

that events forced an amalgamation of several of the mills into two great syndicates, one of which made a specialty of the manufacture of coloured goods of a high grade. This syndicate was known as the Canadian Coloured Cotton Mills Co. The over-expansion of the industry and the excessive competition among the mills making grey goods led, however, to a development never dreamed of by the promoters of early cotton manufacturing—namely, the exportation of Canadian grey cottons to foreign countries, notably China. The first experimental shipment was made to China in 1886, on the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and such was the favour with which Canadian goods were received among the Chinese merchants that a satisfactory trade was developed. The aggregate of Canadian cotton shipped *via* the Canadian Pacific Railway to China in 1887 was 1,742,205 lbs., increasing to 3,770,345 lbs. in 1894. As these goods average $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards to the pound it will be easy to calculate in yards the amount of this trade. In 1889 a mill of 12,000 spindles was built at Montmorency Falls especially for the export trade, and the product of two or three other mills was devoted to the export trade, which was afterwards successfully directed also to Central and North Africa.

In 1898 there were 22 cotton mills in the Dominion, with a total capacity of 15,557 looms and 643,312 spindles. The census for 1900 included 20 cotton mills with a production of \$12,033,052, constituting the most important single industry in the textile group. The average capital of the 20 factories was \$915,000, the average cost of materials \$291,000 and the average value of products \$602,000. The wage earners averaged 594 per factory and the wages for labour, \$167,623. Ten years later considerable development was in evidence. The number of the active mills had increased to 26 and the value of the product had more than doubled, amounting to \$24,585,000.

Expansion during the War.—The immediate influence of the outbreak of war was detrimental; comparative inactivity continued into 1915, when 20 plants only were operating, with a product valued at \$20,513,000. During the later years of the war, the elimination of overseas competition as well as extensive war orders made themselves felt and former records of employment and production were broken. The employees in the 26 plants numbered 16,000 persons in 1918, nearly one-half of whom were women. The production was valued at \$66,000,000, but part of this increase was accounted for by the spectacular rise in prices. The capacity, had in the meantime, been expanded to 21,161 looms and 1,064,681 spindles. The end of the war found retailers' stocks low, and a strong demand for textile goods. The shortage of the cotton crop caused by the ravages of the boll weevil accelerated the upward movement of prices. The activity in the Canadian industry was well maintained during 1919 and reached its greatest expansion during the following year. In 1920, production was valued at \$92,500,000 and the employees numbered 17,625, the capacity being 21,754 looms and 1,057,000 spindles.

Recent Progress.—The apparent decline in 1921 was largely accounted for by the serious recession in prices. The value of the entire production fell from \$92,500,000 in 1920 to \$66,000,000 in 1921, but the production of bleached or white cotton fabrics increased from 55,800,000 square yards in 1920 to 72,300,000 square yards in 1921 and prints from 29,300,000 square yards in 1920 to 30,700,000 square yards in 1921.

In the 33 cotton and yarn mills operating in 1922, the capacity had increased to 1,241,074 spindles and 24,258 looms. Quebec has always led in quantity of production. In 1922, 16 plants manufactured goods to the value of \$51,600,000