

developed. This was encouraged by the American Government. Although United States adopted a system of high protective tariff after the American Civil war, the Government, after explaining to and obtaining the good will of the American wool growers, admitted without duty the long wools from Canada. This they did because they realized that the climatic conditions of United States were not especially suited for the production of long woolled fleeces and the demand for these long wools exceeded the supply. Hence it is that the greater part of the wool produced in Canada finds its way to the Boston market, the greatest wool market in North America.

OUR IMPORTS VS. EXPORTS

While our own wool is being sent across the line, what do we find going on at home? We see that our importation of wool is almost five times as great as our exports.

Exports 4,545,000 pounds in 1916.

Imports 21,140,000 pounds in 1916.

This importation of wool is of such kinds as are particularly suited to use of the Canadian manufacture.

Our Canadian tariff has for many years admitted yarn, tops and noils free of duty. Tops are the first product of the worsted combing machines being the longest fibres of the long woolled sheep. The noils are shorter fibres dropped from the combing machines in the process of combing and are used for woollens and yarn. Hence it is that it is cheaper for the Canadian manufacturer to import these special products of the worsted industry because he, without protection, cannot hope to compete with worsted manufacturers in United States and Great Britain where the process is long established, well organized and the labor cheaper. Consequently we find the knitting industry in this country devel-

oping while the woollen industry stagnates, and the wool grower and manufacturer are drifting further and further apart.

THE AGITATION FOR AN EMBARGO ON CANADIAN WOOL

Only a short time ago there was a strong agitation to have an embargo placed on Canadian wool to prevent its export to United States. This was caused because the supply of wool in Australia and New Zealand had been commandeered by the Government at a fixed price. This price was 55% above pre-war prices, but, nevertheless, was lower than the price we, in Canada, received. The Australians objected to the supplying of wool to Canada when the Canadian farmer was receiving a higher price for his wool which was to be shipped to the United States. On first sight the objection seemed justified, but the placing of an embargo on Canadian wool was not the cure. If this were done, the wool grower would be left at the mercy of the manufacturer whose interests, as has already been pointed out, are not in common with those of the producer. If an embargo is placed upon Canadian wool, a price for wool will have to be set—a very difficult thing to do. A deputation of wool growers was sent to Ottawa and presented the facts to the Government and were practically assured that no embargo would be placed on wool.

PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE

As to what the future holds in store for the sheep breeder and wool grower, we can only study some facts which will no doubt have a bearing on the question.

I. The war has obviously accentuated the shortage of wool. Demand was sudden and increased rapidly while supplies were abruptly diminished. The