

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS.

CANADIAN WALL PAPER ABROAD

THE export of Canadian wall paper continues to grow steadily. The trade began to be noticed in the official statistics at Ottawa in 1895, when about 10,000 rolls were exported. The next two years the export of wall paper averaged over 35,000 rolls. In 1898, according to the returns just published, there were 118,000 rolls sent abroad. A large quantity went to the United States. Australia took 21,000 rolls, and New Zealand 2,800 rolls. Some went to South Africa, some to South America (British Guiana) and some to the West Indies. Even England took about 8,000 rolls, and the trade, which is probably underestimated in our trade returns (as most of our exports are), is a credit to the success and methods of Canadian manufacturers.

PAPER HANGING BY MACHINERY

Paper hanging by machinery is the latest achievement, says The Werkstatt. The arrangement used for this purpose is provided with a rod upon which the roll of paper is placed. A paste receptacle with a brushing arrangement is attached in such a manner that the paste is applied automatically on the back of the paper. The end of the wall paper is fixed at the bottom of the wall, and only needs to be set by one workman. While the wall paper unrolls and provided with paste is held against the wall, the elastic roller follows on the outside which presses it firmly to the wall. When the wall paper has reached the top the workman pulls a cord whereby it is cut off from the remainder on the roll.

AN ARSENIC SCARE EXPLODED

A newspaper paragrapher in New York lately tried to raise a scare relative to arsenic poisoned wall papers. He mentioned the name of Prof. Chamot, of Cornell University, as having examined wall papers with a view to finding poison, and that cases of people being injured by them had been discovered. This drew out the following reply from Prof. Chamot: "Needless to say, it is only one of the canards which periodically go the rounds of the press. The writer is not aware that there is proof of any cases of arsenic poisoning from wall paper in Ithaca, although he has during the last five or six years met with several papers which were suspected of having arsenic in them, but which, upon examination, to contain such a large

amount of arsenic as to justify their being looked upon with grave suspicion, if not to be classed as dangerous. This statement refers to old papers now wholly out of style.

"Since but few modern papers have been examined, it is impossible to make any positive statement concerning the new 'spring styles' now on the market. We have reason to believe, however, that few, if any of these papers are printed with arsenical pigments, that is, pigments in which arsenic enters as an integral part of the coloring matter; if any arsenic is present it is doubtless there as an impurity in the materials used. The statement that all wall papers contain arsenic is perfect nonsense."

THE HISTORY OF WALL PAPER.

It is a little strange to be told that almost the earliest examples of wall papers in use are to be found in China, where they have been used in some provinces for several centuries. In Europe it would seem that the idea was first taken up in England, and in the sixteenth century wall coverings made to imitate, as far as possible, the velvet wall hangings of the great Genoese and Florentine merchant princes were occasionally introduced into wealthy English mansions, and the conventional patterns chosen were rarely altered or changed.

Up to about a hundred years since the patterns were printed on small square pieces of paper from wooden blocks, with the design cut in relief, one for each color, and, of course, printed by hand. Great care was, of course, necessary to secure an accurate register, and all this made the better qualities very expensive. The blocks generally used in England were some 21 inches wide, so as to be convenient for handling, as larger ones would have been too bulky for ready use. In "flock" papers, which in the days of our grandfathers was mostly in use, the design was first printed on size, the flock, i. e., wool of the necessary color cut very fine, or metallic powder was then sprinkled carefully and evenly over the paper, and, of course, adhered only to the pattern. If a fairly well marked relief is required the process is repeated, and the whole pressed between rollers. At the present day, however, all such antiquated methods are, of course, impossible, and although the ancient process often produced a good result, still much better effects can now be produced by machinery at a fraction of the former cost, for the improvement in color printing

machinery and in preparing colors has been one of the chief features of progress during the present reign.

Until a comparatively recent date it has been found difficult to make use of very many colors, but now even this obstacle is being removed, and machines specially designed for wall paper printing are manufactured which will print as many as 24 colors, and, moreover, produce results as artistically and as technically perfect as hand printing at, of course, a mere fraction of the expense. The progress of mural decoration for the house is, therefore, well worth careful attention, and on the other side of the water, art papers of a high grade are usually kept in stock by the leading stationery establishments. In England, where the division and specialization of function is much more marked than in the newer countries across the sea, stationers have not done so much in this line of business as perhaps they might, but we think that in the rush and hurry of competition, extensions in the direction here indicated would be found very advantageous to all concerned. — London Stationery Trades Journal.

A GREETING TO WALL PAPER DEALERS.

The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, in extending their thanks to their friends for the generous treatment accorded them last season, and the eminently favorable and satisfactory comments on their fine productions, desire to assure them that they are fully alive to the necessity of upholding their highly enviable reputation in the wall paper manufacturing world and will continue to consult their interests, thereby securing their continued confidence and cooperation.

The present century will undoubtedly go down in history as having achieved a most remarkable revolution in almost every branch of manufactures and most creditable and satisfactory results being attained, especially so in the manufacture of wall paper. The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, have played a very important part in attaining these results, and if at the turning point of the present century they make a halt for a moment in their march of progress to glance with pride at the past achievements, it is only to again take the lead in the earnest research for further improvements which will bring them nearer to the goal aimed at—perfection. The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, wish to tender a bit of advice to their friends: "Keep your eye" on their line for the season 1899-1900, an announcement of which will appear shortly. Although this will only be a foretaste of what may be looked for in the new century, they have spared neither expense nor endeavor to produce a line that will do credit to the Dominion and will be most