

century it was the policy of home Governments to regard colonies as existing for the benefit of the manufacturers of the Mother Country, and colonial manufacturing was prohibited as far as possible in order that factory owners at home might grow richer and maintain their prices. But these exactions in prices, combined with the extortions of the colonial companies, to whom the trade was farmed out by the administrators, drove the French-Canadians first into smuggling and then into making cloth for themselves, in some cases with the consent of the French authorities, in other cases in spite of them. The Intendant Talon, for one, realized that the planting of domestic industries was for the benefit of the colonists, and in times of need would even be a relief to the Government at home; and in 1670 he wrote that he had caused druggetts, coarse camlet, bolting-cloth, serge, woolen cloth and leather to be made in the colony, adding: "I have of Canadian make wherewithal to clothe myself from head to foot." The Ursuline Nuns willingly assisted in this policy, and taught the girls of the colony to spin and weave at their schools, and as these girls went out into the world as wives of farmers and hunters they carried their knowledge of the art all over the country. Thus the spinning-wheel and hand-loom were a part of the equipment of every home. As a complement to this home industry the raising of sheep and the growing of flax and hemp began and extended, as is seen by the records of the census of 1671 and subsequent periods.

The textile industries throve all along through the long period in which they were carried on as a household occupation, and it continued to thrive during the transition to machine-made goods. There were at the census of 1851 several hundred carding, fulling, spinning and weaving establishments, on the "custom" plan, in the four Provinces which later on formed the Dominion of Canada; while in the same year over 6,500,000 yards of home-made cloth and flannel were produced in the homes of the people of these four Provinces.

No better woolens were ever made than those made in Canadian mills, and largely from Canadian wool, and the golden age of woolen and knit goods manufacturing in Canada was in that period when wholesale and retail dealers and merchant tailors united to commend these honest fabrics. But there came a time when the craving for a multiplicity of patterns and styles and the desire to make the greater profits which could be had on many