

made of cotton, hemp or even wool. To paraphrase a verse of Poe:

"But if trade has flown away,
In a night or in a day,
Is it, therefore, the less gone?"

and the question may be asked either of British or Canadian trade. It may be further asked, What was the purpose of the preferential tariff? Was it framed in order that Canada might "prefer" British goods to the extent of wiping out her own industries? Were the employees and customers of Canadian mills expected to forswear the use of the products of their own skill and seek beggary for the sole purpose of enabling the mills of some Old Country town to run overtime? And if so, were the textile mill-owners and operatives of Canada expected to offer themselves upon the altar of patriotism as the chief sacrifice while other industries, untouched by the incidence of the tariff, stood aloof and took no part in the oblation? Surely, if the preferential tariff is a matter of sentiment only, then whatever sacrifice is involved should be shared by all citizens alike. And this is the weakness of the preferential tariff. It mixes sentiment with business, and does not distribute the burdens equally upon Canadians, nor are its advantages bestowed equally upon the people of the Mother Country. On the Canadian side practically the whole force of the new competition created by the British preference falls on the textile trade, leaving the other chief industries unharmed. On the other side, it is not the British people at large who profit by the ruin of the Canadian woolen industry, but merely the woolen manufacturers of Yorkshire. If the preferential trade idea is to be a sentimental and a national thing, and not a specific burden laid upon a particular trade, it should be carried out on a national scale in the shape of a contribution to Imperial defence or for some other Imperial purpose.

What was, no doubt, intended by the Canadian Government, and what the judgment of the people of Canada would support, is that where manufactured goods must be imported at all we should give a preference to British goods as against those of foreign manufacture. We must not be asked to "prefer" British goods to the ruin of our own industries, but we certainly prefer to buy from Great Britain and her colonies rather than from any foreign country all the goods which we have to import.

THE CANADA WOOLEN MILLS, LIMITED.

In another column will be found a letter from R. Millichamp in reply to the communication of John F. Morley in last issue on the affairs of the Canada Woolen Mills, Limited. It will be evident from the history of the Waterloo mill and the Brodie mill before their absorption by the present company that the firm of which Mr. Millichamp is head had remarkable success as selling agents, and few who know the firm's record, both in Montreal and Toronto, will

question their business ability or their confidence in Canadian goods. Mr. Millichamp throws light upon the internal difficulties of the mills since their acquisition by the company, and it is apparent that, whatever the responsibilities of the directors may have been, no blame can be attached to Messrs. Millichamp, Coyle & Co. Mr. Millichamp held stock in the company to the amount of \$40,000—being the largest stockholder but one among the board of directors—but apart from such large financial interests in the concern he appears to have personally devoted much time and thought to the problem of pulling the mills safely through the succession of difficulties into which they were involved. It appears from Mr. Millichamp's letter that Mr. Beal was deposed from the management of the Hespeler mill by Mr. Morley himself and for other reasons than those stated in our comments.

For mills operating on the lines of goods most directly affected by the preferential tariff it would have required local managers of very exceptional ability to face the competition of showy but inferior products from the shoddy districts of Yorkshire in these years, but managers of exceptional ability are not to be had for every mill at all times. The average mill can only count upon the average talent in management. Had normal conditions prevailed such as existed before the preferential tariff the various plants of the company would be running with fair profits to-day.

—At a recent meeting of the "Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale" in Paris an interesting paper was read on the substitution of aluminum for wood in the manufacture of bobbins. The wooden bobbin is cheap and easily worked, but it has drawbacks. Being very hygrometric, it suffers from variations of temperature; this accounts for the fact that, in spinning factories, where the atmosphere is full of humidity, the bobbins revolve irregularly, causing jerks, which slacken the speed and occasion the threads to break. The result is waste of stuff, and loss of time in joining the threads again. Bobbins made of aluminum revolve in any temperature and any degree of humidity, their relative lightness (five aluminum bobbins weigh no more than two wooden ones) allows the machines carrying them to move more quickly, or, in other words, an equal speed may be obtained at less expense of motive power; finally, the smaller volume of the bobbins diminishes the cost of transport. It was stated that several firms had adopted the use of aluminum bobbins.

—The Canadian cotton mills usually close down for a week about this time of the year to allow for repairs and to give the many hands who crave a summer holiday a chance to sniff the lake breeze or scent the odors of the spruce or cedar woods. This year, owing in some degree to the short supply of cotton,