

TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The following are the sterling values of the textile imports from Great Britain, for the months of April, 1899-1900, and the four months including April, 1899-1900.

	Month of April		Four months to April	
	1899.	1900	1899.	1900
Wool.....	£ 1,529	£ 3,235	£ 5,128	£ 21,223
Cotton piece-goods	29,951	40,756	214,469	275,362
Jute piece goods	9,089	15,036	32,875	50,339
Linen piece goods	9,492	13,559	65,543	78,856
Silk lace	2,221	1,254	6,470	7,731
" articles partly of ..	1,850	2,067	10,695	19,654
Woolen fabrics	13,269	22,031	97,914	156,482
Worsted fabrics.....	20,589	28,522	204,091	231,117
Carpets	14,246	25,725	88,630	129,764
Apparel and slops	13,734	19,293	77,654	107,794
Haberdashery	8,710	8,136	65,390	64,886
Writing-paper, &c	2,376	3,514	7,421	9,280
Other paper	447	1,053	2,411	3,399

—Kenny & Co. will erect a new dry goods warehouse on the site of the sailors' home, Halifax.

—It is reported from Washington that the total area in cotton planted, is estimated at 25,559,000, an increase of 2,036,000, or 8.7 per cent. over last year.

A. C. Petersen, W. H. Sumbling, C. E. Jarmain, Toronto; J. Smale, North Toronto; H. E. Bydwell, Montreal, have been incorporated as the York Laundry Machinery and Supply Co.; head office, Toronto; capital, \$40,000.

The Schofield Woolen Co., which recently lost a large portion of its premises in Oshawa, Ont., by fire, is said to be open to offers to locate in some other town if sufficient inducements are secured. St. Thomas, Ont., is making an effort to secure the industry.

—The T. Eaton Co., Toronto, is making extensive changes in its electric plant, and has ordered two 350 h.p. tandem compound engines for direct connection to dynamos from the Robb Engineering Co. The two dynamos will be 225-k.w. machines from the Canadian Electric Co. In the extensions to the Eaton Company's premises there will be five new Fensom elevators of an improved type.

—Attention is called to Prof. Koechlin's method for the bleaching of cotton and other vegetable fibres by passing them through a bath of 100 litres (26.4 gallons) of water, 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of lime, and 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of bisulphite of soda. They are then steamed for an hour or two under a pressure of from 1 to 2 atmospheres, rinsed again, and dried. The bisulphite can be replaced by hydrosulphite of lime. The cotton or other fibre may be boiled in the bath for a few hours, instead of being steamed. Another process is to subject the goods for six hours under a pressure of two-thirds of an atmosphere to a liquid composed of 1000 litres (264 gals.) of water, 10 kilograms of dry caustic soda, 10 kilograms of soap, 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of calcined magnesia, and 30 litres (7.9 gallons) of peroxide of hydrogen; then rinse, souce, rinse again, and dry. The white obtained is said to be much better than can be had with hypochlorite, and, best of all, does no damage to the fibres or fabric.

—Silk-Spinning Spiders in Venezuela.—The United States Consul at Maracaibo, under date of December 26, 1899, reports

that large silk-spinning spiders are found in the palm trees of Venezuela. Some produce white, some yellow, silk. The consul understands that the silk has been made into handkerchiefs. A copy of the report, together with a specimen of silk, which accompanied it, was referred to the Department of Agriculture. Under date of January 27, 1900, the entomologist says that silk produced in this way cannot be made valuable commercially, because of the troublesome necessity of keeping the spiders separated to prevent their devouring each other. Their food being insects, this also involves considerable labor in supplying them. Attempts to utilize the silk of a Madagascar spider of the same species some years ago resulted in the discovery that the product was more expensive than ordinary silk.

—The following is a method of waterproofing woolen goods. No machinery is needed, and it is said to give very satisfactory results: Ten kilos. of sugar of lead and the same weight of alum are separately dissolved in boiling water, then 12 kilos. of acetate of alumina. The latter is, however, better ordered from the druggist in the liquid state. The three solutions are poured into the cask and allowed to stand over night. Meanwhile, 200 grms. of gelatine and the same weight of isinglass are stirred with cold water. Next morning the mineral solution is drawn off into a separate vessel, care being taken not to disturb the sediment, which would spot the cloth. To the clear solution is added 200 litres of hot water, and the gelatinous preparations which have been previously boiled and strained. This is the waterproofing liquid. It may be applied through the nose of a watering can, but an impregnating machine will, of course, be more satisfactory. In any case, the cloth must be well soaked before it comes in contact with the mixture.

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—It is estimated that the year's cotton crop in Egypt will be equivalent to 1,000,000 American bales. The cutting of the "sudd" in the Nile promises to inaugurate a new era in Egyptian agriculture, as the water will hereafter be richer in fertilizing material.

—A combination entitled the United Bleachers' Association, Ltd., has been registered in England with a capital of \$45,000,000. The most important bleaching firms in the country have joined the new organization.

—The Manchester ship canal is certainly a success as seen by the statement in the Textile Mercury, that in the week ending March 31st seven steamers arrived in Manchester from America with 39,398 bales of cotton—a "best on record," while in the following week eight steamers arrived from America with 40,974 bales, a better record still.

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