

—The difficulty of producing perfect goods is known to few people outside the mills. Though a marked improvement has been made in recent years, someone who disclaims being fussy, states that in cases of eight or ten pieces of the same style he often finds from two to five shades. Here is surely room for improvement.

—The employees who take part in a strike may usually be divided into two classes—the natives and transients. The latter do the most to bring it about, the former are usually the greatest sufferers. The gain in a strike can never make up for the total loss. While we look on at what is transpiring in the United States mills, we can congratulate ourselves that we in Canada now have a more excellent way of settling such disputes.

—The census figures of the United States show that Pennsylvania ranks first in the carpet industry, producing 48 per cent. of the output. The industry is carried on almost entirely in Philadelphia. Turkey and Axminster carpets were made in that city in 1791, and in 1857 there were more than 100 hand loom carpet weavers there and only one power loom factory. In 1868 the Murkland power loom gave a great impetus to the industry. The chief product is ingrain carpets, Smyrna rugs and tapestries.

—A member of Lord Saltoun's family was sitting by the fireside recently, when a celluloid comb, which she wore in her hair, suddenly exploded, inflicting a scalp wound, setting her hair on fire and giving her a general shock. Celluloid is a preparation made chiefly of gun cotton, and is therefore dangerous for articles of attire, such as combs, collars, cuffs, etc. Nor is it always sold under the name of celluloid. There is said to be a preparation of soda, which, when mixed with it, renders it incombustible. Regulations should be adopted for its manufacture.

—Reports of great industrial activity come from Mexico, and among the principal enterprises are the cotton mills, which have been very successful, considering the difficulties to be overcome. For ten years cotton manufacturing in Mexico has been growing rapidly, and some mills are turning out a finer fabric than at first. Labor is cheap and water power is abundant. Improvements in machinery are quick to find their way to places where new mills are being established, and some of the very best equipped plants on the continent can now be found in Mexico.

The use of Chinese matting, which has taken the place of carpets to some extent, will be checked by an increase in price, the result of greater expense in working, an increase of wages, and the larger demand.

These causes have also brought about a deterioration in quality, which has caused much dissatisfaction. The extent of the trade may be judged from the fact that about half a million rolls of matting were shipped last year on European and Chinese steamers. About 425,000 of these were sent to the United States, and the remainder to various parts of the world.

—It is not unlikely that binder twine may be removed from the free list. Nothing else can save the binder twine industry in Canada so long as the United States holds the advantage it does in the Philippine Islands. Manila hemp is exclusively the product of these islands, and cannot be secured elsewhere. There has always been an export duty of \$7.50 a ton, but since the United States has obtained possession of the islands, it has been exempt. Its manufacturers of twine thus have the advantage over the Canadian manufacturer to that amount, and the latter must go to the wall unless protected. It may not be pleasing to the farmer, but it will not do to allow the industry to be killed.

—The Division of Hydrography, of the Geological Survey of the United States, is engaged in a most important work in the form of an investigation of river pollution from city sewerage, factory waste and other like causes. An attempt will be made to discover the present extent of such pollution and its effect upon property values and public health. Factory pollution, as a result of industrial growth, is becoming more and more a menace to public health, and some means of overcoming the difficulty should be devised. Factory proprietors should seek as far as possible to avoid discharging their waste into streams from which water for domestic use is taken.

—A bulletin has been issued containing statistics of silk manufacture in the United States, as gathered from the census of 1900. It is prepared by Franklin Allen, expert of the silk division of manufactures of the Census Office and secretary of the Silk Association of America. It contains full statistics of the industry. There were in 1900, 483 silk mills reported in active operation. The value of the product was \$107,256,258, involving an outlay of \$3,134,352 for salaries of officials, clerks, etc.; \$20,982,194 for wages; \$10,264,208 for expenses, rent, taxes, etc., and \$62,406,665 for material, fuel, freight, etc. In addition to the mills enumerated, there are 78 hosiery and knit goods establishments, and 39 mills making braids and trimmings, into which silk enters as an element.

A United States contemporary, speaking of the hosiery trade, says: In solid color hose without embroidery, pearl gray is the leading color. After this, pinks, light blues, very light browns, yellows and greens follow in their respective order.