



COLORED COTTON MILLS CO.

THE annual meeting of The Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Co. Ltd., was held in Montreal last month. This is the first annual meeting of this newly formed Company, and the result was watched with more than ordinary interest.

ITS HISTORY.

This Company, as the trade is aware, is composed of the lately acquired St. Croix Cotton Co., of Milltown, N. B., The Canada Cotton Mills and the Stormont Cotton Mills at Cornwall, Ont., the Ontario Cotton Mills, Hamilton, Ont., the Merritt Cotton Mills, Merritt, Ont., the Dundas Cotton Mills, Dundas, Ont., and the Lybster Cotton Mills at Thorold, Ont. The present Company came into existence in April 1892, having acquired the properties above named, the whole being consolidated under one general management. The primary object of the formation of this Company was to endeavor to consolidate the different classes of goods in the different mills. One of the most serious difficulties in connection with manufacturing in this country, both in cottons and woollens, in the past, has been the large variety of different kinds of goods required to be made by each mill, the result of which system is a very considerable loss; as it is well known to all engaged in manufacturing that the fewer changes are made the better the results. The above pernicious system had continued since the formation of the original companies. Their all being different concerns necessitated each producing a variety of goods for the market, thus causing serious loss in the manufacturing as well as producing undue and ruinous competition as against each other. In England and the United States where the market is so much larger, the different mills there manufacturing textile goods are not subject to this severe drain on their margin of profits, as they, to a very large extent, manufacture only one or two special lines, the different mills taking up those most suited to them, there being a sufficient demand to keep them running on the lines thus chosen. Whereas in the limited population we have in Canada this is impossible; even the mills as at present organized are more or less subject to severe changes, causing loss of production and thereby largely increasing cost.

The present Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Co. purchased the mills above mentioned, nearly all of which had previously been losing concerns, at low values, and while the first year of the newly organized Company cannot be considered as a fair evidence of what can be done, still they have by strict economy in and concentration of management, been able to pay a dividend of six per cent. per annum, and to carry over a little over \$100,000 to the credit of profit and loss account. This amount, from a manufacturer's point of view, is not too large considering the extent of responsibility involved, but shows that there was wisdom in the endeavor to place these large labor-giving concerns, if possible, on a paying basis, thus rescuing them from the serious loss which the previous owners were continuing to sustain. These cotton mills are now being worked with a profit, and from the same point of view, colored cotton manufacturing has been

placed on a sound and solid basis, and as their trade grows the mills will continue to increase the number of their looms and the quantity of their output. But every person does not look at this consolidation from a manufacturing standpoint, and instead of watching the good results which have flowed from it, they have chosen rather to gloat over the possible bad results of this 'combine' or trust, not having, seemingly, learned to wait until they come to a mountain before they attempt to climb it.

HOW THE TRADE VIEW IT.

There is no one in the trade, so far as we can learn, who denies that this company has used every reasonable endeavor to meet the wants and wishes of the trade. When their service is compared with that of the Montreal Cotton Company, and that some other mills, it shows to excellent advantage. The trade frankly acknowledges that it seems to be the wish of the present controllers of this concern to endeavor to meet the general requirements of the jobbers of these textile goods by shipping all goods promptly.

All are aware that during the past winter a very marked increase in the price of raw cotton took place from 25 to over 30 per cent. advance and we have stated on more than one occasion that the general expectation then was that an increase in the values of the manufactured goods would be but a reasonable result. No advantage, however, was taken of this, the goods have continued to be placed on the market at the previous prices. (But it must be remembered that prices of some lines were increased 10 to 15 per cent. after the consolidation.) We have also made ourselves conversant with the general satisfaction as to the get-up and make of the goods made by this company. They are certainly as sightly and in every way as desirable goods as can be expected. It is well known to all engaged in the dry goods trade that a large proportion of the production of similar goods made by the Lancashire, England, manufacturers are what is known as "stuffed" or "filled" goods, which, owing to the long experience and improved facilities of the manufacturers there, are also placed on the market in very sightly condition, so much so as to deceive to a large extent many of the most experienced dealers, the difficulty only presenting itself when the good housewife places them in the wash-tub, out of which they come a much lighter and inferior cloth. The Canadian goods are, however, comparatively pure, and not only fast in color but cannot but give the fullest satisfaction in point of wear. The ordinary pure standard of American goods is maintained here, so that any difference of increased price is somewhat counterbalanced by the difference between the character of the English and Canadian goods.

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION.

The St. Croix Cotton Mill is the largest of the mills forming this company. It has about a thousand looms, with carding and spinning to keep the same fully employed. This mill is running more particularly on the finer grades of goods—such as gingham, fine flannelettes, Oxford shirtings, dress goods of all descriptions, skirtings, costume cloths, summer suitings, colonial serges, etc., etc.—while it manufactures a line of grey sheetings which is well known over the entire country. The "Canada" Mill, about 900 looms, manufactures certain lines of finer grades—such as flannelettes, suitings, chevots, etc.—while a portion of the machinery of this mill manufactures largely, with the "Stormont" Mill, 650 looms, a heavier grade of goods—such as cottonades of all kinds, tickings, heavy shirtings, denims, awnings, and that class of goods requiring more or less