

Africa:	
Algeria and Tunis	30,425,000
Egypt	3,000,000
Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State	100,000,000
All other	1,000,000
	134,425,000
Oceania	50,000
	2,685,105,013
Total	

¹Great Britain and Ireland, product of 1899. ²Fleece washed.

³Washed and unwashed.

The allowance made by the Association for Canada is a fair one. No yearly tables of wool production are compiled by any Canadian province, except Ontario, so that only a rough guess can be made. The Ontario returns for 1900 show that the wool clip of this province is 5,805,921 lbs., to which should be added the wool taken from slaughtered sheep and lambs, which a well-informed wool merchant informs us will amount to about 450,000 lbs., so that the total production of Ontario for the year will be a little over six million pounds. As the wool production of Ontario in past years has been slightly over that of all the other provinces combined, it will be seen that the foregoing allowance for the whole Dominion is perhaps not far astray, although the wool clip of the North-West Territories has been increasing at a greater ratio than that of all the rest of Canada in the last three or four years. In fact, the Territories are the only portions which will show an increase in the next census, as the old provinces, including Ontario, have been at a standstill in this respect for the last ten or fifteen years. The total given by the Association for the United States includes washed, unwashed, and pulled; as in the case of Canada. It appears that since the Act of 1897, reimposing the duty on wool coming into the United States, there has been an increase of about 50,000,000 lbs. in the annual production of United States wool, and a corresponding increase of 3,803,413, or 10 per cent. in the number of sheep. It is worth noticing, however, that this increase has been limited, practically, to the ranching States; and, moreover, not only is it the fact that these ranching States are the only ones to show a large development in the sheep raising and wool growing industry, but this development went on in several ranching States, right through the free-wool period, preceding the present wool duty regime. This would appear to confirm the experience of Canada, that wool production is less controlled by tariff legislation than by internal conditions, such as the demand for mutton for home consumption, and export, etc. The average weight of the United States fleece is figured out the same as last year, or 6.46 lbs. The average shrinkage is 61.1 per cent., which is a slight increase due to the increase in the growth of the Territorial wools, which give a heavy shrinkage. Compared with the year 1890, the wool production of the United States has fallen by about 20,000,000 lbs., and

taking a general survey it appears that Australia is the only country in the world that shows a steady and consistent increase in wool. Australian flocks have been known to double their numbers in four years, and under favorable circumstances her production can be brought up to a thousand million pounds annually. Quality in wool is chiefly a matter of climate, and experience has shown that the merino of Australia leads the world, having for long years surpassed South Africa and all the European countries, from which the merino sheep were originally imported. In South Africa a good staple of merino wool is grown, but partly through the lack of care, skill and industry of the Boers, who are the principal sheep farmers, and partly through diversion to other better-paying pursuits, such as Angora goat raising, ostrich farming, etc., the sheep industry of those colonies has been at a standstill for some time, and the quality of wool has rather retrograded. It requires a campaign of education among the Boers to bring South African wool back to where it ought to be. Heretofore, the wool principally favored by Canadian manufacturers for mixing with home-grown wools, and for making the medium to fine ranges of merino wool goods, has been South African, but Australian wools are being imported now to a greater extent than ever. These purchases are chiefly made in London at the Colonial wool sales, and not directly imported from the countries of origin.

Referring, again, to the United States wool trade, the compilers of the bulletin from which we have quoted, arrive at some interesting conclusions from the mass of figures they have gathered. After stating that the state of the domestic wool market is a reflection of the market abroad, and that it is not necessary to look for local causes (which we presume include tariff legislation), they indicate a change in American habits in the matter of clothing in the following:

"Indeed, it is a question whether the statistics do not justify the statement that there is a falling off in the wool consumption of the American people. On the basis of the domestic supply, the foreign imports, and the imported goods—estimating three pounds of wool to each dollar in value of the latter—we estimated the per capita consumption of wool in 1890 at 9.07 greasy pounds, as against 8.52 pounds in 1880. Assuming the clip of 1899 at 272,191,330 pounds, there was retained for consumption in the United States, in 1900, after deducting all exports from the imports, a total of 420,197,228 pounds. The value of imported fabrics for the year was \$27,000,000, which adds 81,000,000 pounds of wool, a total of 501,000,000 pounds which, with a total population of 76,295,220, shows a per capita consumption of 6.7—an apparent loss since 1890 of 2.3 pounds per capita. There has been a steady increase in the population of the country—apparently about 21 per cent. since 1890—and an enormous falling off in the value of imported wools. Yet the sup-