

their executive offices, and with no present supplies of raw material in the neighborhood—at least of a quality that would be fit for weaving purposes. The company—whose directors, besides Mr. Pauley, are A. W. Redden, boot and shoe merchant; W. N. Silver, of W. and C. Silver, dry goods merchants; Theo. S. Bowser, of G. M. Smith & Co., dry goods merchants, and Max Ungar, of Ungar's laundry, the last named being secretary—proposes, according to its prospectus, to manufacture linen, woollen and cotton yarns, clothing, and linseed oil cake and meal. To quote the exact words of the prospectus it is "linen, woollen, cotton yarns, clothing, linseed oil, linseed meal, linseed cake, and textile goods of every description." It is stated to be the purpose of the company "to erect a fully equipped linen mill with the latest and most modern machinery." The prospectus gives cuts of flax cleaning, preparing, spinning, and weaving machinery, and then says the company proposes to carry out an improved process for "degumming and bleaching the fibre." Apparently the enthusiastic compiler has got hold of a catalogue of ramie machinery, and got the process of flax and ramie manufacturing mixed. Another sentence is: "The Province of Manitoba alone for the year 1902 yielded 504,440 bushels of flax seed, but in addition to this seed there was the fibre, which was mostly destroyed, and which should have been marketed and manufactured into Canadian goods." The writer would be sorry to appear to throw cold water upon any endeavor to establish a new industry, but when it is proposed to make money out of the manufacture of linen fabric from the fibre out of a yield that is grown for seed as in Manitoba, it is well to suggest to the promoters that they look a little more closely into the facts and conditions they have to face when they get to work.

The other linen factory now getting into shape in Ontario is at Bracebridge. Its plans are different from the others in one important respect, and that is it will make no attempt, for some years at least, to spin yarn from Canadian flax, but will import its yarns from Ireland, and will confine its work to weaving. It will make table cloths, napkins, doilies, and sheetings of medium and fine grades. Yarns of this class may now be imported free for manufacturers' use, and under the tariff changes announced in June, weaving and other machinery for linen mills is also put on the free list. This reduces the cost of equipping a mill, and with free yarns, the net protection of the products of such a mill under the preferential tariff is 22 per cent. This advantage, it is needless to say, is entirely dependent on the stability of the tariff. One local advantage of the mill in Bracebridge is that the town will provide it with electric power at \$12.50 per horse-power per year, which is very cheap. The mill starts upon about 24 looms, but these are to be increased till 100 are installed. The finishing machinery will be for a capacity of 300 looms, and provision is made for such a possible increase. The directors of this company, known as the Dominion Mills, Ltd., are Reuben Millichamp, of Millichamp, Coyle & Co., (who will be the selling agents); W. Van Duzen, Toronto, of the Sun & Hastings Savings & Loan Co.; C. A. Johnson, of the J. D. King Co., Toronto; E. MacKenzie, of the Toronto Railway Co.; J. D. Shier, of the Shier Lumber Co., Bracebridge; Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, of Toronto, being president, and C. Kloefer, of Guelph, vice-president; C. McEachren is secretary, and Robt. Caldwell is manager. Mr. Caldwell is a practical linen manufacturer, and was formerly proprietor of the Millbrook Weaving & Bleaching Co., of Larne, near-Belfast. He is bringing out skilled weavers from Ulster, paying them an advance on the wages current in Ireland. The capital of the company is \$250,000. The town has guaranteed \$50,000 of the com-

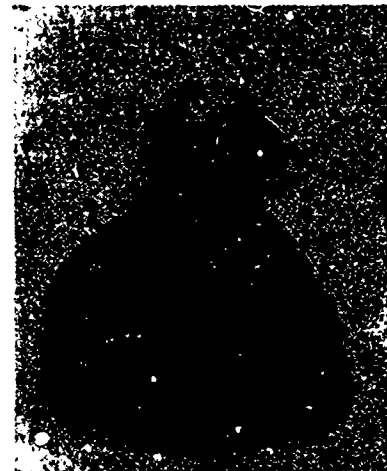
pany's five per cent bonds, on condition that the promoters spend \$75,000 in buildings, machinery, etc. Mr Caldwell is now at Bracebridge superintending the installation of machinery, and it is expected that samples of linen goods will be ready for the market this summer

THE BIRTH OF THE BOTANY WOOL TRADE.

It is always interesting to know the history of the beginning of any great event, to be able to trace its relations and to mark out the lines of progress. When the Rev. Samuel Marsden brought over from Australia a few stones of merino wool packed in barrels, he little dreamt that it was like a stone dropped in the middle of a pond, creating a circle that is widening to this day. No other industry has so radically changed the outward appearance of mankind as the Botany wool trade. The essential features of the industry still exist and wool ranks as the second largest textile in the world.

It was indeed a day of small things when the reverend gentleman stepped aboard that old sailing vessel with a few old casks of wool as a part of his baggage, but out of it there has arisen an industry the importance of which it is difficult to exaggerate. I dare say the sailors who carried the barrels on deck thought Mr. Marsden was carrying home some very queer baggage. The novelty of carrying wool from Australia has long since worn off. Seldom does a vessel leave Australia now without having wool as a part of her cargo. The extraordinary has become the common place.

Fortunately Samuel Marsden had been reared within the sound of the shuttle and the stroke of the weaver's beam. He knew the importance of the woollen industry in the West Riding district of Yorkshire and no doubt saw great possibilities wrapped up in the industry of sheep breeding



Rev. Samuel Marsden.

and wool growing in Australia. Had a man from the south of England been the first missionary to Australia, and with no knowledge of the needs of manufacturers, it is not too much to say that sheep-breeding and wool growing would not have reached its present dimensions in the short space of one hundred years.

Samuel Marsden was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, was not ennobled by birth or rank, or endowed by nature with great and distinguishing talents. Yet he was, in the truest sense possible, a great man, and belonged