

sorted and washed, at other points it is sorted without washing, and the various colors shipped separately. A much larger proportion of colored wool is grown in Asia than in Europe or America. One gets not only black, but fawn, and gray and red wool, and often there is less white than colors in a line of wool from the Orient.

Someone puzzled a body of scientists once, by asking why the black sheep ate less than the white, in this country. After a long, fruitless investigation, they were told it was "because there are fewer of them." On our western plains, the herders like to keep one black sheep in every hundred, and when they round them up at night, if they find all the black sheep in sight, they assume the flock is safe in the fold, but if a few black sheep are missing, they know they have lost some of their flock during the day, and they stir around to find them. While we are discussing black sheep, it might be interesting to mention that there is a great demand for natural black scoured wool, for use in underwear. "The real thing" is very expensive, as only a small proportion of the fleece is fine enough, or dark enough, and the cost is high. Black sheep in the sun all day will get bleached on the back, and the wool turns brown, which makes it unfit in color for natural wool goods. Fashion demands "natural wool goods," and people want them at low prices, and so the chemists come in and dye cotton the right shade, and the wearers of the cheap underclothing is none the wiser.

We have spoken of the Asiatic sheep which have remained unchanged in breed for centuries, but when we examine the flocks of Europe, we find distinct breeds which have been perfected by years of care and study, and in a general way we will mention a merino. The Spanish merino, which reached its greatest perfection during Spain's prosperity, declined with her power, though a few flocks are still maintained by the nobility in Spain. These sheep were the progenitors of the merino sheep all over the world, and were almost the only sheep raised for many years in France, America, Australia, and Buenos Ayres. But the increase in Australia and South America became so great that wool growing became unprofitable and with the facilities for shipment of frozen mutton, wool became a by-product and sheen were bred for carcass rather than wool; so that in the past few years, merino sheep have been killed off, and English breeds substituted, fashion adapting itself to the changed conditions. Crossbred wool, the product of mutton sheep, are in the greatest demand, and it would seem as if the beautiful fine merino wools, of which the finest flannels and broadcloths, and finest worsteds are made, would soon become a fancy article, to be made into garments only for the very rich. C. F. Avery, in the Textile American

CANADIAN BINDER TWINE DEFENDED.

A correspondent, signing himself "Canadian Manufacturer," writes to the "Cordage Trade Journal," as follows: "We are somewhat surprised to hear that the Treasury Department at Washington, D.C., have issued an official circular to the customs officers, to give close scrutiny to all Canadian twine entering the United States on account of the fraudulent action of a Canadian binder twine factory in turning out twine short of the legal measure. As this circular will have the effect of hurting the reputation of Canadian twine we think it only fair that the true state of affairs should be laid before the American public. The Canadian Government, a few years ago, passed an act, whereby the number of feet per pound and the manufacturer's or importer's name had to be printed on a tag to

be attached to every ball of binder twine offered for sale in Canada. To see that this act was enforced, a binder twine inspector was appointed last year, whose duty was to inspect all binder twine offered for sale in Canada and see that it was properly tagged, and measured as many feet to the pound as marked on the tag.

During last year this inspector seized and confiscated fourteen lots of binder twine. Out of these fourteen lots eleven were American, one Mexican, one English, and one Canadian. Now, we think that, when you take into consideration that eleven lots of inferior twine, offered in Canada, were manufactured in the United States, and only one lot in Canada, the American authorities have, perhaps, been a little hasty in taking the matter up in the way they have. As binder twine of any description is allowed to enter into Canada free of duty, the imports into Canada are much greater than the exports to the United States. The Canadian Government will no doubt now issue similar circulars to their officers, which will in all likelihood affect the American manufacturer more than the Canadian."

INDIAN YELLOW FF ON SILK.

Among new color samples issued by the Cassella Color Co., New York and Montreal, is a card showing dyeings of Indian Yellow FF on silk. Indian Yellow FF is a new dye-stuff, which is especially well suited for the dyeing of silk. This new type possesses the good leveling power and properties of fastness of the older brands of Indian Yellow, over which it offers the great advantage of a very much better solubility in addition to a clearer and brighter shade. In point of fastness to rubbing and water, Indian Yellow FF is also somewhat superior to the older types. Indian Yellow FF is dyed, as usual, in boiled off liquor, and has proven very useful for the production of clear yellow shades and for use in compound shades of all sorts. It may be discharged with both tin salt and zinc dust, similar to the other brands.

INVENTION OF THE POWER LOOM.

In view of the great importance of the power loom, it is perhaps well not to forget the name of its inventor, so that the lapse of time may not obliterate it, and his invention be contended for by a number of claimants, as is the case with so many others.

In the year 1793, a Scotchman, by the name of Andrew Kinloch, who was an instrument maker by profession, with the assistance of an old watchmaker, built the first two power looms that were ever constructed, in his little shop, in a monastery in Glasgow. The money necessary was furnished by two merchants of the city. The actuation of the looms was effected by a common crank, and after about fifty yards of good fabric had been woven on them, the experiment was considered to be successful. Kinloch at once received an order to build forty others, and the first forty-two looms were afterward operated by water-power at Milton, in the vicinity of Dumbarton, Scotland. He was also appointed superintendent of the mill, and taught two pupils to become loom fixers. One of them, Walter McLutheon, was for many years afterward superintendent of the Wellington Mill, Hutcheson, near Glasgow, while the other, Archibald Barlay, received a similar position in the Coterinc Mills in Ayrshire. These two men were the first who used a screw wrench for regulating a power loom. The walls of the small old mill, at Milton, are still standing, overrun with ivy, as