

tion in veterinary medicine was commenced in this city by Mr. Smith, a member of the Edinburgh Veterinary School, and in 1864, a school of Veterinary medicine was duly organized, and has since continued in successful operation under very encouraging auspices. We give elsewhere a brief notice of Mr. Smith's opening lecture for the present season in connection with the Toronto Veterinary School. We heartily wish success to this excellent institution. We understand that six students will shortly be prepared to pass their final examination, and that more than double this number are at present attending the course of instruction furnished in this city under the able superintendence of Dr. Bovell, Professor Buckland, Mr. Smith, Mr. Merrick of the Royal Artillery, and other well qualified teachers.

The good example thus set in Toronto has been followed in Montreal, where, about two years ago, a system of instruction of a similar character was inaugurated, and now bids fair, we believe, to become a flourishing school of Veterinary science. In both provinces, therefore, we have now the means of training for useful spheres throughout the country, a body of well educated, and thoroughly qualified surgeons to attend to the maladies of the increasingly valuable and better bred stock that is gradually taking the place of the old inferior breeds. This is a subject for congratulation, and we feel that we are giving sound advice when we counsel our farmers to avail themselves of the advantages within their reach, and to seek the best rather than the cheapest help, whenever the animals under their care stand in need of assistance on account of accidents or sickness.

### The Wool Interest.

THE wool-growers in the neighbouring States have of late been almost unanimously urgent for a continuance if not an increase of the high tariff on the importation of foreign wool into American markets, yet the report of Commissioner Wells, recently published, ought to convince them of the futility and even mischief of the policy they would advocate. This report shows most clearly that, as regards this one interest at least, the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and this country has inflicted a far more serious injury upon our neighbours than ourselves; that the system of protective duties has signally failed to encourage either the home produce or manufacture of the article, and has demonstrated most conclusively, we think, the injustice and impolicy of taxing the community at large for the protection of individual or class interests. Mr. Wells is not a free trader, on the contrary he is a warm advocate of protection; yet the logic of facts compels him to plead in the interests of the wool growers themselves, as well as of the community at large, for some relaxation of the protective duties in this particular instance. In his report he draws the following conclusions:—

1. That the present high duties on combing wools (formerly admitted free under the Reciprocity Treaty), have, during the past year, almost entirely prostrated and crushed out the worsted manufacture; and that like causes in former years have also nearly destroyed the broadcloth manufacture, which formerly constituted fifty per cent. and upwards of the entire woollen industry of the country. Both of these industries, although requiring wools not yet raised to any extent in the United States as their basis, would, if in active operation work up a very considerable proportion of American fleece, from twenty to thirty per cent., and their prostration, therefore, has not only deprived the American wool-grower of a very important and certain market for a portion of his surplus products, but has also diminished the inducement for the introduction of new varieties of wool.

2. During the period of war, cotton, formerly the taxable fabric of common consumption, attained and maintained so high a price that its use was greatly restricted, thus necessitating a most extraordinary demand for wool as a cheaper fibre, and leading to a great increase in the number of woollen manufacturers. At present this condition of affairs is reversed; and cotton, as the cheaper fibre, is rapidly resuming

its normal position, and supplanting the use of wools; thus introducing a disturbing element which no legislation can remedy or prevent.

3. Another curious and interesting fact brought up incidentally during the enquiries instituted by the Commissioner relative to prices, was the reception of testimony from almost every section of the country from dealers in, and manufacturers of, clothing, that rarely, in their experience, has so little of cloth and clothing been sold as during the past fall season; thus showing that the burden of taxation and the high prices of woollens have forced the people to a practice of the most unusual and rigid economy. It is now proposed to remedy these difficulties by making the prices of woollens still higher.

While these facts would seem to unprejudiced minds to point out an entire withdrawal of protective duties, as the only effectual remedy for the evil, Mr. Wells, whatever his private conclusions may be, is too well aware of the prejudices of Congress, and doubtless of a large proportion of the American people, to ask so much, and contents himself with advocating a reduction of the duty in favour of "worsted or combing wools." Wools of this character, which are not grown in any considerable quantity in the United States, are produced in Canada to the extent of six millions of pounds per annum, and under the Reciprocity Treaty were imported by the Americans free of duty. "Under these circumstances," says Mr. Wells, "the worsted manufacture, which scarcely existed in the United States prior to 1860, developed up to 1865 with a rapidity that has scarcely any precedent in the history of American manufactures; the amount of capital at that date being estimated at eight millions of dollars, with a yearly value of product of not less than ten millions of dollars.

"By the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, these wools, before free, became subjected to a duty of about sixteen cents per pound, without any corresponding advance in the rates imposed on the importations of foreign worsteds. An internal revenue tax of five per cent. on the domestic manufacture, was also maintained in force. Under these circumstances the only result which could be expected occurred, viz.: the almost complete annihilation of the worsted manufacture—a business which with all its branches employs in France at the present time over three hundred thousand persons.

"The only remedy for this state of things is to reduce the present duty of sixteen cents per pound on the importations of combing wools—six cents being, in the opinion of the Commissioner, a fair revenue rate—or to place large additional duties on the importation of manufactures of worsted, sufficient to counterbalance the increased duties on the raw material. It is not believed that the reduction of duty on these wools, even to the extent of making them entirely free, can bring anything of detriment to the interests of the American wool grower, inasmuch as the demand for these wools tends, at the present time, to greatly exceed the supply. Indeed, in England, at the present time, the future adequate supply of these wools is already becoming with the manufacturers a source of no little anxiety, and meetings have been called looking to the adoption of measures calculated to still further stimulate their production. It is still further the opinion of the best authorities in the United States on this subject, that the country could readily and promptly consume twenty millions of pounds annually of this wool, provided it could be obtained. The present market price of Canada combing wools (November, 1866) ranges from seventy to eighty cents per pound, as compared with forty-five to sixty cents per pound for domestic fleeces. The Commissioner, therefore, submits to the judgment of Congress whether any further protection is needed for this branch of sheep husbandry in the United States, or can be offered greater than that which will result from the development of the worsted manufacture."

This confession by Mr. Wells is a fine commentary upon the wisdom of those narrow-minded statesmen who sought the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty for the purpose of injuring and punishing Canada. It is no exaggeration to say that the ruin of the worsted manufactures of the United States is a tenfold more serious matter than all the loss and inconvenience which Canada has suffered from the repeal of the Treaty. But the injury to the worsted manufacturers is only an item on the American side of the account. There are many articles affected by the repeal of the

Reciprocity Treaty upon which the American consumer pays the duty, while in very few cases, if at all, does the burden fall entirely upon the Canadian producer. When Americans generally comprehend the mischief which the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty has wrought for them as clearly as Mr. Wells comprehends the consequences of the duty upon Canadian wool, we may expect a more enlightened policy to prevail at Washington. By putting a prohibitory duty upon Canadian wool, the Americans crush out the worsted manufacture, destroy to that extent the demand for their own wool, and drive their people to buy worsted goods made in France and England! This is the way that protection encourages home production. The shutting out of a few million pounds of Canadian wool is accomplished at the cost of shutting up the worsted mills, reducing the consumption of American wool, and of increasing the importation of woollen goods from Europe. They could have part of the wool-growing and all the manufacturing done in their own country; but rather than allow some of the wool to come from Canada, they adopt a policy which results in having all the wool-growing and all the manufacturing done in Europe! That is "protection to home manufactures" with a vengeance.

If it were possible to protect the wool-growers of the United States without destroying their market, the argument in favour of doing so would, even from a protectionist point of view, be of the weakest character. The demand for wool tends, as Mr. Wells says, to exceed the supply. The great difficulty is not to make wool-growing profitable, but to make wool cheap enough to permit manufacturing to be profitable. At present prices, which are far in excess of prices a few years ago, the growing of wool is the most profitable thing which a farmer who understands the business can undertake. Given good sheep, suitable farming land, and good management, and a fortune may be realized in a few years from a moderate capital. Mr. Wells intimates that the American wool grower does not require further protection than that which would be afforded by the development of the worsted manufacture, and on that ground recommends that the duty upon combing wools be reduced to six cents per lb.—a suggestion which is, as we have said, much more moderate than his facts would warrant.

We have little faith, however, that Mr. Wells will succeed in getting his recommendations passed into law at present. Nevertheless he has done his country an eminent service by his masterly exposure of the evils of its commercial policy. His exposure is all the more crushing from the fact that it is the work of a man who sets out by admitting so much of the theory upon which that policy is based. It would be an easy thing for a free-trader to expose the evils of the American system, but when an American protectionist shows so conclusively how American protection defeats itself, there is no answering him even upon protectionist principles.

### Royal Agricultural Society of England.

THE general annual meeting of members of the above Society was held Dec. 12, at the Society's house, Hanover Square. We extract a portion of the annual report which is of general interest.

"During the last half-year six governors and 114 members have died, while one governor and 32 members have been elected, so that the list now comprises 76 life-governors, 83 annual governors, 1,380 life members, 3,974 annual members, and 15 honorary members, making a total of 5,525. The funded capital has been reduced by the sale of £1,000 Stock, and now stands at £18,027 in the New Three per Cent. This is owing partly to the appropriation of a considerable sum to a thorough investigation into the results of the cultivation of the soil by steam-driven machinery in various parts of the country. To this latter object the council determined to devote a sum not exceeding £1,000, and notwithstanding the wet autumn, considerable progress has been made