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Page 4. Section A.

Economically, this industry has held the most intimate association with national progress. From the first customs tariff on imports laid down in 1774 to the initiation of the 'National Policy' in 1878, textiles represented a main factor in fiscal arrangements especially in trade relations with the United Kingdom and following the year 1866 with the United States. Again in 1897, when the first British Preferential was written into Canadian customs tariff policy in 1907 when the Customs Act was revised, and since in each and every consideration of fiscal policy, this industry has occupied national importance.

This background is essential to gain any accurate view of the complexities of the current economic position occupied by the industry. Since the year 1900, the world textile industry has been transformed. In Canada, the entire secondary industry has developed and an almost complete change has taken place in merchandising and distribution of textiles. The manufacturing industry generally has undergone a marvelous expansion. It is only with close understanding of all these conditions and many more, that the primary textile industry can be properly weighed in its relation to Canada.

Par. 8.

The principal raw materials used by the primary textile industry are wool, cotton, silk and artificial silk. Some of the mills use only one of these textile fibres, others use all of them. Some of the mills carry out all manufacturing operations from the raw fibre to the consumer article, while other mills carry out only one or more intermediate operations, their finished product being further manufactured in the primary group or in other manufacturing plants. There are mills which carry out only the spinning operations; there are mills which weave only, but do not spin or dye and finish; there are mills that knit only; and there are mills which carry out the operations of spinning, weaving and knitting, dyeing and finishing. There are, therefore, within the primary textile industry different groups operating under particular circumstances, and even within such groups there are mills operating under circumstances different from other mills in the same group. The primary textile industry, however, may be divided into four principal sections:

- (1) The woollen and knit goods industry.
- (2) The cotton yarn and cloth industry.
- (3) The silk and artificial silk industry.
- (4) Other branches of the industry.

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