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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufacture 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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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

	PAGE		PAGE
Bleaching Flannels	143	Japanese Cotton Manufacturers	130
with Sulphuric Acid	149	Joke, A Grim	133
Carding and Spinning Machine	148	Knitting Shawls	143
Carpet Manufacture, Revolution in	135	Linen Trade	132
Color from Textiles, Slipping the	136	Literary Notes	142
Dyehouse Diseases	134	Maland Wool Scouring Machine	135
Dyeing of Unions with Diamond		Metric System	129
Dyestuffs	134	on the Continent	138
Dyers, Practical Points for Foremen	140	Mills, Among the	144
Dyestuffs, New	141	Morgan have our Mills	143
Fabric Hems	147	Shawls	143
Factory Inspection	131	Silk Trade, British	141
Fiber Cultivation in India	139	South Africa Textile Trades	130
Ginning, Evolution of	148	Textile Centres, Foreign	137
Hosiery Trade of England	130	Design	133
Ice Colors in Wool and Silk	140	Wool Market	143
Imperial Trade Notes	139	Woolen Mills, Closing the	139
India Woolen Mills	131	" and Tariff	131

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

(FROM THE CANADIAN ENGINEER).

We have several communications on the subject of the Metric System of weights and measures. Two of our correspondents regret that we oppose the introduction of the Metric System into Canada. We regret that this meaning should be taken out of our article in March number, which was meant to enlighten the Toronto gentlemen who appear to think that all we need to do is to learn the metric tables and the whole thing is done. We wished to point out that in the engineering trades, particularly, a heavy expense is involved in changing machinery, tools, and stocks of goods, such as nuts, bolts, set-screws, etc., and that after all this is done, we have not got an ideal system of measurements. While we show this, we confess that the Metric System, with its admitted faults, is immensely superior

to our own jumble of inconsistent and inconvenient weights and measures. That it is superior to the system, or lack of system, in use in Anglo-Saxon countries, is made evident by the fact that starting with France, a little over a hundred years ago, it has found acceptance in one country after another, till it is now used by forty-four nations with an aggregate population of 485,000,000. The associated Chambers of Commerce, of Great Britain, seeing how foreign trade has been slipping away from their country, owing to the increasing use of the Metric System throughout the world, and to the fact that one country has adopted the system it never goes back to its own clumsy weights and measures, has at each annual convention for several years past, urged the adoption of the system; and, moreover, a special committee of the British House of Commons, in 1895, brought in a report recommending the change to the Metric System. The people and Government of the United States, realizing that their future foreign trade, too, depends on the adoption of a system which is already in use by almost every important non-Anglo-Saxon country in the world, except Russia—and that country also is coming into line—has ready a bill which is morally sure to pass at the next session of Congress, making the Metric System compulsory in the United States in 1903. The adoption of this law will simply compel Great Britain to fall into line, and Canada will have no other option.

In order to educate the Canadian public, and especially the engineering element of it, the publishers of The Canadian Engineer have prepared a metric chart, showing the meter in full size, and giving the principal tables and the key to the whole system on a single sheet. The fact that the entire system of metric weights and measures can be explained in five tables, on a single sheet, is, in itself, a proof of the simplicity of the system. This chart will be sold for office and shop use at the nominal price of 10 cents per copy, mailed free.

With reference to the foregoing article, we may add that the Metric System is already largely used in the textile manufacturing trades, and especially in the dyeing departments. The English-speaking chemist and analyst has already become convinced of the great advantage of the Metric System of weights owing to its simplicity and its conveniences in calculating by per-