

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER:

SIR,—In reply to your many enquiries, and for the benefit of the woollen trade at large I beg to cite the following facts as gathered during my experience in several large mills. There is always more or less trouble and expense in the wool department, dye house and finishing, from the effects of carbonizing with acid. In carbonizing wool with sulphuric acid, we learn that it does not improve the stock. We will get the most of the vegetable matter out, and we don't require to neutralize if we are dyeing acid shades; while on neutral shades we are obliged to neutralize, and unless it is properly done, which means a good deal of time, we will find a heavy waste of dyestuffs. Again we find that during the process of manufacturing the stock will not card or spin with such freedom as carbonized stock does. We will also find the soap account materially increased.

For underwear manufacturers who require a nice, white stock, it is impossible to get such after carbonizing with acid either in dry or wet process, for no matter how white the stock may appear, it will acquire a dingy yellow appearance in course of manufacture, caused by the atmosphere combining with acid left in stock.

To all who desire the best known process in the market to-day, I can but refer them to the Alumina process, or wool carbonizer as it is called by the Merrimac Chemical Company, of Boston, who are the manufacturers.

In contrast to the sulphuric acid process we find that the Alumina process leaves the wool much superior as regards strength and elasticity, besides leaving it beautiful and white, and kind to the feel—in other words it is, I believe, the only known process that leaves the stock in its most natural condition. It will spin to finer counts, and cloth made from stock carbonized by this process is found by actual test to endure a much harder strain than that done by acid.

Where this process is worked properly, it will be found that the goods have gained a higher lustre, and altogether more buoyant feeling. Had I time and space I might enlarge upon the superiority of the Alumina process, but will confine myself to the method employed. In the first place I may say you can handle the liquor without fear, as it has no effect on the hands or clothing, and the wear and tear of machinery is practically nothing, if the process is worked properly. It will not stain or burn the fabric, while acid has just the opposite effect, burning and stealing everything it comes in contact with.

To those who are now using the sulphuric acid process, no change is necessary, all that is required being an ordinary box or Cypress tank with brass bolts to hold the bath, the

liquor in which register from six to eight degrees Benneba, according to the vegetable matter the stock contains.

Allow the stock to remain in the bath until burrs are thoroughly saturated, or from thirty minutes to one hour, lift, and after allowing to drip, extract in ordinary extractor, "which will require a light coat of shellac and emory once a week or so" with a tub, pail, or tank underneath to recover the liquor. The best work is accomplished by first drying at a moderate heat, about 175 degrees, on table dryers, then if possible give a finish heat, or baking heat, of 240 degrees for about thirty minutes if a heat of only 200 or 210 degrees can be got, the time must be lengthened accordingly.

Immediately stock is taken from dryer it should be run through crushers and a duster, when will be found a nice pure, free, and perfectly clean stock, bright light and soft, no neutralizing is needed. Allow stock to cool before using. The above process has been in use in Europe and the New England States for a number of years. Anyone desiring to see the process, should apply at the offices of the Company, at 13 Pearl St., Boston, where they will be furnished with addresses of mills using the same.

Toronto, May 9, 1898.

B.

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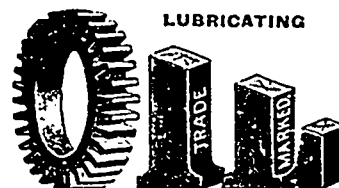
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