and yarns are 235,000,000 francs a year. In Germany again the hands employed in the textile industries are nearly double those in any other group of industries, while Germany's exports of woolens alone amount to 266,223,000 marks. (See Mulhall's statistics.) It is the same with the smaller nations, such as Belgium, Holland and Switzerland.

If these enlightened nations regard their textile industries as of the very first importance, and if Canada

Its Bearing on Imperial Defence. has already spent millions of dollars in direct bonuses out of the public treasury to create an iron and steel industry and other minor industries, is it wise to regard our own textile manufactures as a problem of no consequence to the future of the nation? Seeing how an adverse tide in an Imperial war might make the question of winter clothing of greater consequence than fuel itself, is not the ability to supply for ourselves at least the plain fabrics of the people the best contribution Canada can make to the material strength of the Empire? But again, leaving aside all question of war or other disturbance to our trade, are the people of Canada to spend millions for the creation of an iron and steel industry, along with other millions for industries that are more or less exotic—that is, based on raw material that is not native to the country—and then confess themselves helpless when they come to face a problem which their own forefathers dealt with successfully?

Let us then discover why it is that, under economic conditions generally similar, our neighbor nation to the

The Paradox. south has developed an enormous wool-growing industry and a still vaster woolen manufacturing industry, while in Canada both are declining, in spite of the fact that the sheep of Canada are less subject to grave epidemic diseases than any other in the world, and that the quality of our mutton is scarcely surpassed by that of Great Britain itself.

That the manufacture of woolen textiles is a natural and primary industry in Canada is evident from the fact that one of the first things done by the French colonists

8