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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 now in hand

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER :

| PAGE. | PAGE. | | |
|--|-------|---|-----|
| Arsenic in Wool..... | 213 | Scouring | 237 |
| Canadian Textile Patents | 215 | Wool | 231 |
| Carding, Old Style v. New Style | 237 | Shedding, Cloth, repairing uneven lifts in | 240 |
| Colors in Cotton Yarns The Causes of Uneven | 243 | Soap | 242 |
| Depreciation | 256 | Spinning Worsted | 235 |
| Editorial | 225 | Textile Centres, Foreign | 239 |
| Fabric Items | 214 | Design | 243 |
| Factories, Some Economic and Practical Aspects of Electrical Power Distribution in | 228 | Imports from Great Britain Trade, Canada and the United States in | 244 |
| Flax Culture and Manufacture of Linens | 233 | States in | 231 |
| Linen Factory, Canada's First | 225 | Wool, A Wrinkle in | 251 |
| Literary Notes | 245 | Market, The | 245 |
| Mills, Among the | 246 | Scouring | 231 |
| | | Yarn, How odd lots can be Utilized | 241 |

Editorial.

CANADA'S FIRST LINEN FACTORY.

Some years ago we gave an account of the first attempt at manufacturing linen cloth on power looms in Canada. This was during the American Civil War, when owing to the cotton famine, the price of linen fabrics went up to such a pitch that the industry seemed to offer a splendid field in Canada. Had the war continued long enough to enable the industry to obtain a good footing in this country, it is possible that linen manufacturing

might have been one of the staple industries of Canada to-day, as our climate produces an excellent staple of flax, but the war closed just as the factory got fairly started and prices of both linen and cotton went so low that not only was the business in Canada ruined, but great injury was inflicted on the industry in Ireland itself, where linen manufacturing had been acclimatized for generations. Those who read our former sketch of this industry will remember that one of the promoters was George Stephen of Montreal, (now Lord Mount-Stephen) and that the factory building is still in existence as part of the woolen mills of Ferguson & Pattinson, Preston, Ont. Lord Mount-Stephen and his old secretary, John Turnbull of Montreal, have been kind enough to procure through Adam Warnock, of Galt, and John Homuth of Preston, some further particulars regarding this interesting venture. Mr. Turnbull is under the impression that the linseed oil machine referred to in the correspondence was sold to parties in Montreal, and after being worked in that city for several years, found its way to one of James Livingston's mills in Ontario. Mr. Homuth was employed by Hunt & Elliott, as woolen manufacturer till they were burnt out and then by Elliott, Hunt & Stephen as flax manufacturer. The following are the letters referred to:

It has taken me a long time to answer your letter of the 4th, re Flax Industry. I put the inquiry into the hands of an old Preston employee of the late Andrew Elliott & Co., and you will see what he has written, and which no doubt is correct. I have added a little information which may be of interest. "When I was a very young lad in the early 30's (65 years ago). I remember seeing these old Dutch men and women clad in their home spuns, dyed with butternut and hickory bark, a good lasting color. Their clothes were made by themselves and from an artistic point of view would hardly pass muster with our people to-day." Yours very truly,

A. WARNOCK.

Preston, March 21st, 1898.

The formation of the company for the manufacture of linen goods in Preston, Ont., took place in the year 1864. The principal promoters were Messrs. Andrew Elliott, James Hunt and Calvin Claffin, of Preston, and George Stephen, of Montreal. They began operations in the fall of the same year after the mill was rebuilt, after the woolen mill had been destroyed by fire on January 18th 1864. The mill was in operation three and a half years. The machinery was purchased in the United States and England. After the mill closed the machinery was sold, when it was in first class running order at less than half its cost price. Most of the linen machinery was sold to parties from the United States. The linseed oil machinery was