

How Canadian Prints are Made.

Visit to an Extensive Bleaching and Printing Establishment.

Written by THE DRY GOODS REVIEW'S Representative.

IT is only a little over a year since the first sod was turned at St. Henri, Montreal, toward the erection of a huge converting works for the Colonial Bleaching and Printing Company, Limited. And now the building is completed, the machinery installed, everything is running smoothly and the management have just issued their first price list of new Spring prints. Manufactured products have been going out of the mill since May, and the leading wholesalers have been selling "Colonial" fabrics for the Fall trade, but the catering for the Spring print trade is considered by the management to be the real beginning of business. That the samples of Spring patterns have met with the approval of all the houses is a fair portent that augurs well for the future of this important venture in Canadian industry.

It is a venture. Not that its establishment was a risk, but it is the only industry of its kind in Canada. Of course, it is not the only place where calico is turned out in Canada, but all other mills work from the raw cotton, whereas in the Colonial mills the raw product is the unbleached cotton fabric, bought either from English, Canadian, or American mills. Being concerned only with dyeing and printing, and having naught to do with carding and weaving, the Colonial Bleaching and Printing Company hope to give paramount attention to the quality of the dyeing, to the selection of patterns, and to the execution of the printing. They hope to gain from specialization, and so far their aspirations have been crowned with success. So successful, indeed, have they been in securing orders for their Spring goods that the mills are now busy turning out 40,000 yards of fabric per day, and the need of more additional space and machinery is already felt. The goods put upon the market this Summer have won a way.

EQUIPMENT IS FIRST CLASS.

THE DRY GOODS REVIEW spent an enjoyable afternoon at the mills not long since, at the invitation of Mr. A. W. Cochrane, the energetic sales manager. The visitor was surprised to see the smoothness with which everything was being run in the new factory. Each and all engaged in the enterprise seemed to have learned their duties, and if one feature is more outstanding than another, it is the zeal and energy with which the different employees are helping to make the business a success.

It is claimed that there is no better equipped print works in America to day. This statement is undeniable, for experienced and capable men are at the helm, they have plenty of capital at their back, and they have ordered everything to suit themselves. Most of the machinery and appliances has been built to order. No pains or expense was spared to make the works first-class in all respects.

The buildings form three sides of a hollow square, from the centre of which rises the massive smokestack. The engine-house, with its four powerful boilers, is thus separate from the mill itself. There is a main building and two wings—all of brick, and two storeys. The main building is 412x62 ft., the right wing 180x62 ft. and the left wing 150x64 ft. The

area covered is five acres, with room to spread. At the ground door, at the end of the right wing, the raw product, unbleached cotton, is admitted. From the upper door, at the end of the left wing, the finished article is shipped. The calico goes through the whole building before it reaches its finished state. Let us follow it and make notes by the way.

Immediately upon its receipt, the cotton is unwound and the webs sewn together to make one continuous whole. Then the fabric is led through a hole in the wall into the singer, which takes anything fluffy or foreign off the goods, just as the cook's singeing of the fowl before cooking takes off the down. The singeing is done by gas, and the machine is run by a gas engine especially installed for the purpose.

THE BLEACHING PROCESS.

Then the cotton passes into the bleachery, the next room on the ground floor. This is supposed to be the most complete bleachery either in the United States or Canada, in that it is continuous, the material coming in at one end and going out at the other. There is no crossing and recrossing of the bleached and half-bleached cottons. In the bleachery are three charging kiers and six boiling kiers, each of which holds 48,000 yards. Five washing machines and eight squeezers complete the machinery. They are divided into three sections, run by electric dynamos, two of 50-horse power, one 50, one 30 and one of two-horse power. There are four brick, cement-lined tanks, of a very large size, to hold the cotton when piled away between the different treatments. Altogether, the bleachery is up-to-date.

Upstairs, the cotton is taken to the white room, where it is brushed, sheared and wound for the white stock-room. Great care is taken to clean it thoroughly, and there are two shearers and three brushers for the purposes. The goods are also thoroughly dried in a 30 cylinder double dryer, heated and driven by steam. The cloth is wound in rolls of about 3,000 yards and sent into the white stock-room. And now we are in the main building.

Down below is the color-room and chemical laboratory, where Mr. Thomas examines drugs and colorings, dictates as to what colors shall come into the establishment and as to how they shall go out. His laboratory is well equipped. In the color room are six copper kettles, heated by steam, and containing huge mixers, a strainer and a gas engine. Everything is modern.

THE PRINTING MACHINES.

Next comes the printing-room, containing the marvels of the establishment—three huge printing machines. Mr. B. W. Lockwood is the veteran printer of the place. Each machine has attached a double engine, and also has four huge copper cylinder rollers to dry the fabric after printing to permit its being handled. The room is well lighted by windows that run two storeys high and admit a well diffused northern light. This prevents any shadows from falling upon the machines to interfere with the printers. More machines will soon be added.

From thence the cloth is taken upstairs to the steam-room, where the colors are developed as a hot iron does the stamp on linen. It is left for a half-hour in the cottage steamer, where it is subjected to a ten-pound pressure of live steam. Another steamer has been set up to develop colors that do not need so much pressure.

The engraving-room comes next. The importance of having high-class engraving has been recognized by the management, and, while experienced and capable engravers and