

### THE WOOLEN INDUSTRY IN PARLIAMENT.

In the course of the Budget debate in Parliament, the preferential tariff and its effect on certain industries, particularly woollens, naturally came up for consideration. Two of the members of the House of Commons—Bennett Rosamond, of Almonte, and James Kendry, of Peterboro—are connected with two of the largest woolen mills in the country, the Rosamond woolen mill and the Auburn mill. Both took very strong ground on the line which the Journal of Fabrics has laid down, namely, that the preferential tariff is doing serious injury to the woolen trade in Canada, and that some relief should be afforded. Mr. Rosamond, following Dr. Kendall, spoke thus:

Mr. Rosamond expressed his gratitude to the honorable member for his assurance that he didn't wish to injure the woolen industry. But, when Mr. Kendall decried the establishment of certain industries in Canada in competition with those of England, he probably furnished the clue to the want of industrial activity in Nova Scotia, and to the fact that so many Nova Scotians were to be found settled in Boston and the New England States. Dr. Kendall had advocated as a measure of relief from the exactions of the coal barons of Nova Scotia, action by the Government, but if the Government did coal mining as they ran railways it would be better to leave matters alone. Dealing with the woolen industry and the manner in which it had been injured by the preferential tariff, Mr. Rosamond, who is one of the largest woolen manufacturers in Canada, said that for obvious reasons he would not dwell upon the subject further than to point out that the importations of woolen goods, tweeds, etc., such as made in Canada, amounted in 1897 to 3,166,361 yards. In 1901, under the 33½ per cent. preference, the importations amounted to 6,045,534 yards, an increase of 91 per cent. The census showed that the increase in population between 1891 and 1901 was but 11 per cent., while the increase in the United States was 22 per cent. Meantime we had received 282,290 immigrants, equal to 50 per cent. of the whole increase, at a total cost of \$2,400,175, or \$8.50 per head. Nor was this result to be wondered at, seeing that so little attention was given to the encouragement of industries in Canada that we paid millions for foreign goods that should be manufactured at home. As an English newspaper said, had Canada manufactured last year all that she consumed it would have employed 120,000 factory hands and paid out \$65,000,000 in wages and built up three towns as large as Toronto. Protection was necessary for all industries in this Dominion, he said, and no other policy would make Canada a great country.

Mr. Kendry's remarks were to this effect:

Mr. Kendry said that while the Government were loyal to the people of England they were not loyal to all the Canadian people. The preferential tariff gave a preference to the workmen of England over our workmen, and so long as he had a voice in the legislation of this country he would not willingly give a preference to England or any other country over the workmen and people of this country. The Government should have sent a commission to go through the country and find out what the people required. The Government to-day had class legislation. No part of the country had suffered more from this than Ontario. There should have been greater protection on agricultural implements, so that \$2,000,-

000 that had been paid to the United States would have been spent in Canada. He denied the statements made that the Canadian woolen manufacturers were using antiquated machinery. To-day hundreds and hundreds of pieces of German woolen goods were coming into Canada under the preferential tariff, with hardly any English work on them, yet the Government did nothing. The industry in this country was paralyzed. Since 1899 there was less machinery running than at any time in the past 20 years. There were now working 40 sets of cards, over 200 looms and 7,000 spindles less than in 1899, that is, counting only mills that have permanently closed, not those that are temporarily closed. Half a dozen mills had been burned down, not one had been rebuilt, and the insurance companies had cancelled insurance on many woolen mills, and it was difficult to get any insurance on the smaller mills. Under old conditions near double the amount of machinery would have been running, and they could not meet the present demand. Their hands had left for the United States, because they got higher wages; over 100 had left his mill and had gone to the United States. It was impossible for the Canadians to compete when the United States drew off their labor and this British preference existed. The Cornwall mill, he said, was well equipped, and would be running to-day if it were not for the preference. Mr. Kendry said that the machinery for Canadian mills cost 40 per cent. more than in England, and the labor conditions were better. He said that hundreds of pieces of continental goods were imported under the preference without having 2 per cent. of English labor put on them, and that he could prove this owing to the fact that goods had been sent to him in the gray to be finished by a Toronto wholesale house which had had a fire.

Mr. Wright proceeded to question Mr. Kendry on this point, but he refused to be cross-examined, saying he would give the information to an official of the Customs Department.

On the other side of the question, R. Holmes, M.P., for West Huron, and Hon. W. Paterson, Minister of Customs, spoke. Mr. Holmes thought the woolen industry was not suffering very seriously, and that the protection it enjoyed under the present tariff was sufficient. His remarks are thus reported:

Mr. Holmes pointed out the inconsistency of Mr. Rosamond and other speakers, who had been forced to admit that great prosperity exists, but in order to enforce their arguments in favor of protection argued that Canada could not enjoy that prosperity which we ought to without an increase in the tariff. Replying to Mr. Rosamond's references to the woolen industry, Mr. Holmes said that with a tariff protection of 25 per cent., and the advantage of the freight from Great Britain, woolen manufacturers ought to be satisfied. He doubted the assertion that the woolen industry was suffering, and asked those who were complaining to give further evidence that they were injured before their complaints were heeded. He had himself been informed by a woolen manufacturer that the woolen mills were running overtime, and had all the work they could do.

Hon. W. Paterson, Minister of Customs, in the course of his remarks referred to the preferential tariff, and was asked by Mr. Brock, M.P., for Centre Toronto, if he denied that it was injuring our manufacturers. In reply:

Mr. Paterson admitted that one line which had been mentioned had been hurt somewhat, and he sympathized with it,