

10 to 100 sheep on their farms there is not one farmer in 75 to-day producing the number of sheep that he was producing ten years ago.

Wool is a peculiar question from other products. It is one of the only things there should be free trade between the United States and Canada because neither the United States nor Canada can export wool to the old country. The United States wants all the Canadian wool that we can produce because all the wool we produce is termed the combing wool which is a long fibre which they want to work with their cotton. Three-quarters of the wool that the United States produce is termed clothing wool and is too short to be used with cotton.

When the McKinley Bill came in they placed a duty upon Canadian wools going in their to protect their farmer and not the manufacturers, according to grade from 12 cents to 30 cents per pound. There has been no duty to speak of on American short wools coming into Canada. They have been dumping their washed wools at from 12 cents to 16 cents per pound and our farmer has been compelled to sell his combing wool in competition to their short wools, or in other words our farmer has been only getting 15 cents for his combing wools and the Michigan farmer getting 35 cents for the same grade of wool. The result has been, it has wiped the sheep industry out of existence in the province of Ontario. The Ontario farmer would not raise wool at the price and the result is he has killed his sheep and sold them all. Had the same duty been applied upon the United States wools as they applied to ours, the duty would have only remained just so long as they could have scratched their pen through it. The result would have been had that been done that our Canadian farmers would be getting the same price that the Michigan farmer gets and the sheep industry which amounted to millions of dollars in the province of Ontario would have been reserved to the Canadian farmer. I make that statement, knowing it to be correct. I say that when that duty was applied by the McKinley administration, our government should have retaliated with a similar duty. Had they done so the American duty would have lasted only so long as it would have taken them to scratch a pen through it. But so long as we sit quietly by and allow these duties to be imposed against our own products, so long will our neighbours to the south make use of it. The policy of this government has wiped out the chief industry of this country, which amounted to millions of dollars and which, if it had been protected as it should have been, would be to-day an industry such as every Canadian would have a right to be proud of.

I want to submit to the House some statements regarding the manufacture of

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woollens in this country—another industry which has been wiped out by the policy of this government. The following is a statement showing the value of woollens manufactured, imported and entered for consumption in Canada, together with the duty collected thereon during each of the fiscal years from 1890 to 1904 inclusive ending June 30 :

Years.	Value	Duty.
1890.. .. .	\$11,017,261	\$3,157,599 54
1891.. .. .	9,962,846	2,963,356 00
1892.. .. .	10,341,309	3,095,562 34
1893.. .. .	10,946,224	3,309,389 01
1894.. .. .	9,493,629	2,876,873 17
1895.. .. .	7,952,932	2,527,564 06
1896.. .. .	8,670,691	2,759,133 78
1897.. .. .	7,125,748	2,263,882 59
1898.. .. .	7,985,847	2,438,089 72
1899.. .. .	9,803,197	2,298,579 90
1900.. .. .	9,801,565	2,745,814 50
1901.. .. .	9,944,105	2,556,335 78
1902.. .. .	10,946,856	2,814,628 02
1903.. .. .	13,561,915	3,460,300 15
1904.. .. .	15,159,383	3,953,913 32

In another sense, where it affects the labour of the country, the yardage that comes into this country, and which could be manufactured here by our own mills, to a very large extent, would equal 65 mills, each having ten sets of machinery. The labour employed would equal about fifteen hands to each set of machinery, totalling about nine or ten thousand operators in the mills. Also by the stoppage of these mills, and an undevelopment of the woollen industry, it affects the farmers in raising sheep for the production of wool, and the sheepskin pullers; which all affects the employment of labour.

From a monetary standpoint, the government revenue last year would be nearly four millions of dollars, while in 1890, the value of woollen goods imported amounted to eleven millions of dollars, duty on which was over three millions, and the value of goods coming in under the preferential tariff was over fifteen millions, and the money collected was a little over three-quarters of a million more than it was in 1890. In the present case the duty being higher the government got nearly as much money as they did in the fiscal year of 1904. The consequence is that the government are not getting a great deal more in the way of duties, but there is nearly one-third more of goods coming in under the low rate; which so seriously affects the mills and the woollen industry without any corresponding gain to the government.

However, Mr. Speaker, you can see by the schedule submitted that the woollen industry is contributing a large share to the expenses of the country; which is bearing on them more unequal than it does on a great many other industries which they claim are prospering under the preferential tariff.