

lines of imported goods proved a temptation to a large section of the dealers and tailors to cry down Canadian goods and cry up imported goods. This, with the introduction of the preferential tariff, with its inequitable bearing on the woolen branches, has brought the Canadian woolen mills to the condition they are now in. The case of the woolen mills to-day will be the case of the knit goods and other branches of textiles to-morrow, and we come back to the question suggested in the beginning: Shall these, the most essential of all the industries that make for the economic independence of the country, be sacrificed, or shall the Canadian nation resign itself to going through life, as it were, on one leg?

It is the contention of the "Canadian Textile Journal" that the transfer of the woolen industry from Canada to England is not a sacrifice to the cause of Imperial unity, but merely a gift to a few manufacturers of Yorkshire. Instead of putting our industrial machinery out of balance by this means, Canada should make sure that it will be able, as the Intendant Talon did and as the United States now does, to have "wherewithal to clothe itself from head to foot" in any crisis; and the Canadian people should make a good contribution for Imperial defence to the British Government direct, and not load rich gifts upon a few Yorkshire manufacturers to the destruction of millions of capital invested in the same business in Canada. The preferential idea is a generous conception, but in its application it was surely never designed to cut the throat of a home industry so essential to Canadian national development as textiles.

Give our woolen and knitting mills the security afforded by the old specific duties so as to protect the capital invested, and they will guarantee that the Canadian consumer will pay no more for his clothing, and yet will be provided with a better article and in every variety of patterns desired, while the farmer and merchant will have the advantage of the home market created by a great industry, giving employment to more hands in proportion to capital invested than any other business.

The position of the knit goods industry and other branches of textiles, and the relation of the whole group of textile manufactures to the farming and mercantile community will be dealt with in other issues.