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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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Editorial.

When describing the mills of the Rosamond Woolen Company, at Almonte,

The Almonte Weavers. Ont. in the issue of the CANADIAN JOURNAL

OF FABRICS, January, 1896, we took occasion to thus refer to the workers in that busy hive of industry. A large number of them who have been employed by the company for a long period own their own houses, and this is true not only of the men, but there are also property-holders among the women. The ordinary system of hiring people for what their work is worth, and discharging them when

incompetent or wasteful, is followed, and there is absolutely no labor question in the town, nor has there been at any time. There is no labor union, nor has there ever been a strike, lockout, or any disturbance or trouble among the working people. In many cases the employees in the mill to day are children and grandchildren of those who were in the mill forty years ago. Some time ago a system of profit-sharing among the employees was undertaken by the management, but as it was found to be unsatisfactory, the old system was restored. A number of those employed in the more responsible positions in the mill are stockholders to a small extent." January, 1898, however, has seen the addition of another chapter to the history of the mill, and that too in quite another vein. On Jan. 27th the company posted a notice in the weave room of a readjusted scale of wages, which the employees claimed meant a reduction of ten per cent. in their pay, and so struck. The weavers, about eighty in all, went out on strike within an hour of the posting of the new wage schedule.

We believe the management of the
Facts of the mill have been considering for some time
Strike. the scale of wages paid for weaving.

The old way was a fixed price per yard for every 20 picks per inch, and this system has been discarded by most mills as being unfair to not only the weavers but also the employer. The system in use, generally, is a giving a larger price per yard than the old scale, on goods which have a smaller number of picks per inch, and decreasing the amount proportionately as the number of picks per inch increases. The management also claims that the Rosamond Woolen Co. has been paying more for weaving during past years, than any other mill of its class in the country. However, the sliding scale of wages which has just been adopted is very similar, and to all intent the same as other concerns in Canada making the same class of goods—in fact, the scale of these mills was the basis of the recent change, we are assured. When the scale was posted up in the weave room, the weavers did not take time to consider it properly, but after a short consultation with the manager after the scale was posted, went out. Of course, they have acknowledged since that they made a mistake in acting so quickly, without having the figures thoroughly before them, as the manager had promised them on the first day they struck, that if any injustice could be proven in the scale, he would look over it the next day and do what he could to rectify it. The