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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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THE METRIC SYSTEM AND THE TEXTILE TRADES.

The metric system of weights and measures was one of the many outcomes of the French revolution, that great upheaval which turned Europe topsy-turvy in so many different ways. At the close of the eighteenth century, there were, perhaps, a hundred different systems of weighing and measuring articles in France, each province and district having its own local customs. A commission of scientific men was appointed to frame a simple system which should be adopted by the whole country. The result was the

metric system, by which all measures were based on the decimal system of notation, in the first place, and in the second place all measures, whether of length, weight, area, volume or capacity, were related to each other. How simple this is can be appreciated by a study of the chart of the metric system, recently published by the proprietors of this Journal. The entire range of weights and measures is here set out on a single sheet, and the whole system made clear by indicating the derivation of the words used. This chart, which can be had at ten cents, should be in the possession of everyone connected with the textile trades and all other trades for that matter—not only because of the frequent and growing use of metric terms in the mill and dy-house, but as an object lesson demonstrating the superiority of the metric system for everyday use. We do not hesitate to say that half an hour's study by any person of average intelligence will enable him to understand the principles of the system, and when the reader goes back to his school-days and remembers the days of study required to master our own tables of weights and measures, he will appreciate what the metric system saves in time and study to any beginner. Indeed, it is estimated that to the average man in the average business of life and having an average amount of "figuring," the change from our complicated English system to the metric system would mean a saving of three or four years in actual time. In other words, the average man could have three or four years added to his life, or saved for other work. Take English weights as an example of the unnecessary complications of the system we labor under. We have a table of Avoirdupois weight for ordinary commerce, a table called Apothecaries' weight, used by druggists, and another called Troy weight, used for the weighing of precious metals, besides the weight for weighing precious stones. Now all these various purposes could be served by one simple table of a greater range, and the metric system provides it. It not only provides it, but by a table based on our decimal system of notation—that is ten measures of one denomination make one of the next higher; whereas in our English weights the numbers