

MICA BOILER COVERING.

The difference between making money and losing it in manufacturing is not always a matter of buying supplies cheaply and getting a good price for the finished goods. Quite as important as either is seeing that absolutely nothing is wasted during the process of manufacture; or at least that nothing is wasted in your mill that is saved by one of your competitors.

Imperfect insulation of steam apparatus causes a serious leak in many mills, and may have driven many a man into the bankrupt court.

A really first class pipe and boiler covering has not been within the reach of the small consumer hitherto, but from what we have seen of the product of the Mica Boiler Covering Co. we are convinced that a distinct advance in this class of goods has been made, and a really desirable article introduced which must come into general use.

Mica has been known to electricians for many years as an almost perfect insulator, but previous to the inventions controlled by this company great difficulty was found in making practical use of it. The mica crystals are divided down to the fineness of tissue paper, then sewn with wire between a sheet of wire netting and one of stout duck. The under side of wire lies next the heated surface, and the outer side of duck is exposed to the air. As will be noticed, this forms a quilt which can be quickly removed at any time if examination of the boiler shell or piping is necessary. For use in a creamery where the boiler heat is wanted in winter to heat the building, but would destroy the milk in summer, if not confined, this covering has unique advantages.

This covering cannot erode the metal under it, and is not injured in the slightest by damp, as so many other coverings are.

The actual value of the mica covering has been determined by a series of tests conducted by the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company. Below will be found the reports of the Chief Engineer:
46 King St. West, Toronto, June 25, 1895.

Manager Mica Boiler Covering Co., Toronto.

DEAR SIR,—The following is the result of a test made to-day of several boiler coverings:

Five vessels of same dimensions, and in as nearly as possible same circumstances, had steam turned on and kept on for two hours, at pressure ranging from 55 lbs. to 60 lbs. per square inch.

The temperature of room was 90° Fah.

The amount of water condensed was in—

No. 1—Covered with wood and air space.....	5½ lbs.
No. 2— " mica boiler covering	3¼ "
No. 3— " magnesia "	4¼ "
No. 4— " asbestos cement ..	10¼ "
No. 5—No covering	21 "

Of the amount lost by having no covering—

The wood covering saved.....	72.6 per cent.
The mica covering saved	84.5 "
The magnesia covering saved	79.75 "
The asbestos cement saved	51 "

The mica shows an absolute saving of 4.75 per cent. over the magnesia, and relatively is 23.5 per cent. better than magnesia, that is, taking the magnesia as the standard, the mica covering will save 23.5 per cent. more than the magnesia covering.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) GEO. C. ROSS, Chief Engineer,

The Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company of Canada.

WOOL MARKET.

The clip has been marketed this season in a much shorter period than usual, and there is little fleece wool left in the market. A feature has been the request for coarse wools. A year ago dealers were willing to pay two cents a pound more for clothing than for combing, and at present combing wool is worth three cents at least more than clothing. Fleece in small lots is selling in Toronto at 25c., and a few sales of larger lots for direct export to the United States, are reported outside at 26c.

Things in the Montreal wool market are looking bright, prices

are well up and there is every indication of a continuation of the present prosperous state of affairs. At present stock in the local market is very low and nothing in wool can be had for less than 14c. The last shipment of wool was cleared out last week and a residue of 250 bales of damaged goods was advantageously disposed of. A new shipment for Montreal arrived in Boston on October 14th, and it is expected that rapid sales will ensue, as there are many enquiries.

The London wool sales closed on October 12. All wools sold readily. The prices of Natal and Cape of Good Hope wools were higher. Prices were: New South Wales scoured, 12½ to 37c.; greasy, 13 to 18½c.; Cape of Good Hope and Natal scoured, 26 to 34c.; greasy, 11½ to 14c. At the close of the market prices were from 20 to 23 per cent. in advance of recent sales.

The latest mail reports of the Colonial wool sales in London are to Oct. 5th, and give the following account of the market:—The daily auctions continue to be largely attended by buyers from all parts, and competition remains very keen. Wools of all descriptions are most difficult to purchase at current market rates, there being so much animation in the bidding. French and German buyers are making a few purchases, but America is very quiet. The home trade has up to now proved the chief support to the market; its buyers take by far the greater proportion of daily-offered wools, both in crossbred and merino qualities. The very firm prices with which the opening of this series was characterized have until the last few days been well maintained, and indeed have shown a hardening tendency rather than otherwise; during the latter part of the week, however, prices have become steadier, and show less signs of fluctuation, and although there has been no quotable decline in market values, things are considered perhaps a little easier than at the outset. Deep grown lustrous crossbred wools in the grease, which sold at 9d. last sales, now realize 11d. per lb., a price which heretofore has never been reached. Superior to good, shafty merino wools in the grease show an advance of 1½d. per lb. on the July currency, while scoured parcels are fully 2d. per lb. dearer. Faulty pieces and locks show 1d. to 1½d. per lb. advance, and all slip wools are in excellent demand. Merino and crossbred lambs do not show the advance to such an extent, however, as other descriptions. In Cape and Natal wools the greasies rule about 5 per cent., and scoured and snow-white parcels about 10 per cent. dearer.

Jacomb, Son & Co., in their report state:—The chief support has been from the home trade; while during the last few days there has been an increased demand from France and Germany, little or nothing is being done for America. The advance noted on the opening night has been fully maintained, and even exceeded of late, especially in the case of deep, shafty merino scoureds, both fleece and pieces, which may now be quoted 20 per cent. over the prices ruling during the fourth series. Superior merino wools in the grease, which were then proportionately dearer than scoureds, average 10 per cent. appreciation in value, while medium sorts are strongly competed for at the higher level. Fine greasy crossbreds are 10 per cent., medium 15, and coarse 20 to 25 per cent. dearer than in July, scoured average 15 per cent. advance, while slip wools, in good supply, meet an animated demand at very full rates.

FADING OF COLORS.

The fading of the colors is a most important feature of dyed textile fabrics to the dyer, this fading being chiefly brought about by the agency of light. Hitherto the idea as to the actual influence of light on color has been of a very crude nature among dyers. They have known that it causes colors to fade; some perhaps have thought that some kinds of light will cause colors to fade more rapidly than others, and in general this particular virtue has been thought to reside chiefly in a blue light. Mr. Dufon, in a very interesting paper which he has just contributed to the Society of Dyers and Colorists, has, however, given some new views on this important subject, and which are expressed by the following statement: "The fading of colors under the influence of light is brought about by the absorbed rays, each color being most power-