

Many years ago we had two principal industries in that county, agriculture and lumbering. The farmers and their sons got work from the lumbermen in the woods in the winter and in the sawmills and on the drives in the summer, and so they went along for some years; everybody was working and everybody was contented. During those days there was no distress, no discontent in the county. But there came a time when the lumbering industry in that part of the country passed out of existence and the farmers' sons were obliged to look to other sources of employment. Fortunately we had a protective tariff in this country, and under that tariff new industries took the place of lumbering and the lumbering towns of those days are now industrial centres.

I propose to give a few figures as to the capital invested in that county in industrial concerns, the wages paid, and the number of employees. We have approximately \$9,265,000 capital invested in industrial concerns in that county; they have an annual payroll of \$2,026,200, and employees to the number of 2,344. This, Mr. Speaker, illustrates what industry means to one county in Ontario, and these industries have been developed as the result of protection. The figures I have quoted, do not include all the industries, just the major ones, and, of these quoted, two-thirds of the investment is in the woollen industry. These industries have kept our people in our own country, and in our own country they have furnished employment for the sons and daughters of the farmers who do not wish to remain on the land, and further, they have furnished a market for practically the entire agricultural products of our country. Anything seriously affecting the prosperity of these industries will seriously affect the prosperity of every man, woman and child in my county, whether they are in the mills or on the land.

Permit me for a few minutes to deal with the general situation as it affects the woollen industry. This is one of the greatest of Canadian industries, having a total investment of \$65,000,000 and 124 mills in the several provinces. It particularly feels British competition more than any other Canadian industry, as is seen by the imports. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922, there was imported from the United Kingdom, under the British preferential tariff, goods amounting to \$90,000,000. Of this, \$22,000,000 were woollen or knitted goods, showing conclusively, that the woollen and knitted goods industry of Canada bears the brunt of importations under the British preferential ar-

rangements. Any increase in the British preference, as I will show further on, means an increase in the importation of British woollen and knitted goods, and a decrease in the Canadian production of the same goods, with consequent unemployment, and the migration of our skilled labour to the United States.

The 10 per cent increase in the British preference placed the woollen and knitted goods industry of Canada in most serious danger. In 1900 the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) increased the British preference to 33½ per cent of the general tariff. Between 1900 and 1907, eighty-eight woollen mills closed their doors and the woollen and knitted goods industry faced almost extinction. So alarming became the depression of this great industry, that the present Minister of Finance made a thorough investigation and changed the preference on these goods, to 14.29 per cent of the general tariff. This tariff practically remained unchanged until 1922, when the same Minister of Finance reduced the duties from Britain 2½ per cent on certain items such as flannels, cloths, tweeds, undershirts, knitted goods, and so on. The effect of that was seen in the rapid increase in the British importations. For the ten months ending January, 1923, with an allowance to bring the figures up to the end of March, 1923, the following increase is shown in importations from Great Britain, of woollen and knitted goods brought about by the tariff reductions made that year:

Total value of woollen and knitted goods imported into Canada:

Year ending March, 1922.. . . .	\$20,680,208
Year ending March, 1923.. . . .	29,484,079
Increase approximately 43 per cent.	

Yardage, imported into Canada:

Year ending March, 1922.. . . .	12,208,523 yards.
Year ending March, 1923.. . . .	18,793,613 yards.
Increase approximately 54 per cent.	

Hosiery and socks imported into Canada:

Year ending March, 1922.. . . .	257,089 doz. pairs
Year ending March, 1923.. . . .	610,372 doz. pairs
Increase approximately 138 per cent.	

This shows what a serious effect the increase in the British preference had on the Canadian woollen industry. Few of the Canadian mills to-day are running full time; in fact, the competition is so keen that any further preference to the British mills will have a most serious effect. The situation to-day is even more serious to the Canadian industry than it was in 1900. British industry is shut out from continental markets as they cannot pay, and from the United States by the tariff, and they are now turning their whole attention to the Canadian market. Brit-