

## MILL NEWS AND NOTES.

THE Slingsby Manufacturing Company mills, Brantford, Ont., which have been closed for some time, during transfer to the new joint stock company, have commenced operations again. The works will be greatly enlarged in the near future.

Feller Bros. are enlarging their woollen mill at Clarksburg, Ont.

W. Lott, Belleville, Ont., has built a new woollen mill adjoining his old one.

Barrington Woollen Mill Co., Barrington, N.S., are advertising their business for sale.

Bowden Bros., woollen manufacturers, Toronto, have merged their business into a stock company.

The Waterloo (Ont.) Woollen Co., are putting in about forty new looms with carding, spinning and other machinery.

One of the most unique and interesting exhibits at the great fair will be a miniature cotton mill in full working order.

The Hunter woollen mill, Durham, Ont., has been started up by T. H. Watchorn, formerly of Watchorn & Co., Merrickville.

T. P. Pearce's woollen mill, Moimore, Ont., will hereafter be operated by a stock company, known as the Pearce Co., Ltd.

It is reported that the R. Forbes Co., of Hespeler, will build a large addition to their worsted and knitting factory this summer.

The Dominion Suspender Co., of Niagara Falls, have bought a site on the American side of the river, and proposed to build a factory to employ 200 hands for the United States trade.

Alfred Parker, proprietor of the Brampton Wool Stock Co., has purchased the Drop Forge building at Mimico, and will commence operations in the woollen manufacturing at once.

Official notice has been given of the incorporation of the Sorel (Que.) Cotton Co., with a capital of \$20,000, to manufacture and deal in "wadding, batting and cotton and wool products."

"An insurance scheme has been adopted in a Canadian mill, by which each employee pays a small amount monthly, which in case of accident ensures him free medical services and full wages during the time of his sickness or inability. We should think this idea could be more practically applied in large manufacturing institutions, where it could be put on a similar basis to the general accident insurance companies. It might have the effect of lessening the objectionable litigations, which so frequently arise in cases of injury, if the corporations would assume partial risks by making the rates low. This is a sub-issue of co-operation, which deserves careful consideration. —Philadelphia Industrial Review.

A fire, which caused a very heavy loss of property, took place at Merriton between 3 and 4 o'clock on the morning of April 26th, and resulted in the total destruction of the Taylor knitting mill, better known perhaps as the old Disher factory. How the fire started no one knows. The premises have been undergoing a thorough overhauling, cleaning and repairing, and it is very hard to account for the blaze, as none of the mill hands were working owing to the water being out of the canal. The damage will amount to about \$20,000, with about \$8,000 insurance on the factory. Mr. Taylor had only occupied the premises for about 12 months. He had been continually adding improvements and but recently put in an electric motor. W. Calvert & Co. of this city were selling agents of this mill, and state that a very large number of orders were on hand.

## NEW IDEAS IN UMBRELLAS.

IN a controversy about umbrellas the advocate of them would have little difficulty in showing their usefulness and their consequent value. There are those who avoid them, but the man who carries one has the satisfaction of knowing that he is in the majority and is conventional. It is doubtful whether a man should be commended because he is in the fashion, and yet care must be taken to distinguish between originality and eccentricity. The man who dares the weather and makes light of his umbrellaless condition is regarded as odd rather than as original, and does not, perhaps, always get the credit which is his due. In a storm an umbrella held aloft seems an appropriate finish to a person's appearance. It is in harmony with the surroundings, and certainly the possession of one in any emergency is not often regretted. Some do not carry an umbrella simply because they cannot spare the money to purchase one, others, it may be, because specimens they prized have been taken "in mistake" by unknown friends, the successive losses causing an aversion to umbrellas in general. It is in the interest of this class that two Americans have been exercising their ingenuity. The man who prevents the theft of umbrellas will desire to be regarded as a public benefactor, and possibly this distinction awaits the Americans in question. It is obvious that no one would care to keep an umbrella which he could not open, and it is on this hypothesis that both inventors have gone to work. In the one case the umbrella can be locked, and is, of course, no use without the key. The value of the invention has been tried. A gentleman was one day in a restaurant, and he noticed that one of the company on leaving took his umbrella from the stand. Having the key in his possession he awaited the result with some curiosity. It was soon returned, as he thought it would be. The other inventor gives the umbrella an ordinary appearance, but the handle may be unscrewed and put into the pocket. The advantage is this: in unscrewing the handle the ribs are automatically locked together, and until the handle is replaced, the umbrella cannot be opened. There is this contingency to be feared that the people who are mean enough to take an umbrella which they know is not theirs would not take the trouble to return it when its worthlessness to them was discovered. The possession of the key or of the handle would give no satisfaction if the umbrella were missing and herein lies the weak feature of the inventions. Perhaps, therefore, they will not soon become popular. Umbrellas are not likely to go out of fashion; the tendency is in the other direction, and in these days they are so stylishly and so handsomely made that they are often carried for merely ornamental purposes. In a charming essay on sticks, Leigh Hunt says that when a man, accustomed to carry one, is deprived of it, he issues out of his house with a diminished sense of vigour and gracefulness. The umbrella does not hold exactly the same relation to its owner, but a trying experience awaits the man who leaves a meeting or a dinner minus the rain-protector he carried on his forward journey. In case of a storm on the following morning he will probably emerge from his house with only a diminished grace and vigour, but with a feeling against the unknown appropriator of his umbrella which it would not be easy for him to describe. Should the American invention be successful, the system of umbrella transference may in time be less general, for at least one motive for it will have been drawn.—The Hosier.