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64 YATES ST., VICTORIA.**COTTON MILLS IN EGYPT.**

The negotiations now going on for the establishment by English capital of cotton mills in Egypt, reminds an exchange of the failure of former efforts in the same direction. Some thirty-five years ago, an attempt was made by Said Pasha, but like other enterprises of that government, it came to nothing, and the machinery was broken up and sold for old iron, or stolen by the natives. It had been found impossible to keep the operatives at work all year, as they were, for the most part, small land-holders, and deserted the mill for the farm. Mehemet Ali also made an effort to establish the textile industries, and on a much more extensive scale. He seems to have made a most careful study of the economic and industrial life of the different European countries, and was much impressed by the benefits conferred on England by her extensive manufactures and wide-reaching commercial connection. A large cotton factory was started near Cairo, one hundred mules being imported from Europe. Five different mills were established, and printing was carried on in connection with some of them. Italian operatives were brought over to introduce the silk industry, and finally a huge building was erected in Boulaq for a woolen factory, workmen being brought from France and Belgium. Though it has been estimated that at this time there were 2,459 spinning jennies, and 1,215 looms in use, yet complete failure was the result, and the labor and capital were expended in vain.

When discussing the practicability of manufacturing in Egypt, many points must be considered. The natural character of the people must be noticed. As a race, they are indolent and cowardly, the lower classes being practically savages, while the wealthier are ignorant, ridiculously vain, and set no good example of industry or thrift to the poor. To such a state has fallen a people whose ancestors were skilled in the weaver's art and cunning in the use of indigo and the purple dyes of the Mediterranean. Now that Egypt is once more what it was in ancient times, the highway from east to west, the people may be expected, perhaps, to rouse themselves from their lethargy. Aside from racial obstacles, there are serious economic difficulties in their way of an efficient supply of labor. The mills, it must be remembered, will be established in an agricultural district

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where there is no skilled labor; adult female labor is scarce, and the training of the girls is wasted by their early marriages; nor does it follow necessarily; because Egypt is a great cotton producing country, that cotton can be obtained more cheaply there than in Manchester, as is shown, for example, by oil seed, an Egyptian product, which is often higher priced in Cairo than in Liverpool—an illustration of the tendency of traders to concentrate their produce in the largest market. The matter of power, also, is a problem to be faced in a country destitute of fuel for steam generation, and also without natural water-power, except to the most limited extent. The old ox treaders on which Mehemet Ali depended for power in the early days of the century, are not sufficiently economical for to-day, and the importation of English coal would be a serious item to the Egyptian manufacturer.

INVENTORS' RECORD.

The following list of United States patents, granted to Canadian inventors, Oct. 3, 1893, is expressly reported for THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL by James Sangster, solicitor of patents, Buffalo, N. Y.:

Horace H. Balley, Ottawa, apparatus for feeding hydrocarbon or other oils into stoves, furnaces, etc.

James Canan, Owen Sound, dredger.

John T. Collins, Yarmouth, assignor to Hopedale Mappedale Machine Company, Hopedale, Mass., thread-breaking device for spinning or twisting frames.

Joseph Drader, London, vehicle pole.

John T. Dwyer, Montreal, internal stay for trunks, boxes, etc.

David S. Henderson, Brantford, machine for sharpening clippers.

James H. Paterson, Ingersoll, screw-cutting machine.

Mungo Turnbull, Toronto, dynamical-arranged celestial sphere.

Total issue, including patents, designs, trade marks and reissues, 427.

The Argentine Government has under consideration a scheme for colonizing Terra del Fuego.

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A. LEOFRED,

(Graduate of Laval and McGill.)

MINING ENGINEER.

MAIN OFFICE: Quebec. BRANCH OFFICE: Sherbrooke. Montreal, 17 Place d'Armes Hill.

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The German Minister of War has ordered the military authorities to use Indian corn mixed with oats in making up the rations for army horses.