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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 now in hand.

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FOR THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF FABRICS.

THE COLLEGE SUPERINTENDENT.

BY GEO. DAMON RICE.

Much has been said and written concerning the capabilities of a technically educated man for practical work, but the subject was never before brought so forcibly to my mind as it was a short time since while in conversation with the superintendent of a large company engaged in making cotton goods.

This superintendent wished to engage a man to help in the management of the mill. A young man of about twenty-six or so presented himself for the position, and, in giving his experience, mentioned that he was a graduate in mechanical engineering from a technical school, and was surprised—aye, stunned—to receive the abrupt reply that his education would be a

damage to him, that the superintendent "had previously had experience with two or three of the class, and had found them sorely wanting."

This superintendent told me that the "technical men" he had employed to work for him were always going to revolutionize things by doing such "big things."

Good practical experience is what a man needs, and if he can add to it a technical education, so much the better, but it will not do to let the one over-ride the other.

I asked the names of some of the graduates rated as failures, and among others he chanced to name a young man with whom I was at one time quite well acquainted. He said that this young man had worked for him before going to college, and that when he returned he did not know or handle anything quite as well as he had before entering school. I do not know how good a workman this man was, or what position he filled before going to college, but it has always been my opinion that men such as I knew him to be were a damage to the profession, and that they were responsible in a great degree for the slurs cast upon the "college superintendent" by non-educated practical men.

Having had frequent opportunities to observe this young man's work, I noted that he seldom did any original work, always trying to imitate the methods of others, without having any clear idea as to just why he took a particular step in the solution of a problem, or the demonstration of a mathematical formula. In his laboratory and testing work he usually followed closely the rules set down by his instructors, filling out reports according to precept, and his whole aim appeared to be to get a good percentage mark on his term record, without appearing to care whether or not he knew anything about what he had been doing. This class usually succeed "by hook or by crook" in securing good records, and at the completion of their college course are "turned loose" on the world, and are falsely rated on a par with the competent.

Under the heading of competency for mill service comes the necessity of a knowledge of the needs of machinery best adapted to do certain work.

Only actual mill experience will qualify a man to purchase machinery. A few hints as regards the right kind of spinning to secure may be desirable. The frame system seems to be gradually, is gradually, sup-