

the desired quantity it will continue to be inadequate to meet the domestic demand." Then replying to a report by J. R. Dodge, compiled for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture to show the effect of removing the duty on wool in 1894 Mr. North proceeds:

"Mr. Dodge falls into a most curious misconception of facts when he speaks of the foreign manufacturers as being 'compelled to scramble for supplies in all the wool growing countries of the world.' In truth, they have advantages from which our own manufacturers are excluded, and which are incomparably superior to any which the latter enjoy through reliance upon the domestic clip. It is not possible to exaggerate the degree or the results of these advantages. Chief among them is the ability to purchase precisely the sorts wanted in the condition best adapted to economical manufacture. This grows out of the pains which are now taken in grading, skirting and classifying the colonial wools. Mr. Dodge recognizes the enormous backwardness of our own wool growers in this respect. He reads them a long lecture upon their carelessness and indifference to the requirements of the manufacturer. But he cannot quite bring himself to the point of saying that if the American wool grower is ever to compete with the Australian on even terms he must imitate the latter in skirting his fleeces. The practice of skirting has long been the nightmare of the domestic grower. He has been taught that it is some kind of heathenish device resorted to by his foreign competitors to gain an illicit admittance into the American market, and he has been instrumental in inserting into the tariff acts penal provisions against the proper preparation of wool for the market which remind one of the fourteenth century legislation of England requiring every corpse to be buried in a woollen shroud, or prohibiting the use of indigo in dyeing. The whole of that famous paragraph 356 of the existing tariff is the protest of the American wool grower against being compelled by the laws of trade to keep up with the procession in the world's advance in wool growing."

Mr. North notes the fact that 63 per cent. of the total wool clip of 1900 was produced in states in which the wool growing industry is carried on by the ranch system, which is in no sense a farming industry, and where profits are possible by the use of free government lands. Taking up Mr. Dodge's prophecy that under the present protection we should reach 80,000,000 sheep in a decade or two Mr. North draws attention to the fact that only 40,000,000 sheep were reported in April, 1900, and hence the flocks now raised on ranches must increase at least threefold in order to make good this prediction. He says:

"We have no means of ascertaining the probabilities, but we do not believe the time will ever come when 60,000,000 sheep will be found there. On the contrary, as civilization moves westward, as the lands in these states are more and more given over to legitimate farming, we see no reason to doubt that the number of sheep will begin to recede, precisely as has occurred east of the Mississippi. This recession has already occurred in California, where there are only one-third as many sheep as were found there

in 1880. The farmers of the East, the Middle West and the South stubbornly refuse to take advantage of the tariff and increase their flocks."

THE BELOVED QUEEN.

The Queen is dead, and the Victorian Age has closed with her life. The mere statement of the phrase, the "Victorian Age," is all that is needed to place in monumental form our conception of the Queen's influence upon the life of the world. It is too little to say that her millions of subjects lament her death. The nations of the whole earth stand as mourners at her grave. In doing so they pay their tribute of honor to a sovereign who strove at all times for peace among the powers, and to whom all war was abhorrent. The secret of her great power among her own people and her own family as well as among the rulers of the great nations was her enlightened Christian love, and her high sense of duty, both of which were tried and proved in countless ways in her long life. As for her reign, it stands unique, not only in the long history of Great Britain, but in many respects in the history of all nations from Chaldea and Egypt to the Kingdoms of the present day. The great monarchs of ancient times who extended their rule over the earth by victorious armies, left the subject peoples whom they conquered pretty much as they found them so far as "liberty and the pursuit of happiness" was concerned; whereas a large part of the marvelous extension of the British Empire in Victoria's day has been brought about by appeals in favor of her rule by the subject peoples themselves, and wherever British sway has extended the natives have been benefited, and their burdens lightened. Under her rule the chains from the slave "dropped off like lead into the sea," and it is only since her reign that other nations have come, by Britain's example, to regard slave holding as a crime. Her good name is not only stamped upon the age itself, but upon every phase of the complex life of the Nineteenth Century. Countries, provinces, counties, cities and towns have taken their name from her, rivers, lakes, bays, mountains, islands and every other feature of the earth's face bear her name, and hundreds of every sort of institution in social, religious, moral and political life have been baptized in her name. And marvelous is this testimony to the exalted purity of her nature, that in not one case has her name been used by an institution calculated for the demoralization of the people. We can only say with Tennyson, "She wrought her people lasting good."

"Her court was pure: her life serene:
God gave her peace: her land reposed.
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as mother, wife and Queen:

"And statesmen at her council met
Who knew the seasons when to take
Occasion by the hand, and make
The bounds of freedom wider yet

"By shaping some august decree,
Which kept her throne unshaken still
Broad-based upon her people's will
And compass'd by the inviolate sea."