Dictionary of Textile Terms.

Wild Silk: Silk from the cocoon of a silkworm raised in the native or wild state. Like true silk, the wild silk is composed of a single thread when magnified, but the threads, instead of being structureless, are composed of individual fibrils, recognizable by decided, parallel, and exposed striations. As a rule, they are more quadrangular and less circular in section, each bundle of filaments being of paralleloped form, and each with a single bundle attached on their narrow side. Only very few of the wild silkworms produce cocoons of the same regularity as those which have thrived on the contary, they are more given to interrupting the spinning of the envelope, and thus produce several threads, each of which is in a joint, many of them plait leaves and twigs in with the cocoon, on which account the majority of wild silks are difficult to improve on wind. On the other hand, they are highly suitable for spinning into yarn after the manner which is used with spun silk. The wild silks are:

(1) Greater durability, by reason of the thicker condition of the threads; (2) productively and cheapness of preparation; (3) absence of waste in dyeing, the wild silks not being encumbered with sericine, and consequently not requiring to be scouring. Against the undeniable advantages of wild silks have been formulated the following drawbacks: the wild silks not being encumbered with sericine, and consequently not requiring to be scouring. Against the undeniable advantages of wild silks have been formulated the following drawbacks: the wild silks not being encumbered with sericine, and consequently not requiring to be scouring.

Yamamayy Silk: Yarn made from the Yamanayy silkworm, the oak leaf moth and most nearly resembles true silk, though somewhat coarser, the average diameter being about 0.027 mm. The larvae spin an unusually regular cocoon of a beautiful pale green color, of which the silk can be readily unwound, and is preferred in Japan for use in figured fabrics along with true silk.

Wilkesden Canvas: Plain woven cotton fabric, rendered waterproof by treating it with solution of ammonical copper and tannic acid, preserving it between hot calenders.

Willeying: The English term for a process known in Hindustan as "leashing," in Bradford as "dyeing over" and in United States as "shoddy picking.

Wool: The class of heavy machines used in cleaning and opening woods, low-grade cottons, silks and other fibers, known in the United States as "Duster." The machines used for these different materials are of very different sizes, but are essentially alike, and consist of a revolving cylinder, armed with spikes, in a cylindrical casing also armed with spikes. A portion of the cotton forms a grid of wire, through which the waste falls by gravity or is drawn by a suction blast.

Willow: Obtained from the bark of willow. Willow is composed of a hard bark in strong solution; used for twine and bags in Central Europe.

Willing: The taking out of the material by means of the willow, in order to open the fibers and remove sand, dust, vegetable, etc., impurities present in wool, waste or other fibers.

Wilton: Heavy machine-made carpets, with a cut warp pile. The number of colors used in a pattern is limited, each color having an extra warp. There are three binding picks to each row of pile.

Wilton Carpet: A velvet pile-warp carpet, resembling Brussels in its construction, but with the looped pile cut, so named from being made originally at Wilton, England.

Wilt Sheep: A variety of English sheep peculiar to Wiltshire regarded as the hybrid race of Herefords and Wiltshires.

Wimberly: Commercial variety of late maturing upland cotton, the long staple forming large bolls.

Winche: A corrupt form of winch. In dyeing, a simple apparatus for changing a fabric from one dye to another. It consists of a reel placed over the division between the vats. The fabric, placed over it and turned either way, is by means of turning this reel transferred from one dye to another. When several vats are placed in line, and contain dyers' mordants, soap, vinegar, etc.; a wince or reel is placed between each two, and the combined apparatus becomes then a wincing-machine. In such a machine the fabrics are called wince-pots, or wince-pits.

Wincey: A strong fabric composed of cotton warp and woolen filling, woven plain or twilled and made in different weights; used for men's wear.

Winder: A machine for winding threads, etc., being named according to the work they are designed for, like hollin winder, cop winder, etc.

Winders Knot: A knot frequently made in winding, but which knot will not stand chafing of reed and heddles; it will slip, since one of the ends is simply passed through the knot formed on the other thread. To distinguish from a winder's knot, which will not slip while passing heddles and reed.

Winding: The operation of winding yarn on bobbins or chests, onto hollins preparatory to weaving.

Windsor Brilliant: A washable English cotton dress goods, finished with a dark lustre.

Windsor Duck: Printed duck, made in England for summer dresses.

Windsor Louise: Fine English washable, printed cotton dress goods.

Winter Laces: Laces of close and firm texture, as Alcunum, muscari, etc., irrespective of make of design.

Winter Stain: A dainty brown color of the fleece of wool, which is an indication that the wool is made in a thoroughly sound state, and is therefore thrown out by the wool-sorter, being suitable only for goods that are to be dyed black or other dark colors.

Wiper: The English term for tappet or beam.

Wiry Wool: Wool that is thick, straight and hard in fibre. This characteristic indicates a very objectionable type of badly-bred wool.

Witch: See Dobby.

Witch-loom: A loom containing a witch or dobby for its shedding motion. Also called Dobby-loom.

Witch-stitch: Hereing bone embroidery stitch.
Wood: This dyeing matter, Isatis tinctoria, which was employed from the most ancient times, is now nearly unknown in this country. It is yet cultivated in some parts of Europe, where it goes under the name of wood. The coloring-matter it contains is chemically and practically the same as indigo; it is still used in setting the for dyeing, but is not prepared in that state which is useful in dyeing or reducing the indigo to the soluble condition; but it contains very little coloring-matter—indeed it was hardly possible to dye a deep blue with it.

Woody Colors: This term implies that the wool has been dyed in the indigo vat. A woody color should be heated with indigo alone, but in the case of woody blacks, greens, and browns, the indigo is necessarily combined with other dyes. The term has lost much of its significance since the introduction of the alizarin and other fast dyes.

Wonderful: A cotton plant originated in India by H. Jones, the originator of several other varieties bearing his name. This is similar to the Jones Loose Staple, but has a longer and stronger, with a longer and finer staple. Linen 28 to 30 per cent, staple 35 to 40 mm.

Wongsby: The pods of a species of Gardenia, found in China and yielding a large quantity of yellow dyestuff, which colors silk and wool without mordants.

Wood Fibre Lace: Applied to all kinds of wool of wood (artificial silk).

Wood-pulp Silk: A form of artificial silk resulting from the action of sulphuric acid upon cellulose or woody fibres.

Woof: A term sometimes applied to the yarns (hand-waving) that are made, and more frequently a term (now almost obsolete) synonymous with worsted filling.

Wool: The fine, soft, curly hair which forms the fleece of the sheep or of the goat, and some other animals, as the angora goat, the llama, alpaca, vicuna, and the camel. The wool or fleece of the sheep furnishes the most important material for clothing in all cold and temperate climates; it is softer than the actual hair; also more flexible and elastic, besides having a wavy character.

Chemically wool consists of keratin, a substance composed of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, in the fiber which makes up the wool. In its physical structure, the exterior scale structure of wool is most marked while that of hair is only faintly indicated; it is much more prolific and more flexible than hair. Its length, as placed on the market, varies from about an inch up to sixteen inches, but if allowed to grow without restraint it may attain a length of something like forty inches. In diameter of fiber it ranges from about one five-hundredth part of an inch up to one eighth of an inch. The curls or waves upon it vary from one per inch to thirty per inch. There are naturally many types varying in length, fineness, softness, color, lustre, elasticity, and felting properties according to the conditions under which the wool has been grown.

In judging wool on the sheep's back or the fleece on the sorter's bench, always look at the shoulders first. Always assume that the wool to be inspected is really fine, first examine the back of the sheep, and in that state, useful in desizing or reducing the indigo to the soluble condition; but it contains very little coloring-matter, and it was hardly possible to dye a deep blue with it.

Terms Used in the Woollen Industry:
Full-blood Wool: Wool from a pure-bred sheep (Merino is the standard).
Half-blood Wool: Wool from cross-bred merino and English sheep.
Quarter-blood Wool: Wool from sheep only quarter merino in stock.
Cross-bred Wool: Wool from cross-bred sheep (usually the cross-breeding is English and merino).
Mexican Wool: South American wool from cross-bred sheep.

Wool Research
The British Wool Research Association has recently published the Report of the Council for 1920. The report describes the property at Torrington, Headingley, Leeds, which has been purchased for the use of the Association and experimental work. The principal points to the future staff have been made, and further appointments will be announced as required.

The Association has arranged with the British Cotton Research Association to exchange its confidential publications for those of the latter. During the year the Association has published four confidential papers as follows:
Periodic faults in yarn: their effect in a cloth, with special reference to variegation round on the seeds and spools; Note on the use of intercrank fluorspar; and Life of leather for Noble combs and gill boxes; Some observations on milling; A critical review of scouring.

A large number of other researches are in hand or completed. Part of the useful work being done by the Association is an endeavor to create greater interest in the science of sheep breeding, with the view of improving the quality and value of home grown wool. The report goes on to refer to "grey" hairs, so common in some British breeds, a serious fault from the wool grower's point of view, as also unfavorable to the fertility of the animal.

The subject of quality is also discussed, and it is recognized that the farmer will ask questions about new wool fields, for the development of the country. Wool is necessarily a slow and difficult process.

In Mesopotamia, it is interesting to learn, the prospects are good, provided it receives the special attention it deserves. What exists of peaceable existence can be secured. Experimentally, a cotton suitable to Lancashire has been grown there, giving better value, both to the spinner, than it gave either in India, where it originated, or in India, where the planting seed actually came. Mr. McCominell then went on to outline the plans now in preparation by the Empire Cotton Growing Committee for the carrying out of the recommendations in the report.

By the British cotton industry's levy and the prospective Parliamentary grant the sum of £150,000 a year is to be spent on a petition by the President of the Imperial Trade Committee. As a result, cotton is being embodied under royal charter to be followed out. Some preparations for increased cotton growing are already known.

It will be the duty of the central office to examine the Empire, area, by area, and gradually to find out all possible openings. In this, it will be the further duty of the Corporation to secure that the opening is used to the best advantage. Generally, the plan will be to bring about the growing of cotton by and for the benefit of the resident population.

There are at least two urgent necessities:
(1) To enlarge the agricultural staff, and it will be the business of the Corporation to find the men, and, if necessary, supply the pay for large numbers of the men, directly or indirectly, on cotton; (2) to increase by research the knowledge of the science of cotton growing; (3) to train men specifically for practical agricultural work in the cotton field; (4) to study the commerce of cotton, so that infant industries may be assisted over the critical period when they become economically self-supporting; (5) the important question of travelling commissioners.

The committee realize that though the Corporation may supply funds, and even men, and though the cotton industry may give the inspiration required, yet real progress can only be made if the local government in each place is itself not more willing, but cotton growing increase. The committee have, therefore, designed that there should be a small and select staff of specially qualified men, who will systematically spread time travelling round the cotton districts of the Empire.

These men will visit each county and district in turn, and they will personally investigate conditions and discuss difficulties and opportunities with the local government and its agricultural department, and with individual growers.