

The woolen industries of Canada are suffering now from this cause to a great extent, though there is another cause of great importance, the need of improvement in machinery as well as methods and variety of styles in our manufactures. The period of depression which has affected all the world has been very prolonged. The displacement of population is gradually rectifying and re-balancing nations and communities. The millions of every European nationality that have left their native homes and settled in North America have had a great re-balancing effect. We who expatriated ourselves to this our adopted country, have assisted in this great economic change. Are we getting a living and bringing up our children on the lines to further aid and develop the resources of this country? Let every one answer that question. Are our legislators doing it by their wearisome labors, playing at statesmen for their sessional pay?—this applies to Dominion as well as Provincial legislators. What a great economic change it would be if we could only reduce our Provincial legislators to at least one-third in number, and elect representatives free, able, and willing to legislate for us without pay. Our public representatives are very often—ah! too often—pauperized by the sessional pay attached to the office. Fancy asks me, What have these ideas to do with the woolen industry?

Well, I may be a little off the subject, but not much; though, if we are over-governed and burdened with such heavy expenses, it is expecting too much for the country to recover from its depression if the expenses are not reduced also. A person who suffers a reverse in his circumstances is compelled to reduce his expenses if he means to recover at all. So must a government of a nation. Are we doing it in Canada? So, enough on our economic conditions; but what has that to do with the woolen industries? It is just this: the same rule applies to every industry in the Dominion. Expenses must be reduced, working men better educated, machinery improved, and old and worthless machinery cast aside. How far this has been done, and what relation the facts suggested bear to present conditions of the woolen industry in Canada, will be shown in subsequent articles.

LONDON WOOL SALES.

The second series of London sales of colonial wool, which commenced on the 3rd March, closed on the 20th, the following quantities having been catalogued:—

		In the corresponding series last year.
Sydney	46,054 bales, against	66,210 bales.
Queensland	38,448 "	35,968 "
Port Philip	25,967 "	56,339 "
Adelaide	10,067 "	25,337 "
Tasmania	74 "	736 "
Western Australia	5,402 "	3,619 "
New Zealand	52,248 "	54,166 "
Cape	16,839 "	24,349 "

Total..... 195,099 bales, against 266,724 bales.

The net total available amounted to 207,000 bales. Of these 189,000 bales have been sold; 79,000 bales

for British consumption, 108,000 bales to the continent of Europe, and 2,000 bales to America, leaving 18,000 bales to be carried forward to the next series. The series opened with spirited competition and a rise of about 5 per cent. on Australian merino wools. As the sales proceeded the tone grew stronger and the advance gradually increased to 10 per cent. The only and small exceptions were the super Western and the best Adelaide wools, which owing to the absence of American demand did not improve their position. But all other greasy wools participated in the rise, most of all medium to good descriptions, and broken, and pieces, which mostly sold 1d. dearer than in January. The ground gained by the scoured wools was equally conspicuous, prices from all classes ranging from 1d. to 1½d. above previous quotations. Crossbred wools did not advance at the outset, but during the latter part of the series they became more difficult to buy and may now be quoted 5 per cent. dearer, especially the medium and coarser classes. Capes rose 5 per cent. on the opening day; for snow whites this gain was fully maintained, for greasy it was increased 5 to 10 per cent. The former may be quoted ½d. to 1d. higher than in January, the latter ½d. to ¾d. higher for short, and ¾d. to 1d. per lb. for long wools. The sales throughout have been largely attended. The German industry took a leading part in the purchases, but England and France also took their fair share, and only America remained inactive.

During the last few days the extreme prices paid in the middle of the series for Australian merino wools and Cape greasy were not quite maintained, but the tone in the sale room remained strong to the close.

The following shows the supplies and deliveries of colonial wool as compared with last year:

	1896.	1895.
Held over from December....	20,000 bales	63,000 bales.
New imports for the first two series	371,000 "	414,000 "
	391,000	477,000
Home consumption	158,000 bales.	194,000 bales.
Export	215,000 "	263,000 "
Total sold	373,000	457,000
Held over	18,000 bales.	20,000 bales.

It will be seen that the total sold in the two series falls short of last year's figures by no less than 84,000 bales. This deficit, to which every succeeding series is likely to add its quota, is not perhaps felt at present, as the direct colonial purchases have this year been shipped much earlier, and the aggregate deliveries to the trade are much the same as at the same period in 1895, but the decrease must become prominent as the year advances.

The next three series have been fixed to commence on the 28th April, with a limit of 325,000 bales on the gross arrivals; on the 30th June, with a limit of 375,000, and on the 22nd September, without limitation. After the deduction of the transit wools, but including the old stock, a net total of about 270,000 to 28,000