

The Story of a Department in a Wholesale Warehouse

There are few people in Canada who have not heard of our house, established in 1849, and having thus a history of thirty years.

There are very many, however, who have but little idea that there is in Canada a concern covering such an area, employing so many buyers, and needing the number of assistants, to keep in constant motion its varied and complex machinery.

Still more surprising to many is the display of the productions of so many lands, and the feeling in looking through the various departments, not of Canadians only, but business men from the United States and Europe, is one of astonishment.

Our present object is, however, to tell the story of one department, the Haberdashery and Fancy Goods Department of the House.

It is but a few years since the space allotted in the house to this department was not more than 10 x 20 feet; then came a needed extension, which made it 40 x 40; it was then removed to a new room, 50 x 60, until the room where the forward stock is now kept has been reached.

That room is 50 x 146 and 15.3 high, and has been pronounced by many to be the finest Haberdashery room they had ever seen.

It is not claiming too much to say for it that it is indeed a very fine room, large, airy and well-lighted; approached by a wide and easy staircase, and communicated with by a Palace hydraulic elevator, which is placed in the building for the use of customers. In addition, a very powerful elevator communicates with the room, which is used as a goods elevator.

Fixtures are placed against the walls, and extend the entire length of the building.

At either end there are counters only, and upon these, as well as upon thirty-four counters and tables on the floor, the various classes of goods are displayed, reserve quantities being stored beneath.

The stock itself is more striking than the room or its appointments. The variety is so great, the workmanship so curious, as to make the room a place of great interest, while the lines represented are so numerous as to be simply bewildering. 20,000 gross of BUTTONS, or 240,000 dozen, are figures which startle one to read; and yet this quantity is very frequently displayed in this department!

Stranger still is it to consider the various classes that are represented in these goods. Buttons are shown of Jet, Gilt, Steel, Silver, Vegetable Ivory, Horn, Rubber, Silk, Satin, Pearl, Florentine, White and Coloured Agate, Mineral Ivory, Glass, Bombazine, Metal, Merino, Papier Machie; these are in all shades, in every variety of pattern and design, in every quality, in every size, in every price.

Cotton and Linen Thread seem simple words, and may strike us as meaning something very small; but if one were to see the quantity sent out of this department in one day they would conclude that, after all, there must be a great many industrious young ladies in Canada.

In addition, Spooled Threads, in cotton and in linen, all classes of Silk Spools, are kept in the department, as well as the Silk substitute, Soie D'Ecosse. All these are found in every shade, while full ranges of Crotchet Cottons, Knitting Cottons, Mending Cottons, Cotton Cords and Tambour Sewings go to make up the list belonging to this section of the department.

Then comes a stock of 3,000 gross of Braids, 36,000 dozen, with the endless variety belonging to this class, for there are Lamas, Alpacas, Brilliants, Brill Mohair, Ruémen Glacé, White Single, Diamond Braid, Milan, Hercules, Bretonne, Genappe, Double Mohair, Silk Braid, Homespun Braid, Skirt Braids, Fancy and Pompian Bindings, Stay Bindings, Silk and Cotton Ferrets, Patent and Statute Galoons, and Double Londons.

Umbrellas are next in order, and are held in large quantities, in Gingham, Zanillas, Alpaca and Silk, in small and full sizes, for the street and for the carriage; from the plain turned handle to those of finest workmanship in wood and ivory, in cane, bone and steel ribs. Walebones follow in various lengths. Braces follow—these are of English, French and American manufacture. The fabrics are Cotton, Worsted, Silk and Buckskin.

Belonging to this class are the various kinds of Elastics, from the plain Cord to 16 Strand, in Silk and Cotton, in black and white and colors. The variety of Garter Elastics is very great.

METAL GOODS embrace hooks and eyes; Spring do., for mantle holders; Pins of every make and size and quality; Needles of various makes; Hair Pins, plain, twisted, boxed and papered; Shawl Pins, satin wires, wire ribbons; Nursery Pins, in white, black and brass. Pant Buckles and Strap Buckles belong also to the metal class.

FRINGES, in great variety, come next in order.

Shirts, Collars, Portmanteaus, Satchels, &c., follow next. Shirts, in white and colored cotton; Harvards, Regattas, Winceys, Unions, Flannels, Tweeds, Serges, for dress, for travelling, for lumbering.

Collars are shown in about 25 varieties and styles.

Bags, Satchels, Trunks, in Carpet, Wood, Zinc and Leather, in every shape, in every price.

THE MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES are very numerous. Among them will be found Ashantee Hammocks, Walking Sticks, Lunch Baskets, Folding Chairs, Rug Straps, Luggage Labels, Fishing Rods, Hat Boxes, Collar Boxes, Blacking, Water Filters, Pencils, Penholders,

Ink Brasers, Cork Screws, Pocket-knives, Scissors, Dressholders, Watch Guards, Bracelets, Bangles, Brooches, Ladies' Sets, Shirt Studs, Collar Studs, Gents' Sets, Solitaires, Engravings, Hair Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Nail Brushes, Shaving Brushes, Cloth Brushes, Crumb Brushes, Glove Stretchers, Razor Straps, Hair Oils, Glycerine Shaving Creams, Cold Creams, Tooth Powders, Toilet Powders, Atkinson's, Cleaver's and other Perfumes; Paints, Couleurs sans danger; Shoe Horns, Button Hooks, Glove Hooke; Toilet Soaps, in Glycerine, Honey, Windsor, Turtle Oil, Marshmallow, Moss Rose, Bay Leaf, Oatmeal and Prairie Rose; Back Combs, in Horn, Rubber, Silver and Fancy Combinations; Circular Combs and Dressing Combs, in Horn and Rubber; Purses, in great variety, of English, French and Canadian manufacture; Christmas Cards. Leather and Wood Work, Ladies' Companions, Perfume Boxes, Glove Boxes, Handkerchief Boxes, Work Boxes, Writing Desks, Secretaries, Porcelain Sets and Necklets; Dressing Room Mirrors, 9 x 7 to 40 x 20; Hat Racks, Towel Racks, &c., &c.

Articles de Paris—Gilt Clocks with shades, Illuminated Dial Clocks, Jewel Cases; Table Ornaments in Gilt, Glass and Oxydized varieties; Bouquet Holders, Card Stands, Toilet Sets, Card Baskets, Perfume Cases, Table Bells, Jewel Stands, Match Stands (fancy), Watch Stands, Pin Studs, Doll Sets, Swimming Dolls, Dressed Dolls, Porcelain Bouquets, Porcelain Framed Mirrors, Porcelain Photo Stands, Stereoscopic and Opera Glasses, Stereoscopic Views, Graphoscopes; Photo Frames in Velvet, Wood, Gilt and Oxydized varieties, Flower Stands, Oxydized, Brass, Gilt, China and Porcelain; Vases, Toilet Sets, in French and Bohemian manufacture.

Articles of Vertu embrace a very great variety of articles of curious Japanese manufacture, Real Bronzes, in Vases and Table Toilet Ornaments; Cabinets, Tables, Screens, Whatnots, Trays, Boxes, of every shape; Tea Boxes, Caddies, Toilet Boxes, Trays, in all sizes; Writing Desks, Jewel Cases, Cigar Boxes, Handkerchief and Glove Boxes, Shell Ornaments, Silk Furniture covers, Bamboo Chains, Enamelled Ornaments, Card Racks, Paper Knives, Bracelets, Jewellery.

JAPANESE FANS in an infinite variety of styles and in every price. 4,000 Spindles of Fingering Yarns are usually in Stock in the busy season. In addition to the stock of Canadian Yarns—in Fingering, the J. M. D. quality, so widely used, is made specially for the department, while other qualities, such as Berlin Fingering, Soft Merino, Super Fleecy, Lady Betty, Genevise, Andalusian, Shetland, Pyrenees, Zebra and Cinderella, go to make up the assortment. The stock of these goods, when full, amounts to about 11,000 lbs.

No part of the room is more full of interest than that in which the Berlin Wools and Fancy Wool work is exhibited; between 700 and 800 distinct shades of wool are needed to keep the stock assorted, and these are generally fully represented. One may ask, How is it possible that there can be so many shades? This is fully realized, however, when they are seen.

The various articles of Fancy Wool work are wrought in the most beautiful groupings of flowers, leaves, wheat, &c., in which violets, daisies, pansies, roses and rosebuds, carnations, asters, forget-me-nots, passion flowers, in fact every variety of flower, foliage, plant and fern, are appropriately grouped in forming pictures in silk, satin and wool, which are simply beautiful pieces of art.

Designs in Venetian, steel and silver and gold beads, are also formed with beautiful groupings in many of the articles in this section.

The variety of articles in this class of work is very great, and includes Chairs and Chair Strips, Table Borders, Mantle Borders, Brackets, Bannerettes, Slipper Pockets, Cozies, Brace Strips, Towel Strips, Smoking Caps, Piano Stools, Foot Stools, Ottomans, Cushions, Antimaccassars.

SLIPPERS of the most beautiful designs in silk, wool, beads, cloth and perforated leather.

STANDS, also in gilt, lacquer and composition, are in this section for banners, bannorettes and towel lacquered frames.

Hand Mirrors and Folding Mirrors in wood, gilt, silver and oxydized mountings.

For embroidering and filling materials, in addition to the 2, 4 and 8 fold Berlin wool, Crewel wools, Filloselle, Embroidery Silks, Purse Twists, Shaded Embroidery Silks, and Crape Cords are kept in all shades. Petals, Leaves, Chenilles, Braids and Canvasses, Tassels, in silk, wool and chenille, for cushions, smoking caps and fancy work.

Flourishing Linen, Lace Threads, Lace Braides, Lace Patterns, Paper Patterns, Scrap Pictures, Book Marks, Card Boards, in plain board, silver, tinted, black perforated, black Bristol and fancy silver; Tinfoil, Chromo Mottoes, Motto Frames.

EVENING FANS, in silk and satin with covers, wood, ivory & pearl. This, though a full, is by no means an exhaustive description of this department, as one visiting it would speedily discover many articles not enumerated, and would as speedily discover that nothing has been overdrawn.

Every season the department adds to its attractions as well as to its business, and, although we ourselves state it, few business departments are there on this Continent that will better repay a visit than the Haberdashery and Fancy Goods Department of

JOHN MACDONALD & CO. TORONTO.