

As will be seen then, the carpet industry, while a great and many-sided benefit to the community, essentially a naturally so-called "legitimate" industry of the country, a direct and powerful assistant to Canada's other great branch of national enterprise—farming—and from every point of view entitled to a foremost position in Canadian enterprise, has encountered and is encountering difficulties and drawbacks at every turn. Many, through the development of the industry itself, must automatically disappear, for by far the greatest and most deadly of its foes has, since its inception, been the unfair and relentless war which foreign makers have been allowed to wage, unchecked by legislative interference.

Although our rapid growth along manufacturing lines is commonly attributed to a general prosperity created largely by agricultural successes and other like matters, it is not so generally understood to what extent the manufactories of this country are themselves influencing and promoting that general prosperity. A factory is, in this respect, the most valuable asset that this or any country can possess. The investor in foreign bonds and debentures, while spending his "interest" is otherwise no employer of labor. The investor in mortgages is a little better as his capital has increased the value of property beside giving a small employment to labor. The farmer is still better, as he not only invests his money in Canadian lands, but he employs a greater number of Canadian workmen. The manufacturer, however, contributes to the livelihood of workers in a multitude of trades and professions, increases the value of property, is the mainstay and chief reason for the existence of our railway systems, gives a permanent market for the products of the farm, insures good prices for produce, develops the intelligence and ingenuity of the people of many branches of trades and professions, and withal maintains many times as many high salaried people in permanent positions as do all the other employers of the country combined.