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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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### MODERN FLAX SPINNING.

By H. R. CARTER.

(Continued from last issue)

#### THE FLAX DEPARTMENT OF A MODERN MILL.

Another method, which, as far as the writer is aware, was introduced by him on the Continent, consists in using a specially large hackle and leaving the droppings in it until sufficient fiber has accumulated to form a piece, when it should be worked free from tow and the resulting

pieces of "shorts" made into a bunch and worked upon the machine by themselves, thus minimizing the loss of short fiber and increasing the yield of "line." Upon the Continent, flax, if roughed at all, is often pieced out in double pieces, or say four per lb., one piece only being put in the holder of the machine, instead of two. This method of course lessens the cost of roughing, but single pieces have many benefits, the chief of which are as follows. (1) More justice can be given to the piece by the rougher when he has only to drop and square a small portion at a time, (2) the pieces when they reach the sorter are more even in bulk and weight, as in screwing the double piece into the holder the machine boy is apt not to split the piece evenly in half, (3) single pieces may be made of more equal quality throughout each piece, since if the rougher choose he can gather the dirty or otherwise defective fibers into a piece by themselves, instead of allowing them to remain mixed with the good and thus spoil the "sort." I say "may" and "choose," since very few roughers would take the trouble to do it, maintaining that it is the sorter's work to sort the flax. The separation of the dirty or badly scutched fiber into one piece is of great importance when, as is now often done, the flax is "spread" from the machine room "tipple" without passing through the sorter's hands. If the dirty flax be in separate pieces, the machine boys can be got to separate it, thus maintaining greater uniformity of quality in the "unsorted" fiber. In Ireland the Roughers' Society has always fought against "double pieces" and "piecing out," since these systems entail the employment of fewer hands in the roughing shops. During the last few years a roughers strike having temporarily led some of the leading Irish spinners to do without roughers, they found that in dealing with fiber which had received due care in the preliminary processes roughing might often be dispensed with. Courtrau, Flemish, and Dutch are, as a rule, sufficiently well handled, while Baltic, besides being usually pretty square in the end, is easily pieced out. In the latter flax, the difference in value of the tow and line being relatively small, the slight loss in yield of untouched pieces is covered by the saving in roughers' wages. So long as Irish flax, however, is prepared for market in the present careless fashion, it must receive a certain amount of straightening to facilitate its separation into pieces, and to save a large amount of valuable fiber from going into tow in the hackling machine.

Flax fiber is seldom or never of equal quality from