

# THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF Fabrics

THE JOURNAL OF THE Textile Trades of Canada.

Vol. XV.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL, APRIL, 1898.

No. 4.

## Canadian Journal of Fabrics

A Journal devoted to Textile manufactures and the Dry Goods and kindred trades.

Subscription. Canada and United States, \$1.00 per year. Great Britain 6s. Advertising rates on application.

Offices. 62 Church Street, Toronto, and the Fraser Building, Montreal.

E. B. BIGGAR | BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO. | R. R. SAMUEL  
PUBLISHERS

Agency in Europe. Polsue Bros., 30 Poppin's Court, Fleet St., London. Eng  
Toronto Telephone, 1392 | Montreal Telephone, 2589

Business correspondence should be addressed to Montreal; but cuts, news items and editorial correspondence to Toronto; cuts from abroad should be sent by post wherever possible, not by express; changes of advertisements should be in our hands not later than the 10th of each month to ensure insertion.

### THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion, to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades Fourth edition now in hand

Price, on and after publication, \$3.00. Subscribers ordering in advance are given a discount of \$1.00

BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO., Publishers,  
Fraser Building, Montreal.

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## Editorial.

The following paragraph from a contemporary contains so much wisdom and is so applicable to present conditions that we reproduce it in full:—"There are too many manufacturers who are ambitious to own and operate large plants. There are too many manufacturers who are actually mill poor, who are handicapped for capital to operate their mills. It is not good business for any manufacturer to throw all of his profits back into the mill, thereby increasing his mill property at the expense of his capital account. The desire to own a large mill is com-

mendable only when every condition justifies it; it is not commendable to overstep the lines of common prudence, and this is done when the manufacturer ties his money up in buildings and is forced to lean on others for the necessary operating expenses, or even for the expenses of distributing his goods. The manufacturer who has quick capital enough to operate his plant independent of outside aid has a decided advantage in every way over the manufacturer whose plant represents about all he has. A moderate sized plant, well-balanced from the carding room to the finishing room, with ample active capital behind it, will do better in bad times as well as good times than a plant that is restricted by insufficient capital. These thoughts are timely, for there is a tendency among manufacturers to extend their plants. Put your equipments in first-class order, but go slowly in making extensions.

### THE UNITED STATES WOOL DUTIES.

It is still a much-debated matter what effect the present United States tariff will have on the wool market. The bill became law after the clip of 1897 had been marketed, and until the growth of 1898 is in the market the problem must remain unsolved. Under unusual circumstances a large increase of duty stimulates production, and induces smuggling. Great quantities of wool were rushed into the United States before the imposition of the duties, but much of that free wool has been already worked up into textiles; probably 300,000,000 lbs. of the wool in the country at the passing of the new tariff have so passed into consumption, and we need not consider the free wool a factor in the market. The demand is not only increased by the duty, but by an increased power of consumption, for it is estimated that the falling off in imports of textiles since the passing of the Dingley Act represents 85,000,000 lbs. of wool, and that the increase in both population and purchasing power of the American people since 1892 will require at least an additional 40,000,000 lbs. per annum more than was adequate at that time. In spite of these facts the wool clip of the United States has steadily diminished, and last year was 13,000,000 lbs. less than in 1896, and the smallest yield since 1879. With the free wool pretty well cleared from the market, and the consumptive power largely increased, there should be a good market for our wools in spite of the duty.

We must not overlook the use of wool substitutes which will spring up to meet the increasing demand. We