

strangles it in Canada. The worsted industry has these further advantages for Canada: it not only consumes a greater quantity of wool at a higher average price, but it admits less adulterants (the amount of cotton, for example, mixed in worsted yarns in the United States amounting to 4,300,000 pounds per year, while with woollen goods the cotton mixture is 28,200,000 pounds), and it provides a greater versatility of product in both woven and knitted fabrics because of the finer yarns which can be spun from the long-fibred wools. The scope of the industry can be greatly extended if wool-growers can meet the manufacturers and learn each other's wants, which would result in a great diversification, both in the types of sheep raised and in the character of our manufactured products. It was one of the remarkable results of the tariff of 1867, based on this principle, that the woollen industry of the United States took on an allround development that had never been known before, special branches being created, such as bleaching, finishing and dyeing for "the trade," while the knit goods and worsted departments grew prodigiously. In a single decade the worsted mills, for instance, increased from three to 102, and their products increased from \$3,700,000 to over \$22,000,000 per annum. Under the moderate proposals suggested for the Canadian tariff, if only the present product of Canadian sheep farms were used at home and a portion of the wool now imported were grown in our own land, it would mean the introduction of millions of fresh capital and the steady employment of hundreds of thousands of people, who must now earn their living in the summer only and who in times of commercial depression are in too many cases a charge upon our charities in the winter. As a solution of our labor problem in winter the importance of this should not be lightly estimated.

When the present tariff was put in force it was expected that it would cheapen the poor man's suit, but has it actually done so? That it has not given cheaper clothing to the poor will be seen by the appended memo. of prices at departmental stores in Toronto, comparing 1896 with 1905. Even at the end of 1907, when,