

THE WOOL MARKET.

Montreal.—Fine wools in first hands are getting very low and prices are advancing all the time but the manufacturers are buying very sparingly, as they are now showing samples for next winter's wear, and may have them in the market for stock early in the year. The shortage of the fine wool clip all over is to have a telling effect in prices shortly, as merino wools cannot be replaced to-day at selling prices. Capes, $14\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Natal, $16\frac{1}{2}$ to $18\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Some sales have been made at the latter figures.

Toronto.—The demand for Canadian fleece wools is very light. Much of the clip is held at prices above market quotations, and quantity in first hands is very small. The mills are very well employed and increased demand is expected soon.

LIVERPOOL WOOL SALES.

The final East India wool auctions for 1898 were held at Liverpool, from November 22 to 24. Under existing conditions it was scarcely to be expected that a very satisfactory clearance would be effected. The selection, as a whole, could not be described as attractive, while many holders were unable to bring themselves to accept the low offers made by buyers. Of 18,886 bales brought to the hammer 13,485 were sold. A considerable proportion of the withdrawals consisted of Persian, cashmere, and defective Yarnar and other wools, descriptions which are not in demand at present, and for some of which, indeed, not a bid was made. The competition was only moderate and both demand and values tended to slacken off as the sales progressed. An advance on September values of $\frac{1}{4}$ d was paid for soft Kandahar grays, due to their scarcity. Vickers, white and yellow, best Joria and choicest Kandahar white, were unchanged. In the prices realized for medium white Joria, Kandahar white, with the exception mentioned above and badly washed Vickers white, a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. was apparent. American operators took a fair quantity of wool costing under 6s., but nothing above that figure.

MORDANTING WOOL.

The following quantities for mordanting wool have been found satisfactory in practice: Three per cent. of lactic acid (50 per cent.), 1.5 per cent. of potassium bichromate, and 1 per cent. of sulphuric acid. The mordant is especially suitable for dyeing with alizarine coloring matters, also with logwood when the production of a good black is the main object. When the cost of dyeing is taken into consideration, it is found that the green chrome-mordanted wool, owing to its incapability of exerting any oxidizing action on the dyestuff, requires more of this, and that dyeing with it is, in consequence, more expensive. It is also found that tightly-spun yarns and tissues of thick texture are not penetrated so well or mordanted so evenly by means of the above mixture as they are with potassium bichromate and tartar. Sometimes this is due to the presence of fatty substances in the wool. In the case of such materials the mordanting must be so performed that little chromium becomes fixed during the first half-hour of boiling. This is accomplished by the use of a mixture of potassium bichromate (1.5 per cent.), lactic acid (3 per cent.), and ammonium sulphate (1 per cent.). The last compound becomes gradually decomposed, during boiling, into ammonia, which escapes, and sulphuric acid, which, in conjunction with the lactic acid, acts upon the potassium bichromate and affects the mordanting of the wool. If any fatty matter should be present in the wool, these become acted upon by the ammonia prior to its being volatilized, and are thus removed from the wool.

An oxidizing mordant which is to be recommended for dye-

ing compound shades from alizarine dyestuffs and logwood is obtained from a mixture of potassium bichromate (2 per cent.) and lactic acid and ammonium sulphate in the proportions given above, the operation of mordanting being interrupted when the bath has a pale yellow color. This mordant gives colors which closely resemble those produced on a mordant obtained from potassium bichromate and tartar. A slight redness of shade is to be seen in the logwood blacks dyed upon mordants fixed by the agency of lactic acid. This is not to be ascribed to the fact that the mordant is in the condition of a chromic hydroxide, since the dyes fixed upon wool which has been mordanted with potassium bichromate and tartar and afterwards treated with sodium bisulphite do not exhibit any such shade. It is probably due to the absence of oxidizing action on the wool on the part of the mordanting mixture. Such an action may be brought about in the case of lactic acid by performing the mordanting in two operations, the wool being treated first with potassium bichromate, and afterwards in a separate bath with a mixture of lactic and sulphuric acids. The first of these baths should be kept and used again after the necessary quantity of potassium bichromate (or chromic acid) has been added to it. The wool mordanted in this manner dyes the same as wool mordanted with potassium bichromate and tartar.

—At Soka, about half a dozen miles from Osaka, and some other towns in Japan, carpets, rugs and fabrics of the same class are extensively manufactured. There are no large carpet factories, but hand looms may be seen in nearly every house. The weaving process is set to music. The children are taught to sing a sort of nonsense verse to a certain tune, the superintendent or head worker leading, and that air means a certain pattern, the deft fingers of the little workers rhythmically following the notes. At the right moment the woman in charge of a loom changes the tune, and the little ones instantly take it up and as quickly change the pattern to suit the music. It is consequently quite correct to speak of these productions as a "one tune," "two tune" or "four tune" carpet. The actual

WANTED: A thorough competent JOB DYER AND SCOURER, who understands the dyeing of mixed goods, also dry-cleaning. Must be strictly sober and furnish references; steady job all the year round to the right man. Address "DYER," care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics, Fraser Building, St. Sacramento St., Montreal.

WANTED by a young man, a position as second hand in a large cotton mill. Had experience as weaving and cloth-room overseer in small mills. Good technical education. First-class certificate (London and City Guilds exams). Address "TECHNICAL," care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics, Montreal, Que.

A NATURALIZED New England spinner of old English birth, would like a good steady job in Canada. Can introduce improvements. Have worked in English mills. Address "SPINNER" care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics, Fraser Building, Montreal, Que.

SITUATION WANTED as carder by a man of sixteen years' experience as overseer; could also take charge of pack spinning. Temperate habits, well recommended. Address, DONALD JACK, P.O. Box 333, Peru, Ind.

POSITION WANTED: Young man of good education, at present employed as superintendent in a large woolen mill in the south of Scotland, would like similar position in Canada. Can assist in designing. Address "SUPERINTENDENT," care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics, Montreal, Que.

SITUATION WANTED

Wanted situation as manager or superintendent of woolen mill by a man who has had a large and most successful experience on shoddy goods. Married, 39 yrs of age. Address J. E. C. L., care Canadian Journal of Fabrics.

SITUATION WANTED

Experienced long chain dyer and yarn printer desires situation. Fast colors. Economical. Nine years with leading gingham, shirting, and fancy cotton, woolen and silk dress goods mill in New England. Age 39. Married. Address "M," care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics.

SITUATION WANTED: By experienced practical cotton piece bleacher, can bleach all grades and is competent to take charge of any size bleachery. Middle-aged, married, temperate. Would take position as assistant in Canadian mill. Address "NEW YORK" care of Canadian Journal of Fabrics.