

mention in another place that the United States manufacturers are now turning out apparently pure worsteds which are largely cotton, and this is only an indication of what is going on in all lines. As domestic wool is not produced in anything like sufficient quantities for clothing purposes, there has necessarily been a large increase in the use of shoddy. Since the needed supplies of pure wool cannot be obtained, manufacturers must employ rags, cotton and other substitutes for wool. Such was the effect of the high duties on wool in the tariff which preceded the McKinley Act, as was shown by the census returns in 1890. In 1890 the use of cheap substitutes for wool was almost if not quite as great as was the use of pure wool in making United States stuffs for clothing, and the use of these substitutes was necessarily stimulated by the heavy increase in the duties on wool and woolens in the McKinley tariff. Under the Dingley Act a new era of shoddy has begun. Smuggling must also be considered a factor in the Canadian wool market, for not only are considerable quantities of our wools likely to be smuggled into the United States in future, as has been found not unprofitable in the past, but the demand for textiles in Canada for purposes of smuggling will be great and will tend to lend tone to the market.

It is not then to be assumed that because the United States tariff is high the prices of Canadian wools are to be low.

LABELLED "SHODDY."

A bill has been under discussion in the Ohio legislature "to prevent fraud in the sale of woollen, shoddy and cotton goods." The measure provides that any person or persons who manufactures, sells, offers for sale or exchange any yarn, knit, woven or felted fabric, or article designed for clothing to wear, and made in part or whole of wool, cotton or shoddy, shall cause the same to be tagged, labeled or stamped with statement of the per cent. of each material entering such article or fabric. This statement shall be written, printed or stenciled in the English language, and shall be the most conspicuous wording borne by the article or fabric. The terms wool and cotton shall be construed to mean new fibers, such as have not before been used; the term shoddy shall be construed to mean any of the materials known commercially as shoddy, noils, flocks, mungo and wastes. In the case of ready-made clothing, the proper labeling of the fabric or fabrics, of which the body of the garment or article is made, shall be considered compliance with this act. A variation not to exceed 15 per cent. from the composition given shall not be considered a violation of the provisions of this act. A violation of the law is punishable by fine and imprisonment.

The only defect in such legislation is that it can hardly be enforced. The good old legal maxim "let the buyer beware" still rules trade. One has to be an expert in order to determine whether he is being honestly dealt with. However, if anything can be accomplished by law to protect the people against misrepresentation (explicit or implied) in the matter of wool fabrics, the task should not be delayed.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the manufacturers of the United States are becoming expert producers of imitations, as is shown by the following extract from the Leeds, Eng., correspondence of a Boston paper: "A few days ago a merchant, who does a good business with the States, handed me a pattern, which he had received from a customer in Philadelphia. He said it was the product of an American mill, and all worsted, and should cost on this side 2s. 6d., or 60c., for 14-ounce. I examined the sample, and it looked and handled like all good worsted. In fact, it seemed like a cloth, at first glance, which I should have valued as being made to sell at the present time for \$2.25 a yard. It was a check, composed of two threads dark gray, two threads black warp and filling, with a dark red thread every 20, to make a subdued check. On dissecting the fabric, I discovered a fine piece of "bluffing" on the part of the maker of the cloth. The two threads, gray, and the thread of red were worsted, but the two threads of black, both warp and filling, were cotton, but the same thickness as the worsted, and spun so soft, and woven and finished so well, that my merchant friend himself declared it to be all worsted; but, in fact, 50 per cent. of the fabric was cotton."

THE LONDON WOOL SALES.

The closing of the last series on April 4th was marked by an absence of demand from the United States. Compared with the final rates of the previous series, these auctions have established an advance in the value of the general run of Australian merino greasy at 5 to 7½ per cent. Scoureds throughout have occupied a stronger position than greasy, and in their case the appreciation is frequently as much as 10 per cent., the gain being greater in medium and inferior sorts than in the very best. Another case in which it has been particularly noticeable was South African greasy wools of combing length. In competition for these the Yorkshire topmaker has been most keen, driving values up to the extent of nearly 10 per cent. In scoured wools from South Africa, the same thing holds good as in the case of Australian. Medium and inferior sorts have risen quite a penny in values, whereas superior parcels, both from the eastern and western provinces of the Cape, are no more than ¼ dearer. Australian merino lambs show a somewhat diversified result. Stiff inferior and very faulty parcels remain very much as they were, but the medium sorts have improved 5 to 7½ per cent., and the choicest parcels may be said to have averaged fully 10 per cent. advance. About crossbreds, there is nothing fresh to report. During these auctions hardly a lot has come forward comparable with the choice parcels seen in January. For wools of good breed and fine quality the demand has tended to wax keener as the sales progressed, and these must be quoted about 7½ per cent. dearer than they were when the previous auctions closed.

With the addition of such parcels as were withdrawn in auction and not subsequently sold, the stock left on hand amounts to 16,000 bales. Of the total quantity catalogued (212,000 bales), 202,000 bales found purchasers, 113,000 bales of which, it is estimated, having been