

horse disease, and holidays, and we incline to a hopeful view of the situation.

With the exception of an unfavourable season for the planting of the grain crops in this country, the effect of which, with propitious weather to come, would doubtless be much modified, all the elements for a moderately satisfactory trade seem to be in existence, could we be only assured of that all-important desideratum, an ample supply of the raw material. Money, too, seems likely to be easier with the turn of the year; although, until the French indemnity has been paid, and the new currency in Germany established, we may expect serious fluctuations.

WOOLLEN3.

Imported in 1872	\$5,899,346
" " 1871	4,669,661

Increase in 1872	\$1,229,685
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The rapid advance in the price of Wool during the fall of 1871 caused much larger purchases of Woollen goods to be made, and orders placed for this market, at a much earlier period for the spring and fall trade of 1872 than is usual in the ordinary course of business. This was caused not only by the feeling that the raw material was advancing with rapid strides, but also that labour and everything pertaining to the manufacturing districts was being enhanced in value beyond any previous period, and it is questionable if the Woollen trade of Great Britain has shown at any previous time such a rapid advance in so short a period of time.

The amount of importations under this head shows fully 25 per cent. increase, but a very considerable portion of this amount is to be attributed to the advance on goods over the previous year. From the best sources, we believe that about half of the increase may be fairly attributed to the advance in price, the remaining portion to increased importations.

This rate of advance is not near the actual advance now prevalent had the same goods to be purchased at the present time, but we question whether enough has been made to pay for holding stock so long, with the heavy rates of interest which have had to be paid to carry on the stocks now held, as to war-

rant a repetition of the same should similar circumstances again arise.

The year 1872 will long be remembered as one of the most eventful ever known in the English Wool trade. Although prices at the conclusion of the year are not much lower than they were at its commencement, yet their fluctuations have been very great. Throughout the whole of 1871, the price of English Wool rose continually, consequent on the reaction at the close of the Franco-Prussian war; and though probably the highest legitimate price was reached in December of that year, yet, in consequence of speculative action and excitement, a further rise was established in January and February 1872. The continued demand and the exceedingly good trade of 1871, together with the speculative purchases of dealers and staplers in the beginning of 1872, had the effect of drawing all the wool from the farmers' hands. Growers who held their wool for six or seven years, tempted by speculative offers above the market price of the day, were induced to part with their wool, and the consequence was that before the clip of 1872 came on to the market there was scarcely to be found a farmer who held wool. Large stocks were, however, held by staplers and some few spinners, and prices at the commencement of the year ruled higher than they had done since 1864.

In July prices gradually receded from the want of orders, till wool fell about 5d per lb, but in October a sharp reaction took place, and 4d of the fall was recovered, within ten days, a rise in prices, which for suddenness and extent had never been known at any previous time; and although this rise in prices brought a larger amount of wool to market, it was at once taken off.

From private advices, received under January date, we learn that "the price of wools have gone much higher of late, and but faint hopes are now entertained of a fall in the spring which was looked for a few months back; there is a good trade doing for the season, orders are coming in better than at the same period last year, and the operations indicate confidence in the stability of prices—the firmness of Cotton also confirms this opinion. Doubtless we had a heavier