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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

A Handbook of all the Cotton, Woolen and other Textile manufactures of Can-
ada, with lists of manufacturers' agents and the wholesale and retail dry goods
and kindred trades of the Dominion, to which is appended a vast amount of
valuable statistics relating to these trades. Third edition 487 pages, price \$3.00.

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THE WOOLEN TARIFF.

The tariff on textiles has been the subject of a
great deal of talk, and does not satisfy either the dry
goods trade or the manufacturers. A considerable
section of the dry goods trade want more reductions,
while the great majority of the manufacturers feel out-
raged at the changes made.

In common with a large proportion of Canadians,
this journal has always advocated a moderate tariff, and
has held that this country has been the gainer rather
than the loser by refusing to follow the lead of the
United States in this respect. We have shown that
the policy of keeping prime raw materials on the free
list, makes our textile tariff, with all its faults, a far
more rational one than the American. But, so far as
it touches woollen goods, our tariff has had a very weak
point—it gives no protection to the manufacturer of
ready-made clothing (including in that term ladies'
garments and all apparel made up from piece goods).

Keeping in mind this weakness, we maintain that
the proposed reduction in the woollen tariff entails a
double injustice to the Canadian manufacturer. It lets
in a class of goods essentially undesirable even from
the consumers' point of view, and at the same time it
strangles in their birth any attempts made to establish
home manufacturing in the many lines of ready-
made goods that could be made here if there was a fair
margin of protection over the duties now existing on
piece goods. Apart from piece goods, there are over
\$2,000,000 worth of ready made goods imported to

Canada annually, and if only half of this were made
up at home, see what an amount of labor and
capital might be employed in this work alone, to say
nothing of the extra consumption of home manufactured
cloths. Much of this cloth, it is true, would be of a
kind not made in Canada, but even here the importa-
tion of the cloth would benefit the dry goods importer,
whereas the cloth now imported in the shape of a ready-
made garment benefits nobody but the German maker.
These facts are generally lost sight of by those who
ought to understand the bearings of this question. Con-
sidering the altered condition of foreign manufacturing,
the proposed reduction in woollen goods is altogether too
sweeping, and contains no compensation for the
home manufacturer.

Another consideration evidently not digested by the
framers of the tariff is this: In the cotton trade the raw
material is a foreign product, and the crippling of the
cotton mills would not directly affect any agricultural
interest: while, on the other hand, the extinction of our
woolen industry would also ruin the Canadian wool
business. Of all the vast quantity of wool consumed
by our woollen mills, about two thirds is home grown
wool. Legislate for the ruination of our woollen mills, and
what will the Canadian farmer do with his wool?
What kind of a market would he find abroad under
present conditions, considering that thousands of pounds
of American wool have come into this market within
the past three months to displace his own?

Hitherto the Canadian farmer has been able to
sell his wool at home, at a better price than he could
get abroad, and get back cloth strongly made, and
comparatively unadulterated with shoddy. Under the
proposed order of things his wool will go down
in price, and the cloth he wears, while perhaps a
little cheaper, will be more than correspondingly poorer,
for if the tariff carries in its present shape, those Cana-
dian manufacturers who have the capital will only have
to meet European competition with European methods
of manufacturing. They will have to introduce machi-
nery especially adapted to work up shoddy and cheapen
the cost of production. Added to this, they will proba-
bly have to reduce wages. So when the farmer loses
his best market for wool, when home manufacturing
is curtailed, when the standard of quality in Canadian
goods is lowered, and wages reduced, how will the
whole account stand?