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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 and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion; to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition. Price, \$3.00.

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—Apparently the experiment of the German Emperor, in sending a party of negroes from the Southern States of America to the German colonies of Africa, has proved satisfactory, as he is negotiating for the despatch of a second party there. An account of the Kaiser's first experiment recently appeared in this journal from a letter from one of the pupils, who were all selected from Booker T. Washington's celebrated negro school at Tuskegee, Ala.

—A sign of the times, pointing to the early introduction of the metric system of weights and measures, was the resolution adopted by the conference of the Colonial Premiers, in London, as follows. "Resolved, that it is advisable to adopt the metric system of weights and measures for use within the Empire, and the Prime Ministers urge the Governments represented at this conference to give consideration to the question of its early adoption." Each month some chamber of commerce or other commercial or scientific body in Great Britain endorses this simple system of weights and measures, and there is a prospect that that most conservative of bodies, the British public, will put its convictions into action.

—The production of artificial indigo from naphthaline continues to increase, and is giving the indigo planting and manufacturing industry of India much anxious thought. As before mentioned, the substitute is sold much cheaper, and those concerned with the production of the real article will not only have to produce it much cheaper, but the planters must improve methods at the agricultural end if the Indian trade is to hold its own. It is said that one German firm alone—the aniline and soda factory at Ludwigshafen—has invested 18,000,000 marks, or about two and a quarter million dollars, in an indigo-making plant. The German methods of manufacture are kept secret as far as possible. As for the reception of the artificial article on the market, it seems to be preferred by small dyers, because it can be had in small quantities, and does not, like natural indigo, have to be carefully stored. It is also easy to prepare for use, is vivid in coloring, and yields uniform shades. The points in favor of the natural indigo are that it gives more solidity to the cloth, and the colors stand sun and rain better, and is best for dyeing large quantities of cloth that are intended for out-door service. The French Government, for instance, still insists on the natural dye for military uniforms, but the German Government, influenced by the makers of the artificial product, who are so far all Germans, accepts both dyes. During the past year the price of natural indigo has fallen over ten per cent. owing to the competition of the new product.