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## Canadian Journal of Fabrics

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### THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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## Editorial

**Room for Improvement.** We are apt to get the idea fixed in our heads that because of the advances made in machinery in this age, all that we have and make is superior to that of other times. That machines are not capable of everything is clearly shown when we compare the product of skilled fingers six thousand years ago with the output of our most improved mills to-day. The story is told of the bringing of a mummy from Medum by Professor Flinders Petrie, and of its unwrapping by Professor Stewart,

who found it to be enfolded in a gauze-like texture, which was at first taken for papyrus, but accidentally discovered, by microscopical examination, to be linen which was incomparably finer than any which could be had to-day. In the same way, the muslins of Hindustan, that were made in Hindustan with appliances of the most primitive description, and by methods that had been at a standstill from time immemorial, cannot be equalled by the product of the machinery of to-day. Those who think that the industries of the Western world are about to go down before the competition of the reviving East, should take into consideration that it is in the West that advances in machinery are made, and that until the product of the machine stands equal to the product of the hands of long ago, there is room for the machine to improve; and while the machine is advancing, the products of the West will maintain their position in the markets of the world.

### Commercial Dry-Rot.

A short time ago the *Shareholder*, of Montreal, referred to the failure of a Huddersfield firm as being caused by "dry-rot, i.e., trying to do business in 1895 on the principles in vogue in the preceding century." The *Draper's Record*, London, England, whose attentions to Canadian journals have recently been more marked than good natured, promptly ran a tilt for the honor of British commerce and its own advancement, and entered the lists to this fanfar: "The criticism is not very clear, but with a knowledge of the fact that E. P. Savery & Co. stopped payment owing to a disappointment in their remittances from America and Canada, I take it that the *Shareholder* means that relatively there is not very much difference between Canada of to-day and Canada in 1795 so far as punctuality of remittances is concerned." Without pausing to explain to the *Draper's Record* that "America and Canada" is a phrase of almost as much meaning as "Europe and England," we would point out that remittances from Canada are, as a rule, very satisfactory, and that if "America" is here supposed to designate the United States of America, the Montreal publication is in no way concerned therewith, the chaotic condition of fiscal legislation in the United States being a sufficient explanation of all deficiencies in the matter of prompt payments from that quarter. Canada may be America—it is the larger half of the northern continent—but the United States is not America, and we decline to allow