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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 BRITISH INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

When the present Prince of Wales returned from his tour round the world—or to speak correctly round the British Empire—he told the British manufacturers and merchants that they must “wake up” if they wished to hold their position in the world. The advice has not gone unheeded; and one of the signs of this waking up is to be found in the results of a commission equipped and sent

out to the United States at the expense of a private individual, Alfred Mosely, a spirited London merchant, who called the secretaries of the principal trade unions to his aid in making the investigation. It appears that the woolen industry was not represented on this commission, but the cotton branch of textiles was represented by T. Ashton, of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners, and W. H. Wilkinson, of the Northern Counties Amalgamated Association of Weavers and extracts from their reports will be given in next issue. The Manchester Guardian, which has given a good deal of attention to recent developments in the United States in cotton manufacturing processes and machinery, makes some interesting deductions from the report of the Commission now published. It says that the few English firms who have kept abreast of the times have concealed the fact, with the result that the rank and file of manufacturers have not kept pace with their leaders. “In the United States, on the other hand, improved machinery and methods and every kind of successful industrial achievement are loudly and widely proclaimed, with the result that new ideas are quickly disseminated throughout the trade concerned and technical progress is more level and regular than here. Other influences have promoted this development in America. A new and very large country, with a vast population rapidly increasing both in numbers and wealth, demands a constantly increased production of manufactures; this means the constant building of new factories, every new factory equipped to the best of its owner's ability in the most modern and efficient way. The new factories set so hot a pace in the industrial race that their older competitors must either be modernized or shut up. It is thus inevitable, other things being equal, that technical progress should be greater in a country with a rapidly expanding trade than in one whose trade is stationary or expanding more slowly. But in the case of England and America other things are not equal. The contrast between the secretive habit of the English manufacturer and the open, boastful habit of the American has already been noticed. The aggregation of industrial capital into huge groups is another factor which has promoted the levelling up of administrative efficiency in America, for it has been accompanied by a pooling of brains and experience. It seems to be agreed, moreover, that Americans are really fonder of business for its own sake than we are; it is their hobby. ‘Business,’ again, inasmuch as it offers to Americans careers of the most