cession, such as the honorable member refers to, but I will make enquiry.

Reference to private agreements usually leads to misunderstanding, and Mr. M'Arthur appears not to know the situation in Canada. The sugar trade in Canada has been the source of no revenue, and in fact considerable loss to both wholesale and retail traders for years. The refiners have been asked to step in and assist in regulating conditions, so that sugars might cease to be sold at less than buying prices. The refiners cannot, in any sense of the term, be said to have forced a "boycotting arrangement" upon the trade. But so long as the wholesale merchants were at liberty to obtain supplies without restraint from other than the regular channels, any agreement to regulate the trade would have been impossible. Retailers are, of course, free to import sugars as they please.

The "rebate plan" of selling merchandise is no longer the exception, but almost the rule in trade. While we do not believe in trade restriction, it must be admitted that conditions appear sometimes to justify the use of the "rebate plan," and we prefer to pass judgment upon results rather than on general principles.

It is certain that dealers in sugar are not making exorbitant profits. Refiners here are naturally interested in knowing what refiners in Great Britain are prepared to comply with the terms upon which the preference is granted, viz., "that such refined sugar has been manufactured wholly from raw sugar produced in the British colonies or possessions." To secure the observance of this condition will tax the energies of the customs officials. British refined sugars, prior to the arrangement between refiners and the wholesale trade, to which we have referred, have not been generally imported into this country.

THE WOOLEN INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

(Continued from last issue).

The British conquest did not work out immediately any great change in the cloth-making industry. British statesmen had yet to learn that it was not possible to keep the colonists perpetually hewing wood and drawing water for the benefit of the Mother Country. The dominating idea of state policy in the United Kingdom, when the French king resigned his Canadian possessions, too, was that of protection. Free Trade was consigned solely to the theorists.

Canada, with other countries, suffered from the violent protective laws of Great Britain during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. To assist the makers of worsted and woolen cloths, the exportation of yarn from Great Britain was prohibited. By 28 Geo. III., cap., 38, a statute passed in 23 Henry VIII., was reinforced with the object of placing a stricter embargo upon the exportation of these yarns. Canada was the first country to break down these restrictions. By 47 Geo. III., cap 9, the Imperial House of Commons enacted that woolen or worsted yarn was necessary to complete the assortment of goods for Indian trade in Canada, and accordingly the exportation of five thousand pounds of yarn annually to this country was made lawful. With the development of the Indian trade, it was found necessary to increase the amount of legal yarn exportations to Canada. By 52 Geo. III., cap 40, permission was given to export twenty thousand pounds of yarn each year.

Canadians had their option, either to import cloth, in its finished state from the United Kingdom, or else make it from the wool as best they could. The great majority of inhabitants, French and British, chose the latter course.

In the late spring, when the ice had disappeared, and the waters had lost their frigid temperature, the sheep were driven to the streams or to the lake shore, and washed by the farmer and his "help." The time of washing naturally varied in different parts of the country, but seldom took place before the 24th of May, and generally in the month of June. When it was impossible to reach a running stream, or a lake, the washing process was apt to lack thoroughness, and the sheep often merged from their compulsory bath very black and dirty. When they had been washed, they were driven back to the barn and sheared. The wool was then washed again in tubs by the farmer's wife. After it had been dried, the wool was ready for the first stage of manufacture.

The carding was accomplished by hand cards, which were merely two blocks of wood, about nine inches square, covered with leather, and into which had been set a number of iron teeth. Holding a card in each hand, the housewife worked the wool between the cards until it fell to the floor loosely formed into strings, regular in shape, and each about one yard long and half an inch in thickness. Carding was done, as in fact all the stages of manufacture, at odd times when the female members of the farmer's family had finished the routine tasks of the day. In the living room of the farm-house, fifty years ago, a spinning wheel was usually to be found. There were two kinds of wheels in use; the large wheel and the small wheel. The large wheel was turned by occasional pulls at the spokes, given by the spinner, who, standing beside the wheel, with alternate steps back and forward, stretched the yarn. As spun, the yarn was wound on a spindle attached to the wheel. The smaller wheel had a more familiar use in spinning flax for linen, but was also used to make woolen yarn. This wheel was driven by a treddle, the spinner sitting comfortably in a chair. Four ounces of lint, cotton, or half a pound of lock wool was a day's stint in spinning, although a clever spinner could easily do twice as much.

The yarn was reeled into skeins and then ready for dyeing, unless it was to be used in the white. Wool was sometimes colored before spinning—dyed black or red—then carded with white. The resultant thread steel or red mixed was very soft and harmonious in color.

The looms were ponderous machines but of simple construction. In each settlement there was, even in the very early days, some person, generally a woman, who gave her whole time to weaving, and exacted toll from the goods of her neighbors who brought their yarn to be woven into cloth. Fulling the cloth was the process of a later day, although the housewife often shrunk the cloth in tubs by the liberal use of soap.

*Old silk, carefully ravelled, when carded with white wool or cotton, made the silk mixed that was such a favorite for the long stockings worn with knee breeches, as well as for homespun gowns. They were woven in checks, stripes and cloudings. One of the prettiest was dice cloth—a kind of basket weave—of alternate white and black or gray threads, thirteen to the group. It was troublesome to weave—a thread too many made a balk in the pattern. Children and servants had simple checks in blue, or copperas and white. Linseys for winter wear were gorgeous in green and scarlet, and black and blue. Dyeing was part of the home work, as well as weaving and spinning. From walnut hulls, bark and root came twenty shades of brown. Green walnuts and sumach berries gave a beautiful fast black that did not stain the wearer. Hickory bark or peach leaves gave a glowing yellow; swamp maple, a blackish purple; sugar maple, a light leather tint, and oak bark set with copperas, a handsome grayish color. It fact a skilled dyer could get twenty colors from the woods and fields.

The introduction of machinery into the woolen industry began in the first year of the present century. In 1805, a Scotchman, Alexander McIntosh, made spinning wheels in Pictou, Nova Scotia, and the industrious housewives all over the province were busy at cloth-making. Mills, making machines and tools for home use, were soon to be succeeded by small mills equipped with machines to assist in the work of producing cloths.

The carding and fulling mills lightened the work of the women of the colony, who, at this time, did not confine their labors to the household, but often assisted the men in the fields. The wool was carried many miles to the mills, generally on horseback. The common charge for carding in 1817 is placed, by Gourlay, at 9d. per lb., and for fulling cloth, 6d. per yard.

The number of mills and the output of "homespun" constantly increased, until about the year 1875, when the competitors of the woolen factories began to drive out the less economical system of production. The census of 1871 estimated an annual production of 3,339,766 yards of home-made cloth in Quebec, while ten years later the census takers reduced this estimate to 2,958,180 yards. The decrease was not as great as might have been expected, in view of the increased facili-

1 Journal of Fabrics January, 1894.