

duty as a draughtsman. In the big shops, the draughtsman takes the design or plan, prepares it in a practical way for work on the machine. He mounts and adjusts it properly, looks to the bringing out of every idea and effect, supplementing the designer's work in a way to get the very best results.

The woven goods are, in a way, worthless, till the bleacher, dresser, dyer and finisher have put their part into them. When it is said that the doctors of chemistry sit in council over the concoction of starches, degrees of heat to be employed in cooking same, etc., etc., a pretty good idea is given of the care that large concerns give their products. Behind the bleacher and dyer are chemists, who keep watch of every action and reaction, who keep a record of every cause and effect, and end by getting as good results as usually reward such care. To get the goods out soft, when softness is desired, or stiff, when stiffness is wanted, to get a silky finish on cottons, and elegant colors on silks, are some of the problems solved. Behind the bleacher are chemists, behind the dresser, starcher, dyer and finisher, i. e., behind each is a chemist. After the goods are finished, they must be made marketable. Nothing is neglected till the goods are in at our custom gates. Special attention is necessary to put up and pack them in attractive boxes. Strange as it may seem, the putting up is not the least important factor in the marketing of goods. Long experience, great skill, artistic tendencies, study, travel and observation are necessary to fit men for these important positions. A very great deal depends, nowadays, on the get-up of goods.

Nottingham and Calais have a class of workmen and women who have inherited skill, technical training, long experience. The two places work together. This enables them to bring out the very best results at the very lowest possible prices.

THE FIRST FLOOR OIL CLOTH.

The manufacture of oil cloth floor coverings was first undertaken in East Winthrop, Me., by Ezekiel Bailey. But his very first attempt was not at carpet-making. Having met a peddler one day, he bought a table-cover, made of a combination of burlap and paint. Such things were a luxury in the country at that time, and Ezekiel Bailey was shrewd enough to foresee a big demand for them if the cost could be moderated a bit. He decided to try to make them himself. Procuring a square of burlap, or rather enough burlap from which to fashion a square of the desired size, he framed up the fabric as the women used to quilts at a quilting bee, the only difference being that the burlap was framed, or stretched over a table made of planed boards large enough for the full spread of the burlap. With paint and brush he began his work. The first coat was a filer, the next, a thicker one, gave body to the cloth, and when this was rubbed down to a smooth surface the last coat was prepared. This was of a different color, and was spread on thick. Then, with a straight edge, a piece of board with a true thin edge, reaching across the whole surface of the painted cloth, the finishing touches were put on. Commencing at one end of the fabric, the straight edge was moved back and forth, and straight along over the fresh paint once or twice, and the whole left to dry.

Employing a boy to help him, he turned out tablecloths as fast as his limited facilities would permit, and, as he progressed, new ideas for decorating took shape in his mind. In less than a year he had men out on the road selling them. It was while engaged in this work that he thought out the idea of oil-cloth carpets, tracing out the figures he wished to stamp on blocks of wood. His first carpet was a wonder in its way, and, could it now be found, it would, undoubtedly, find its way into some museum of curiosities. But the scheme was a success, and from that time, when the first oil cloth carpet was made, Ezekiel Bailey's fortune was assured. The turning out to perfection of an oil-cloth carpet in those days was a task that would make a person in these piping times of labor-saving machinery wish for something easier. All the smoothing or rubbing down was done by hand. Heavy long-bladed knives were used to scrape down the rough body coats of paint, and a smooth surface, on which to stamp the geometrical figures in colors, was fetched after polishing with pumice stone. Ere long the demand for oil-cloth carpeting became so general that other factories were built. There was living not far from East Winthrop at this time a shrewd farmer named Sampson, who had kept his

eye on the progress of Bailey, and when the demand for the carpeting increased, taking a neighbor in as a partner, Mr. Sampson built a factory, and in a very short time was in a position to be considered a formidable rival of Mr. Bailey.

But the originator of the oil-cloth carpet was not to be outdone. Discerning good returns from a plant established close to a big centre of consumption, Mr. Bailey entered into a deal with New Jersey capitalists, and a big factory was set going in that State. A trusted employee of the Bailey concern in East Winthrop, Levi Richardson, who still lives and is the proprietor of a modest little store in East Winthrop, was sent to New Jersey to instruct the green hands there in the art of the manufacture. While thus engaged, Mr. Richardson's brain was busy with the problem of labor-saving. The result was the present patent used in most factories, whereby as much rubbing down can be done in one day as could have been accomplished in four by the old hand method.

The original factory erected by Ezekiel Bailey was long ago burnt down. Another put up in the same place was also burned. The present factory is well protected by devices for extinguishing fire, and it is kept busy all the year through. The work done at East Winthrop now is all hand work, just the same as thirty or forty years ago, the makers still adhering to the belief that printing done by hand is much more durable than the machine-made work. The Sampson factory, which stood within three miles of the original Bailey factory, was also burned.

A NEW PATENT SHUTTLE CHECK.

D. W. Sherriff, Carleton Place, Ont., has invented a shuttle check to take the place of the roll of cloth or waste behind the picker, by so doing to take the sudden stop from the shuttle, also to prevent so many breakages in the filling. Much softer bobbins and tenderer yarn can be used, the makers claim. The loom will run much easier, will need less fixing, can be run much faster, no picking sticks being broken from weaver's starting up loom when the shuttle is put up against the picker; can be run with a poorer picker, the pickers and shuttles will run longer, break less binders, less waste, etc.

The advantage over other checks are as follows:—The strap or buffer will last much longer; where the wear comes behind the picker, there is a small strap which can be removed and replaced without removing check from loom. There is not a solid attachment about the strap, as each part rocks and moves at each pick of loom, and by so doing there is less wear on the strap. Pickers can be changed without removing check from loom. With this advantage, you are not looking for new set screws, getting new threads cut, etc. This check is very simple, neat, nothing to wear or get out of order, and can be put on any loom.

TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The following are the sterling values of the textile imports into Canada during Nov., 1896, 1897, and the eleven months to Nov., 1896, 1897 —

EXPORTS TO CANADA.	Month of Nov.,		Eleven months to Nov.,	
	1896.	1897	1896.	1897
Wool	£ 1,522	£ 9,285	£ 8,562	£ 40,261
Cotton piece-goods	14,124	26,699	386,196	342,578
Jute piece-goods	11,101	9,513	143,831	117,550
Linen piece-goods	3,983	7,787	126,223	107,320
Silk, lace	84	441	6,984	5,088
" articles partly of	1,302	1,902	25,768	19,269
Woolen fabrics	5,049	6,109	244,028	208,354
Worsted fabrics	10,854	27,646	478,049	519,294
Carpets	3,453	9,097	146,396	129,890
Apparel and slops	17,639	17,538	329,141	283,117
Haberdashery	3,189	5,127	145,151	132,314

—The J. of F. has to thank D. K. McLaren, textile mill furnisher, Victoria Square, Montreal, for a copy of a very handsome calendar, showing a view of Windsor Castle, with portraits of the Queen and Prince and Princess of Wales.