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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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SPECIALIZATION IN TEXTILES.*

To enable us to more fully understand and appreciate this present tendency toward specialization, let us first briefly review the history and growth of the textile industries in Europe and this country, and then we shall be able to see more clearly the necessity for textile schools, such as this one in Lowell, and their connection with specialization. As I am more intimately associated with the branches of textiles connected with the wool manufacture, I shall use those branches as an illustration. What I have to say about wool is, however,

equally true in regard to all other branches in the essential features.

There could not well be a greater industrial contrast than that presented by the development of the wool manufacture in the United States, and that which has taken place in England and on the continent of Europe. One experience is almost the reverse of the other, as will be seen in the following brief sketch. The subdivision of the wool industry in Great Britain is an evolution of centuries, and a survival of the days of hand manufacture, under which, just at the present, the spinner, the weaver, the dyer, and the fuller had each his own separate work. It was a subdivision unaccompanied by any inconvenience, on account of the close concentration of the various branches of manufacture in particular localities. In fact, there were many towns in which practically the occupations of the entire people were in one way or another connected with the cloth manufacture. The foreign manufacturer in visiting a typical American mill is astonished at the diversity of operations performed in one establishment. The custom in England generally is for the scouring and the carding and the combing to be done in one establishment, the spinning in another, the weaving in another, the dyeing in another, and, very often, the finishing in still another, and the packing of the goods constitutes another distinct branch of business. This division of work in the English textile manufacture has an historical origin, and the English factory system is a direct evolution from the hand and home industry of the eighteenth century. Both carding and combing were originally carried on in the homes of the working people. The wool was weighed out to carders or combers by the merchants at the storehouses and taken to the homes; thence it was returned in the form of card rolls or tops, and again given to the spinner. The yarn was sold to the weavers, who carried their products to the markets. At the markets or the inns, the merchants bought the cloths, and, in turn, sold them to the fullers, and so they were passed on through various steps until in time they reached the shops and were sold at retail. Each branch had its own distinct, well-defined field of work, into which the rules of the guilds forbade either of the others to encroach.

*From an address delivered by F. W. Hobbs, State Director of the Lowell Textile school at the Graduation Exercises June 6th, 1900.