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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Canada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods and kindred trades of the Dominion; to which is appended a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to these trades. Fourth edition. Price, \$3.00.

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THE POSITION OF THE WOOLEN INDUSTRY.

As there has been a good deal of controversy on the question of the extent to which the Canadian woolen industry has declined owing to the preferential tariff, we gladly comply with a request that we should give some statistics on the subject. Those who care to go over the files of the JOURNAL OF FABRICS will find that we have had a strong conviction that peculiar injustice has been done to the woolen manufacturing industry of the country by the preferential tariff; but while holding these views we could not go the length of the secretary of the Cana-

dian Manufacturers' Association in stating that 160 sets of cards had gone out of operation in the last year or so, and that the annual value of the product of this amount of machinery was \$2,750,000, taking the production of a set of cards at about \$17,000 a year. The authority for these figures was the incomplete list of mills taken from a United States textile directory. To begin with it would be almost impossible to say what the annual product of 160 sets of cards would be in a country where all sorts of cloths are manufactured on all sorts of machinery. A set of cards might work off \$1,000 worth in a year, or it might make \$10,000 or even \$20,000, all depending on the character of the goods that were being produced. Such figures, therefore, would be mere guess-work, and of no value for statistical purposes.

We have gone over the records of this Journal for the past three years and are now able to get at as close an approximation to the facts as possible. The last issue of the Canadian Textile Directory was published in June, 1899. Shortly after its issue we compiled tables of the woolen mills, separating the knitting mills from the cloth mills. As the figures then given are compared with those taken from the Canadian Textile Directory of 1885, and as some comments were made on the census methods of dealing with the textile trades, we here reproduce a part of the article including the tables:

"When we come to the woolen industry the classifications of the census returns are still more misleading, as the extent of the industry involved is greater. For instance, according to the census of 1891 there is only one blanket mill in Canada, only one felt factory, and but one factory where woolen yarn is made. Yet we have 377 establishments enumerated under the head of 'woolen mills,' 223 under the head of 'knitting factories,' 26 under the head of 'underwear factories,' and 38 under the head of 'hosiery factories.' One naturally wonders on what plan the census takers make a distinction between 'hosiery' mills, 'knitting' mills, and 'underwear' factories. Whether the underwear factories referred to are makers of knitted underwear or of cotton night shirts or such other garments the returns are equally astray. And what 'hosiery mills' in Canada are not 'knitting mills?' But one of the most remarkable features of the census returns dealing with textiles is the statement that there are in Canada 557 'carpet factories.' It will hardly be satisfactory to anyone seeking information on carpet manufacturing in Canada to be told that these 557 carpet factories must include the hand-loom weavers of rag carpets. By the way, under the head of 'weavers' the census