

interview with the CANADIAN JOURNAL OF FABRICS, Mr. Taylor stated that the British manufacturers were adapting themselves to the changed conditions brought about by the McKinley tariff, and Bradford and Huddersfield were gradually reviving from the shock which had been dealt their trade by the imposition of the new duties. Canadian manufacturers are not apparently so far behind in the industrial race as the pessimistic among us sometimes aver. Mr. Taylor finds that Canadian mills are adding largely to their plants along the newest and most approved lines. Many of them are equipped with machinery which is fully equal to that possessed by their great rivals across the Atlantic. Dyestuffs being on the free list helps to lessen the cost of production, and the fact that all new colorings and new departures in methods are brought before the attention of the Canadian producer almost as soon as to his British competitor, should enable us to hold our own fairly well. Of course allowance must be made for the limited market and the great variety of output which that limitation enforces.

Carpets from the United States are no longer a factor in the Canadian market, and probably will not be seen at all here for some time, except job lines, which for some special reason are sent out of the country to be slaughtered. The new wool duties in the United States have raised the cost of carpets entirely beyond an export basis. The carpet market of the world is of course affected by the shortage in hemp occasioned by the Spanish-American hostilities in the Phillipine Islands, and this shortage will be felt more strongly in the United States, so that prices there will probably advance still further. The Canadian carpet manufacturer is subjected to a particularly severe form of competition by means of the sale in Canada at bargain prices of imported goods, which are for the most part seconds, and could not be offered on the home market by the producer without injuring the reputation and prices of his regular output. As no one but an expert can detect a second in carpets of this class, the competition is most injurious.

The soap manufacturers of Canada are keeping abreast with the times also, Mr. Taylor finds, and are offering the manufacturers soaps quite equal to those on the British market. These soaps are also produced by the most improved methods, and the bi-products, such as glycerine, etc., are saved.

Mr. Taylor commented on the prevailing tendency of commerce in Great Britain towards the formation of huge joint stock companies which carry on, under one management, the various businesses of the firms which become a part of the new organization, thus effecting large savings in management and avoiding the unnecessary duplication of agents, travelers, etc. The most recent organization of this kind of interest to the textile trade is the British Dye-wood and Chemical Company, which has been formed to carry on the business of E. D. Milnes & Bro., Bury; Mucklow & Co., Bury and Glasgow; John Dawson & Co., Alloa, and W. R. Scott & Co., Glasgow, with capital stock of £570,000. The employment of such a mass of capital as this should enable the new company to carry on pro-

duction on a most profitable basis and at the same time to place the product on the market at very reasonable rates.

### THE AMERICAN COTTON CROP.

The statistics which are periodically issued by the United States Agricultural Bureau, form the means by which an approximate estimate of crop prospects can be arrived at. It may fairly be presumed that any error in the method of estimation is a fairly constant one, and that, for that reason, approximate comparisons can be made. According to the figures supplied a short time ago, only 92.35 per cent. of the area planted last season has been devoted to the cultivation of cotton this year, the acreage being actually 22,400,000, against 24,320,000. On this showing it would naturally be expected that there would be a decrease in the quantity of cotton grown, and that the supply would be to that extent limited. As a matter of fact, no such decrease is spoken of, and the condition of the plant is reported to be better than at any time during the past five years, with the exception of 1897. The increase in the yield which follows this state of things will more than compensate for the decreased acreage, so that, unless there is during the next two months considerable damage, there is not likely to be any actual decrease in the quantity of cotton harvested. It may therefore be taken for granted that there is not likely to be much chance of a scarcity of American cotton for the next season.

### COTTON FIRES AND COTTON BALES.

BY R. H. SCOTTER, C.E.

In order to appreciate the importance of adequate fire preventative measures in cotton warehouses, it is necessary to point out the enormous extent of the cotton trade in Liverpool. In the early days of the growth of the cotton manufacture, Manchester, South-East Lancashire, and North Cheshire seemed marked out by nature as its ideal situation. An abundance of running water, a damp climate, and the presence of an industrial community assisted among other causes to make Manchester what it is to-day. Now at least three quarters in value of the raw cotton imported for use in South Lancashire comes from the United States of America, and of this amount all but a very small proportion passes through Liverpool. Liverpool, it must be remembered, is a port of transit, as owing to the various causes it is not possible to manufacture the cotton there. It is, however, warehoused for some time pending delivery to the mills inland. In 1896, the total weight of cotton imported into the United Kingdom was 15,668,900 cwt., valued at £36,272,039; of this amount 12,446,000 cwt., valued at £27,965,000, came into the country from the United States. The