

Importation of Cottons into Canada.

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(Editor Canadian Textile Journal.)

When sufficient time is taken to go into such a subject as this, one is struck by the enormous quantity the imports amount to. During the fiscal year ending March 1912, the imports of cotton goods into Canada were valued at \$22,757,633. This included only articles specifically listed as being of cotton but if the total of cotton goods could be clearly differentiated, there would be shown a total import of considerably over \$25,000,000. In the same year, according to the latest census report, the value of the products of Canadian cotton mills was \$24,584,931, so that there is a striking similarity between the values of the two branches and one is perhaps prone to investigate the growth of the two. Taking up the former, it is found that the imports of cotton goods into this country more than trebled in the past twelve years, amounting in 1900 to \$6,875,282, and more than quadrupled in the past decade and a half. During these twelve years, when the importation of cotton goods was increasing so rapidly, the development of the cotton industry here was very slow, but the reorganization that has taken place during that time has placed the cottons companies in an estimable position among the country's industrial concerns. Since 1900, the consumption of raw cotton, according to Government returns, has increased from 60,483,400 lbs. in that year to 72,793,905 lbs., valued at \$7,932,467 in 1912, while the number of spindles and looms in operation have increased from 638,212 and 15,401 respectively in 1900 to 893,761 and 19,883 respectively in 1912.

From the figures compiled, we find that in 1900 England supplied 67.49% of the total imports of cotton, the United States 23.18% and all other countries 9.33%. In 1912, the figures were 63.16%, 26.26% and 10.58% respectively. From which, we see that England and the United States have practically maintained their relative positions in the increasing trade. The principal imports of cotton goods consist of knitting yarns, yarns No. 40 and finer, cotton thread; piece goods, gray, bleached, printed, dyed or colored; duck over 8 oz. per square yard; velveteens; bags; towels; handkerchiefs; sheets; cotton shirts; hosiery; clothing; embroideries and lace.

It is interesting in this connection to note the principal changes in the character of imports since 1900. In 1900, the imports of cotton yarns No. 40 and finer amounted to \$220,372, in 1912 to \$1,138,306; cotton thread in 1900 to \$673,719, in 1912 to \$789,452; piece goods in 1900 to \$4,009,725, in 1912 to \$8,887,774; ducks over 8 oz per square yard, in 1900 to \$52,993, in 1912 to \$609,467; velveteens in 1900 to \$13,204, in 1912 to \$765,559; towels in 1900 to \$366,663, in 1912 to \$316,088; handkerchiefs in 1900 to \$143,591, in 1912 to \$620,048; cotton shirts in 1900 to \$38,749, in 1912 to \$468,456; hosiery in 1900 to \$146,975, in 1912 to \$881,929; clothing in 1900 to \$367,359, in 1912 to \$2,435,746; embroideries in 1900 to \$298,183, in 1912 to \$1,482,746.

In the case of cotton yarns, coarse warps and coarse hosiery yarns are dutiable, but fine yarns of No. 40 and finer are admitted free. Canadian

mills supply a large quantity of the lower grade, but the fine yarns are imported by the knitting mills.

The great bulk of imported piece goods is British. The Canadian mills practically control the market in gray goods and cheap and medium grades of prints and colored goods. The importation of these lines is simply because the trade finds great difficulty in getting deliveries from our mills on account of their being sold far ahead. The great increase has been in the imports of goods made of fine yarns and all specialties in which our mills have not been able to offer much competition. There has been quite a growth in the production of duck by our mills, but the consumption of this product is rapidly increasing and our mills, although they are being enlarged to take care of this demand, are unable to supply it. In some of the other lines our mills offer some competition but are unable to supply the demand. In cotton clothing the United States leads, which is not due to attractive prices, but more largely to the superior make of the goods and the fact that the Canadian taste favors American styles.

It is interesting to note the principal sources of Canada's imports of cotton goods and the duties collected in each case. In 1912, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to \$14,373,644 on which the duty collected amounted to \$2,891,055 or 20.11%. From the United States \$5,974,016, duty \$1,717,419, or 28.75%; Switzerland \$1,097,991 duty \$203,189 or 18.51%; Germany \$717,843, duty \$201,370 or 28.05%; France \$432,116, duty \$116,936 or 27.06%; Belgium \$55,919, duty \$14,106 or 25.23%; Austria-Hungary \$44,010 duty \$9,490 or 21.56%; Japan \$41,163 duty \$11,159 or 27.11%; all other countries \$20,911, duty \$4,071 or 19.46%. That is on the total value of imports of cotton goods of \$22,757,633 the duty collected was \$5,168,749 or 22.71%. Of the British proportion of the duty, it must be remarked that the total value of the goods supplied included \$1,224,734 worth of foreign goods which were shipped through England and which otherwise would be subject to higher duties.

These figures show that the mills are not keeping pace with the demand of their home market, but they are enlarging and are quick to imitate in lines that are imported in considerable quantities. The textile industry has been somewhat spared by the reckless company promoter and, of course, we are anxious to see it remain in such a position, but feel sure that a good sound development will take place during the next few years in the cotton branch. Two new mills, it is expected, will be in full operation by the end of the year, adding a total of 75,000 spindles and 1,560 looms. Another mill is in course of erection for the manufacture of cotton duck and during the past summer a \$6,000,000 company was formed by Toronto interests whose plans have not yet been made public. But it will take a great deal more than this to meet the demands of the home market and decrease the importation of cotton goods into the country, which we all hope will happen during the next decade.

A RECEIVER APPOINTED.

The Canadian Cereal Flour Mills, Limited, had a receiver appointed this week to look after the interests of the bondholders. This company had mills in Tillsonburg, Lindsay and Listowel and several other places.

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