



CARPETS AND CURTAINS.

THE trade in carpets and curtains will be very good this fall, judged by the copious placing orders received by the jobbers. Domestic carpets manufacturers have also had a most successful season and prosperity appears on every hand. Fewer Philadelphia cottons are being brought into Canada, and as a consequence domestic unions are in increased demand. Prices are well maintained, although collections are but average.

THE ROYAL CARPET CO., GUELPH.

Energy and pluck are the characteristics manifest in making the Royal Carpet Co., of Guelph, what they are to-day. Formerly their product was sold only in Ontario, but now they have established agencies in Victoria, B. C., and Halifax, N. B., and so far report orders good from these places. The latest advancement they have made towards having a complete carpet mill is the building of a dyehouse 80x40 with a second storey over the boiler and engine rooms for drying and bleaching their yarns. They claim they now make a clean good yarn, thoroughly scourged with their new scouring machinery and dyed perfectly fast in color, with the best material to be had.

Of late there has been a good demand for carpet fringe and this company saw where they could put a stop to importing this class of goods, so they at once had a loom made and are now supplying large quantities to the trade. They make it in any color and in any style. It is necessary that every year some member of the company should visit the chief carpet centres in the States and see any new and successful ventures that are being made to improve the carpet industry. Accordingly Mr. Alvin Burrows went there recently for a month's visit and it is hoped he will be able to introduce to the company more improvements in the way of machinery, etc. They are now running thirty looms steadily and have sufficient work for them for this season to give employment to 44 hands.

All the superintending and traveling is done by the four brothers who compose the company, who can be relied upon as steady, honest and industrious men.

EXPERIENCE TEACHES LESSONS.

A leading U. S. carpet journal says: "Carpet manufacturers as a rule, have within the last few years been taking a post-graduate course at the School of Experience, and, as everybody knows, the curriculum there is so severe and trying that few graduate with high honors. One of the things, however, that this particular class has learned thoroughly is not to make goods except on orders, and to-day, almost to a man, they are putting this knowledge to practical use. The result is, that with few exceptions, the production of the wools is being curtailed, and the owners thereof are thoroughly determined, even to the point of stopping altogether, rather than make goods for stock."

WEAVING TAPESTRIES.

"How are tapestries usually woven?" was asked by a French authority on the subject.

"In breadths or relays of varying widths. Some of these may be woven on different looms or all on the same loom, but the warp threads of which they are composed always extend the

whole length of the tapestry. Therefore it is impossible to weave a tapestry in several pieces in the ordinary understanding of the words, and sew the pieces together afterward. The only needlework which will not deface the tapestry consists in sewing the adjoining threads of the aforesaid breadths or relays together, which is comparatively easy because they all have equal lengths and vary only in width. No tapestries are or ever were made by sewing together the ends of the warp threads, which would have to be the case if they were woven in pieces instead of breadths, although sometimes the borders were woven apart and attached to the tapestry afterward by a special kind of needlework."

"How long does it take to thoroughly educate an artist weaver in all the intricacies of the art?"

"Ten or twelve years; and it requires several generations of such artist weavers to perfect the weaving of storied tapestries. To comprehend the skill and talent demanded one must watch the master weavers at work and listen to their explanations of the methods employed, the exactness required, etc. It is impossible, however, to thoroughly realize the difficulties of the process unless one practices weaving himself."

BIG FACTORIES CLOSE.

The huge factory for the manufacture of carpets owned by Sandford & Sons, and situated at Amsterdam, N.J., has been forced to shut down for lack of orders. By this move 2,000 employees are left to shift for themselves. The Smith carpet factory at Yonkers, employing nearly 4,000 hands, is running half time. Many other factories have closed temporarily until the trade of the United States regains confidence.

NOTES.

Alexander & Anderson have now a heavy stock of tapestry, union, wool and hemp carpets. Every line has been replenished with the newest designs, and they claim that their prices are equal to any in the market.

W. R. Brock & Co. have just received their fall stock of hemp carpets. The designs are better than last season, and prices will be found suitable. This is the second season in which they have carried these goods.

John Macdonald & Co. are doing a rushing trade in carpets at present. Their stock of all lines has been received and partially reshipped. Mr. Dewar, the buyer, is in foreign markets at present.

The Toronto Carpet Co. have added 12,000 square feet of floor space to their factories and moved their Axminster looms into this new addition. They are shipping large quantities of goods this and next month. Their Axminster goods are turning out exceedingly well, while their Maple Leaf brand of carpets is becoming very popular.

A knotty question to decide is whether a carpet with 1,072 ends of which 30 are cotton is a union or a wool. The decision makes a big difference to importers of this class of goods. One port of entry in Canada has decided to admit them as unions, which is obviously unfair to domestic producers of woolsens, and the latter should lay the matter before the Comptroller.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade met jointly with the City Council and passed unanimously a resolution urging the Dominion Government to re-establish the river police force, the port being now virtually without any protection, to the great prejudice to trade and commerce.