

shoes. Let it be noted also that the desire to be self-dependent was at the bottom of the first struggles to plant the home industry in Canada. From the period of the first colonization of Canada to nearly the close of the eighteenth century it was the policy of home Governments—whether British or French—to regard the colonies as existing for the benefit of the commercial and manufacturing interests of the mother country, and local manufacturing was prohibited as far as possible in order that factory owners at home might grow richer. But the exactions in prices and the extortions of the colonial companies, to whom the trade of the country was farmed out, drove the French-Canadian colonists first into smuggling and then into making cloth for themselves, in some cases with the consent of the home authorities, in other cases in spite of them. The Quebec Intendant Talon, for one, realized that the planting of domestic industries was for the benefit of the colonists, and in times of need would be a relief to the Government at home; and in 1671 he wrote that he had caused druggets, coarse camlet, bolting cloth, serge, woolen and leather to be made in the colony, adding: "I have of Canadian make wherewithal to clothe myself from head to foot." The Ursuline Nuns willingly assisted him in this policy, and taught the girls of the colony to spin and weave while at their schools. So the flax spinning-wheel, the wool spinning-wheel and the loom were a part of the furniture of almost every house, and in course of time the French-Canadian wives and daughters provided every fabric needed, from the clothes the men and women wore to the towels used in the kitchen, the carpeting on the floor and the bedclothing under which they slept. The grazing of sheep and the growing of flax and hemp went hand in hand with those industries; and the census of 1671 showed that there were 407 sheep and 36 goats in Canada. In 1685 the goats had decreased to 14, but the sheep had increased to 787, and by 1695 there were 918 sheep. In Acadia (Nova Scotia) in 1693 there were 1,164 sheep, which steadily increased in numbers till in 1827 there were 173,731 sheep in Nova Scotia. By 1765 the sheep in New France (Quebec) had increased to 28,022.