

per cent. and sent 53½ per cent. All other countries took less than 9 per cent., and sent 31½ per cent.

W. L. M. LINDSEY.

City of Mexico, March, 1898.

To be continued.

DRY GOODS CONDITIONS.

The spring trade in textiles has been exceptionally good. Assorting business is commencing well, and the prospects are favorable for an active movement next autumn. The representatives of Canadian houses are reported to have placed orders freely in the United Kingdom for Yorkshire goods, but in Manchester and Nottingham their requests upon stocks are said to have been of a limited nature. This was to be expected in view of the reduction in the customs tariff which is scheduled to take place in British goods next July, merchants naturally feeling disposed to delay their imports and take advantage of the lower duties. The textile journals of the United Kingdom are paying considerable attention to the Canadian trade. The *Drapers' Record* remarks that: "A further reduction of 12½ per cent. in the duty on British goods, making, with the 12½ per cent. already granted, 25 per cent. in all, will shortly come into force, and should greatly help Midland houses in the Canadian market. There is, of course, the risk of German goods being forwarded to this country, and trans-shipped, leaving British ports as articles of British manufacture. This, with a preferential duty of 25 per cent. as an inducement, will certainly be done if the stamping under the Marks Act can be removed so as to banish all traces of origin."

American sales agents were in the Canadian cities recently with print goods samples, but we have yet to learn of their receiving anything but nominal orders. So far as the cloth and dye are concerned, the American goods are fully equal to those of British origin, but in the matter of patterns and finish the goods of the mother country stand without a peer. The manufacturers of the United States lay claims to an immense number of patterns which will not bear close scrutiny. To illustrate in a line which an American agent termed six patterns, the more accurate description would be one pattern in six colors. The capital required in fitting out a plant with expensive copper rollers and other machinery necessary to give the requisite variety in designs, is apparently invested in the print manufacturing of no other country than Great Britain.

THE WOOL SITUATION.

Wool growers are now beginning to discuss the prospects for the season of 1898. A few parcels of early-clipped unwashed wool are beginning to come forward. Breeders who are anxious that their flocks should make a good appearance at the autumn fairs are clipping their sheep that the wool may have a full growth, while those who are preparing lambs for an early market also find it advisable to clip the ewes who, kept in warm quarters, would otherwise shed their fleeces. From these two sources come the first offerings of wool for the season. The washed wool will scarcely begin to find its way to the market before the closing days of May; the washing operation may be either hastened or delayed by weather conditions. Those growers who hope to realize the good values obtained last season will probably meet with severe disappointment, as the barriers erected before the entrance to the United States market have rendered difficult of access the one profitable foreign outlet for Canadian wools, and the home mills have not sufficient capacity to consume all the long coarse wools grown in this country.

A summary of the world's wool statistics, while it is of only indirect value to Canadian wool growers, will prove of more than passing interest to importers and manufacturers. The total quantity of raw-wool available for consumption in 1897, exclusive of old stocks, is placed by Messrs. Hellmuth, Schwartze & Co., London, Eng., at 2,304 million lbs. against 2,263 million lbs. in the preceding year. The increase was larger than expected and partly due to heavy importations of sundry wools, particularly Persian, Central Asiatic, China, Panta Arenas and Mohair, and to the heavier weight of River Plate bales, and partly to quicker arrivals of Australian and River Plate wools in December. The actual production of Colonial wool was less than in the preceding season. The United States clip was thirteen million pounds less and was the smallest since 1879. Calculated in clean wool the increase was proportionately still greater owing to the larger quantity of River Plate crossbreds.

A division of the past twelve years into four year periods shows that the increase in the supplies since 1886-83 amounts to 20 per cent., or allowing for the growth of population to 9 per cent., while the price is reduced by 16 per cent.

The quantity left for consumption last year was 195 million lbs. more in North America, 25 million lbs. less in the United Kingdom

and 129 million lbs. less on the continent, the European consumption having been the smallest since 1891.

With regard to this year's supply it is not likely that the receipts of "other sorts" will show another increase in the presence of a depressed market for coarse wools, while the imports of Colonial and River Plate wool for the calendar year will probably be reduced by the equivalent of 200,000 colonial packages, taking everything into consideration, the decrease in the colonies, an almost stationary production at the River Plate and the early arrivals last December. This would mean a reduction of the total quantity by 70 million lbs., say to 2,234 million lbs. The decrease will be entirely in merino wool, the production of which will in our opinion be smaller than at any time since 1838.

ITEMS ABOUT MANUFACTURES.

The Shepard & Morse Lumber Company, of Ottawa, have received a carload of mahogany from Honduras. The wood is valued at \$2,000. The company named is interested in the mahogany forests of Honduras. This wood, in logs, is carried from Central America to Boston and there cut up into lumber.

The structural iron workers of Pittsburg organized last week and decided on a new wage scale which they will demand after April 1st. It calls for 30 cents an hour and nine hours a day, except on city work; on this, an eight-hour day.

Belts that slip, says a manufacturing journal, not only do not drive properly, but they wear out rapidly. A belt that is too tight is overstrained, and will also wear out rapidly. A thoroughly reliable belt dressing is a necessity.

During last year the Hartford Steam Boiler and Inspection Company investigated the condition of no fewer than 206,657 boilers in the United States. The following comparison of the work of its inspectors in two years shows that with an increase in the number of boilers inspected, there was a decrease in number of defects discovered:

	1896.	1897.
Visits of inspection made	102,911	105,062
Whole number of boilers inspected.....	205,957	206,657
Complete internal inspections	78,118	76,770
Boilers tested by hydrostatic pressure....	8,187	7,870
Total number of defects discovered.....	143,217	131,192
" " of dangerous defects	12,988	11,775
" " of boilers condemned	663	588

There is a proposal to transfer the charter of the Peterboro and Ashburnham Street Railway Company to the new electric railway company in Peterboro. Every shareholder must give consent to such a transfer, and the Canadian General Electric Company is a shareholder. The *Review* considers it probable that the transfer will be made.

The last issue of the *Iron Trade Review* announces that the Chicago *Industrial World* has been amalgamated with the former journal. The paper has now offices in Cleveland, Pittsburg and Chicago, and is one of the best informed journals of the West on the subjects of machinery, metal-working, and iron and steel interests in the States.

Andrew Carnegie has given \$10,000 to the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg, to start a reference library of technical works, to cover mechanical, civil and electrical engineering, chemistry, metallurgy and manufactures. Something similar, we presume, to the Crerar Library, of Chicago.

In anticipation of the spring freight rates which come into effect on April 1st, importers and manufacturers of hardware, metals, chemicals, paints, and such heavy goods, are getting spring orders or held over orders ready to ship. There is thus considerable activity in Montreal and Toronto warehouses, as also in the various other manufacturing cities and towns East and West.

We are informed that a winding-up order has issued in the matter of the Canadian Watch Case Co., of Montreal, and that a meeting of the company's creditors is called for the 9th April. The company was organized something like two years ago, with an authorized capital of \$10,000, but it would seem has not been successful.

The Pacific mill, at Tacoma, State of Washington, the largest shingle mill in the world, was completely destroyed by fire recently. The loss was about \$100,000, and the insurance only partial on the building, while it was *nil* on the stock.

Japanese auctions are conducted on a plan which gives rise to none of the noise and confusion which attend such sales in the United States. Each bidder writes his name and bid upon a slip of paper, which he places in a box. When the bidding is over, the box is opened by the auctioneer and the goods declared the property of the highest bidder.

Illustrations were given the other day in our Western contemporary, the *Winnipeg Commercial*, of the extensive packing factory of J.