

initial cost of assuring better animals, and assuring them adequate care, the cost of production between inferior and first qualities shows no increase. The experience of the past and, still more, the prospects of the future go to prove that sheep, properly tended, are the best stock for South African farms, and their wool the most valuable commodity. Particularly is this the case if quality as well as quantity is aimed at, for a good class of animal costs no more to keep than an inferior type, while the price received for its wool is infinitely more remunerative. It is essential, however, that the farmer should be enabled to get his sheep well and cheaply shorn; indeed, the lack of such facilities in the past has handicapped the industry, and manufacturers of suitable machines will find a large and growing market for their output. What is wanted is a cheap and efficient sheep-shearing machine, which has yet to become in any sense general in South Africa. Scouring plants to wash the wool are also wanted to properly prepare the fleece for the market. Home manufacturers of these descriptions of plant who are willing to secure for their goods the requisite publicity and representation will find a demand well worth the seeking, for no branch of agriculture is likely to show greater development than the wool industry.—South Africa, London.

EDMONTON WOOLEN MILLS.

The Edmonton Bulletin gives an enthusiastic account of the new woolen mill there, from which the following extracts are taken: A woolen mill at Edmonton seemed very much like a flight of fancy when it was first spoken of a few years ago, but to-day it is an accomplished fact, and blankets, both white and grey, flannels, tweeds, *etoffes*, friezes and other woolen goods are being turned out in large quantities of a quality and finish that leave nothing to be desired.

People both in the West and East are apt to look upon manufacturing in all its branches as an exclusively eastern industry. While the East certainly has many advantages in many lines, there are lines in which up to the point of supplying the local demand the West has a distinct advantage. Mr. Webster has demonstrated that in the manufacture of woolen goods, such as are in most demand here, and are produced from the wool of mutton sheep, the advantages of the West more than balance its disadvantages. Taking blankets as an example, the wool is produced here and large numbers of blankets are used here. It is said that 16,000 pairs were sold in Edmonton last year. If the wool grown here is made into blankets in the East it pays three cents a pound freight going east, and the blankets into which it is made pay an equal amount coming west. This makes a total of six cents a pound on the wool and the blankets in favor of the home factory. The mill can pay the farmer a little more for his wool than he could get for it if it had to be sold for export. It can sell him blankets and heavy woolen goods of undoubted quality at less money than he would have to pay for the imported article and still make a sufficient profit to stay in business. The extra cost of manufacturing at Edmonton is not so very much greater than in the East. Staple articles of food, such as flour, oatmeal, meat, vegetables, butter and eggs average cheaper here than there. Fuel is cheaper and clothing almost as cheap, groceries a little higher, but not very much. Cash is paid for wool or is taken in trade for cloth. Up to date this year (September), the mill has taken thirteen and one-half tons of wool, all of local production, but the supply is about exhausted, and some will have to be imported from the southern ranges to keep the mill going. The present price is 13c. for washed wool and 7 c. &c. for unwashed. The mill is run by steam power and the machinery includes two carders, one finisher, two spinning

jacks, one washer, one fuller, two blanket looms, and one narrow loom. Thirteen hands are employed, and the output of the mill is sold to farmers in exchange for wool and wholesaled to merchants in Edmonton, Strathcona, and all the way down the line to Calgary. In connection with the woolen mill is a wood-working shop in which school desks, butter tubs, and cheap lines of furniture are made. The school desks are made of British Columbia fir, which finishes very handsomely, and the castings are supplied by the Edmonton Iron Works and the butter tubs are made of native spruce. Speaking of manufacturing in the West, Mr. Webster said there are three conditions of success; local supply of raw material, local demand for finished product, and the process of manufacture must be businesslike and economical. Under these conditions there is no reason why manufactures of many kinds might not be carried on successfully in the West if the necessary capital and enterprise were forthcoming.

FABRIC ITEMS.

The Star Shirt and Overall Co., Moses Fineberg, proprietor, of Montreal, has made an assignment on demand, with liabilities estimated at \$15,000.

In the decade ending with 1903, Canadian imports of United States cottons rose from \$1,992,680 to \$2,907,096, and Canadian imports of United States silk manufactures from \$72,297 to \$538,315.

J. A. Kimmerly, of Dresden, Ont., has disposed of his stock of boots and shoes, dry goods and furnishings to Mr. E. N. Smith, of that place, who was recently burned out. It is the latter's intention to add groceries.

The Montreal Clothing Co., Simon & Miller, proprietors, are seeking to compromise with creditors at 30 cents on the dollar. Some of the creditors have instituted criminal proceedings for alleged fraudulent secretion of assets.

Last year 10,000 sheep and lambs were shipped from the Manitoulin, and this year it is said the shipments will be in the vicinity of 15,000. There is no better place in all Canada than on the Manitoulin for the successful raising of sheep, and the farmers are appreciating this more year by year.—Manitoulin Expositor.

The N.W.M.P. department are investigating the advantages of asbestos as a material for the construction of portable buildings for outpost work. Asbestos, it is claimed, is both fire and water-proof. The Marine and Fisheries Department is also investigating asbestos as a possible material for the construction of movable lighthouses.

The Canadian Glove and Mitten Company, Limited, has been incorporated to manufacture, sell and deal in gloves, mittens, overalls and underwear. The provisional directors are Sherman McKenney, Angus McKay and John Alexander Neff. The capital of the company will be \$30,000, divided into 300 shares of \$100 each; the head office will be at Ingersoll.

A Dominion charter has been granted to the "Canada Flax Fibre Co." of Montreal, capital \$100,000. The incorporators are: T. H. Tombyll and R. N. Tombyll, manufacturers; James Walker, hardware merchant; George A. Childs, sales agent; J. H. Sherrard, manufacturer; S. P. Howard, freight agent; T. E. Howard, sales agent, and C. E. Scarff, druggist, all of Montreal, and George W. Fowler, barrister, of Sussex, N.B. The company has power to acquire plant and machinery for the treatment and manufacture of flax and its various products, woven or otherwise.