

# CANADIAN Journal of Fabrics

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
Textile Trades of Canada.

Vol. XI.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1894

No. 3

## Canadian Journal of Fabrics

A Journal devoted to Textile manufactures and the Dry Goods and kindred trades.

Subscription Canada and United States, \$1.00 per year, Great Britain, 5/- Advertising rates on application.

Offices: 62 Church Street, Toronto, and the Fraser Building, St. Sacramento Street, Montreal.

NOTE.—All remittances and business correspondence should be addressed to the Toronto office, and all correspondence connected with news or editorial should be addressed to E. B. BIGGAR, Publisher, Montreal.

Agency in Europe. Polsue Bros., 30 Poppin's Court, Fleet St., London, Eng  
Toronto Telephone, 1392 | Montreal Telephone, 2589

### 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. Third edition 487 pages, price \$3.00

E. B. BIGGAR, Publisher, Montreal

### WHY SOME AMERICAN WOOLEN GOODS ARE INFERIOR TO ENGLISH.

A worsted or a woolen that is well finished has several qualifications that commend it to the notice of every buyer. Some countries seem to get hold of certain plans in treatment, too, which make it seem almost as though certain kinds of finishes were monopolized by certain localities. And in this connection "Randolph," in the *Boston Journal of Commerce*, makes an interesting comparison between the goods made in England and America respectively.

In some lines of woolen goods England, he says, enjoys a supremacy which is almost universally conceded to her, and for some reason or other it seems almost impossible for other places to come up to or transcend the standard she has set. There are some, indeed many, Americans who are unwilling to admit candidly that the English do better work in the line of worsteds, meltons and beavers, and yet we think that there is certainly something more than mere sentiment in an impression which is so widespread, and which is sustained by such good authority.

The construction of the goods, the stock employed in their manufacture, and the finish, are the three great points which conduce to the production of a perfect piece of cloth. And in all three of these particulars the English manufacturer, as well as every other manufacturer, must take very special care if he would have his goods come out in such a condition as to silence and defy all competition. Now with regard to the construction of the goods, so much depends upon circumstances

of stock, quality, and surroundings, that we are unable to give any definite rules that will be of great use. It is our province to deal more especially with points in the finishing. However, we may say that so far as the grade of stock employed is concerned, a very important item may be noted, and that is, that in our country there is such a great tendency to economize and make, as much as possible of whatever is going to add to the cost of production, that oftentimes the quality and appearance of the cloth is sacrificed to cheapness. A stock which will make up nicely into a medium yarn is made with us to go into a so much finer yarn that the whole result is affected. A yarn that is best fitted for a No. 40 should never be made to go a No. 50, because if it is, there is certain to be an inferior piece of goods produced which will not take the feel or finish that it would otherwise stand. Of course it is natural to suppose that if a 50 can be made of a stock that has always been used for a 40, we have saved just that much in the cost of our goods, and so make quite an advance in the line of economy. But in the long run this will certainly be found to be a mistake. It is a mistake, too, that affects the finisher not a little, for he can never give the same finish to an over-worked stock that he can to one that has not been worked to death before it gets into his hands.

Now, to come more directly to the finishing as it affects the desirableness of the appearance of a worsted. We do not intend to go into detail in all the points that might be taken up; our intention is merely to note a very few of the outstanding items which always have a direct and important bearing on the finish of the cloth, and which act more especially upon its permanence and value. In finishing a worsted, one of the greatest and most important points is the steam blowing or cleaning, as it is called; and the thoroughness with which this is done has not a little to do with the value of the finish and the general style of the goods. In most of the large mills of the present day the steaming is done upon the steam gig, where the operation is much more simple and less expensive. Now, here we have cropping up again what we considered the prevailing weakness in the finishing of the day; that is, the sacrifice of actual results to economy and speed. In the rush of large mills there is no time to do the work as it should be done, and in the market of the day goods properly treated would be so expensive that they could