

purchased the right to select the land, at stated prices. This the Land Company claimed was not a purchase of the property, but in the meantime the company exercised all the functions of ownership of the property, in some instances leasing lands and receiving profits therefrom. The scheme was therefore clearly a "clever" arrangement between the two monopolies to cheat the people of the different municipalities out of the amount of taxes upon the properties. Suits have been brought against the company, but it has been a difficult matter to prove the real ownership of the land. Lately an agreement has been arrived at between the municipal authorities of Regina and the officers of the Land Company to the effect that the company pay the present year's taxes; furnish a full list of all assessable lands held and sold; and acknowledge the right of the town to assess its property in the future. In return the town authorities agreed to remit all back taxes against the company. Now, if the company is not liable for the amount of taxes, why does it agree to pay taxes for the future? Further, if the company is liable, why remit back taxes? Then, if the company be liable for the taxes at Regina, it must also be liable for taxes upon property in other municipalities. The Land Company has tacitly admitted by this agreement that it is liable to taxation, and the admission further implies that it has been endeavoring by a mean subterfuge to escape its just obligations. Municipalities should therefore see that, if possible, the company should be compelled to pay back taxes to the full amount, before accepting an agreement to the effect that future taxes will be paid.

Progress of Textiles.

The opening of Queen Victoria's reign marked the first beginnings of textile manufacturing in Canada. Two small custom carding and weaving mills existed then, one of them, Mr. Willett's of L'Acadia, now at Chambly, Q., having been established as early as 1826; but it was only in 1837 that the L'Acadia mills were equipped with a set of "Golden" carding machines and a spinning jack—then considered great novelties—and had but four power looms; and it was only in the same year that in Ontario Mr. Robert Barber (afterwards Barber Bros. Streetville) took over a small mill at Georgetown, possessing but three or four hand looms, which had been run by Mr. Comfort, a gentleman who had been in business for some years, but lost the trade by his active sympathy with the "rebels." These two small mills—which made etofes, flannels and blankets, chiefly then for local consumption—were all that existed in the way of textile manufactures, and there were of course no subsidiary manufactures, such as ready-made clothing, men's furnishings and similar factories. Now we have some 600 mills ranging from one set of cards (with four to eight looms) to 22 sets with over 100 looms, and turning out at a rough estimate 26,500,000 yards of cloth a year. If we included small concerns that do wool carding for farmers who spin at their houses, the number would be swelled to 1,300. It is estimated that about 7,000,000 yards of such home made cloth is still produced annually. There are also over 200 knit goods establishments, besides the home

machine knitting, the extent of which it is difficult to estimate. The hosiery and knit goods business is a development of the last 20 years, the first knit goods factory having been started by Mr. W. E. Adams in 1837. Cotton manufacturing dates back only 27 years, the Lybster mill having started in 1860, and Messrs. Wm. Park and Son in 1861; now there are 40 establishments making cotton fabrics, of which twenty-three are engaged in the manufacture of piece goods, grey, bleached and colored. These factories run about 550,000 spindles and 11,000 looms, with a total capacity of 135,000,000 yards a year. The capital invested in cotton mills and machinery is estimated at 9,000,000. Then we have twelve carpet factories running about 150 looms; about 70 establishments for cordage, twine, jute and flax materials; also sail, tent, awning, wall paper and window shade factories; ten for manufacturing oil cloth, oil clothing and rubber goods; seven for felt goods; one large factory for silk ribbons, one for silk piece goods, and three to silk tassels and fringes; twenty-seven to hats, caps and straw goods; about fifty to fur goods, made for the trade; forty-nine to ready-made clothing, one of which employs over 1,000 hands; fifty-two to men's furnishings; twenty-nine to gloves and mitts; seven to buttons; twenty-two to corsets, hoop-skirts, bustles, etc.; besides establishments devoted to dyeing, bleaching, feather-manufacturing, etc., and a few miscellaneous factories connected with textiles. These do not include tailoring, dressmaking, or millinery establishments, so that we have developed in Canada, within fifty years, factories in almost every branch of the textile trades, employing many thousand hands and many million dollars of capital; and producing goods the equal of the mother country in all the grades we have attempted. —*Canadian Journal of Fabrics.*

Personal.

Mr. A. Porter, of Porter & Ronald, wholesale crockery wares, etc., left for the east last week.

Mr. Geo. Craig, of the Golden Lion, Winnipeg, has returned from an extended business trip in eastern markets.

Mr. Jos. Tasse, of Tasse, Wood & Co. the famous cigar manufacturers of Montreal, was in the city last week, on his way home from the Pacific coast.

Mr. W. S. Crone, representing the well-known house of H. A. Nelson & Sons, wholesale fancy goods, wooden ware, etc., of Toronto, had his very full line of samples opened out in the city last week. His display of novelties and fancies for the Xmas trade in plush goods, etc., was very fine, and many merchants from the surrounding towns came to view the samples. Mr. Crone has been doing the Northwestern trade for a long time, having first represented his house here some nine years ago. He left on Friday for the Pacific coast.

Vancouver News: Work has been commenced on the stone foundation for the C.P.R. round house. The building when completed will be in the form of a semi-circle and will have twenty stalls. The new shop will probably be commenced next week.

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