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NO OVER PRODUCTION

The Montreal Herald has been reading the Census Bulletin having reference to the manufacturing industries of Canada, and feels sore and disappointed at the fact that we are fast attaining to independence, or a certain measure of it, in supplying our wants for manufactured articles. It anticipates the early advent of the time when our manufacturing capacity will become so expanded that the supply will overtake the demand and that when that time arrives, because we have not built up a vast foreign trade in the meantime, "a sudden blight will fall upon all our hopes." It tells us that a period of depression will then set in which will drive the mechanic and artisan out of the country; that unless foreign markets can be provided, or a renewed impulse given to agriculture, this point will be reached much more quickly than is generally imagined, and that our manufactures are increasing at a far greater rate than husbandry, as is shown by the census in question. With our manufactures growing so rapidly, it tells us "it is evident our home market will soon be overstocked," and then in a perfect agony of anxiety for our manufacturers, it sets about to find the way of salvation for them. It tells us that treating them as infants will never enable our industries to face the world, that by protection we may put them

in a position to compete with foreigners in our own home market, but that the moment they pass out of the country they will be at a fatal disadvantage - that already the alarm note is sounded, and before many years we shall find ourselves with our agricultural interests stifled and our manufacturing interests languishing through over production.

These lachry-nose wailings remind us of the story of the little girl who was found bitterly weeping because it was possible that she might grow up to womanhood, become a wife, then a mother of a beautiful baby who might suddenly die with stomach ache. Her tears were bitter and her grief inconsolable, nor was she willing to wait a few years for the developments of the future - she would cry now. This is the case of the Herald - it won't wait for the evil day which may never come, but it must have its cry now.

It is quite remarkable that the proprietors of the more than 75,000 industrial establishments existing in Canada should be so ignorant of their own interests as to require the expert teachings of the Herald. These deluded men who have invested more than \$80,000,000 in machinery and tools alone, and who give employment directly to nearly 400,000 hands, and who might be supposed to give intelligent attention to their business, must be instructed by an unfriendly newspaper that they know nothing about their business, and that they should ask the Government to abandon the policy by which their industries were called into existence.

The Herald complains that although our manufacturing industries have attained such large proportions, our exports of manufactured products are comparatively small. The fact is admitted, but it proves a great deal. In 1881 there were but 10,163 establishments in Canada, employing 60,617 hands, engaged in the manufacture of textile fabrics, boots and shoes, clothing, etc, while in 1891 there were 17,650 establishments and 80,662 employees. The increase in establishments in the decade was 73 per cent and in employees 33 per cent, yet our exports of such manufactures were comparatively nil. In the meantime our increase of population was small, and it is apparent that the products turned out from these establishments were all required for home consumption. According to the Herald this large increase in productive capacity must bring the production close up to the consumption, and that progress at this rate must soon result in over-production. But is this a fact? We have many mills in Canada in which bleached and unbleached sheetings, drills, etc., are produced, and which the Herald delights in saying are producing in excess of the demand, yet last year we imported of just these very items 1,214,930 square yards; of gingham and plaids 19,000 square yards, of denims, drillings, etc., 23,261,828 yards, colored fabrics, 544,000 yards, uncolored cotton fabrics, 1,745,315 yards, cotton plush, 788,000 yards, and so on through a long and diversified list. These imported goods cost millions of Canadian dollars, and the production of these gave employment to thousands of foreign workmen. Can the Herald give any sound reason why these goods might not have been produced in Canada, the labor expended upon their production been performed by Canadian workmen? And will it please say if this large importation of foreign textile fabrics which ought to be supplanted by those of domestic production, indicates that "our home market will soon be overstocked?"