

DICTIONARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS RELATING TO THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

(Words Selected at Random.)

- BACKWIND:**—To unravel a knitted fabric and wind up the resulting yarn into convenient form for re-using.
- BALBRIGGAN:**—A term now used as applying to all classes of light-weight, flat underwear made of cotton yarn dyed to resemble the color of Egyptian cotton. Originally, the term was first applied to a style of full-fashioned hose made in Balbriggan, Ireland; later, it was also used in connection with knit underwear, both being made from unbleached cotton yarn.
- BATISTE:**—A light-weight fabric, of French origin, differing from nainsook in that it is heavier and wider than that fabric. The term batiste is generally adopted by the trade as referring to a light, sheer cloth made from a fine grade of yarn, which will average about 14 to 16 square yards to the pound. Batistes are made from various fibres, and may be bleached, unbleached or colored.
- BEAVER:**—A thick, warm cloth, technically known as a double cloth structure, chiefly used for overcoats and cloakings. The fabric is heavily fulled and "face finished." The average weight of the fabric met with is about twenty-eight ounces finished.
- BEDFORD CORD:**—Bedford cords are what might be technically termed ribbed fabrics, the face of the cloth structure being chiefly produced by the warp, the filling resting (more or less floating) on the back of the structure, in order to produce the characteristic rib or cord effect in the fabric, the ribs running in the direction of the warp.
- BENDERS:**—(or Bender cotton). Cotton grown on the fine black alluvial soil of the bends of the Mississippi River.
- BILLIARD CLOTH:**—A fine, green-colored cloth, piece dyed, from 72 to 81 inches wide, manufactured from a rather soft spun yarn, heavily fulled, with a short velvet finish; used for covering billiard tables. The plain weave is used for the better grades, the 3-harness twill for others.
- BINDER WARP:**—Extra warp threads added for giving strength to a fabric; if used as an interior warp it is not visible in the finished fabric.
- BROADCLOTH:**—A fabric made from a rather soft twisted woolen yarn (more particularly the filling), in a plain or 3-harness twill weave, finished with a high lustre, in which the threads cannot be distinguished. During the finishing process, the cloth is much shrunk and the fibres felted together, giving it a soft, glossy appearance, the so-called "face finish." Until 40 years ago it was the material in common use for gentlemen's dress suits; made also in a less dense construction for ladies' dressgoods.
- BROCADE:**—A fabric in which the design is raised in "floats" and appears on the surface of the fabric as though it were embossed. Made on a Jacquard loom, so as to produce the characteristic elaborate designs.
- BURRING:**—The process of cleaning or removing the burrs and other foreign impurities from the wool previous to carding. Two methods of doing this work are in use; either the wool is carbonized, *i. e.*, the burrs, shives, etc., are chemically extracted, or the scoured wool, after drying, is passed through a burr-picker. The chemical process is preferred, if dealing with screw burrs, etc., whereas the burr-picker is generally brought into use where larger burrs are to be contended with.
- CALICO:**—A term now generally applied to any printed cotton cloth that is coarser than muslin. Originally, the name given to a printed cotton fabric imported from Calcutta, India, hence the name, from the native name of the city—Calicut.
- CANTON FLANNEL:**—A strong, cotton cloth with a long, soft nap, usually on one side, although in some instances the fabric may be napped on both sides; used for under garments, bath robes, etc.
- CASSIMERES:**—A name applied to fancy suitings or trouserings made from woolen yarn; the fabric being more or less fulled during its finishing process. Given to almost any woolen cloth, that, for one reason or another, may be conveniently classed as cassimeres by the trade.
- CASSIMERE TWILL:**—The most frequently used weave in the construction of textiles, and considered all around, is the most serviceable weave. This weave is technically known as the 4-harness, even-sided twill.
- CHINÉ:**—A name given to silks which have a warp-printed effect produced by printing the warp threads in blocks and then grouping them in the loom so as to form a pattern. Must not be confused with *Chine*, which means China, as *Soie de Chine*—China silk.
- CLAY WORSTEDS:**—Fabrics woven with a twill similar to that of serge, but in which the diagonal lines characteristic of this weave are flat on the surface of the cloth and barely perceptible. Clay worsteds do not gloss as readily as other fabrics made from hard-twisted worsted yarns, on account of the warp and the filling being only slackly twisted. Named after Clay, the English manufacturer who first introduced this make of fabric in the market.
- COLD PIG:**—A shade of cloth that, for some reason, has not appealed to the public and therefore does not sell well. Such cloth is often sent to the dyer and re-dyed some more fashionable shade, this being governed by the original color, so that the same cloth that was previously neglected by the public will now find favor and sell.
- CONDITIONING:**—All textile fibres contain moisture in their normal condition. Since this amount of moisture present can be increased, with a consequent loss to the buyer, up to twice its normal percentage, in 1875 an international congress met at Turin, Italy, and when the following allowance or "reprises" were adopted as the normal amount of moisture allowable in the various textile fibres: *Silk* 11%, *Wool-carded* 17%, *Wool-combed* 18¼%, *Cotton* 8½%, *Flax* 12%, *Hemp* 12%, *Tow* 12½%, *Jute* 13¾%, of the absolute dry weight of the fibres. To-day, every prominent textile centre in Europe has a conditioning establishment, the decision of which is final in law. The skeins of yarn, after having been reeled, measured and weighed, at first together and then separately, are, for the purpose of conditioning, then dried in ovens, and when perfectly dry, a certain amount of water is added to the yarn equal to the permissible percentage (normal amount) of moisture, for each fibre previously referred to. The count of the yarn thus treated is termed its conditioned count.
- CORDUROY (or Fustian):**—A cloth made with a filling pile (which is cut in the finishing), the bindings of the filling with the warp, forming rows or cords lengthwise the fabric, thus giving its surface a corded or ribbed effect, the back of the cloth being usually a twill weave. Corduroys are cotton fabrics noted for their wearing qualities. They are also used for upholstering furniture, in which case they are often finished with fancy patterns.
- CORKSCREWS:**—Corkscrews are what might be called double twills, or, oblique warp-effect rib weaves. The name given to fabrics made with these weaves. Corkscrews require a high warp texture, since the warp forms (more or less) both the face and the back of the cloth, the filling resting, more or less, imbedded between the warp threads, being only partly visible on either the face or the back of the fabric. Corkscrews are made in plain and fancy effects.
- CRASH:**—A fabric formerly used chiefly for towelings, etc., but now also used to some extent for outing skirts, etc. Both broken-up as well as twill weaves are used for making these fabrics, accordingly as a rough or a smooth finish is desired. Crash may be made from cotton, flax or silk. When made from cotton, it is often produced in fancy weaves and patterns to imitate linen; silk crash has an effect similar to linen canvas.
- CRAVENETTE:**—Originally, the name of a process of treating cloth to render it waterproof, invented by an Englishman named Craven, hence the name. The term is now applied to waterproof or water-resistant fabrics, regardless of their nature, the designation (or proper name) of the cloth, however, not being changed by the application of the

- water-proofing process to them. (U. S. Custom House decision.) The process of cravenetting consists of treating the fabric with a solution that destroys the absorbent nature of the fibre and makes it water-repellent, the pores in the threads and the interstices of the fabric, however, not being filled up, so that the fabric remains porous.
- DELAINE:**—An abbreviation of "mousseline-de-laine." A term applied to a light worsted cloth made from specially selected fine, strong and long-staple wools.
- DELAINE WOOL:**—Specifically, the term applied to long, fine wools from sheep of the merino breed; commonly applied to wools from sheep that have more or less of the merino strain, also to fine wools that are carded before they are combed, to distinguish them from the shorter wools of the same quality, which are only carded and are called "clothing wools."
- DENIM:**—A heavy cotton fabric used chiefly for making rough garments, like men's overalls, etc., and women's skirts. Denim is made from coarse yarns in a twill weave, and is usually dyed dark blue or brown.
- DOUBLE CLOTH:**—The fabric produced by the union of two single cloth structures, either for special ornamental effects or to increase the bulk of the cloth.
- DOUBLE DYEING:**—A method of dyeing fabrics composed of distinct or mixed wool and cotton threads, in which the wool part is first dyed with a dye that has no affinity for the cotton, after which the cotton part is dyed with a dye that has no affinity for the wool, then finishing the fabric.
- DRILL:**—A heavy, twilled, cotton fabric, usually sold for export in an unbleached condition. Used extensively in China and is a large item of the exports of cotton goods from the United States.
- DUCK:**—A heavy, coarse fabric woven from coarse cotton yarn, with a plain weave. Commonly used where a strong, heavy fabric is necessary, as for sails, awnings, etc., but is also used for making men's and women's garments, for summer wear, in which case only the lighter weights are used. Usually finished white or unbleached, but is sometimes dyed, for specialties.
- FRISE:**—A pile fabric, woven so that the pile is in loops and stands out from the face of the cloth, the loops not being cut. Differs from plush and velvet in this respect. The loop effect is produced by using two warps, the threads of one being stretched with greater tension than the other, using the tight weave for building up the body of the fabric and the loose warp for forming the face. The loops are formed by the loose warp, which comes from a separate warp beam, operated with a positive let-off, in order to feed this warp freely, the filling taking the greater lengths and thus forming the characteristic loops.
- FULL FASHIONED:**—A term applied to underwear that has been finished with flat seams, selvage edged, throughout. Also used for hosiery. Full-fashioned goods are knit flat, in separate sections, and are made to conform to the desired shape by the machines automatically dropping stitches to narrow them at certain parts. The final shape is given by stretching them on suitable boards and drying them before removal.
- FULL REGULAR (or looped):**—A term applied to hosiery or underwear that has the seams fastened together by hand knitting instead of machine looping.
- GAUFFRÉ:**—A silk fabric which has had forms in relief pressed into it by an operation known as "gauffrage," these figures being retained by the fabric for some time if carefully done. The process is applied chiefly to light fabrics, such as pongees, muslins, etc. Satins can be made in imitation of moiré in this way. Fluted and accordion-pleated effects are also produced by it.
- GLORIA:**—The name given to a fabric made with a silk warp and a wool filling, the silk warp being floated on the face of the cloth as much as possible to give it the characteristic lustrous appearance. Gloria cloths are best known as a covering for umbrellas and as dress goods. They are dyed all colors, and are distinguished for their softness and high lustre, being made from the best organzine silk for a warp and fine woolen yarns for their filling.
- HENRIETTA:**—A term originally used to designate a fabric of the cashmere variety having a silk warp and a wool filling. Later, it was used to distinguish German cashmere from French cashmere; now generally applied to a fabric made with a twilled face and a smooth back, produced by the 3-harness twill weave, from various fibres, alone or combined. When silk is used for a warp, it is made from spun silk.
- HERRING BONE:**—A fabric interlaced with broken twill weaves, broken warp-ways only, the weave showing plainly on the face of the fabric. The effect resembles a herring bone, hence the name given such fabrics.
- HONEYCOMBS:**—A variety of fabric that has a honeycombed surface, hence its name, the cloth being used largely for bedspreads, towels, etc. The honeycomb effect is produced by interlacing warp and filling in the weaving, so as to form small squares, by floating threads, with plain woven center portions, said centers, on account of the tight interlacing, being made lower than the sides of the squares, thus forming the characteristic honeycomb effect.
- HOSE:**—A term applied to stockings, for women or children, which are knit the full length of the leg. *Half-hose* are men's stockings, so called from their being only half the length of the leg. *Three-quarters* hose is the name given to a style of children's stockings made three-quarters' length. *Opera hose* is a style of women's stockings made of extra length, so as to come well above the knee. Hose are made on a plain stitch knitting machine, the ribbed tops, if such are used, being first made on a rib machine, then transferred onto a plain stitch knitting machine and the hose completed by it.
- LAPPETS:**—A name given to a plain or fancy cloth on which figures are stitched by means of special threads. This is done by passing an independent set of threads through a series of needles set in a frame, situated between the reed and the shuttle-raceway of the lay. This frame is arranged so as to slide horizontally to and fro, regulated by the "pattern wheel," and the needles are depressed at proper moments to allow the figuring-thread to interweave with the ground cloth by passing the shuttle and its filling over the figuring-thread. This method of producing figured effects in fabrics was extensively used prior to the invention of the Jacquard loom.
- LENO OR GAUZE:**—The name given to a variety of fabrics characterized by their openwork effect, somewhat resembling lace. Leno fabrics are fabrics in which the warp threads, in addition to interlacing with the filling threads, are twisted with threads of their own system. Leno weaving is also practiced in connection with other systems of weaving to produce fancy effects. Lenos are usually cotton fabrics, although they are occasionally made from silk or worsted yarns.
- LIBERTY:**—A name given to their products by Messrs. Liberty & Co., silk merchants of London and Paris, who made a specialty of certain effects in silk fabrics, produced by dyeing, printing and finishing. The term is now applied generally to figured silks resembling the original products.
- LISLE THREAD:**—A thread made from a long-staple cotton, hard twisted, and passed through a flame to remove the loose, adhering fibres ("gassing"). Used for fine qualities of hosiery and underwear on account of the smooth finish and appearance given them.
- MERINO:**—A term applied to hosiery or underwear of soft quality, which is properly made by using both cotton and wool mixed together, but which is sometimes made from cotton only. Also to the yarn whether used for knitting or weaving purposes—merino yarn.
- MOCK LENO:**—A variety of cotton fabric made with a weave which produces openwork in imitation of the real leno. This open effect is produced by interlacing warp and filling so that they are drawn together into groups, thus forming open spaces between the different groups, which appear in the woven fabric. The openwork in mock leno is not as pronounced as in real leno, neither is it as durable, hence is used only in cheap fabrics.