

UNITED STATES TEXTILES IN CANADA.

In a letter on trade with Canada, a correspondent of the Dry Goods Economist, writing from Washington, says.

While our exports to Canada of textiles have been heavily handicapped by the preferential rates in favor of Great Britain, they have nevertheless increased in very satisfactory volume in cotton, silk and woolen goods. In the decade ending with 1903, our export of cotton goods to the Dominion rose from \$1,922,680 to \$2,907,096. In the same period our shipments of silk manufactures increased from \$72,297 to \$238,315. The most notable increase, however, was in the manufactures of wool our exports of which rose from \$109,676, in 1893, to \$1,100,114, in 1903. This great increase is due almost entirely to Canada's fancy for our wearing apparel, of which was imported in 1903 to the value of \$862,779, as compared with \$59,229, in 1893.

The export movement to Canada of carpets, dress goods, flannels, and blankets, and miscellaneous manufactures of wool shows surprising fluctuations for the decade, but the volume of ready-made clothing shipped over the border has steadily increased, and in 1903 almost doubled the record of the year before.

It is not to be expected that the Canadian Government will permit present conditions to prevail indefinitely, and it is the opinion of the most impartial tariff experts here that nothing but a reciprocal trade agreement can prevent the adoption by Canada in the near future of more drastic measures of retaliation than any thus far invoked.

THE FALL RIVER STRIKE.

The great strike of the cotton mill operatives, at Fall River, involving over 30,000 people, has been on since July 25th, and it is not settled up to the time of writing. On the 3rd inst. a conference was arranged for, with the textile union, but the overtures were upset by a meeting of over 1,000 of the weavers, at which a resolution was unanimously passed deciding not to return to work unless an assurance were given that no weaver should be required to tend more than eight looms. It was intended by the mill owners that weavers should look after ten looms. A correspondent of the Canadian Journal of Fabrics, who has lived both in Lancashire and New England, says the condition of weavers in the United States is anything but hopeful. Twenty years ago New England weavers earned \$15 to \$20 a week, now they earn only \$8 to \$10. He gives the following comparative table of wages in the two countries:

	Lancashire.	New England.
Weavers	18s. to 30s. per week	\$ 8 to \$10 per week.
Loom pickers ..	30s. per week.	\$11 to \$15 per week.
Spinners	50s. to 60s. per week.	\$15 to \$22 per week.
Slashers		\$12 to \$15 per week.

Considering the relatively high cost of living in the United States, he considers that weavers are actually worse off in New England than in Old England. The situation among the spinners is in strong contrast with that of the weavers. A commission lately appointed to investigate the situation reports that the average wages in 1903 were 19.7 per cent. higher than in 1890, and 27.2 per cent. higher than in 1894. That means that a spinner, who received \$2 a day in 1894, received \$2.55 a day last year. The frame spinners received last year 66.6 per cent. more than in 1890, 117 per cent. more than in 1894, and 85.9 per cent. more than the average for the ten years between 1890 and 1900. The advances in 1903 were made in face of the abnormal increase in the price of raw cotton and also in face of the fact that the price of the finished product could not be proportionately increased.

A few people are under the impression that Sea Island cotton is grown in the South Sea Islands, whereas it is those islands which form an archipelago on the southeast coast of the United States, extending from the mouth of the Savannah river northward along the coast to Charleston, that give their name to the special class of black, free-seed, long-stapled cotton so commonly mentioned. The four larger islands are James, Edisto, Wadmalaw, and John's, which occupy an aggregate area of some 100,000 acres. There are five smaller islands, severally named St. Helena, Lady's, Paris, Port Royal, and Spring. The climate is sub-tropical, and the average annual rainfall about 33 inches. The precipitation is greatest at the time the cotton plants are growing, between May and August; lowest when they are ripening, from September to November. The islands lie in about 33 deg. north latitude, the same as Bermuda. After the Civil War (1860-64) cotton from the Sea Islands commanded 6s. 3d. to 8s. 4d. per lb. Later on, in 1867, trouble began in the form of labor difficulties, excessive rains, and the appearance of the destructive cotton worm, and continued for some four or five years. As a consequence, the methods of cultivation had to be altered, the planting of large tracts being discontinued, and replaced by the intense cultivation of smaller areas. At present the Sea Island planters are enjoying the benefit of this new system, which was introduced first on James Island.

—Efforts are being made at Bradford to reorganize the Yorkshire Wool Combers' Association. The scheme, if carried through, would assure the payment of all just claims.

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