

the British manufacturer does not for a moment think of closing his mill, but immediately turns his attention to goods that will sell in South America or Africa. He knows the classes of goods demanded by the trade in different countries, their widths, weights, colors, etc., and makes what the trade demands in each instance. He considers it as much a part of his business to possess this information as to know the cost of his raw material, his labor, power, etc. Through consular reports, special trade commissioners, and in other ways, the British manufacturer keeps informed as to the demands of the trade in every quarter of the globe. The United States manufacturers of cotton goods have been so busy supplying the home demand, that they have not had time to exert themselves as their English cousins have done to learn what the people of different countries want. While the home market is worth retaining, the foreign market is worth cultivating.

### WOOL PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALASIA.

J. P. Bray, United States Consul at Melbourne, reports that, owing to the drought prevailing in Australia, there is a large decrease in this season's supply of wool, estimated at over 200,000 bales. At recent sales prices of both merino and crossbred wools advanced from 20 to 30 per cent. The total Australasian wool clip of the past two seasons was:—

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
	Bales.	Bales.
Victoria .....	220,000	227,000
New South Wales .....	708,000	763,000
Queensland .....	157,000	143,000
South Australia .....	110,000	103,000
Tasmania .....	26,000	26,000
Western Australia .....	29,000	32,000
Total .....	1,250,000	1,294,000
New Zealand .....	396,000	406,000
Total for Australasia .....	1,646,000	1,700,000

The estimated clip for 1902-3 is placed at 1,500,000 bales, a decrease of 200,000 bales.

### NEW SOURCE OF RUBBER SUPPLY.

The consumption of india rubber has increased so enormously of late that it has become a serious question how the demand could be met, and various substitutes have been tried, to say nothing of eking out the supply by adulteration. It is now announced that the world's rubber industry is likely to be completely revolutionized by the introduction of a fibrous rubber obtained from the bark of the roots of a plant discovered by a French botanist on the sandy plains of the French Congo. Specimens of the plant, which has been scientifically named *landolphia thollonii*, had been previously collected in seven different places, including Lower Guinea and the Lower Congo, but the plant was never commercially utilized until very recently, when a French

firm realized its possibilities, and has since produced excellent rubber, which sells for three shillings a pound. An English firm, headed by John Holt, has been approached with the view of introducing the manufacture into Great Britain, and Mr. Holt is employing agents to seek the plant in Northern Nigeria, where he hopes to find an important supply. Botanical and other experts predict a material increase of imports for the new source, which will greatly influence the market. It is to be hoped the statements will prove to be well founded.

—The action of the Canadian Postmaster General in reducing the rate on Canadian papers going to Great Britain, to the domestic rate, enables us to reduce the subscription price of this journal to four shillings a year. To quote the words of an esteemed contemporary, "Now is the time to subscribe."

—An epidemic of strikes seem to have broken out all over America. If the newspapers were to attempt to print all the strike news there would be room for little else. Many of these strikes are sympathetic and arise from no grievance in the trade specially concerned. The effect will be to curtail production and precipitate hard times.

—On the first of June the doors of seven cotton mills in Lowell, Mass., closed for nine weeks on account of the strike, were opened. At another, which was partially closed, 4,000 operatives out of 18,000 went to work. Not over two per cent. of the operatives on strike went back to work, but the mill agents seem to consider this satisfactory.

—One of the most interesting things shown at the exhibition at Osaka, Japan, are a number of cases exhibited by New South Wales showing its various qualities of wool. There are some 70 to 80 compartments in these cases, each containing a different sample marked with the name of the district from which it has come. The samples have cards attached which describe the geography of the districts in which the wools are grown, the amount of rain that falls and the production of wool. While the Japanese wear chiefly cotton goods, the exhibit will have its effect in creating a demand for woollens.

—We are glad to read the following confession from the Montreal Witness that there is at least one real grievance in the condition of the textile trades of Canada: "Only a few days ago the mine owners met in British Columbia and not a few of them claimed that not only should the two per cent. tax on the gross output of the mines be taken off altogether, but that they should be bonused as well. It is true that the majority had better sense than to make such a representation to the British Columbian Government; still, they want to have things so fixed that no Canadian can buy his lead except from them at their prices. Lots of things at the present time have no more and even less protection than pig lead; seeds for