

low middling. The super would examine each bale, and if the staple did not correspond with the samples, the bale was not used. The contents of the 80 bales were next spread on the floor in a space of about 12 x 20, and four men would spend about two hours in making a thorough mix. The contents of each bale would extend in layers across the entire surface, so that when using the stock from the face of the batch it would give all grades at the same time, thus assuring uniformity in the combination.

The picking equipment of the mill consisted of 2 American preparers, connected with 2 English pickers with 3 beaters each. The work was doubled from these machines through 4 finishers lappers, each doubling four laps into one, and turning out nearly 30,000 lbs. weekly. The finisher pickers had old style eveners, and these caused some bother, but, taking it all in all, fairly good work was turned out. I think that if a careless boss had to produce stock under these conditions the output would not have proven so satisfactory to the carders and spinners. I learned in this room the necessity of care in the preparation of cotton for the following processes. I also learned that the less the cotton is worked to open and clean, the less the damage to the fine staple, and consequently the less the waste made. I also found out that it does not do to crowd the machines. An even lap cannot be made on any machine when crowded. Time must be given for the dirt, leaf and foreign substances to separate from the fibre. The practice of doubling laps in hopes of getting more even laps for the cards is a good idea, and results in better work; much evenness results. The accumulation of laps in the picking room should be avoided as far as possible; and it can be done by adjusting the speed to meet the requirements. Another point I might mention is as regards the care of the machines. My duty consisted very much in oiling and cleaning up. There were many chances to shirk and the boss would not know the difference until some accident might happen. All journals should be cleaned and oiled regularly by some one who will do it faithfully, thus preventing hot bearings and perhaps fires. To get good results the laps should be weighed frequently, as there are many conditions that will cause the output to vary. With care used in preparing a batch, the machine kept in good condition, the laps uniform, the product of the room should come off in good shape, and uniform yarns should be obtained from same. I thus present some points that I gathered while laboring as a workman, but which I enlarge upon, adding to same some ideas which have come to me in the regular course of long years' work in higher capacities.

(Continued.)

AN OLD INDUSTRY.

The manner in which an industry is born, reaches its climax of prosperity and then declines and dies out, always makes interesting reading, and this is exemplified in a striking degree by an article in the current number of the *Popular Science Monthly*, by Mary H. Leonard,

who writes upon the subject of "Indigo in South Carolina." In 1748, the amount of indigo exported from that State was 138,118 pounds, which was sold at 2s. 6d. sterling; in 1754 the export was 216,924 pounds; and shortly before the revolution it had risen to 1,107,660 pounds. Various statements regarding the price of indigo are given in the old records. The value varied greatly during the half century of its production. A recent writer says: "The finest quality of the dye at one time sold in the market for as much as four or five dollars a pound, and fortunes were made rapidly by its cultivation." It is certain that between the years 1763 and 1775, when indigo was at the height of its importance, South Carolina had a most unexampled period of prosperity. Ramsay tells us that "indigo proved more profitable to South Carolina than the mines of Mexico or Peru to Old or New Spain." Wealth poured in upon the people, many of the planters doubling their capital every three or four years. During the years preceding the revolution it is said that "a larger number of children were sent to England for education from South Carolina than from any of the colonies, and this on account of the greater wealth of the colony, owing to the superiority of her products—rice and indigo—which gave abundant means." But the revolution brought a change in industrial and commercial conditions. During the war more rice was raised than indigo, as was natural. After peace was declared indigo culture increased again for a little time. But the conditions of trade were different. The English bounty was no longer available. Large importations soon came to England from the East Indies, which lowered the price, and the palmy days of indigo for South Carolina were gone forever.

HOW TO CLOSE UP TENTER HOLES.

More than once we have been impressed with the fact that, as finishers of woollen and worsted goods, many of our manufacturers are not taking and do not take all the pains that they should in order to turn out upon the market a production which will bear every possible test of excellence. No one can examine the best products of foreign manufacturers without noting how every precaution must be taken in order to make the cloth as nearly perfect as it can possibly be. Too often, we are led to think, many of our own manufacturers depend upon gaining a market for their goods by means of a high protective tariff, rather than by producing such a high grade of textiles that consumers will naturally prefer the home article. One of these details, which the foreign finisher has made an effort to overcome, is the holes in the selvages of woollen cloths, which are caused by the tenter hooks on the drying machines or bars. While it may be a common thing for finishers to take special precautions toward doing away with these imperfections, we do not know of it, and so to many, as it was to us, it may be a matter of some interest to know how the finishers who do note these defects proceed. It is mainly on worsted goods