

Canadian makers have advanced their prices for chenille table covers and curtains.

The Hudson Bay Company's post at Battleford received recently from their Onion Lake post nine wagon loads of fur for shipment to England.

The Ontario Glove Works, at Brockville, of which the late John McLaren was manager, will be carried on as usual, under the management of Wm. C. McLaren.

The demand for cotton grain bags is expected to be large this season on account of the great crop. The shipments of grain to Australia go in bags, and the large shipments of flour from the big mills in the West to both coasts for export have to be made in bags.

The National Association of Wholesale Tailors has signed an agreement with the district council of the United Garment Workers that insures peace in the clothing trade until the summer of 1905. The agreement establishes the nine-hour day, and only union members are to be employed.

It is rumored that the United States Government has it in contemplation to stop the importation of Argentine wool and hides; whereupon the *Prensa*, published at Buenos Ayres, asks the Argentine Government to take steps to prevent, and attributes the unfriendly attitude to commercial jealousy of Argentina's hold upon the trade.

There seems to be some danger of a shortage of binding twine in the West and Southwest, but *Farm Implement News* thinks the Kansas prison people are sending out scare head items for the purpose of getting additional appropriations from the Legislature, now in special session. The situation calls for extreme caution on the part of dealers in buying. It will be better to lose a few sales than carry over any high-priced twine.

Andrew Villani will enter upon a new industry at Montreal, namely, the culture of the silkworm, and the manufacture of the spun product. Silkworms' eggs have been imported from Italy and some thousands of worms are now being hatched. The varieties of worms that are receiving Mr. Villani's attention are Chinese, Japanese, those from the Pyrenees, and hybrids of these kinds. Those from the Pyrenees yield deep yellow silk, Japanese-European hybrids produce light yellow silk, and Chinese-Japanese hybrids give white silk.

The Cosmos Cotton Co., of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, has entered an action in the United States Court against the Alabama Great Southern Railway, demanding \$10,000 damages. It is alleged by the complainant that on April 14 last the defendant issued a bill of lading dated Birmingham, Ala., to Smith & Coughlan for 100 bales of cotton, weighing 51,000 pounds, freight prepaid; consigned to the order of Smith & Coughlan, Yarmouth. Plaintiff avers that instead of receiving 100 bales of the weight described in bill of lading, they received half, or split bales, weighing only 26,381 pounds. This is the first case growing out of the recent alleged cotton frauds, in which it is said over \$200,000 was lost.

G. P. Foaden, of the Egyptian Government service, has been on a visit to America, and took in the Agricultural Fair at Guelph. Speaking of the cotton industry, he says that Egypt already leads the world in the production of long staple cotton, and the prospects under the new conditions are so bright that they can scarcely be overestimated. The great wealth of the agricultural lands in Egypt made it impossible to adopt American methods, but many valuable ideas were to be obtained in this country. The reverse is also true, and every season sees a number of Americans

in Egypt studying the conditions of the cotton industry there.

The demand for white goods is so great that consumers are using all sorts of goods which in previous years they would have turned down as being unfit for consideration.

SQUIRREL SKINS.

The New York Sun says that the story of the sudden rise to popularity of squirrel skin in the world of dress this season is not generally known. It was brought about by the ingenuity of a Russian official. For years and years certain Russian peasants in Siberia paid their taxes in squirrel skins. This being an old custom, the Czar's government did not care to cause hardship and breed discontent by changing it. But there was little demand for Russian squirrel skins. The whole American trade took only 20,000 skins per annum at the low price of 12 cents each. The skins accumulated in the Russian government's warehouses in Siberia. There were millions upon millions. The official in question, knowing that the skins were light in weight, soft and warm, decided last year to test the caprice of fashion in respect to them. He went over to Paris, called upon a famous dressmaker, and persuaded him to use some of the skins. The idea was a success. Paris set the pace, English society took up the fashion, and fashionable Americans brought the squirrel skin craze across the water. The result has been that in 1902, the United States imported nearly 5,000,000 squirrel skins at about 37 cents each, wholesale, as against 20,000 at 12 cents each, in 1901. The rest of the world was equally liberal. The great demand emptied the Siberian warehouses of squirrel skins at a considerable profit.

CARPET DESIGNING FOR MEN.

Speaking about carpet designing as a vocation for men, a high authority on the subject said: "It all depends on the ability of the man, for designers can be divided into three classes; mechanics, students, and artists. In the entire carpet trade there are not more than eight or nine men who can be called artists. Designers of this class receive salaries of from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year, and are expected to be fertile in original and good ideas. Next below them are the students, some of whom will eventually develop into artists, while others, the majority, can hope to be classed with nothing better than the mechanics of the vocation, men who may be good draughtsmen, and indeed expert in all the technical details of their work, but lack originality, and consciously or unconsciously have fallen into a rut, repeating old ideas, and showing no capacity for anything above the routine work of the studio. Men of this order cannot earn more than \$1,200 a year. No one can expect to produce salable designs if he has not first made himself perfectly familiar with the work of the loom, its powers and limitations in reproducing in the woven fabric the ideas of the designers."

PERSONAL.

John Fisher, of Huddersfield, Eng., well known in connection with the firm of John Fisher & Sons, wholesale woollens, who do business in this country, is coming to Canada with the delegates of the Chambers of Commerce.

Bennett Rosamond, M.P., head of the Rosamond Woolen Co., Almonte, has been appointed one of the delegates to represent the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at the Fifth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal.