

heavy yarns. The Ontario Mill at Hamilton, and also the Merritt Mill at Merritt, run almost exclusively on shirtings. Full and very desirable ranges of these goods are made at these two mills, goods that are well known throughout the trade. Unfortunately for the proprietors, the producing power of the mills running on textile goods in this country is considerably in excess of the requirements of the trade and the consumer. In consequence of this the large Dundas mill, and also the Lybster mill at Thorold, are shut down, no doubt causing serious loss to the company. The machinery in these mills was somewhat old-fashioned, and their product comparatively expensive.

Very large and important changes have been made in connection with the Company's properties during the past year. As is well known, constant changes are taking place in the machinery necessary for the manufacture of these goods, involving a continual heavy expenditure. At the "St. Croix" Mill some 250 of the ordinary looms have been replaced by the improved Crompton box looms, for the manufacture of the finer classes of fancy goods, while a number of the new improved flat top revolving cards have also been placed in position in place of the others previously used. The "Canada" Mill has been more or less remodelled throughout, changes having largely been made in the looms for a better class of goods. At the present time a very heavy expenditure has been found necessary in connection with the water power, involving a very considerable outlay in the erection of a new wheel-pit, new wheels, etc. At the "Stormont" Mill a new and most complete dye-house has been erected, which was rendered necessary by the introduction of the new style of chain dyeing, thereby enabling them to secure more uniformity and stability in color, while a large addition in opening machinery and carding has also been made at this mill, also displacing machines previously in use. The same remarks hold good in connection with the Ontario Mill at Hamilton, an entirely new dye-house and plant having been placed there so as to be able to take advantage of the improved appliances now in use in connection with this important branch of manufacturing. Other very extensive alterations have been found necessary at this mill, and also alterations in spinning and weaving. All these changes and expenditure show the risk and responsibility involved in such enterprises and have a very important bearing upon the earnings of the mills, as they cannot be placed there for nothing.

AN ESTIMATE.

A published statement made in the Dominion House at Ottawa during the last session declared that the value of property owned by the cotton manufacturers of Canada was about \$13,700,000. The yearly production of goods manufactured by these concerns was about \$8,750,000. The number of employees in the neighborhood of 8,700, while the amount paid in wages alone amounted to the large sum of \$2,400,000, which, as a matter of course, is only one item of the enormous expenditure made by these live manufacturing concerns, not embracing general supplies, fuel, freights, machinery and improvements thereon, etc., etc. Of the above amount the Company which we have at present under our consideration forms somewhat less than one-half the value of the production, probably about three and one-half to four million dollars. The costs of the real estate and properties owned by this Company is about \$6,000,000. The capital stock of the Company is \$5,000,000, of which about \$2,750,000 has been issued. The Company deservedly occupies a very high position amongst the manufacturing interests of the country. Such organizations as these that are the means of

creating much heavy expenditures in labor, fuel, and general supplies, all of which are very important factors in the development of our country, and certainly entitled to some consideration.

THE TARIFF.

We might mention in connection with the agitation regarding tariff revision at present being mentioned, some points that will require consideration in connection with the manufacture of textile goods in this country. We have alluded briefly above to the question of production. It is well known that where there is, as in the case of English and American manufactures, an almost unlimited market, thus enabling the mills to concentrate on one or two fabrics, a very considerable reduction in cost is made thereby. It is also a fact that in the old established centres of manufacturing, such as Lancashire and Yorkshire in England, skilled help of the best class can be procured at comparatively low wages, much lower than the same grade of help can be procured at in this country. And also it is well known that money for manufacturing purposes is rarely above four per cent. to the English manufacturer, while the ruling rates here are six and seven per cent. These items form very important factors in connection with such enterprises as the above which we have been considering, and bear heavily on them as paying concerns.

Having thus set forth the position of the Colored Cotton Mills Co., its short history, the obstacles which it had to overcome, which it still has to overcome, and which beset every manufacturing industry, especially cotton manufacturing; and having incidentally mentioned many reasons which entitle it to consideration, we must now turn to consider the tariff more particularly.

As regards the tariff there can be no doubt that the public are clamoring for a reduction on colored cottons. The tariff before 1878 was 17½ per cent. Now the public in general and the trade in particular declare that the rate could be reduced to 30 per cent. ad valorem without injuring our own manufacturers. Everybody strongly insists that the present duty of 15 per cent. and 2 cents per square yard is too high. Let us see. At the present rate, when the

Foreign cost is 10c. per sq. yard, duty will be 35 per cent.

"	9	"	"	"	37.2	"
"	8	"	"	"	40	"
"	7	"	"	"	43.5	"
"	6	"	"	"	48.3	"
"	5	"	"	"	55	"
"	4	"	"	"	65	"

This shows the duty, and the consumer says, "Goodness, do I pay 65 per cent. duty?" The politician may tell him he does, but he tells a falsehood. Very few colored cottons are imported of which the cost is less than 6c., and consequently the highest duty paid is 48.3, and from this it runs down to 20 per cent. But if this duty of 55 and 65 per cent. is never collected why should it be on the statute books? If the consumer can get cheap domestic cottons suitable in the lower grades, there should be no increase of duty. It was designed of course to keep out cheap grades of foreign manufacture, but its designers did their work too well; they should have arranged to stop at a point not higher than 35 per cent., and not have allowed intriguing politicians, stump speakers and ignorant newspaper writers to declare that there is a duty of 55 and 65 per cent. on colored cottons. When a specific duty is levied either alone or in conjunction with an ad valorem rate it is an easy matter to prove—