

### AMERICAN INDIAN TEXTILE WORK.

The Indians of the south in early times made very handsome carpets. They had a wide hemp that grew about six feet high in open, rich level lands, and which usually ripened in July. It is still found growing wild. When it was fit for use they pulled, steeped, peeled and beat it, and the old women spun it off the distaffs with wooden machines, having some clay on the middles of them to hasten the motion. When the coarse thread was prepared they put it into a frame about six feet square, and, instead of a shuttle, they thrust through the thread with a long cane having a large string through the web, which they shifted at every second course of the thread. When they had thus finished their arduous labor they painted each side of the carpet with such figures of various colors as their fruitful imaginations devised, particularly the images of those birds and beasts they were acquainted with, and likewise of themselves, acting in their social and martial stations. The Muscogees, time out of mind, passed the wool with a shuttle, having a couple of threads which they moved with the hand so as to enable them to make good dispatch, something after our early manner of weaving. The women were the manufacturers of these fabrics. Buffaloes' wool was extensively used for spinning and weaving. The Choctaws made turkey-feather blankets with the long feathers of the neck and breast of that large fowl. The inner end of the feather was twisted and made fast in a strong double thread of hemp or coarse twine made of the inner bark of the mulberry tree. These threads were then worked together after the manner of a fine netting. The long and glittering feathers imparted to the outside of the blankets a very pleasing appearance. Such fabrics were quite warm. Their head ornaments of feathers were also very beautiful. Various clays and the juices of roots, barks, berries and plants were employed in dyeing their manufactures. Tassels of the hair of deer, colored red, were held in special esteem.

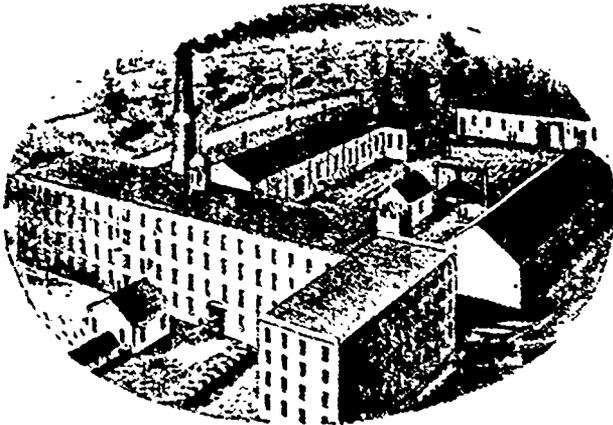
The general meeting of the Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada was held on December 7th, in Toronto. There was

a large attendance of members, and the president, Robert H. Gray, occupied the chair. The annual report of the secretary James Sergeant, showed an increase in membership and a substantial addition to the reserve fund. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected by acclamation: President, R. H. Gray; first vice-president, R. J. Orr, second vice-president, C. E. Kyle; treasurer, J. C. Black. The chief topic of discussion at the meeting was the wretched sanitary arrangements of the hotels in the smaller towns and country places in Ontario.

The Japanese are bound to enter the world of commerce. A few years ago, a flannel manufacturer of Thuringia received two Japanese workmen into his factory. After a stay of two years they quietly left his service, and returned to their own country. The manufacturer had an enormous trade with Japan, but shortly afterward his trade ceased entirely. His two Japanese workmen had studied his methods down to the smallest details, and when they returned to Japan erected a factory after the German model. Before long the rest of the world is bound to feel the influence of Japanese enterprise. Their skill, industry and cheap labor are sure to make themselves felt. The sooner this is recognized by the trade unions the better it will be for our industries.

At the annual meeting of the dry goods section of the Toronto Board of Trade, John D. Ivey, president, occupied the chair. In his annual address the chairman touched upon a number of matters of great moment to the dry goods trade, and in fact to all branches of Canadian commerce, and made some practical suggestions which may bear fruit in the future. The address was not lengthy, but it was practical, and showed a grasp of the situation and ability to put some points concisely but suggestively. The treasurer submitted his statement, which showed a balance on hand. The election of the executive committee resulted as follows: Messrs. J. D. Ivey, Andrew Darling, J. Short McMaster, W. F. Brock, J. K. Macdonald, Wm. Blackley, and T. O. Anderson. And the committee has chosen Mr. Andrew Darling, chairman, and Mr. J. Kidston Macdonald, deputy chairman.

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