

sion is that it would be a gain for employees if the factory system could be substituted for the contractors' shop system. He sums up this stage of the subject in these words: "As compared with the plan of factory work, I am of the opinion that the contract system does result in reducing wages, and in lowering the conditions of labor; but when the comparison is made between the second and home-work plan, I am satisfied that the contract system secures higher pay and better conditions of labor."

Mr. Wright finds that the sub-contracting system, the system under which the greatest evils and most deplorable conditions have developed in other countries, can scarcely be said to exist in Canada.

The establishment of a bureau of labor statistics, as is contemplated by the Act of 1890, is recommended, and that all information bearing upon the subject be gathered. He also suggests that the Factories Act be extended in order to regulate dwellings which are employed by the occupants for the purpose of making goods for sale. It is, in his opinion, necessary that there should be either a Dominion Factories Act, or that the provinces should co-operate to have uniformity of provisions and enforcement as regards this subject. Another suggestion made by the commissioner is that the labor bureau which he proposes should institute a system of labor registration, so that workmen might be kept informed as to where a demand exists for their services. To prevent the competition of aliens, he recommends that a Dominion law be enacted, prohibiting, under a sufficient penalty, the making of contracts in other countries for the performance of labor in Canada. To prevent industrial conflicts, the commissioner expresses the opinion that a Dominion Board of Mediation and Arbitration should be formed, which board should be a court of appeal from the findings of local voluntary Boards of Conciliation. For the purpose of assuring the payment of the wages of employees of contractors, Mr. Wright purposes that the wholesale manufacturer employing the contractor be made liable for the payment of wages due to persons manufacturing goods at the instance of the contractor. Another recommendation made by the commissioner is that goods made in tenement houses be labelled as such, as he thinks this would have a tendency to prevent the introduction of the sweating system.

#### CANADIAN PRINTS FOR FALL.

The fall trade is now on in prints, and, so far, promises no material difference from last season. Values appear the same, and, except for a five per cent. advance in moleskins, the price lists are practically the same as that of 1895.

The selling arrangement adopted by the cotton companies last autumn has proved on the whole not unsatisfactory to them, and will, we are told, be continued. The wholesale trade have not objected so much to the uniform selling prices and rebates as to the admission of certain retailers on the same terms as the

wholesale houses. This objection is to be removed, and manufacturers' agents assure the trade that they are not offering goods to the departmental stores for the autumn of 1896. It is expected that some firms which withdrew altogether from the Canadian market when the cotton company announced its terms last season, will return. Print samples are unusually complete this year. Large orders have been placed for Salisbury and fancy costume cloths. The designs are excellent, checks and small floral designs meeting with most favor; stripes are not in good request, while spots appear to be almost of the past. Black designs on a red ground are leaders. A year ago, fancy wrapperettes sold well, and promise to repeat their success this autumn. Patterns run to Paisley effects, while shades extend over a wide range. Plaids in imitation of a German cloth that has had a good sale here are shown in the new print samples. They are called tartans, but not even the most skilled genealogist in all Scotland could trace their pedigree or prove them the badge of a legitimate branch of any clan. The usual line of moleskins is shown, and orders are being placed for men's harvest shirts, boys' suitings, and other purposes for which it is used. Manufacturers are showing three different weights, while prices are  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per yard in advance of last year's values. The trade were formerly supplied with moleskins of American make, but this trade is now almost exclusively in the hands of the Canadian manufacturer.

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#### WORSTED FROM THE FLEECE TO THE CLOTH.

BY B. F. FALLS.

(Continued from last month.)

Previous to weaving the worsted cloth the yarns must be made into a warp for the loom. The first operation towards making a warp is spooling.

The formation of the patterns intended to be woven is effected at this point. The length of the warp and several minor affairs are also regulated. The spooling frame consists of a hollow drum set in a frame of iron, and made to revolve automatically. A wooden spool is placed on this drum, and the yarns run from the bobbin on to this spool as it revolves.

Dressing is the term applied to the operation of preparing the yarns for the looms. The spools, which have been filled by the spooling process, are arranged in a rack one above the other, and the threads of each are drawn into the reeds of the dressing machine. The threads of these spools are wound off and arranged in parallel order on a large reel, and from there on to the beam of the looms. We give a sectional view of the dressing frame in Fig. VIII.

*A* in Fig. VIII. represents a large hollow cylinder into which steam is introduced so as to dry the yarn which has absorbed sizing from the tank (*I*). *B* is another cylinder of the same kind. *E* marks the spools which contain the yarn. The yarn is wound from spools by the motion of the cylinders around which it passes. The yarn leaves the spools and passes into the tank *I*, in which is placed a liquid for hardening the surface of the yarns,