

bility, it appears to me, that whatever increase may take place in the production of wool in the undeveloped southern portion of the republic, by reason of an increase there in population, will be offset by a reduced wool production in the central and northern portions of the republic, where the area of grazing land which can be profitably left uncultivated will be reduced if the desired tide of immigration sets in toward this country; because it is but reasonable to conclude, using the past history of the country as a basis, that four-fifths of whatever immigration comes here will remain in the present well-settled central zone rather than go to the cold and unsettled lands of the southern portion of the republic. If this is true, the area of grazing land now occupied by sheep in the centre of the republic, will certainly be greatly decreased by an increased agriculture. In addition to the above, there is to be taken into account the effect had on the flocks of this country, as on those of all other countries, by drought, locusts, cold seasons and diseases. I think two-thirds of the immigrants now coming here are Italians. Using our own experience as a guide, it seems probable that these will add but little to the development of sheep husbandry in the far southern portion of the republic while opportunity is found to settle in the warmer and more closely populated portions of the country, where they are more than reasonably sure to succeed in accumulating a modest competence as a result of their labor upon small farms and in different industries.

During the past twenty years in the quantity of wool exported from this republic the increase in production has been a trifle over 92 per cent. It may be noted that the sum total of Argentine wool exported to the United States during any one of the past twenty years has not exceeded 6.05 per cent. of the total exports of the republic, while it has fallen as low as 0.89 per cent. The mean average for the twenty years has been 3.51 per cent.

I have stated that the statistics of this year's clip have not yet been made up. It may be safely estimated, however, as about 435,000 bales. Of the wool exported to the United States during the present season—50,000 bales more or less—I estimate that 35,000 bales have been fine "cross Lincoln." The remaining 15,000 bales have been what is known by us as "Cordoba." This would indicate that we have found here a very desirable wool, and evidently one required by our manufacturers, which we have not heretofore bought. I am told by those engaged in the wool trade, and have been shown confirmatory letters from the United States, that this Argentine "cross Lincoln" wool has been well received by our manufacturers; that it has given them excellent results; and that they will continue their purchases. From my knowledge of our wool industry, I should say that we produce but very little of this class of wool, which is, it may be said, a specialty of this country alone. Regarding what is here termed "Criollo" wool, or "Cordoba," as it is known with us, I believe that the production of this particular class of wool is decreasing here slowly, but steadily. This arises from the use of Lincoln blood. It has been found, however, by flock owners in Cordoba, that crossing their flocks with this blood is not giving as good results as

were anticipated. In consequence of this, many are discontinuing the use of Lincoln or other long-wool blood, preferring to keep their flocks in the original condition.

It is exceedingly interesting to note the rapid and striking change which has taken place in the character of the flocks of this country during the past ten years. At first, there was certainly not more than 7 per cent. of "cross Lincoln" wool in the total Argentine clip. Now, it is estimated that this wool forms more than 65 per cent. of the total clip. This change has been brought about primarily as a result of the growing demand, to which I have already referred, for large-bodied sheep for export. There are those who believe that the great change which has thus taken place in the character of the flocks of this country will be found to be disadvantageous within a few years. Their argument is, that this country would not be in a position to satisfy a demand for fine wool should a change take place in the character of woolen goods demanded. They seemed to think, on the other hand, that if the demand for long wool and for mutton sheep continues, this country will soon have to compete with the newly developed sheep and wool producing countries; and, in consequence, they think the flocks of this republic will have no special advantage.

In considering the wool industry here, it is interesting to notice the relative cost of transporting Argentine and United States wools to a United States market, say Boston. During this season, the freight on wool by steamer between this port and Boston has been \$3 to \$3.20 (gold) per bale for full cargo, and by sailing vessels \$2 to \$2.50 for full cargo. Some shipments by sailing vessel to Boston have been made at \$1.50 per bale. The rates for less than full cargoes have been \$4 per bale to New York, and \$5 to Boston. The average weight of a bale of wool is about 800 pounds. This makes the rate on full cargoes between this city and Boston, more or less, 40 cents per 100 lbs. by steamer, and, say, 30 cents per 100 lbs. sailing vessel. Comparing these rates with those in force on our railways, it will be found that the highest is 28 per cent. less than the carload wool rate between Columbus and Boston, 43 per cent. less than that between Chicago and Boston, and 67 per cent. less than that between Dallas and Boston.

#### COMBINATION OF CROSSINGS.

Having such an extensive series of simple weaves at command, there is ample scope for the origination of new varieties of effects by blending several makes together in the formation of one pattern. The most striking or effective designs of this description are got by employing weaves dissimilar in flush. Two-rib weaves, for instance, one warp and the other weft flush, produce a very bold and decided pattern. This style of combination has been frequently applied to worsted coatings, vestings and mantlets, and will in all probability have another run, possibly in a slightly different form or in new materials. Nothing less than a thorough practical knowledge of weaving, writes Roberts Beaumont in the *Textile Recorder*, will insure success in this class of textile designing. A complete acquaintance with every variety of small weaves and the nature of