

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS COTTON AND WOOL, U. S.

The changes in a branch of the dress goods trade, occasioned by the vagaries of fashion, are illustrated in figures which show the sudden change in the conditions of manufacture and of fashion that took place in 1883-84, after the last revision of the tariff of the United States. There is an enormous increase in the imports in that year of miscellaneous worsteds valued at above 40 cents per pound. This state of affairs went from bad to worse, says the *Boston Bulletin*, and reached its climax in 1886, when the cheapness of wool abroad forced the price of some of these fabrics below even 40 cents a pound and raised the value of the lowest grade of "worsteds" imported from \$28,272.00 to \$79,508.12 in a single year.

The table of imports gives first the imports of manufactures of worsted goods not otherwise specially enumerated or provided for. Goods valued at exceeding 80 cents per pound not included.

VALUED AT NOT EXCEEDING 40 CENTS PER POUND.

Year.	Quantities.	Values.
1881.....	50,162.00	\$20,263 00
1882.....	156,472.00	55,565 00
1883.....	41,146.50	14,977 00
1884.....	74,376.00	*23,261 00
1885.....	96,333.25	*38,272 00
1886.....	250,520.50	*78,598 12

*These include valued at not exceeding 30c. per pound.

VALUED AT ABOVE 40 CENTS, AND NOT EXCEEDING 60 CENTS PER POUND.

Quantities.			Values.
Year	Pounds.		
1881.....	42,067.00		\$21,755 00
1882.....	85,672.00		46,023 00
1883.....	124,096.50		66,950 00
1884.....	577,519.25		327,828 00
1885.....	937,164.08		524,885 00
1886.....	2,057,736.00		1,125,444 00
VALUED AT ABOVE 60 CENTS, AND NOT EXCEEDING 80 CENTS PER POUND.			
Quantities.			Values.
Year	Pounds.		
1881.....	119,286.25		\$90,174 42
1882.....	144,929.88		107,679 00
1883.....	374,543.25		272,959 00
1884.....	777,327.25		560,219 08
1885.....	1,407,051.38		1,020,916 36
1886.....	2,795,244.60		1,992,840 53

THE BERLIN CARPET INDUSTRY.—The manufacture of carpets is extensively pursued in Berlin. At present the works are very actively employed, as the commissions which have been collecting since the beginning of the year are to a great extent executed in the current and following months. The general condition of the carpet industry which is pursued in various German towns besides Berlin, in Hanover, and neighbourhood, Chemnitz, Schmiedeberg, Wurzen, Duren, Barmen, Kottbus and certain Saxon towns was very satisfactory until a few years ago. Severe competition set in, and still makes itself very sensibly felt. That, however, is not the only circumstance which reduces the profits. They are further decreased by the pattern requisitions, and the expenses thereby necessitated. So much is expected from the manufacturers now a-days, that the manufacture of carpets is extremely difficult to carry on profitably. Not only is a complete knowledge of *technique* and material required, but also large pecuniary means. In the large factories, draughtsmen of high reputation are employed the whole year long in preparing new designs. In Germany all kinds of velvet and Brussels carpets are woven, which rank with the best English productions. It may be observed, *en passant*, that the name Brussels carpet has no real connection with the town of that name, for neither in Brussels nor in all Belgium does a carpet factory exist, unless the insignificant carpet weaving school at Tournai is to be dignified with the title. In the manufacture of so-called Smyrna carpets Berlin is without a rival, and it is even contended that so far as the fineness of the wool

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