

Carpets, Curtains and Upholstery.

THE CANADIAN TRADE.

LIKE other departments of trade, the business in carpets has shown considerable activity, and jobbers report that orders have been larger than ever. The stocks are now complete and deliveries to retailers have been taking place during the past few weeks. Canadian buyers have returned from the British and other markets, and report that the English and Scotch manufacturers recognize that they are doing a larger trade with Canada than before the preferential tariff, and expect to do more in the future. There are no startling novelties in designs or patterns purchased for Autumn trade in this market, the medium styles, as usual, proving the best sellers.

The total imports of carpets into Canada during January were valued at \$60,000, against \$51,000 in January, 1898

BOBBINETTS IN IMMENSE DEMAND.

The Nottingham Guardian says: "Bobbinets are very dear, and some of the machines are engaged with orders for months in advance. Not in the history of bobbinet machines has there been such a demand for qualities adapted for the manufacturer of bobbinet ruffled curtains; the orders placed by the principal manufacturers of these curtains would produce several million pairs, and would take over a year to make. The fashion has extended to the United States, where large quantities will be required to supply the demand."

TALK OF A UNITED STATES CARPET TRUST.

A carpet trade paper in the United States says: "And now it is said that the man who is endeavoring to make money for the oilcloth and linoleum manufacturers by getting them to sell out to a trust for stock certificates, go to farming, or something else for a pastime and live on the big dividends obtained from the trust, has expanded his scheme so as to take in everything that covers a floor, to consolidate the carpet and rug manufacturers with the oilcloth and linoleum makers, and formulate one grand octopus for manufacturing and selling floor coverings. Truly, the Colonel Sellers are not all dead, and expansion of our territory by the fruits of war is also swelling the heads and chests of many heretofore good American citizens. Let us save the floor-covering industries from the rude awakening which is sure to come to those other industries which have recently rushed so blindly into delusive amalgamation."

FOREIGN EYE ON OUR TRADE.

Says The American Carpet Trade Journal. "The report of the American Consul General at Montreal shows that \$31,000 worth more of carpeting was imported into Canada from the United States in 1897 than was imported in 1893, and that a decrease of \$44,000 was noticed in the imports of carpet from Great Britain in 1897, as against those of 1893.

"These figures, together with the notable increase in the production in Canada itself, would seem to verify the many complaints heard in England that the Dominion was rapidly becoming non est as a carpet-consuming colony."

SWEDISH TAPESTRIES.

For centuries, even as late as the middle of our own century, the Swedish housewife kept woven stuffs to cover the walls and furniture of her home, and this old Swedish tapestry is of great

interest and beauty. It has a most curious resemblance to the work of oriental and southern Slav races, both in weave and design. Fletcher Bell, in an article on the subject in the House Beautiful, says:

"Two varieties only of old tapestry bear frank traces of their foreign origin. 'Finnaek,' which was the name for a style be-

longing to the sixteenth century, betrays an eastern origin in its name, as well as in the traces of Byzantine influence in its patterns. It is a double woven tapestry, in which the color of the background forms a pattern on the reverse of the fabric.

"'Flamsk' is the name for the tapestries after the Flemish fashion which were produced during the sixteenth century. Workmen from Flanders were brought to Stockholm in 1540, and for nearly a century the close and laboriously woven tapestries of their native land were produced in Sweden. There was a tremendous gain in technical knowledge of the weaver's art, but after a while the peasant artisans returned to the old patterns, and the Flemish influence remained only in certain heraldic animal figures of the middle ages, which were constantly woven in. But the day has gone by when these beautiful old tapestries may be secured easily. They are still to be found, occasionally, in the chests of the wealthy peasant farmers, but they are being constantly bought and placed in museums and private collections. The modern tapestry, on the contrary, is now made in large quantities, and often copies the rarest specimens of mediæval work. It is not expensive, and is an unusual and interesting form of decoration. It is agreeable to know that this modern tapestry manufacture has been made possible by the earnest efforts of a little band of women who wished to find some worthy and artistic occupation for the peasant and farmer women of their country."

The Toronto Carpet Manufacturing Company, Limited, have just placed an order for carpet looms with The M. A. Furbush & Son Machine Company, Philadelphia.

Alfred E. Hewitt, of Hamilton, died Feb. 18, aged 38 years. The late Mr. Hewitt, who was a native of England, had resided in Hamilton for twenty years, and had a great many friends. For over ten years he was manager for the furniture firm of Frank E. Walker Company, Limited, in whose service he was at the time of his death.

The Dominion Oil Cloth Co., Limited, the chief shareholders of which are Messrs. Andrew Allan, Hugh A. Allan, J. O. Gravel, J. J. McGill and John Baillie, have been granted letters patent of Dominion incorporation. The capital stock is \$50,000.

The carpet in the Queen's private railway carriage cost £150. The curtains are hung upon silver poles which are suspended upon small gilt figures which cost ten guineas each. The door handles cost £150. The whole saloon cost £6,000.

The Toronto Carpet Co. issued a calendar for 1899 to emphasize Smyrna rugs. The illustration was a beautiful reproduction in colors of a dancing girl in an eastern harem. Readers of THE REVIEW may write to the company for one.

Mr. F. A. Quigley, of Amherst, N. S., was in Montreal the other day on his way to Vancouver, B. C. He has sold his Amherst business to Mr. McSween, formerly of Dunlop Bros. & Co., who will open a similar business in Amherst. Mr. Quigley will open in Vancouver about the middle of March in a new store built for his firm. They will deal exclusively in dry goods and ladies' furnishings. He made a number of purchases while in Montreal.