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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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Editorial

Dress Reform in the Mill.

The idea of dress reform in the factory has hitherto received very little attention. It is usually considered that a suit of clothes or a dress which has become worn is good enough to work in. Even where the women get simple print dresses, as most Canadian women do, which are cheap, serviceable, and easily cleaned, yet they are lacking in this point, that they are not the best possible dress for the purpose either as

regards liability to fire, or to catching in the machinery. Now why should not the worker in the textile trade have a special costume, as he would if employed in the metal trades? Different sports and pastimes have evolved suitable costumes, and there is no reason why the same search after comfort and convenience should not be made by those who work, as well as those who play. Divided skirts and bloomers are no longer a subject of joke, but are accepted on all hands as a quite proper adaptation of the conventional dress to a new need. Frequently grave and fatal accidents occur among the women in factories through the entanglement of their skirts in the machinery, and a number of horrible accidents have occurred through the inflammable nature of these garments. Something of interest in connection with this subject is the fact that the fire-proofing of fabrics is now quite generally practised in Germany, and a manufacturing clothier of Dusseldorf has recently perfected a working dress which is light, cheap, durable, fire proof, and washes easily without loss of color. It is of strong blue canvas, which is so thoroughly fire proof, it is said, that it will stand several minutes exposure to a powerful gas flame with no greater damage than the singeing of the nap. The general adoption of some special costume would save a considerable outlay on the part of the workers, and would tend greatly to preserve health and life.

More.

To announce the discovery of extravagance or fraud in connection with a Canadian Government, Provincial or Dominion, is not to attract much attention, at least not much attention of the believing sort. The cry of "wolf, wolf" has been heard before, and but too many of our best citizens have found that this particular wolf at least is a very decent fellow, even when he does get among the flock. The sheep nearest the intruder have been on many occasions known to make a very comfortable meal on the pickings of their esteemed relative. So on the whole we affirm, with all other supporters of the Government—we mean all governments of whatever stripe or status—that in the first place there is no such a thing as a wolf, and in the second place, if you really know that most charming person, the wolf, won't you kindly introduce us? The letting of the Dominion Government supply advertising is a matter on which much light might be shed by a little explanation from some one who knows. Of course it is let on the principle of