

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF Fabrics

THE JOURNAL OF THE Textile Trades of Canada.

Vol. XIX.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL, APRIL, 1902.

No. 4

Canadian Journal of Fabrics

A Journal devoted to Textile manufactures and the Dry Goods and kindred trades.

Subscription: Canada and United States, \$1.00 per year. Great Britain, 5/ Advertising rates on application.

Offices: 62 Church Street, Toronto, and the Fraser Building, Montreal.

E. U. BIGGAR | BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO. | R. R. SAMUEL
PUBLISHERS

TRAVELLING REPRESENTATIVE: A. W. SMITH.

PHILADELPHIA AGENT: H. E. BURNETT, E. 2026 North 13th Street
BOSTON AGENT: F. F. GRANT, 5 Gayland St., Roxbury.
Toronto Telephone, Main 1392 | Montreal Telephone, Main 2589

Business correspondence should be addressed to Montreal; but cuts, news items and editorial correspondence to Toronto; cuts from abroad should be sent by post wherever possible, not by express. Changes of advertisements should be in our hands not later than the 10th of each month to ensure insertion.

THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion; to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition. Price, \$2.00.

BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO., Publishers.

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A DISTURBED CONDITION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Strikes among the operatives in the textile mills of the United States are quite numerous. The Fall River workers recently made a demand for a 10 per cent. increase, and obtained it, without much difficulty. This seems to have encouraged others to make similar demands, and the trouble was transferred to Lowell, where, however, the conditions are very different, the goods there manufactured being in the main of another class, which could not stand the increase. Matters at Lowell looked very threatening for a time, and a general strike was feared, for a 10 per cent. advance in

wages, which would have affected some 16,000 employees, and meant a loss of about \$150,000 a week to the operatives, and about as much to the mills. Fortunately, the worst was averted by concessions having been made, a citizens' committee having done much to bring about an understanding.

The American Woolen Co. has a strike on hand, and has been obliged to notify some of its customers that it is unable to deliver goods contracted for. This strike commenced at Olneyville, R.I., in opposition to the system whereby a weaver is obliged to operate two looms. It spread to the Beoli and Fitchburg mills and to other places. About 6,000 of the company's employees are affected. Some weavers are satisfied to run two looms, being able to earn about \$2 per week more than they could with one. Others claim that fines for bad work and the extra work required more than offset the extra pay. That the system is not universally popular among manufacturers is evident from the fact that not a very large percentage of mills have adopted it. An attempt was made in 1879 or 1880 to inaugurate the two-loom system in Providence, but it was not a success. The improved looms introduced since then have made it an easier problem. The general impression seems to be that it will not work except for the very plainest of goods.

The Tioga silk mill at Athens, Pa., is closed, seventy-five girl weavers having gone on strike because the management would not dispose of the help of two Syrians, to whom the majority of the help had taken a dislike.

There is a lockout in Augusta, Ga., every mill in the neighborhood being closed, the lockout affecting 10,000 men. There is also dissatisfaction among the mule spinners of the cotton yarn and thread mills of Rhode Island, and a demand for an increase of 10 per cent. in wages, which may lead to a strike, affecting at least 5,000 operatives.

Such a state of unrest among operatives has a very injurious effect upon the textile industry, and it is to be regretted that some more satisfactory way of settling such disputes between employers and employed cannot be devised.