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gross (bruto), legal and net (neto). The only one of these weights that might cause any confusion to shippers is "legal," which means the weight of the goods plus any interior wrapping or packing; in other words, the gross weight less the outside box or protecting case.

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### THE WOOL AND COTTON CENTRES.

A report from London of recent date states that at the sales during the past season the quantity of wool sold amounted to 712,000 bales as compared with 747,500 in the previous season. The total clip from Australasia amounted to 1,596,000 bales (377,000 bales from New Zealand), as against 1,370,000 bales in 1904, and 1,450,000 bales in 1903. This quantity is practically identical with that of the 1899-1900 season, but still 363,000 bales short of the 1894-1895 clip, when the total production was 1,959,000 bales. Provided, therefore, that the estimated increase in the coming clip of 250,000 bales be reached, the output from Australasia this next season should only be short of the largest total ever exported by about 100,000 bales. The average value of a bale of wool is to-day £17 as against £15 5s. at the September series, 1904, while for the whole period under review it works out at £16 as compared with £14 10s. during the previous season. The average value per bale during the colonial selling season 1904-05, is returned at £12 13s.

With the holidays the home trade houses in Manchester are experiencing rather a quiet time just at present. The outlook in all departments is hopeful for the spring, and orders are coming in of a most encouraging character. In connection with the boom in velveteens a cloth by a new process has recently come on the market. The lustre is remarkable, and, although rather an expensive material, it is in good favor in most retail establishments. Makers in this section are experiencing difficulty in getting workpeople who understand the trade. Owing to the quiet time of the last few years there has been no encouragement for employment. All kinds of fancy cloths suitable for dresses and blouses are in demand for the spring, and, given favorable weather in the new year, there should be an active business done. Most of these fine fabrics are mercerized, which, of course, adds largely to their attractiveness. The activity of tartan checks in woolen goods is now being followed in cotton cloths, and this style of material is in healthy request. In cotton piece goods for export the demand is not of an extensive character.

According to the American Wool and Cotton Reporter, consumers of wool in Boston are convinced that they are not going to get wools any cheaper in outside markets, as the markets of the world generally show no evidence of

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any substantial weakening. It is a holiday season, however, and a period of stocktaking here, and it is not surprising that no large volume of business is being done. The trade, indeed, are not expecting any great volume of business at this time of the year. On certain grades and descriptions of stock there could not be a large business transacted, for the reason that the stock is not here in any great amounts, this being especially true of medium territories. Prices are fairly steady, however, although consumers who come into the market aware of the quietness which has prevailed for such a long time, are naturally trying to buy at some concessions, but holders have not made any substantial concessions during the past week.

Owing to the increasing demand for linen cambric and sheers buyers in Belfast are eager to place orders at almost any price, and manufacturers decline to commit themselves beyond a certain quantity, or else take liberty to fix their own time for deliveries. All looms available for making this light material are booked for months ahead, and still fresh business is coming in daily. Most cable orders coming in from American importers call for these grades of linens, and promise further business for shipment in the early part of 1906. Fine