

secured for export. Only a few hundred bales were taken for the United States, and some 800 bales are credited to Russia; the bulk, therefore, has gone to Germany, France and Belgium. Considering that three-fourths of the supplies available consisted of wools of merino quality, and that the continent has appropriated a fair proportion of the crossbred descriptions, the total retained for home consumption, 89,000 bales, is a large one.

The quantity of wool sold falls short of that of last year to the extent of 166,000 bales. Of this deficit, 130,000 bales is accounted for by the diminution in United States purchases. Continental operations, which, last year, were upon an unusually small scale, show little change, while in the takings of the home trade there is a reduction of 31,000 bales.

The next series, it will be remembered, will begin May 3, the list of new arrivals for which will be closed on the day that a gross total of 300,000 bales is reached. As far as can be seen at present, the quantity available for sale will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 230,000 bales.

#### A KNIT GOODS TRUST IN THE UNITED STATES.

About forty manufacturers of knitted underwear, representing Amsterdam, Troy and Cohoes mills, met recently in New York and organized a trust or combine, to be known as the Knit Goods Manufacturing Company, and its object, according to the promoter of the enterprise, William H. Rowe, is to facilitate the manufacture and distribution of merchandise by the placing under one head of all the buying and selling transactions, from material to finished product. This central agency will be located in New York. It was decided to capitalize the company at \$30,000,000, \$10,000,000 of which will be issued in 6 per cent. gold bearing bonds to run 100 years. Preferred stock to the extent of \$5,000,000 and \$15,000,000 of common stock complete the capital.

The new feature of this combination, as distinguished from former associations, is the plan of the company to buy outright and control absolutely the mills which enter into the combination. The saving thus gained in the controlling of the variety of production, which is a great burden to the average mill, as well as the labor and detail incident to the buying and selling ends, is expected to offset many of the difficulties heretofore arising. Prices once established by this combination are expected to rule the market and be kept up without a break.

Canadian producers will have to watch this development with much interest.

#### THE TRUTH ON THE STREET.

The question of improving conditions in the English cotton trade is one which is receiving a good deal of attention at present. G. P. Holden, Manchester, has issued a pamphlet, in which he sets out a scheme for raising the tone of trade by establishing an authoritative statement of each day's business and in giving a true indication of the market. It is claimed that at present the reports published in the Manchester papers are entirely mislead-

ing, the amount of business done being concealed as far as possible under a series of complaints about the unsatisfactory state of trade. It is thought that with the publication of the facts the tone would be improved, because no matter how the papers talk about stagnation the daily sales are enormous, and if the public knew these daily amounts the demand would be still further stimulated. In order to show how ridiculous the present tactics of the cotton market would be if applied to any other phase of commercial life, we quote the following from Mr. Holden's pamphlet: - "What would be the present position of the 'Manchester Guardian' had it published, concerning its business, the reports we cotton manufacturers have published of our transactions during the last fifty years? Would any editor or proprietor of any newspaper, even the smallest, publish the paragraph, as below, in his own paper, with a view of strengthening his commercial position?

"Our circulation to-day has been very small, and at prices that do not pay. Some small offers for advertisements, but at greatly reduced prices. North East and South-West Lancashire demand slightly improved, but this is owing to Derby Day. Our other branches of business are quiet and unchanged. Political demand still unsatisfactory."

#### VENTILATION OF TEXTILE FACTORIES AND DYEHOUSES, DRYING WOOL, ETC. \*

By W. H. CASMEY.

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of giving a paper before the Yorkshire College Engineering Society on the broad principles of ventilation, and to-night I propose giving particulars as to how these principles have been or can be applied so as to benefit both the employer and the employee. The importance of this branch of sanitation is not fully recognized—in fact, in many places it is quite ignored. During my experience as a ventilating engineer I have repeatedly gone into factories where probably 500 people have been working, with every window and door closed, so that no fresh air could possibly enter. The effect on one entering from the fresh air is almost stifling. On occasion I have asked the person in charge, Why do you keep the rooms closed so much? and have been answered, The workpeople complain of draughts if the windows are open, and say if the rooms are warm and close they do not want so much to eat. They are quite correct in their reasons; draughts will be set if the ventilation consists of opening windows only, and the natural inclination for food will be at its minimum when the air breathed is robbed of some of its life-giving gas, oxygen. We are aware that a steam boiler cannot be worked economically if the products of combustion are taken from the flue and passed over the fire again, as in a very short time the fire will be damped out. What applies to the steam-raising plant applies with equal force to the workers. Combustion is governed by the same laws, whether in the furnace or in the human system. Such being the case, it is the duty of all to insist upon having an abundance of fresh air, without which we cannot keep

\* Paper read before the Society of Dyers and Colorists, Bradford.