

but chiefly to the increasing pressure of foreign competition, the mills have in most cases this year shut down for two weeks, and economies are being effected wherever possible, to the detriment of the incomes of mill officers and operatives. The cotton manufacturers are naturally wondering why they were entirely overlooked in the tariff revision. The shirt and collar manufacturers and manufacturers in other cotton fabrics are also taking anxious thought for the morrow, and recall the occasion four or five years ago when Sir Wilfrid Laurier specifically promised a deputation of shirt and collar men that the duties on such fabrics would be readjusted to balance the favors that had just before then been given to the cotton manufacturers, headed by the late A. F. Gault. Whether Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues have been paying these manufacturers off as a justification for repudiating the promise is a question upon which they have often speculated in public or in private, according to which side of politics the speculator happened to be on. To what extent this speculation may develop into concrete action by the time the Dominion elections come around must be left for the professional politicians to determine. Meantime the importation of cotton, as well as woolen, fabrics continues to increase at a remarkable rate, and these importations are displacing goods heretofore made in Canadian mills whose past prosperity has supported many thousands of Canadian work people, who in turn have given trade to thousands of Canadian merchants.

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—The National Association of Wool Growers and the National Live Stock Association of the United States recently held a joint convention, and the result will be the withdrawal from Congress of the Grosvenor or "shoddy" bill, framed to compel manufacturers of textile fabrics to label their goods so as to show how much wool and how much of shoddy or other substitutes for wool the goods contain. The bill was merely an attempt to make political capital by catching the votes of the wool-growers, but during the discussion of the measure at the convention its injustice and impracticability were made so plain that the convention decided to abandon the support it had been giving it. The Canadian imitators of Mr. Grosvenor will soon see with equal clearness the impractical and unjust character of their proposals.

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—The raw cotton market as well as the wool market is of exceptional interest to the textile trade just now. We see in the United States and England as well as in Canada a curtailment of production among the mills. In the United States stocks are low in the hands of retailers, and trade has taken on the usual pre-election dullness in view of the uncertainty of politics. Over against this is the fact that the Government cotton crop report for July shows a condition of 88 to 90 as against 77.1 in July, 1903, and 84.7

in July, 1902. The condition is better than any year since 1898, but the contingencies of weather of the coming month have still to be reckoned with, so that the future is full of mystery. The fact that United States mills running on short time for several months past are still able to fill the current demands shows to what an extent over-production must have been going on over the border. In the case of the Canadian mills the difficulty is not over-production at home, but over-importation. On the cotton crop outlook a leading New York broker reporting on the 8th says: "In the face of these reports there seems to be little incentive to buy cotton, and spinners, in my opinion, will do well to limit purchases to their actual needs from day to day. If the fruition of the crop justifies its present promise they will be able to buy much more cheaply one or two months hence. The world will consume this year barely ten million bales of American cotton, and when the trade realizes, as it shortly will, that it is confronted with a possible supply of twelve millions of bales, prices must fall to a point that will stimulate consumption. At present the tendency seems to be still in the direction of its contraction."

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### BRITISH WOOL AND TEXTILE MARKETS.

(Correspondence of Canadian Journal of Fabrics.)

Bradford, Eng., June 28th, 1904.

Since writing you last, the new clip has come on the market, and been practically disposed of. The prices paid for it were from 30 to 40 per cent. above what was paid for the same clips last year. The advance is considerable, but some of the largest dealers have bought most of the lots, apparently expecting still further advances. It is said that a good deal of this wool is intended for the States, but the exact quantity bought for there is difficult to determine.

The local sales also took place last week and here again prices averaged 10 per cent. advance on the sales of a month ago.

Several of our largest blanket manufacturers are busy with large contracts for Japan, and low material of every description is being well bought up, some classes of waste being 60 to 70 per cent. dearer than twelve months ago.

The changes in your tariff have not caused much comment in our local papers. One member of Parliament endeavored to use it as a lever against the Chamberlain policy by asking for the amount of protection placed on British made cloth by Canada and other protected countries. The answer was given, but the agitation expected did not follow.

The general opinion is that a straight 30 per cent. is required, and it was quite expected that sooner or later your tariff would be raised to that amount.

Business in raw material is very difficult, as manufacturers are loth to pay advances and only buy what they are forced to. On the other hand, dealers decline to sell at the present prices, as they confidently expect further advances on account of scarcity.

The local exhibition which is being held here still continues to be a great success in every respect, and it is anticipated that at the close the committee will have a handsome surplus to hand over.