

Manufacturers' Association was making a mountain out of a mole hill; and Mr. Fraser's letter to the Witness specially exempts the "custom" mills from the main class of woolen machinery, to which he refers, and which he rightly claims to be equal to the average possessed by United States mills. In the evolution of manufacturing in any line, it must be that some mills will retain a certain amount of old machinery, which ought to be replaced by new; but if every one of the larger woolen mills of Canada were equipped with machinery fresh this year from the world's best makers, they could not hold their own under the exceptional disabilities which the Government has thrown upon them

SALE OF THE YARMOUTH MILLS.

An important deal has taken place since our last issue, by which the mills of the Yarmouth Duck Yarn Co. at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, have passed under the control of C. P. Grantham of the Imperial Cotton Co. The mills are the only ones of the kind in Eastern Canada. They were established and operated up to the time of the present deal by a local company, who have done well by their sale, the shareholders having received \$200 per share, which is double the par value. The capital stock of the company was \$150,000, all paid. The purchase money was paid half down, the balance to be paid within three years, with interest at eight per cent. Charles T. Grantham, manager of the Imperial Cotton Company, and formerly manager of the Yarmouth mill, takes charge. The united concern, with headquarters at Hamilton. The George Burton will be local manager and Samuel Killam remains as superintendent of manufacturing. Preparations will at once be made for increasing the output, and the J. Spencer Turner Co., of New York, Chicago and London, which handles every year about twelve million dollars worth of mill products, has agreed to take for a term of years all the goods the mill can produce. The sale is an important event for Yarmouth.

—China has made a change in her tariff. A telegram from Shanghai of the 25th ult., states that the new temporary tariff on textile imports, which converts the ad valorem into specific duties, came into operation that day. The tariff has been drawn up by the China Association in conjunction with American, German and Japanese importers. How far it will affect cottons from Canada, of which we send a considerable quantity to that country, is not stated.

—The Draper's Record, London, reads this meaning into the Canadian premier's remarks on the woolen tariff at the recent meeting of the Manufacturers' Association: "The prominence given recently to the question of the introduction of a Revenue Tariff for this country gives additional importance to all tariff questions affecting the interests of our colonies. We therefore note with interest

the reference made the other day by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the present Canadian tariff. There seems no likelihood of an increased import duty on woolens, though Canadian manufacturers declare that a change in the direction indicated is essential to the continued prosperity of the Canadian woolen industry. Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that while tariffs are not intended to be permanent their stability is one of the guarantees of industry."

—In a somewhat attractive looking circular The Deimel Linen-Mesh System Co., of Montreal, condemns the wearing of woolen under-garments as being injurious. The purpose of the circular is obvious, but in its wholesale condemnation of wool for underclothing—attributing to its use pneumonia, bronchitis, rheumatism, Bright's disease and other ills—it goes against all experience. It is true linen may be more comfortable in some respects, but we question the assertions contained in the circular as to its superior healthfulness. Experiments show that wool is a great absorbent of moisture; in fact a bucket of water left in a room with a quantity of washed wool will speedily be absorbed. Woolen underclothing must more readily take up the moisture which exudes from the skin, while it will almost as readily give it off to the air. Another point of superiority for wool is that it is a non-conductor of heat to a greater degree than any known fibre while linen is the worst as an article of underwear for it is a very rapid conductor of heat. For this climate give us woolen under-garments, at least for the cold weather, and many wear them with advantage all the year round, and would be in their graves did they not do so.

—The character of the sales in ready-made clothing for next season show that the prejudice against ready to wears is becoming less and less. There is, however, a demand for a better class of goods. The people have the money and they want the better goods. The variety of styles and makes is being enlarged, so that any ordinary man can be fitted about as well with a ready-made suit as with one made to order. A very satisfactory business has been done this fall in the better qualities.

—The Shareholder reads those who took part in the late strike among the Montreal Cotton Co.'s employees, at Valleyfield, a lesson over their conduct in the matter, and hints that means may have to be adopted to prevent the exercise of the tyranny which such a strike involves. Certainly the Montreal Cotton Co. is entitled to considerate treatment on the part of its operatives, for it has provided them with liberal educational facilities for their children and themselves, together with means for recreation and improvement, which should be appreciated. Happily the strike was not very serious or very prolonged, thanks to the intervention of the Department of Labor at Ottawa, which has successfully taken the part of conciliator on a number of recent occasions.