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industrial conflict scarcely less strenuous than war, and the nation that cannot maintain its own independence in the actual necessities of life is in a position of subservience. As the Canadian people look forward to the time now approaching when it shall be industrially self-contained and self-dependent, whether in peace or war, it is essential that it should produce its own textile fabrics, at least such fabrics as are needed to maintain its people in bodily comfort, and not fabrics of mere luxury. Seeing, indeed, what issues hang on clothing in a climate of such extremes as we have, Canada can no more become a manufacturing nation without well-developed textile industries than a man can labor effectively without arms. For the reasons before stated the woolen and knitted goods branches of these trades are of prime importance.

Having shown the necessity of home textile manufactures to Canada, the question has to be answered, "Are the textile industries of Canada worth rescuing?" The word rescue implies that the thing referred to is in danger. The fact that the woolen mills of Canada, many of them equipped with machinery of the most modern kind, have in the last nine years steadily diminished in number and manufacturing capacity, at a time when every other department of manufacturing has advanced with the general expansion of trade and the growth of population, is proof that the woolen and allied textile trades are in danger, and that our industries have, in consequence lost their former balance. This proof is fully set forth in a bulletin recently issued by the "Canadian Textile Journal," in which it is shown that whereas in 1885 there were in Canada 240 woolen mills operating 515 sets of cards, 1,085 looms and 107,870 spindles, these had increased in 1899 to 270 mills having 624 sets of cards, 2,645 looms and 194,086 spindles. In 1908, however, the number of mills in actual operation were only 197, with 521 sets of cards, 1,706 looms and 167,546 spindles—a remarkable decline where every other leading industry has gone ahead with strides in keeping with the general prosperity of the country.

This is all the more lamentable when it is remembered that woolen fabrics have been an important feature of home manufactures since the first colonization of Canada, and that Canadian goods have in all periods of our past history shown a better average of wearing