

would affect the cotton trade of Canada by curtailing, if not stopping altogether for a time, the shipment of Canadian cottons which now go to that country to the extent of several million yards a year.

THE TEXTILE SITUATION IN BRITAIN.

Writing of progress in loom manufacturing in Great Britain, a correspondent in the Yorkshire district refers to improvements now going on in looms for the weaving of high-class fancy goods. A firm of loom-makers, hitherto given over unreservedly to the supply of cheap, fast Bradford looms, are seeking now to wrest the honors from those who made a study of the slower and more cumbrous machines for heavier and finer fabrics. "The new loom," writes our correspondent, "is still on its trial though from the fact that a leading Huddersfield firm has ordered a battery of twenty-five, it may be seen that its reception is so far favorable. Nothing daring in the way of innovation appears. By assimilating the good points of the three best makes, and increasing the speed to 100 picks a minute, the new appliance bids for success. The best work, and Huddersfield cloths need to be flawless, has never been done at the same pace. Cloth buyers are aware of the material difference that exists between Huddersfield and Bradford methods. The one relies upon a large profit and a small turn-over; the other upon the converse. Huddersfield treats its goods with loving care and treats a damage to a piece as a mortal sin, while Bradford goes slap-dash and pays little heed to trifles, accidents or mistakes. Automatic looms are still regarded with suspicion and those that are installed, if rumor may be credited, are in mills financed by makers of those appliances. The English makes invariably depend upon the change of the shuttle in lieu of the bobbin. One at least aims at the automatic weaving of worsteds and woolens of the heavier sort, but all of its imperfections are not yet overcome. A broken pick is obviously a more serious matter in a suiting at a dollar and a half the yard than in a calico at five cents. Looms in the cotton trade can scarcely be said to be working at all. Fifteen thousand are standing idle in Burnley, as I write, and thousands of Lancashire looms are working no more than forty hours per week. Spinners are losing so heavily that many have foregone the usual stock-taking. Since dividends are out of the question, they are disposed to see what another quarter will do to mitigate their grievous loss. Cotton comes forward very slowly, and spinners are arguing with, rather than buying, from brokers. The cotton disaster, if it has done nothing else, has stimulated the effort to grow cotton on British soil as nothing but a calamity could have done. East and West Africa and the West Indies are to be encouraged to the utmost, and though

cotton-growers in the States sneer at the schemes of our associations, their work will go persistently along. In the textile trades here it is fully understood—the words of visiting Canadian manufacturers seem to put the point beyond question—that the Canadian intention is to raise the duties upon imported fabrics. The intention is philosophically accepted. Woolen men agree that Canada has the right, if she fancies it to be her interest, to bar out British cloths or make them dear to her own people. To be barred out of markets is no new experience, although a 40 per cent. tariff is not sufficient to exclude a considerable import into the States, for instance. Before the year closes, our account with Uncle Sam for woolens and worsteds will be a rough two millions sterling, say ten million dollars. English manufacturers are hard to beat. Outside any politics, the typical woolen man of England finds it hard to understand why he should be asked to give a preference upon corn, and his naval and military contribution to a Dominion that frankly announces its desire to exclude the goods he makes. Under the pressure of rival politicians, he is looking about for a reason without getting at all near to finding it. The proposition may be open to other constructions, perhaps much more can be said of it, but in faithfully reporting the attitude of the man with a mill, no harm should be done to either party. Looking at the matter as an ice-cold bit of business, neither the woolen master nor his operatives see the fairness of the transaction."

—The importation of woolen goods into Canada has nearly doubled in the last seven years, or to be precise, the imports of woolen goods in 1897 were \$7,177,954, while in 1903 they had grown to \$13,612,942. If this increased consumption had been taken up by Canadian mills, we should have had many new mills started, and the capacity of many existing mills doubled or trebled in this week of years. The wages bill required to produce this extra cloth would amount by the present year to \$7,000,000—a good round sum to be circulated among Canadian merchants, agriculturists, and others, as the result of the increase in home trade, brought about by the development of the Canadian woolen industry. Even if half this importation could have been handled by Canadian mills, it would be no small thing for Canadian trade.

The Rapid City Power, Light and Woolen Manufacturing Company, Manitoba, has commenced the construction of an electric line from the power house to the mill.

The city of Hamilton, Ont., have paid \$300 to owners of boats, as compensation for damage caused by the Canada Colored Cotton Co. turning its hot water into the bay, under the city's directions. The water has now been diverted to the sewage works.