

Manufacturing.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER.

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THE COBBAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

It was Charles Knight, the author of "Knowledge is Power," who said: "If a particular result is satisfactory to a pecuniary degree, the sluggish mind is too apt to rest satisfied without caring to enquire as to the cause by which the result is produced, or whether it is capable of further improvement. The gunsmith may accurately fashion day by day, in continued routine, a particular portion of the musket, without knowing or caring to know the reason why he is required to shape the metal to a particular form, or the relation that such form sustains to the whole."

This quotation was brought to mind in connection with a recent visit a representative of this journal made to the splendidly equipped factory of the Cobban Manufacturing Company, in this city. A walk through this establishment will show that at the head of it is no "sluggish mind" ever apt to rest contented with any particular result even if satisfactory in a pecuniary degree. Mr. Frank J. Philips, who is now sole proprietor of these works, is a young man whose business education has inculcated in him the principles of modern progress, and as a result his factory is a model of industrial adaptability; and economy of production has been so carefully studied out, even in all the minor details, that not only does the consumer of these particular goods benefit thereby, but as cheap production gives increased employment, the number of workmen on the pay-roll is being constantly increased. And thus every commercial interest of the city is a gainer to a greater or less extent.

When Mr. Boulton, the partner of the great James Watt, waited upon George III. to explain one of the improvements which they had effected in the steam engine, the king said to him, "What do you sell, Mr. Boulton?" and the honest engineer answered, "What kings, sire, are all fond of—power." That was in the days when steam power was being experimented with: but could King George, with prophetic vision, have divined the future of the invention to which he had extended his royal patronage, he might well have been content to think himself the godfather of the power which would subsequently rule the commerce of the world.

In every department of the Cobban Company's factory there is to be seen an astonishing variety of labor-saving machinery for every service, some of which appears endowed with almost human intelligence; and the number of wood-working machines alone suggest a retrospect of less than half a century ago when the few planing machines then in use were operated by hand. An historical account of the building of the Crystal Palace, which was first erected in Hyde Park, London, makes particular mention of the improvements in machine carpentry, and cites as an evidence of the inventive skill of that period that no fewer than five wood-working machines were used in completing that structure, viz., a steam power mortising machine, a foot power mortising machine, a tenoning machine, a planing machine, and a moulding machine.

The Cobban Manufacturing Company, of this city, are making active preparations to enlarge their plant at the intersection of Hayter and Terauley streets, the addition to consist in a 60x30 ft. three story brick building. This will be their second considerable enlargement made within the last three years, the space occupied at present fronting 192 feet on Hayter street and 102 feet on Terauley street. The company also occupy a large lot on the opposite side of Hayter street used as a lumber yard, for stables, etc.

This company are manufacturers of moulding, picture and looking glass frames, etc.; a large variety of cabinet work in

which is included bracket and clock shelves, cornice poles and trimmings; a large variety of fancy goods, such as wall pockets, music racks, etc.; and mirror plates—plain, beveled, fancy mantel, etc., of best German and British plate, and shocks.

In the production of this large and varied line of goods, all the materials are brought into the works in a crude condition, and from the cutting up of the rough lumber into convenient shapes and sizes, all the operations necessary to produce the beautiful frames, mouldings and artistic cabinet work on exhibition in the company's show rooms, are performed on the premises. Some of the mantel, pier and dressing case mirrors displayed in these show rooms, and manufactured by the company, are equal to any similar articles produced anywhere in the world, and reflect the greatest credit upon the artistic taste and skill of Toronto workmen.

The processes by which the interesting and intricate work of manufacturing these goods is conducted, while simple in themselves, involve the use of a vast amount of fine and expensive machinery, and the employment of a large number of the very best and most skilled artisans. And this is particularly true regarding the beveling of heavy plate glass for mirrors and other purposes, and the manipulations incident to making the mirrors. The plate glass store-rooms are stocked with immense sheets of the finest and heaviest glass, such as is used for show windows, etc., and which in themselves represent a very large investment of money. In the manufacture of moulding the company have in their employ a special artist who is constantly engaged in originating new designs and transferring them to the machinery by which the extensive variety of moulding is made. By the process here employed it is possible to produce as much moulding in one day as could possibly have been produced in ten days under methods prevailing a few years ago, and with far greater accuracy. The machine on which this work is done, we are informed, is the only one of the kind in this country.

But a few years ago the works of this concern were quite small, and gave employment to but comparatively few workmen, but the excellence of the goods manufactured created a strong demand for them, and the additions which have been made from time to time were in response to the imperative requirements of trade. There are now employed in the establishment about 175 hands, each of the many departments being under the supervision of skilled expert foremen, and the whole under the personal management and control of Mr. Frank J. Philips, who is sole proprietor of the Cobban Manufacturing Company.

THE Canadian Shoe Company, of Quebec, has been incorporated with a capital of \$8,000.

THE Globe Woolen Mills Co., Montreal, is being organized with a capital stock of \$200,000.

MR. J. WARREN, Cobden, will erect an extensive sash, blind and door factory at that place.

SIMPSON & Co., Berlin, are making preparations for a large addition to their already extensive furniture factory.

SHURLY & DIETRICH, Galt, have recently filled orders from Western States for their lance tooth cross-cut saws.

POCOCK & HAYNES, sawmakers, recently of Hamilton, have been voted a bonus of \$5,000 to establish their works at Oshawa.

ADDITIONAL capital has been put into the Dakin pottery, at St. Johns, N.B., and the works will re-open under favorable circumstances at an early day.

THE Laurentides Pulp Co., Montreal, have made applications to be incorporated as a joint stock company for the purpose of manufacturing wood pulp, paper, etc.

A COMPANY is about being formed in Winnipeg with a capital of \$10,000 for the purpose of manufacturing salt from the waters of the salt springs existing near Lake Manitoba.

PATTERSON & BROTHERS, Limited, Woodstock, will become incorporated as a joint stock company with a capital of \$750,000 to make agricultural implements and machinery.