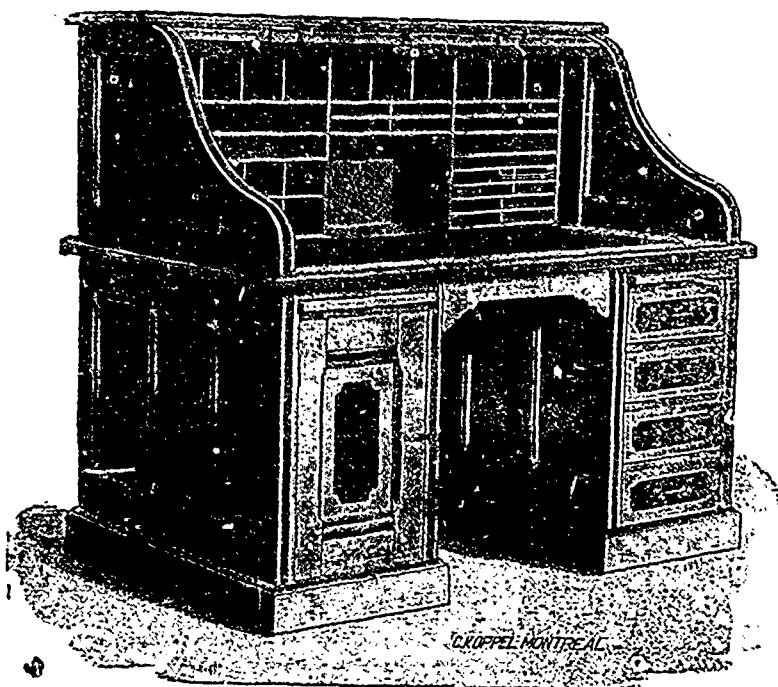


THE S & COY, MONTREAL,



—MANUFACTURERS OF—

CYLINDER,
ROLL TOP,
PEDESTAL,
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DESKS

AGENTS FOR MANITOBA:

**Scott & Leslie,
WINNIPEG.**

Asbestos in Canada.

Among the rich natural resources of Canada, says the *Toronto Empire*, its mineral wealth is such as to place it in the first rank. Notably is this the case with regard to asbestos, that strange mineral fibre gifted with the property of resisting heat. Canada shared with Italy the advantage of their being the two countries that supply the world with this rock cotton with its marvellous and useful properties. The magnitude and value of the output may be realized from the fact that the comparatively few Canadian mines now worked yield 4,000 tons yearly, and much of it is worth \$80, \$100, or even \$120 a ton. Yet the mines are very far from being fully developed, and the output could be very largely increased with the constantly increasing demands as new uses are discovered or the old ones better appreciated. The locality in which the asbestos occurs is restricted. It is found in veins in the serpentine of the pre-Cambrian formation, the "altered Quebec group," by Sir William Logan. All the mines at present worked are situated in the two counties of Megantic and Beauce in the province of Quebec, though veins are known to exist in other counties of the same province, and discoveries may not improbably be made in parts of New Brunswick, where there is the same geological formation. Besides being very productive these veins contain asbestos which is not excelled for purity and quality by any in the world. Much of it when crushed out is a pure white, flexible, silky fibre, well fitted to be spun and wove for the most delicate fibres for which it is used. Large works in England

and the United States are supplied from these Canadian mines. The uses to which asbestos is put are almost endless, whenever a flexible material is needed that will resist flame or acids, act as a non-conductor, or can be purified by heat. Perhaps it is most largely used either in its textile form or in that of a cement formed from the coarser kinds, as a covering for boilers, steam pipes, etc. The loose fibre is employed as packing for pistons and steam joints, to close the breach of heavy guns, for filtering, and as lint for wounds, in these uses being at once cleansed by heat. Spun and woven it forms unflammable theatre curtains, fire balloons, fireman's clothing, ropes for hot places, and a variety of other objects. Pulped it becomes paper and board, from the imperishable page of a register, through the gradations of lining and sheathing material, to the stout shelving of a costly library. And as a cement it is used for many purposes where a non-conductor of heat or protection against fire is required. These are only a few out of innumerable applications that are being constantly invented.—*Commercial Bulletin*.

Christmas Novelties.

Probably the most difficult kind of stock which a merchant can undertake to lay in is that classed as novelties. He is perplexed to know what to buy and how to buy it. And when the fact is taken into consideration that there are numbers of merchants who, notwithstanding repeated efforts to strike the "happy medium," are from year to year carrying over novelties purchased for a certain season's trade,

it is not at all surprising that the laying in of a stock of novelties, especially for the Christmas trade, should so puzzle the merchant's brain.

To devise a code of rules for the government of all merchants under different circumstances, when purchasing their novelties, is impossible, but, just as the physician gives his patients medicine to assist nature in effecting a cure, we may be able to assist in making the dealer's course clearer, or to set his own faculties at work to devise methods that may prove a safer policy.

First, it is necessary for the merchant to determine what will best suit his trade—the tastes and peculiarities of his customers; next, to select some reputable wholesale firm with which to deal; and then comes the most difficult part of the programme, namely, to determine just how much to buy; but by keeping the fact steadily in view that "it is better to buy too little than too much, and far better to go twice for the load than to overload once," the danger of finding too large a stock on hand when the Christmas season is over will be considerably lessened.—*The Merchant*.

The smoker who has not yet tried the "Myrtle Navy" tobacco has new pleasures before him in the use of "the weed." An investment of twenty-five cents will furnish him with the means of giving it a fair test. Let us advise him to make the experiment, he will find the tobacco to be all that its thousands of friends claim for it, and they are far from stingy in their praise.