

tic excellence on the influence which painters exercise on architects. To be successful the dry goods dealer and the milliner must possess the power of discrimination in the selection of colors and designs, and though the analogy appears somewhat remote, the combinations of colors and forms in a good picture do, nevertheless, illustrate how these two elements may best go hand in hand in manufactures. A merchant should also have, in the same way, some intelligent idea of what, for instance, he desires in an illuminated calendar or a business show card. His letter-headings, cheques, and other office stationery, may show not alone the individuality of the engraver, or printer, but some of his own, as well, expressed in color and design. All this, we venture to think, has a bearing and an influence, however indirect, upon the severely practical side of life that does much to smooth down its rougher edges and refine the taste of a people.

FEMININE FANCIES FOR SPRING.

Toronto millinery houses are again invaded by the spring influx of buyers of head gear and mantles. They are here in larger numbers than for the past two seasons, and are purchasing more freely. A political campaign does not, apparently, disturb the equilibrium of the feminine mind. It didn't seem to matter whether the "Old Man" got there or not. Matron and maid must have fresh spring togery, whoever rules the political roost. But it takes your milliner some little time to find out just what she wants, and here is where the old quotation, "Like patience on a monument," &c., fits so pat the case of the obliging salesmen on the various flats. The array of material is so bewildering that even the most experienced hesitates ere committing herself to a selection that must in turn be submitted to the fickle fancy of her particular clientele.

Feathers and flowers are, this year, displayed in great variety, the latter in buttercups, wheat and heather reproductions, being a prominent decorative feature for the coming season, while feathers are not going to be neglected. The orders booked for ribbons, laces and trimmings of all descriptions during the first two days of the opening were very numerous, and their character furnished a fair index of the dictum of Fashion with respect to these lines. Satin and velvet ribbons will be much worn, and cream, paille, mais, paillette, lemon, argente, nickle, granite, turquoise, and Maryland are colors that will be *en style*. New Yorkers, according to an exchange, are buying black silk velvet ribbons with a white pearl edge, and which used in rosettes with lace and grenadine, are prominent ornamentations. Black and colored Italian faille Francaise has also taken the fancy of American women; and colored glace faille Francaise, in combinations too numerous to mention, will embellish as trimming light dress-good stuffs and bonnets. Serge glaces is an entirely new thing there. It has handsomely colored borders, and the effect, when twisted into every conceivable shape, is said to be exceedingly fetching. Another artistic freak is zephyrine gauze. Parisian designers have sent, amongst other products, beautiful flowered effects on satin. To be in the fashion in New York one may qualify, in ribbons, on the strikingly handsome combinations of black grenadine and satin with metal flowers in gold or silver, or broche effects. Frisse and satin, gauze and satin, on black ground, with vari-colored flower designs—daisies for in-

stance—serge glaces with metal border, satin grounds with colored broche spots, ombre and glace, and granite, are safe to buy.

The hats offered to the Canadian buyer are low in the crown and mostly of a light lacy character, and made-up millinery will have more attention than usual. Bonnets are very diminutive, more so than ever before. Straw goods of fancy braiding will be much in vogue; gold braided bonnets also; and the prices for these three or four times those of former years. Something new in bonnet trimmings is the wide sash ribbon, all the way to 15 inches wide and in many designs and colors. Roman ornamental stripes, checks, clan tartans, &c., will be seen on the streets in due course. Ladies' jackets, of which Messrs. S. F. McKinnon & Co. have a very fine line, are seen with braided patterns, and the open front and the reefer will probably lead. The colors are chiefly fawns and blacks. In New York, the blouse and Jersey, so popular for the last two years, have given way to the "women's shirt," which in muslin and percale, the *Bulletin* says, has come to the front with a rush.

PHOSPHATE MINING IN OUR NORTH COUNTRY.

For years past, says the *Lindsay Post*, the township of Monmouth, in common with the other townships comprising the provisional county of Haliburton, has been looked upon as possessing valuable mineral deposits, and veins of iron and copper ore have been uncovered here and there by industrious prospectors; but the mines have remained unworked for lack of capital and a profitable market. A couple of years ago a further discovery in the shape of crystals of phosphate was made, and several Toronto gentlemen became interested and engaged a practical mineralogist to thoroughly inspect the neighborhood. Upon the strength of his report as to the richness and extent of the phosphate deposit, a company was at once formed with a capital of \$100,000, of which Mr. John J. Gartshore, dealer in railway supplies, Toronto, is president; and T. Lockhart Gordon, lawyer, Mr. Gzowski, banker, Kilgour Bros., and other men of capital, are members. Some 1,400 acres surrounding the "pocket" was at once purchased, and Mr. F. Straith Martin, C.E., a gentleman experienced in all kinds of mining, was engaged to superintend the development of their property. Twenty men were put to work during the latter part of last summer; thirteen pits were sunk, some to a considerable depth, and upwards of 100 tons of phosphate of exceptional purity—nearly 89 per cent.—was taken out. Next summer operations will be resumed upon a large scale. In all some 25 or 30 veins have already been traced, one of them being four feet in width. Solid phosphate crystals are also to be found in abundance—one taken out last fall weighed close upon 300 lbs.

INFORMATION FOR SUGAR BEET GROWERS.

A bulletin will shortly be issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of special interest to beet growers. It will present in a condensed form the data concerning which the most frequent inquiries are made by persons desiring to grow sugar beets. It will review briefly the climatic conditions, the varieties, soil, fertilizers, rotation, preparation of the land, planting, and all the details of culture up to and including the harvesting and delivery at the factory. Estimates are given of the cost

of growing sugar beets in various countries. The production of seed, to the scientific methods of which pursued in foreign countries, is chiefly due the extraordinary increase in the sugar content of the beet which now makes it so profitable a crop, is given a special chapter. The bulletin contains also some suggestions and information with regard to the manufacture of sugar of a nature to be of interest to all growers of this crop, and some statistical information showing the comparative development of the cane and beet sugar industries, together with the consumption of sugar per head in the principal countries during the year 1889. There are several illustrations presenting the various implements best adapted to the culture of sugar beet. The bulletin, says an American exchange, will be very brief and thoroughly practical in its character. Applications for copies should be made to the Secretary of Agriculture or to the Chemist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

NOTES FOR MANUFACTURERS.

The condition of the paper trade, says *Brad-streets*, is regarded by dealers as much more favorable than at the beginning of last year. At present the whole tendency of prices is upward, while a year ago a decided weakening in values was apparent. Larger production and consumption than during any previous year and exceedingly low prices were the characteristic features of 1890. Competition among both manufacturers and jobbers was the main factor in reducing values. It is probably true that margins of profit were never before so small in the paper trade as they were last year.

Every stroke an engine makes above its normal speed is a waste of steam, and if the engine be large, a vast waste of fuel takes place; on the other hand, a loss in speed reduces the production of the whole factory in direct proportion to that reduction of speed, the loss of one revolution in twenty reducing the capacity of every machine five per cent. A variation of one revolution in five in a throttling engine is common, and in most cases is unavoidable.—*American Exchange*.

The Chown & Cunningham Company of Kingston has received an order from British Columbia for another car-load of stoves and ranges.

A. Harris & Sons, of Brantford, the large manufacturers of farming implements, will, it is said, start a supply house in Windsor.

The Italian Government, after exhaustive experiments with oils, has ordered that all exposed parts of machinery are to be lubricated exclusively with castor oil, while mineral oils are to be used for cylinders and similar lubrications.

Professor Ayrton estimates that the power annually expended in the Falls of Niagara is as great as that which would be provided for steam engine purposes by \$280,000,000 worth of coal a year. Even these immense figures are based on the estimate that the coal would only cost \$1.25 a ton.

A statistician in the *Edinburgh Scotsman* has calculated that a week's work in Birmingham comprises among its various results, the fabrication of 14,000,000 pens, 6,000 bedsteads, 7,000 guns, 300,000,000 cut nails, 1,000,000 buttons, 1,000 saddles, 5,000,000 copper or bronze coins, 20,000 spectacles, 6 tons of paper-mache wares, upwards of £30,000 worth of jewellery, 4,000 miles of iron and steel wire, 10 tons of pins, 5 tons of half pins and hooks