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### THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures  
of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale  
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### DRYING WOOL BEFORE CARDING.

The wool worked in a spinning mill is not dried, but merely whizzed well before carding, and the question is asked whether it would not be of advantage in the spinning of the staple if the wool were dried previously? In answering this question, the experience of German manufacturers may be of interest. A writer in the *Monatschrift fur Textil Industrie*, after remarking that it is the aim of the spinner to produce an even yarn, says this can be obtained only when a certain quantity of water is added to the oil used for lubricating the wool in a dry state.

The adage that "experience is the best teacher" applies forcibly to the matter of oiling wool. Many a manufacturer has experimented according to his own

ideas, but has found himself forced to return to the old established method. It is best to adhere to the old and well-tried methods of lubricating wool, viz., to first dry it, and then while in a dry condition apply the required quantity of lubricant. No precise rules can be laid down, because the nature of the lubricant, as well as that of the wool, must be taken into consideration. For delicate colors and mixtures, olive oil is to be preferred, while for general purposes oleine is the lubricant most employed, principally because it readily saponifies with aqua ammonia, and does not then require any great amount of washing. If this lubricant is free from acid, the following directions should be observed. For a well-dried wool, capable of being spun into a thread of about 18,000 meters per kilogramme, 12 per cent. of oleine is generally used, and double that quantity of hot water, adding sufficient aqua ammonia to effect a complete mixture of the two substances. This is produced by continued stirring with a broom, and the mixture is to be used at once. By following this recipe it is not difficult for the expert to determine the necessary quantity of lubricant to be employed, taking a little less for inferior wool which requires less oil, and a little more for a better-grade staple. The color, the quantity of lubricant which much wool naturally contains, etc., must also be taken into consideration.

Carders generally agree on the correctness of the above rule, as long-continued experience has fully demonstrated the fact that wool in this condition works best upon the carding engine. It is also a well established fact that this manner of lubrication exerts the best influence upon the elasticity of the yarn in fine spinning, and, besides—and this is a very important point—the clothing of the carding engine is least injured. It would, therefore, appear inadvisable to treat the wool while in a wet state, even though it had been whizzed, because, no matter how well this operation might have been performed, the wool would still contain too much water. This excess of water causes great mischief, as it cannot enter into combination with the oil. The quality of the yarn depends principally upon the equal percentage of water throughout the entire lot of wool, as the weighings for the carding engine are always alike. Besides this, the method could be followed only in spinning mills, in which white or single-colored wool is worked exclusively.