

Carpets, Curtains and Upholstery.

CANADIAN CARPETS AND THE TARIFF CHANGE.

THE effect of the change in the tariff on the Canadian carpet industry will probably take some time to estimate. The lower duties on English goods must be in operation for a time before manufacturers here can tell exactly what the results may be. Most of the Canadian carpet mills make chiefly unions and woollen carpets, and their competitors in these lines are not English, but United States manufacturers. In this respect, of course, the tariff will put them at a slightly better advantage, because it leaves the duty on American carpets where it was and makes a slight reduction on the raw material. As regards brussels and axminsters, the Canadian mills which make these goods will probably feel the loss of about 3 per cent. in the protection hitherto granted, and in course of time will know more precisely what its effect on their trade will be.

The Canadian carpet mills have always felt that any protection they had on the finished product was greatly diminished by the fact that they had to pay a high duty on their yarn. The yarn is brought in in an unscoured state, and as it loses about one-fifth in cleaning, the manufacturer pays freight to the mill on material which does not get into his carpet. Canadian mills do not make their own yarns, thus imitating some of the English mills, which buy their yarns from Crossley, who makes raw material, not only for himself, but for some of his principal competitors. The new tariff will not, it is expected, have any appreciable effect on rugs or mats made in Canada.

LATE SHIPMENTS TO CANADA

There is not very much that is actually new in the way of carpets, though some new shipments have been arriving. Late deliveries have been retarding business in all departments of the dry goods trade, and S. Greenshields, Son & Co. state that were it not for the fact that their buying had been in such large quantity early in the season, and they had been able to get a fair proportion of their orders filled, they don't know what they would have done to satisfy their customers. Amongst the shipments of goods just arrived are to be remarked china matings in low cotton warps at special values. Other lines to which special attention is drawn consist of all grades of lace curtains. Notwithstanding advanced prices, S. Greenshields, Son & Co., will continue in the meantime, at all events, to show these goods at old prices. Full lines of brussels and axminsters are in stock, and are being ordered in large quantities.

IDE — ABOUT SELLING PATTERNS.

A well-known designer, in some recent comments on his art, said:

"To ornament is to beautify. To decorate is to ornament; but no textile surface can be beautified unless the forms upon it are at once bold, vigorous true and graceful, and the applied colors harmonious. If new arrangements are required, let the designer proceed as an artist ought to do, and not as a mere mechanical drudge, let him think out something that will give not only an ornamental but also a commercial value to his work.

"The very best patterns may consist of somewhat strong

colors in very small masses, so small indeed that the general effect shall be rich, low toned and neutral, and still have a glowing color bloom; every material has its own distinction of character which can be rendered beautiful

by a very small degree of taste and judgment.

"There is no doubt that bad patterns sell equally as well as good, perhaps more of the indifferent, if not of the very bad, than the good, but this taste is disappearing gradually, and the general public are becoming more and more enlightened in their choice. Just here let me say that in all our textile productions the greatest errors and most glaring inconsistencies occur in the production of carpets. The grounds are very often out of all harmony with the figures or rather colors placed upon the ground; it may be said the public demand is for such. I reply, show them something better. A white ground on a carpet cannot look well; a light ground, but not white, is passable, such as light creams, greyish, or green whites, but even in this way it is a very difficult matter to make the carpet appear as a suitable background for the furniture of the rooms. If a close-fitting, well studded pattern be so arranged in small sections of bright colors to fall on a ground of very dark brown, chocolate or indigo blue, a beautiful bloomy effect may be obtained. In fact, the most satisfactory carpets are all colored upon this system. It would seem that there is a timidity of new things among designers and manufacturers. It is better to have some daring than be continually reproducing the old lines over and over."—Carpet Trade Review.

LACE CURTAINS.

It will pay you to see, before placing Fall orders for these goods, the offerings of Messrs. Geo. H. Hees, Son & Co. Mr. Hees, of the firm, who is now in Europe, writes that he has secured control for this market of many beautiful designs in lace curtains, nets, etc., that notwithstanding the increased cost of making these goods, they will be able to offer to the trade at surprisingly good bargains. That the reader may understand the magnitude of this branch of Messrs. Hees, Son & Co.'s business, we mention one order alone of over 25,000 pairs that one house is making for them for their Fall trade. Messrs. Hees, Son & Co. manufacture and control many lines of goods that the trade would do well to handle.

WINDOW SHADE MANUFACTURING.

As conditions are much the same in Canada as they are in the United States, the remarks of The New York Carpet and Upholstery Trade Review with reference to the window shade market will interest our trade:

"Every indication points to a maintaining of present prices, and even of a still further advance in window shades. Contracts made by the manufacturers for supplies now and of recent date are at figures which were beyond the imagination of the greatest optimist a year ago.

"Primarily the basis for higher prices is cotton muslins. That the cotton market is in strong hands can readily be proved by anyone who will inquire into the situation. The demand for raw cotton is far ahead of the present supply and the cotton spinners have the present stock well in their hands. They are doubtless making large profits in spinning, but it is their innings, and they evidently intend to utilize the opportunity for substantial gains. We even hear that emissaries of the cotton spinners or other cotton operators are now