

example the Canadian furniture manufacturers could vote for a British preference of 50 per cent., or even 75 per cent., without sacrificing a dollar of their own trade, for the good reason that in the lines of goods which Canadian furniture manufacturers produce they can actually beat the British maker in his own market. It is easy to shout for the preferential tariff under those circumstances.

The unbiased reader will see that the incidence of the preferential tariff does not fall equitably on the various industries of Canada; and, while the Canadian textile manufacturer is willing to give the British merchant and manufacturer an advantage over the foreigner he can hardly be asked to make all the sacrifice while his fellow-countrymen in other lines are not called upon to pay a penny of the tribute.

We are glad to note that the *Globe*, whose editorial is quoted in this issue, takes a very reasonable view of the woolen men's position; and the *Montreal Witness*, another Liberal journal, also appreciates the peculiar position of this industry. At the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association last year members of the Dominion Government also admitted the justice of the woolen men's representations, but so far they have not acted on their convictions. What are they going to do about it?

THE NEED OF THE DAY.

We have long held the opinion that one of the causes of the failure of Canada to make the progress it should in textile manufacturing is the absence of centres of technical and industrial education in our own country suited to the rank and file of woolen and cotton mill operatives. The recent opening of the textile paper making sections of that magnificent institution, the Manchester Technological College, and the prospects of the early establishment in London of a great technological institute, to which Lord Rosebery and a number of public-spirited citizens are contributing, shows that the Mother Country is now awake to the vital necessity of better technical training if it is to hold its old supremacy in textile manufacturing. Not alone Great Britain, but the United States is now fully alive to the bearing of technical training on its industrial progress, and the several textile schools established in the past five or six years in the chief textile manufacturing districts of the Eastern States will show that our neighbors appreciate the situation, if we in Canada do not. Herbert F. Walmsley, president of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association, in his opening address at the convention held this month, said:

"A word with reference to the technical education movement. We are told that among many causes that have contributed to the advancement of German industry are the educational conditions upon which Ger-

many has relied so largely in the past for the maintenance and remarkable development of her industrial progress. The importance of technical education is fully understood in this country; nevertheless, we must see to it that neither Germany nor any other country surpass us in this particular, never losing sight of the fact that the continuance of our prosperous existence as an industrial and commercial people depends upon our ability to compete in the great markets of the world with European rivals. We cannot live without exchanging the work of our hands and the thought of our brains with those of other nations. If they surpass us in intelligence, we shall become poor and incapable in comparison with them. Excellent work is being accomplished by our textile schools, and must form one of the chief elements of our success in commercial and industrial prosperity. Regarded from the economic or industrial point of view, how important, then, is the question of technical education; that this sentiment has taken possession of the people of this great and rapidly evolving country is manifested by the readiness and munificence with which either as individuals or as communities they establish, throughout the length and breadth of the land, agencies whose functions shall be the industrial enlightenment and artistic training of its citizens. There must be no disposition to remain satisfied with past or present achievements. The wisdom of appropriating from the public funds such moneys as may by the authorities be deemed proper and sufficient for the encouragement of the technical instruction movement can scarcely be questioned."

All this applies with special force to the woolen industry of Canada, because, while the requirements of our climate indicate a large field for textile manufacturing, while the country produces a wool of remarkable strength, we have a population well qualified to excel in designing and manufacturing. Moreover, we have an enormous amount of cheap electric power. In the cotton and other branches the French Canadian population are especially deft in mill work, and only require technical training to achieve the highest results. Had a system of technical training been adopted in Quebec years ago, the French Canadians, who now provide the bulk of the skilled labor for United States mills, would have been employed at home in cotton mills that would have been shipping Canadian cottons all over the world. As it is, Canadian labor has all these years been building up United States industries and aggrandizing United States capital. The cheap power possessed by this country will, no doubt, in time draw back much of this capital and skilled labor; but a technical training school will help on the process, and it is time that our Provincial Governments bestirred themselves to do their part if they want to save Canada from dropping out of the race. A man is wanted who will do for the textile trades what Sir William Macdonald has done for the engineering trades in equipping