the secret of the successful manufacture of this fibre lies in the discovery, by James P. McLean, the patentee, of a mode of treating it with vegetable oil. Animal oil is used in the manufacture of wool. Cotton is naturally oily. By the use of vegetable oil the manufacture of this fibre is likely to prove completely successful.

The specimens exhibited were carded, spun and woven by hand from fibre gathered from plants which had previously been twice mown the same season for the purpose of destroying them. It is stated in the report that fifty cents a pound have been offered for the fibre, and that it has been estimated it can be grown at the rate of five hundred pounds per acre.

It is possible this estimate will be found too high, as the silky down is very light, and the flowers, although very numerous, do not all mature into seed-bearing pods.

The growing wants of the paper trade, which has been said to be as necessary for our comfort and commerce as for the continued and advancing civilization of the world, have naturally led the manufacturer to look for an increased supply of material. In making paper from this vegetable substance, we are not, to quote the words of Dr. Royle, "commencing improvement by repeating experiments which had already been made, and announcing results as new which had long previously been ascertained." The fibre from the pods will require far less preparation in the manufacture of paper than rags from any fabric, and may be classed under the denomination of *Fines*. Its suitability has simply to be established by its capability of cohesion after its reduction to pulp; the cost of production, and of alkaline and bleaching solutions, being also in its favor. The pods themselves have a papery texture, and the codilla, or tow, produced in the preparation of the fibre from the stem, can be used with advantage as paper material.

The appendages of the seed are as smooth as silk, and although possessing no felting properties, have been mixed with fur in the manufacture of hats. The furs of the hare, the rabbit, and the beaver, possess very little felting properties until they have been subjected to a process known in the trade as *carroting*. This consists in applying to the furs, when on the skin, a solution of quicksilver and aquafortis (nitrate of mercury), an art also called *secretage*. They are then mixed with other furs which have not been similarly treated, known as raw furs. The seed appendages, or pod-fibre of the milk-weed, are used in hat-making in this way as a substitute for raw furs.

PROBABLE YIELD AND PROFITS PER ACRE.

The milk-weed does not flower, and consequently does not produce any seed-down, the first year of its growth; the profits will,