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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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Editorial.

The Australian Wool Crop. Owing to the drought there is a considerable shortage in the Australian wool crop this season. The Melbourne *Argus* estimated the deficiency in New South Wales at 15 per cent., in Victoria at 10 per cent., in South Australia at 20 per cent., and in Queensland at 5 per cent. This small total added to the old clip wool, may, with the addition of 10,000 to 12,000 bales Cape wool, un up to a gross available of some 125,000 to 130,000 bales for the sales commencing November 25th, which under the stress of the small stocks of

raw wool in consumers' hands, not only in London, but on the continent, bids fair to ensure an extremely firm and active market once more for good merino wool. The selection of crossbred wool will be the very smallest and poorest of any of the series of the present year. At the public wool sales in Australia prices rule very hard, at an advance of 10 per cent. over last year's rates, but the same difficulty is being felt there on the score of adequate supplies to keep the sales going.

Combinations. The textile industries are not free from the end-of-the-century tendency to form combinations. In Canada we have the combinations in the cotton trade, and in Britain there are the two great sewing thread combinations. In textile machinery making not long ago there was an amalgamation of three loom-making firms in Blackburn, and just recently four or five of the leading makers of card clothing have joined their fortunes. Another combination is just announced from Scotland, the well-known Turkey-red dyers of the Vale of Leven, the firms of Archibald Orr Ewing & Co., John Orr Ewing & Co., and William Stirling & Sons, having amalgamated, and made it known that from the 1st January next they will conduct the united business under the designation of "The United Turkey-Red Company." This system of combining firms is an importation from America, and has originated in, if it has not been compelled by, the severity of competition experienced in every industry. The principal advantage expected to be derived is, of course, a great reduction of competition, which will enable the combining firms to maintain prices that shall yield a profit. "This movement," says the *Textile Mercury*, "shows signs of extending still further, and we shall not be surprised if other important developments take place at an early date."

A Lawful Fraud.

It is not enough that our insolvency laws, or lack of them, should injure our credit abroad; but present conditions put a premium on dishonesty at home. With proper legislation on the subject of bankruptcy it would not be possible for the wholesale traders to encourage fraud, as they do under existing procedure. As business is at present conducted, two retail dry good merchants may occupy adjoining premises, the one buying wherever his money enables him to make the most advantageous bargains, selling at a fair profit and paying his obligations in full as they fall in. The other may be a man, perhaps of no business experience, but qualified for his position by a cer-