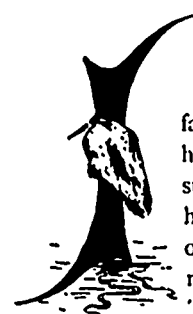


## CARPETS AND CURTAINS.



'T is long time since the carpet trade of Canada experienced so much competition as during the present season. British manufacturers in about double the usual numbers have sent representatives into the market to secure orders, and retailers and wholesalers have had a chance to see more than the usual number of patterns and styles, and to ask terms from more than the usual number of manufacturers. The English visitors sell mostly Brussels, tapestry and hemp, as they are pretty much out of it in unions and woolens. They sell to everybody who will buy, retail or wholesale or both. The jobbers who reside in this country complain that the manufacturers who send travelers out to this country are injuring their business, and this business, they claim, is rightfully theirs, because they reside in the country and do their share of paying its running expenses. Just as a merchant hates to pay a share of the running expenses of a business and receive no profits therefrom, so the carpet jobbers of this country desire to hold the carpet trade as a remuneration for their aid in its up building and its support.

The British manufacturer is after the Canadian trade. Indian trade is no good on account of the monetary difficulties; Australia has proved itself a dangerous market; the South American Republics are too unstable internally; and the United States tariff is too heavy to allow them to compete successfully in that market. Canada stands first among foreign countries in the matter of financial standing, having the lowest percentage of mercantile losses; the consequence is that the British manufacturer is looking to Canada more and more. Strong firms who have never previously looked to Canada for trade have been approaching the buyers who have been in the British markets this fall and have told them they must have a share of the Canadian trade in some way or other. The result will be as it has always been, that the British manufacturer will get what he wants—he always does—and carpets will be sold cheaper in Canada, resulting in an increased importation.

Canadian manufacturers of unions and wools, have got out all their next spring's samples and travelers are now out looking for orders. Those received so far give great encouragement, and this promises to be the best season for domestic goods that has yet been experienced.

## NOTES.

Mr. J. R. Kendrick of Philadelphia, did not visit Toronto last month as was expected.

J. P. Bird of Halifax, England, was in the city last week, in the interests of his carpet factory.

E. C. Grice, Secretary of the M. A. Furbush & Son Machine Co., Philadelphia was in Toronto last week selling looms and other machinery.

Cunningham & Wright are building an iron smokestack for a new dyehouse at the carpet factory of J. H. Etherington, St. Catharines, Ont.

The Toronto Carpet Co. have added samples of their new Imperatrix Axminster rugs and carpets to their display at Chicago. This has been entered for the prize competition and the awards will soon be announced.

John Macdonald & Co. are doing a fair sorting trade in all kinds of carpets. The demand is very general, hems, tapestries

and brussels, all receiving almost equal attention. They have a special line in a medium priced tapestry, and as a drive it has attracted attention. They have also special drives in mats, rugs and curtain nets, being special lines picked up by their buyer in the foreign markets. They have just opened a large importation of 72-inch felts and tapestry table cover. The felt stock comprises all the latest and popular shades.

Alvin Burrows, of Guelph, has asked the city council for exemption from taxes for ten years for the manufacture of chenille curtains and upholstery coverings. These goods are not manufactured in Ontario at present. He proposes to employ eight men and as many girls in the first year, and to increase the capacity each year till fifty hands are employed.

The Toronto Carpet Co.'s World's Fair exhibit has drawn much attention, and they have been asked to make displays at the San Francisco Exhibition and at The World's Fair Prize Winners' Exhibition to be held next year in New York. Their goods are also increasing in popularity in Canada. One retailer who not long ago advertised that Canadian wools were no good, has now admitted that they are better than Americans and is handling this company's all-wool and unions.

The last issue of the Textile Mercury contains a long article on "The Carpet Trade, English and American." It states that the imports of British carpets into the United States for the first six months of the present year were only valued at £68,462, a decline of nearly £20,000 since last year, and in quantity of near 200,00 yards. It admits that the "reason for the existing state of affairs is, of course, to be found in the rapid development of the industry in the States." Considerable attention is paid to the effort being made by the Alexander Smith Co. to push their moquettes in Europe and concludes by saying: "We are of the opinion that the move of the Yonkers firm requires watching very closely in England. With all our knowledge of the textile arts, derived from generations of industrial ancestors, we cannot afford to ignore the ability of the clever men, chiefly drawn from the old British stock, who conduct the textile industries of the United States."

A carpet loom has been devised in England which runs two sets of needles, and the inventor claims that it will produce a square yard of carpet material in one minute. The needles are independent in their operation. A crude contrivance was recently constructed by the same inventor for making mats on the same principle, and a perfect rug, or art square, was made by it. This machine was of wood, and having but one set of needles only one needle carriage was used. The sample rugs, mats and other fabrics woven are stated to have been beautiful, the texture firm and the face, when finished, attractive. Some of the were finished so as to be "reversible," while others had an application of cement on the lower side to prevent the "pile" from working out. The specimens were exhibited to experts, and the statement that they were made at the rate of a square yard per minute was sufficient to subject them to an inspection that was both close and critical.

## IN YET A LITTLE WHILE.

Soliloquized the turkey,  
With a deep, deep frown;  
"I don't think much of feathers  
For a real swell gown,  
But I'll have my fill of dressing  
When the ax falls down."