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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 parcels of flax, when "weighed in" from the
roughers, and the quantity of long flax, tow, waste, and
shorts entered upon the respective parcel tickets, are
ready to be sent to the machines when required. The
roughing-master should examine each rougher's tow reg-
ularly to make sure that it is not too "long"—i.e., that

no long fibers, which should have been replaced in the
piece after "dropping," have been run into tow. The
quantity of roughing tow depends entirely upon the way
the flax has been scutched and handled. Flemish,
Dutch, and Courtrai can often be roughed with three
or four lbs. of tow per parcel, while badly handled Irish,
"stuffed" Baltic, etc., often produce 20 lbs. of roughing
tow per parcel of 2 cwt. The value of roughing tow
varies from 18s. to 40s. per cwt., the former figure be-
ing for Baltic, and the latter for fine Courtrai. Roughers
are paid per cwt., the current rates being—Foreign,
1s. 7d.; Irish, 1s. 9d.; and the maximum wage fixed by
the Roughers' Society, 21s. per week. "Stacking" is
usually paid for at the rate of about 8d. per cwt. Coarse
flax, usually Baltic, intended for heavy yarns, such as
Scotch dry-spuns, is sometimes hand-dressed or finished
in one operation ready for the "spread boards." The
hand-dresser, in addition to the ordinary rougher's
hackle, is provided with a No. 8 or No. 10 and a switch.
Having roughed the piece in the ordinary way, he con-
tinues to hackle and split up the fiber upon the finer
tools, and, finishing it upon the switch, puts on a sorter's
"lap," and builds the pieces into a 20-lb. bunch, when
it is considered ready for the "spread-boards."

The process which follows roughing is that of ma-
chine hackling, where an iron clamp takes the place of
the workman's hand in retaining the flax, while moving
combs effect the sub-division of the fiber into its in-
dividual filaments. The "parcels" of flax are removed
from the roughing-shop to the machine-room as re-
quired. The bunches are loosened from their hands and
put upon tables at the coarse or filling end of the ma-
chine, the root ends being turned from the boys, who
take two pieces at a time, and leaving the root ends pro-
jecting about 12 inches, place them level and flat, one
piece on either side of the central screw, and, spreading
them well out upon the bottom of the holder, tighten
the lid firmly down upon them. The holders are placed
one at a time in the channel of the machine, when it is
approaching its highest point, and are then shifted auto-
matically forward step by step, every time the "head"
rises, over hackles gradually increasing in fineness,
until they are delivered at the fine end, where the
holder is placed in a "stand," another holder being
placed in a corresponding position about 2½ inches