

the totals being 8,496 males and 4,993 females. The highest employment was provided in 1919 with 9,775 males and 5,932 females, a total of 15,707 employees. The total of 13,489 in 1921 was a decrease of 2,218 employees or 14.1 p.c. from the peak of 1919.

3.—The Woollen Industry.

The importance of the textile group may be judged by the capital invested at the close of 1921, \$264,000,000. The cotton mills comprise the chief branch of the group, but the woollen section is now firmly established, the preference once shown by the consuming public for imported as opposed to Canadian woollens having largely disappeared. The range covered is quite extensive, embracing tweeds, homespun, serges, broadcloths and overcoatings. Flannels, blankets and mackinaws are of course characteristic Canadian products. Statistics show that at the end of 1921 some 88 woollen mills in operation in Canada, representing an investment of \$30,562,848, gave employment to 5,815 people.

Historical Note.—The manufacture of woollen cloth in Canada commenced soon after the arrival of the earliest colonists. Talon, then intendant of New France, reported in 1671 that the colonists were making practically all articles of clothing required, and from that beginning of handicraft industry there sprang up dozens of small custom carding plants, generally operated in connection with a grist mill or saw-mill. Many of the large woollen mills in operation today are the successors of these carding mills, developing with the country and as new machinery was invented.

Early Carding and Fulling Mills.—Early records of the woollen industry in Canada show that there were 91 carding mills and 79 fulling mills in Lower Canada in 1827, and 186 carding and 144 fulling mills in Upper Canada in 1842. In New Brunswick a census taken in 1851 indicated that 52 carding and weaving mills were located in the province. In Upper and Lower Canada and the Maritime provinces there were at this time in all about 385 carding and fulling mills and about 250 establishments where weaving was carried on, apart from the handloom weaving done in the homes of the people. The extent of home industry is shown by the census of 1851, which shows that New Brunswick produced in that year 622,237 yards of home-made cloth; Nova Scotia 1,129,154 yards of home-made flannels and fulled and unfulled cloths; and that 4,765,000 yards of home-made flannels and cloth were produced in the two Canadas.

Introduction of the Factory System.—The factory system in textile manufacturing was now being introduced. After 1851 the production of home-made cloth did not increase to any extent, for the census of 1871 showed a total production for Eastern Canada of only 7,641,917 yards of home-made cloth; by 1891 it had dwindled till the total was only 4,320,838, over half of which was produced in Quebec.

The manufacture of cloth in power looms in Canada dates back to about the time of the Rebellion of 1837, although operations in a small way were carried on in a mill established in 1827 at l'Acadie, Quebec, by Mahlon Willett, father of the late S. J. Willett of Chambly. This mill was equipped with a 24-inch carding machine, a "Billy" for making slubbing, a spinning "Jenny" of seventy-five spindles, and two hand looms. This mill was operated for three years, when it was moved to Chambly, where water power was available. It was conducted on this basis until the year of the Rebellion, when the new "Golden" process, consisting of a first and second breaker and the condenser system of carding, was introduced, together with a spinning jack and four power looms.

The first complete woollen mill in Ontario is supposed to have been founded in 1820 near Georgetown by the Hon. James Crooks. This mill was later taken over