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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion, to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition Price, \$3.00

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TEXTILES AND THE NEW BRITISH TARIFF POLICY.

The cotton interests of England may be said to have been the cyclonic centre of the agitation that resulted in free trade as the settled policy of Great Britain; and it is likely that once more, though not to such a vital extent, the agitation of the new fiscal policy of the British Empire, so far as it affects the Motherland, will centre around the cotton trade. It is worth while to remember that, whereas, in the discussion and shaping of the trade policy of almost

every other nation, the question of protection has hinged on the manufacturing interests, in the case of Great Britain it hinged not upon manufactures—which were already well established and ahead of other nations in staple lines—but upon food and raw materials. Of these raw materials cotton was above all the main item. So far as the food question was concerned, the fight for free trade was a fight against a monopoly. The wheat farmers of England enjoyed a protected industry. Indeed, up to a certain extent, wheat-growing was a monopoly; because in the time of the free trade agitation the importation of wheat into Great Britain was absolutely prohibited until the average market price reached 70 shillings per quarter, and when it went beyond that price it was still dutiable at a high rate, decreasing to 5s. 2d. only when it had reached 85s. per quarter. Under such laws, in time of a deficient harvest, wheat sometimes ran up to a price equivalent to \$9 or \$10 a bushel, so that bread riots were not to be wondered at. It was by breaking down the monopoly in wheat and bread that the British nation was able to maintain for years a virtual monopoly in cotton manufacturing and the cotton export trade. The situation that grew out of free trade is well stated by Benjamin Kidd, in a recent lecture before the Colonial Institute in London:

"The staple manufacture of England throughout the nineteenth century has never varied. It has been cotton. In the year 1901, out of total exports £280,000,000 of British and Irish produce, the exports of the cotton industry, if we include its subordinate branches, were over one-fourth, or not far short of £80,000,000. The exports of no other single industry at all approached this in amount. It is necessary to reflect what stands behind these figures. No cotton is grown in the British Islands. It has to be brought from the ends of the earth. The greater proportion of it now comes from the Southern United States. This cotton is worked up in England and the products are once more sent abroad to nearly all the countries of the world. They bulk largely in the trade of the United Kingdom with most States. Picture to yourselves, therefore, the position of such an industry in England. It has had to maintain itself