

flour-milling industry, the boot and shoe industry, the woollen industry, the iron and steel industry, and the chemical and allied products industries, were included in the 1922-23 edition of the Year Book.

1.—The Cotton Manufacturing Industry.

The value of cotton as a textile fibre was appreciated many centuries ago, when cotton cloth, made entirely by hand and universally considered a luxury, was nevertheless quite widely used. As a result of the industrial revolution in England and later in the United States and the adaptation of cotton manufacture to machine process, it has now become one of the most universally used and inexpensive of the textiles.

The cotton plant, from the seed of which the fibres are taken, is of tropical or sub-tropical nature and is grown most advantageously under moderate conditions between latitudes 40° north and 30° south, the areas most favourable to its production including the southern States of the United States bordering on the Atlantic and the gulf of Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, India, some parts of West Africa and China.

It was only at the close of the 18th century that earlier hand methods of separating the cotton fibre from the seed in preparation for further treatment were replaced by a machine process on the invention of Whitney's saw gin, and since that time the manufacture of cotton goods has been still further adapted to machine methods, with resulting reduction in cost and improvement in the quality of product.

The manufacture of cotton products has been carried on for many years on a larger scale in the Lancashire district of England than elsewhere in the world, owing largely to the early start it received in the opening years of the 19th century, the peculiarly favourable climate for the various spinning and weaving operations, and the comparative cheapness of skilled labour. It has been offered considerable competition by the mills of the New England states, where in the Fall River area particularly, very similar climatic conditions and a somewhat comparable labour force are found, in addition to the water power resources which formed such an important factor in the original location of the mills. The British industry, however, is still predominant.

Early Canadian Cotton Mills.—Canadian manufacture of cotton goods may be said to date from 1844, when a mill was erected in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The capital was fixed at £12,000 and the promoters formed the first limited liability company in Canada. The mill had a capacity of 1,200 spindles, and grey sheetings were manufactured successfully for several years. The manager was Adam Lomas, father of the proprietor of what in later years was the Lomas Woollen Mill of Sherbrooke.

The next mill was established at Thorold in Upper Canada in 1847. The capacity in spindles is unrecorded, but the mill operated 15 to 20 looms and made grey sheetings and other plain goods along with cotton batting. The factory was operated intermittently until 1864, when it was destroyed by fire.

A third and more successful cotton mill was founded in Montreal in 1853 by F. W. Harris. The mill had a capacity of 1,500 spindles and 46 looms, and made tickings, denims and seamless bags. Two years after its establishment, a batting and wadding mill was added. The cost of the machinery was £6,500, and the mill employed 70 hands, mostly women and children, whose wages amounted to £2,000 annually. About 300 yards of denims and ticks were made per day. The batting and wadding branch cost £3,000 and had 13 carding machines. It turned out