

PLEA TO THE READER.

It would be a thousand pities if two questions like the future of Canada's sheep industry and woolen manufacturing should be thrown into the arena of party politics. It is not easy for a writer of the party press or a speaker from a party platform to extricate himself from the thralldom of party opinions, even though he may find himself mistaken as to facts, and though fresh light may show him that he has taken the wrong side of a question.

This pamphlet is written in the hope that it may not be too late to present an array of facts which, without going into minute details of processes, will enable the lay reader to understand the merits of the problem of woolen textile manufacturing in Canada, and to show that the right decision of this somewhat vexatious question means more to the future of our great country than the immediate fate of the woolen manufacturers themselves.

The reader is, therefore, asked to lay aside his preconceptions on this subject and to learn how patriotism, applied to the woolen industry, has been the turning point in the industrial independence of both our Mother Country and the great nation whose neighborhood to us is so close that, whether we wish it or not, our commercial policy must be profoundly affected by it through all time.

If space permitted, this appeal to textile history would have been extended to other nations, but the reader can pursue the theme for himself, and will find in this history a confirmation of the proposition laid down that any nation which desires to stand upon its own feet must at least be able to provide its own food, clothing and fuel.

Toronto, August, 1908.