

# Canadian Journal of Fabrics

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Textile Trades of Canada.

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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.

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### SAVING WASTES IN WOOLEN MILLS.

An appreciation of the value of waste material and by-products in woolen and other textile mills is not yet properly developed among Canadian manufacturers. The commercial value of waste is better understood in Continental and British textile mills, where almost nothing is allowed to be lost, and it is not too much to say that the unrecovered waste of our woolen and cotton mills is one explanation of the fact that some Canadian mills have such a hard time in competing with the products of foreign mills. One difficulty here

is that in the case of very small mills the annual output of waste material is not sufficient to justify much expense in providing plant and chemicals for treating it; but even here the subject is worth study, and in the case of the larger mills the subject is of first importance.

Economy in manufacturing is becoming more appreciated in United States mills, and the Census Bureau there, which is much better conducted than our own, gives a very practical turn to its work by publishing in one of its latest bulletins, a report on the "Utilization of Wastes and By-Products in Manufactures," by H. G. Kittredge, of Boston, a well known expert. The following are some extracts from this report, dealing specially with woolen mills:

The woolen industry furnishes a number of materials formerly regarded as waste, that are now utilized in the industry itself and for pharmaceutical and other purposes. The principal articles of waste are rags and wool-grease. The former is reconverted into wool and used the same as the original raw material, while the latter is employed in other industries. The sheep obtains from the soil of the pastures upon which it feeds a considerable portion of potash, which, after circulating through the system of the animal, is excreted with other matter from the skin and becomes attached to the wool. This excretion is known by the French as "suint," and oftentimes constitutes, together with the dirt that is mixed with it, two-thirds of the weight of the fleece. Formerly, the suint was allowed to go to waste when the wool was cleaned; and even now a large portion of it that is taken from the fleece is allowed to go to waste with the wash waters. There is a disposition at present, however, to recover the grease from the wash waters and use it for industrial purposes. At first, attention was directed to the saving of suint for the purpose of obtaining the potash and potash salts contained in it, and with this object a special industry was established in the wool districts of France and Belgium for converting it into commercial products, which were exhibited at the several industrial exhibitions in Europe, and especial mention was made of them at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, many of them receiving silver medals.