

About what amount of protection do you think you would desire to further develop this industry you are engaged in to the fullest extent?—Ten per cent.

Would five do you?—I think it would be sufficient. We found when the duty was 25 per cent. it was perfectly satisfactory, and the effect was this,—Our merchants had previously imported large quantities of mantles, but when the duty was made 25 per cent. on ready-made clothing they imported the sample mantle and the goods which paid the 20 per cent. duty, and established the manufacture of these mantles in the country. There being only the difference in wages to get over, there was a great inducement for them to do this.

How many people do you employ?—We use a good deal of machinery; and can therefore do with a great deal less labor than those who do not; for instance, we have a 15-horse power engine running three machines having 50 needles each, and a knife which cuts the cloth by steam, so that four cutters will do the work of from twelve to fifteen.

Could you compete as successfully without this machine that you speak of?—We could not. We turn out frequently not less than 1,000 coats a week, besides pantaloons, vests, overalls, shirts, and things of that class. It takes three women to turn out two coats per day.

How many people are employed in your establishment?—They range from 700 to 1,000, I think, and with reference to this, I would like to make an explanation. Our class of labor is peculiar. We employ a large number of women who live in their own homes. These women sit down when their breakfast, dinner, and supper is over, and make a garment, but are not exclusively employed at this work all day.

They are more or less bread-winners by your form of industry?—Yes; and they win money which enables them to buy finery which pays duty, but which they would not be able to buy but for this industry. Most of them are wives and daughters of mechanics, who earn enough to keep the house.

Can you tell us in round numbers how many people are engaged in that industry as operatives in Montreal?—I should think about 3,000, perhaps 5,000.

If the clothing trade had a protection of 25 per cent. would that not enable them to compete successfully with the foreign manufacturers, even if you had to pay 25 per cent. on the raw material?—It would put us in a slightly worse position, because we would have to advance more for raw material.

How would it affect you if a duty of 25 per cent. was put upon the manufactured article and your raw material?—It would not have any effect as far as our trade is concerned. We would just have to charge a little more on the English goods. It would have the effect of stimulating Canadian trade and make us use more Canadian wool.

Supposing 95 per cent. of the garments used in this country were made in the country, would it enable you to employ more labor?—It decidedly would.

Would the price be increased on the whole, you being able to manufacture so much larger a quantity?—I should say to a certain extent the price would be diminished, comparatively.

Are your employes male or female, or both?—More than 90 per cent. female.

Can you give us an idea of their average earnings?—Their average earnings, if you take the skilled with the unskilled labor, are comparatively small; many of our hands will not earn more than from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week, but the skilled operators, such as run sewing machines, will earn \$4 or \$5 per week. Those people who work in their own homes work very cheap, and they will earn comparatively little.

What do you pay your foremen?—We paid him last year over \$1,500. This year we economized and do not pay him over \$900.

What is the cause of the difference?—We thought we got a better man for a less price.

I said foremen; I meant heads of departments?—We have only one.

From what disadvantage are you now suffering?—Almost exclusively from English competition.