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The reason the mill was placed in the exact spot which was chosen was in order to utilize the water power available at that particular spot by installation of old-fashioned water wheels which were directly connected with the mill machinery. The mill itself is situated on a small island, and the inconvenience of the location became apparent as the need of expansion developed. Under modern conditions, of course, only the power plant would have been built where the power was available, and the power transmitted to where it was required.

The power site, which is one of the most valuable in the upper St. Lawrence Valley, was recently disposed of to the Beauharnois Light and Power Company, and now forms a part of the large power development scheme centering at Beauharnois. The Montreal Cotton Company is still supplied with 8,000 h.p., twenty-four hours a day, throughout the year, by the present owners.

The original mill forms a very small part of the huge organization which to-day covers many acres of ground and contains 3,500 looms and 160,000 spindles, together with bleaching, dyeing, and finishing equipment, to produce a wide range of both white and coloured goods. It is one of the largest cotton mill units of its kind in the world. During the past three years the plant has been completely overhauled, and a large amount of the very newest type of machinery has been installed.

This mill produces all classes of sateens, silicias, italians, and other types of linings and trimmings. Special fabrics and finishes have been developed to fit the particular needs of the men's clothing and general cutting up trade. The company also has specialized in furniture covering fabrics, and draperies ranging from heavy jacquard tapestries to the finest marquisesettes. A large rayon department is now operating, and many cotton and rayon mixtures and all rayon cloths are being woven, including corset cloths, taffetas, and crepes. Other lines produced are ducks and drills, moleskins, plain and fancy wash dress goods, cheesecloths, and surgical gauzes. At full capacity, the mill can produce one million yards of cloth per week.

The company spins both cotton and rayon yarns for its own use and also sells large quantities of yarn to the Knitting, Weaving and Electrical goods Industries.

The Montreal Cottons Ltd. is essentially a fine goods mill and uses large quantities of Egyptian Cotton, the length of staple and fineness of which makes possible the production of goods of remarkable sheerness and beauty.

THE WABASSO COTTON COMPANY, LIMITED

The Wabasso Cotton Company was organized in 1907. Three Rivers, Quebec, was selected as a favourable location, due to its transportation facilities, water power supply, and availability of workers who could be trained as skilled employees. In order to provide for expansion, forty acres of land was purchased as an ideal location beside the river, and removed from the town itself. The most modern machinery was purchased in Great Britain, and highly skilled experts were employed to supervise the training of workers.

The name "Wabasso," which was chosen for the name of the company, means in the Ojibway Indian tongue, "The Snow White Rabbit." The trade mark of the company, which has since become widely known throughout Canada, reflects the name.

The company has a very complete plant for dyeing, printing, bleaching, and merchandising of the products which it produces, and has two important subsidiaries, the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills, located at Three Rivers, and Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited, located at Shawinigan Falls.

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When the company began operations, only white goods were manufactured. These included sheetings, circular cottons, longcloths, madapolams, lawns, cambrics, nainsooks, and many others.

Besides the actual weaving of sheetings and pillow cottons, etc., Wabasso makes up these articles into finished products for Canadian housewives. As the demand for these superior fabrics grew, the company added coloured goods to their products.

Some of the products now featured by Wabasso are woven striped shirtings, plain and printed broadcloth for dress goods and shirtings, plain and printed voiles and piques, corset cloths, and grey cottons. The market for the company's products is ever expanding, in the hotel supply field and in institutional furnishings, such as schools, hospitals, etc., as well as in the domestic field.

Since its inception, one of the first principles and endeavours of the company has been the education of Canadian housewives to the value and use of Canadian textiles. This has been accomplished by the employment of women lecturers who arrange meetings of church auxiliaries, women's clubs, etc., and disseminate information concerning present and new uses for textile materials. Booklets are distributed by the company, as well as newspaper and publication advertising.

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