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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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### COMPETITION IN THE EARLY WOOLEN TRADE.

BY GEORGE ROGGENHOFER

Anyone who thinks that it is only now that traders have to suffer from cutting duties and other similar burdens, is very much mistaken. At all periods there has been strenuous rivalry in the wool trade, and as a consequence in the dyeing and printing industries. This has been so severe at times that it involved whole countries, and was largely due to the constantly occurring wars. It would appear that India was the cradle of the dyeing art, that France was the first European country to take it up, and that the first technical work on the

subject was published in Italy in 1429. Some, however, maintain that Rosetti's work (Venice, 1540), was the first. It certainly was the chief factor in stimulating the dyeing trade of Europe, especially among the Flemings, who took the art to France, England and Germany. Wool manufacture reached great prosperity in Germany during the Middle Ages and there was a big trade with Holland. But until the 16th century England was at the head of the wool trade. At that period, however, England began to give way to Spain in that direction, while Germany greatly benefited, as regards her cloth industry, by repeated immigrations of skilled workmen from Holland. In 1137, a large number of exiled Dutch arrived in the Altmark, were hospitably received by the Prince, and assigned dwellings in the huge forests of the Salzwedel. Other Dutchmen were allowed to settle at Stendal, Gardelogen, Arneburg, Maydebourg, Meissen, and in the Priegnitz and Mittelmark. The saying goes that they founded Cologne on the Spree. Wherever these colonists came, the wool manufacture soon developed, and from the 12th century we find large businesses in Saxony, Pomerania, Silesia, and other districts. The same thing happened in South Germany, especially in the Bavarian towns of Nuremberg, Augsburg, Regensburg, Passau, etc. Nevertheless, the Germans of the period did not pay the attention to sheep-breeding that England, Italy, and Spain did, and this soon bore fruit. In 1248, an English wool trading company was formed, and soon attained large proportions, and English colonists who went to Ireland in 1289 made very important progress in sheep-rearing and wool manufacture. Of the treatment of Ireland at that period, however, Lord Essex asserted that it reminded him of nothing so much as that of a deer which is thrown to the hounds for every one of them to tear a morsel from it, and it is certain that it was systematically robbed of its developing wool industry. Temple wrote in 1673 to Lord Essex that the progress of wool manufacture in Ireland was becoming a danger to the English trade, and that it seemed imprudent to further it. This was a hint to suppress the manufacture in Ireland, and that was done in 1698 in every possible circumstance of cruelty and injustice.

The prohibition by Edward III. of the importation