the smoothness and lustre of silk, rendering it valuable for sewing machine use. The weed is common throughout this country, according to the *Dry Goods Chronicle*, but grows profusely at the South. The material costs nothing for cultivation, and the gathering is as cheaply done as that of cotton. A Canadian, Mr. A. Kirkwood, em-

ployed in the Crown Lands' office, Ontario, published a pamphlet several years ago recommending the *milk weed* or *silk weed* as suitable material for making a fine textile fabric. As usual, it may be, others will reap the benefits of Mr. Kirkwood's discovery.

GATHERING OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

The annual meeting of the insurance men who compose the Fire Underwriters' Association of the North-West will be held in Chicago on September 8th and 9th, at "Kinsley's," on Adams street. The programme of proceedings indicates that the two days will be well filled. After Roll Call and preliminary proceedings on Wednesday, President W. W. Fox will deliver an address. Then at 2 p. m. the annual address, subject, "Facts and Figures" will be delivered by F. C. Bennett, general agent Aetna Insurance Company. Further proceedings including the reading of a paper, "The Outlook," by E. W. Lyman, Underwriter, Chicago. Next will come a discussion, "What Can be Done to Reduce Fire Losses?" followed by a paper, "Insurance, as viewed from State House and Field." Discussion will be held on "What are the main causes of Unfriendly Legislation?" A paper, "Local and Field Service, or the Local Agent as a Special," will be read by D. W. Sween. Discussion, "Can the Present Agency System be Improved?" After an intermission for tea, will be held the Evening Session at 8 o'clock, which begins by a lecture on "Architecture and Fire Insurance," by a Chicago man, and another on "Electric Lighting and Aerial Wires."

On Thursday, the Morning Session will take up miscellaneous business and the reports of State Boards. After these comes a paper, "The Insurance Contract, Adjustments and Adjusters," by J. J. Berne, Chicago; then a discussion, "The Insurance Contract, Printed and Written—Can Either be Improved?" Next a paper, "The Tendency of Insurance Decisions upon the Insurance Contract, and the Injustice of Restrictive Legislative Enactments," by Mr. Fox, of Louisville. Subsequent items are: Discussion, "Should Losses be Settled on a Strict Construction of the Contract, or in Recognition of Business Equity?" Leader, C. W. Potter, Adjuster Aetna Insurance Company. Paper, "State Boards." Intermission. Afternoon Session, 2 o'clock. Address, Major Mims, of Atlanta. Discussion, "Should Co-insurance, Pure and Simple, be Universally Adopted?" Paper, "A Voice from the Pacific," by L. L. Bromwell, of California. Discussion, "The Recording Agency System as a Factor in Present Demoralization." Leader, I. W. Holman, general agent British America Insurance Company. Paper, "Shutters," by Colonel J. H. Kellogg, Chicago. Discussion, "The Best Remedy for Irregular Competition." Leader, S. H. Row. We are indebted to the *Insurance Times* for the programme as given.

INSURANCE NOTES.

At a meeting of directors of the United States Life Insurance Company, in New York, last week, Mr. George H. Burford was elected President of the Company, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Timothy H. Brosnan. This, says the *Commercial Bulletin*, is an eminently wise and proper promotion. After twenty-two years of faithful service to the company, as actuary and in other spheres of