

The exact relative importance of Great Britain and the United States as exporters of textiles to Canada is a little understood that we append a statement showing the description and value of the dry goods imported into the Dominion of Canada from Great Britain and the United States, together with the amounts of customs duties collected thereon respectively during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, compiled from the Dominion trade and navigation returns:

Description of merchandise—m'trs.	Great Britain.	
	Value.	Duty.
Dry goods—woolens	\$5,576,859	\$1,771,041
Cottons	2,693,114	766,439
Silk	1,396,015	425,220
Linen and jute.....	1,158,809	262,672
Hats, caps, gloves and furs.....	1,108,493	316,384
Gutta percha and India rubber.....	191,520	48,411
Miscellaneous and fancy.....	1,694,570	508,362
All kinds, free of duty.....	764,482
Totals.....	\$14,583,862	\$4,098,529

Description of merchandise—m'trs.	United States.	
	Value.	Duty.
Dry goods—Woolens.....	\$218,396	\$68,073
Cottons	1,119,147	324,726
Silk	150,774	45,501
Linen and jute.....	55,042	12,022
Hats, caps, gloves and furs	539,352	158,258
Gutta percha and India rubber	1,401,103	289,391
Miscellaneous and fancy	541,112	155,579
All kinds, free of duty.....	566,530
Totals.....	\$4,591,356	\$1,053,556

Cotton goods are the only staple dry goods which we import in quantity from the United States, if we omit from the list gutta percha and India rubber, which should scarcely be included in it, and of these, in spite of the great advantage in raw materials, American manufacturers sell in Canada less than half as much as their British competitors. Our imports of American woolens and linen are insignificant, and while imports of silks, hats and caps are relatively much more important, the trade is not of large dimensions. It is worthy of note that while Great Britain pays four million dollars to the Dominion treasury in duties and the United States one million dollars, from the former country \$764,482 worth of goods was entered free of duty, while goods to the value of \$566,530 were entered by the United States.

WORSTED SPINNING.*

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The Holden system of combing approaches more closely to the ideal treatment than the Noble, though by many combers it is held that the fibers are dealt with too harshly. The circle is made with two or three rows of pins that on the outside are much more finely set than the others, in order to arrest the small neps and impurities as the combed fibers are drawn off. As in other machines,

the circle rests upon a steamchest to facilitate the working of the wool. This seems to be a fundamental necessity for successful combing, since as the fibers get heated they lose their cohesiveness and repel each other, thus lying more lightly in the pins, from which they may be removed in a much cleaner condition, with less injury to their surface.

The partially combed wool, as it is carried forward by the revolving circle, next comes to the square motion, one of the chief features of the machine. This consists of a series of fallers accurately curved so as to correspond exactly with the periphery of the circle, which works in conjunction with a double pressing plate to hold the wool in the pins of the circle. The requirements of the motion are to thoroughly comb and clear as much as possible of the projecting fringe; consequently the pins are set very fine, and in order to ensure their proper penetration a rocking brush is used to assist their action.

Like the circle, the fallers are heated as hot as possible by means of two steamchests placed respectively under the upper and lower races. They work in frames, and by a combination of slides, levers and eccentrics, are pushed very quickly away from the circle. A motion of this description is necessary, because if any lingering takes place owing to the movement of the circle, the arrangement of the fibers will be disturbed, and have a tendency to cross each other instead of remaining parallel. To prevent the fallers carrying away the long fibers, and also to enable the neps, etc., to be removed, the double-flanged press-plate works upon each side of the front row of pins, and is pressed tightly against the brass foundation by a tappet or eccentric motion. If it was stationary it would have a tendency to cut the fibers as they were drawn under it, so it is made to travel with the circle for a short distance.

The fallers of the square motion are made as narrow as possible, so as to enable them to get close to the circle. It will be seen, however, that a small portion of the fibers still remain uncombed between the circle and the first faller, somewhat similar to what occurs in the Noble comb between the circles. Here, however, means are provided for effectively dealing with it, so that the fiber is combed throughout its length. Passing forward to the drawing-off roller, here a series of short intersecting combs are employed, the pins of which all point downwards. They run for about three parts the distance round the circle upon an elevated slide, and as they approach the drawing-off rollers they descend an incline, so that the pins are placed between the circle and the rollers. The wool which is now lying in the bottom of the circle is pushed up into the pins of the intersecting comb, through which it is pulled as it is being drawn off. After passing the rollers, the intersecting comb rises on to the elevated slide, which also possesses a steamchest, and passes round the comb until its turn comes to descend again.

The chief objection against the square motion comb is the multiplicity of complicated motions which are necessary, and which are continually requiring attention and repair, necessitating both loss of time and expense. There

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