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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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THE UNEQUAL INCIDENCE OF THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

Among other newspapers, the "Montreal Witness" has given a good deal of attention during the past month to the preferential tariff, as it affects the woolen industry of Canada. Now the Witness is one of the most intelligently conducted newspapers in Canada, and its editorial department, especially, is an honor to Canadian journalism. Paying such high respect to our contemporary, we should like to have further opinions from the Witness, especially as it has quoted some comments made by the Canadian Journal of Fabrics last month on the tariff question. It will be remembered that the secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association

sought to account for the increase of \$2,670,303 in the imports of woolens under the preferential tariff by stating that machinery capable of producing \$2,750,000 worth of woolen goods had ceased to operate in Canada since the inception of the preferential tariff. The secretary admitted that his sole authority for this estimate was a United States textile directory's list of Canadian mills, and in remarking on this, we showed that the loose method of reporting custom mills to directory publishers, makes any such method of estimating machinery quite misleading. As compilers of the Canadian Textile Directory, we know it is common for proprietors of small mills to report that they have "one set of cards," when, as a matter of fact, they run a custom carding mill, and do no weaving whatever, except, perhaps, in one case out of twenty, on a hand loom. The misconception usually arises out of the difference between the modern notion of a "set of cards," which implies a corresponding amount of spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing machinery—and the idea of the old-fashioned carder, whose machinery is used for making roll cards from which the farmer's wife spins her yarn on the old hand-spinning wheel, or who cards wool for the batting of home-made quilts, etc. We pointed out that of those one-set woolen mills, that had really gone out of existence, most were equipped with narrow cards of an antiquated type, and that this class of mill was doomed to extinction by the evolution of the woolen manufacturing industry, no matter what tariff was in force. We stated these facts because we wish to be fair in analyzing the situation, and we cannot see that anything is to be gained by founding an argumentative edifice on the sand, as the secretary of the association was doing. Another thing we might have pointed out, but did not, was the secretary's method of arriving at the production of the woolen machinery he alleges had gone out of existence. He says: "Taking the annual production of a set of cards at \$17,000," and thus he reaches the vast total, two and three-quarter million of dollars. It is no more possible to get a reliable average of the production of a set of cards than it is to get the total horse-power of the steam used in Canadian factories by knowing the number of steam engines in the country. As one engine may be 1,500 horse-power, and another 5 horse-power, so the annual product of a set of cards