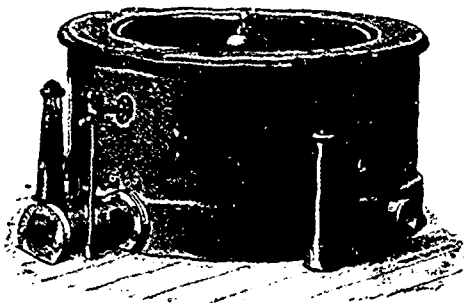


combined alkali, nor an excess of tallow, only removes the superfluous greasy matter adhering to the outside of the fiber, and leaves the fiber itself unimpaired. If, however, any chemical be used in conjunction with soap, the best results will be obtained with pearl ashes. The quantity of potash soap necessary for washing wool must depend on the quality and condition of the wool itself. Potash soap should be dissolved in the proportion of 1 pound to the gallon of water, and a portion added to the washing bowls as required. Refined pearl ashes should be dissolved in the proportion of 1 pound to the gallon of water and a small quantity of this solution added from time to time in the first and second bowls. I will take a scouring machine with three bowls; the bowls being primed thus: First bowl—6 gallons of liquid potash soap and pearl ashes combined. Second bowl—3 gallons of liquid potash soap and pearl ashes combined. Third bowl—Hot water. After working for some time the first bowl is let off and receives the suds from the second bowl with three gallons of liquid potash soap and pearl ashes; the second receives the hot water from the third bowl with three gallons of potash soap and pearl ashes, and the third bowl is again filled with clean hot water. The real cleansing, it must be borne in mind, is after all performed in the first bowl and strictest attention must be paid to this fact. If, however, the wool be very dirty the proportions mentioned above may be increased all through the process of scouring. On no account should soda ash or soda crystals be used with potash soap, as this simply destroys the whole advantage claimed for potash soap. Another important point is the temperature of the water. It should not be too hot. Hot water certainly washes more quickly, but it causes a greater loss in weight of the wool.

Any temperature that the hand cannot bear is too great, but dirty and very greasy wools require a greater heat than cleaner qualities. Hot water also takes out the natural curl of the wool and thus destroys its spinning properties. Many a bad spin is due to nothing but washing in too hot water. And now in conclusion, the object in scouring is not simply to remove the greasy product from the material, but also the dirt and other matter with which the wool may be covered. A wool thoroughly cleansed should be of a pure color, should handle soft and elastic, and produce a true thread. On the other hand, wool which is not properly scoured takes a streaky color; the dyes do not penetrate the fibers, but remain on the surface.

—Fred. S. Lyke, Western representative of the United Shirt and Collar Company, of Troy, N.Y., is responsible for the statement that a gigantic trust is about to be formed of the different collar and shirt industries of the United States. This trust, which is to be controlled by English capitalists, will be organized within a short time, with a capital of \$100,000,000. The corporation will control the output of the leading industries of this kind in this country, and will also own and operate its own cotton mills. According to the information given out, the plants will be consolidated where advisable, and the business conducted on a more economical basis. The goods manufactured will be sold through agencies, and as far as convenient, the services of traveling agents will be dispensed with. The trust, according to report, will embrace the principal concerns of Troy, Rochester, and other centres of manufacture. Agents of the combination are visiting the principal manufacturers of shirts and collars in the West, and the obvious purpose of the syndicate is to buy outright the larger concerns. Practically the entire output of the United States will be controlled.

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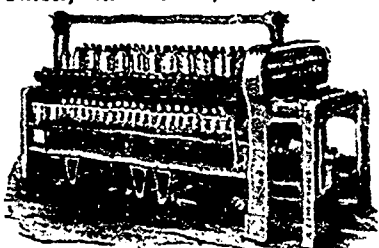
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