

COMPARISON OF WOOLS.

The official tests, comparing the characteristics of the different wools shown at the late Chicago Fair, have been published, and the result is not without interest to the Canadian wool manufacturer. Wools were shown from almost every wool producing country in the world, though the reports we have seen make no reference to Canadian wool.

It is well known that the mother land of the merino sheep, now most valued for its fine wool, is Spain; but it is instructive to learn that of all lands where the merino sheep now thrives Spain has made least progress of all. Apparently the average quality of the Spanish merino has run down, while that of most other merino sheep raising countries has gone ahead more or less. The report on this subject in the *Manufacturers' Gazette* says: "Only two exhibits of Spanish merino were offered to the judges, one from a Transhumante flock, which is pastured in summer in the mountains in the north, and in winter in the valleys several hundred miles to the south. The fleeces were rather small and light, but of good quality, yet showing that while serious deterioration has not occurred in the breed in that country, there has by no means been the same advancement that has marked the history of the breed in other countries."

After referring to the wool products of other countries, the report goes on to say that the fat tail sheep of Asiatic Turkey, which was the only kind of wool not merino offered from foreign countries in any serious quantities, proves to be coarse and weak, occupying in every quality the bottom of the scale. The table shows that the Down wools are finer than the long wools, as a rule, and this might be expected, but on the other hand, the long wools are generally stronger, as shown by the ultimate resistance. The strength of the merino appears to be about an average of that of the Down wool, but as regards its modulus of elasticity it stands next to the top of the list.

In making the lists below recorded all the figures for each sex in the different breeds and for each country were brought together and averages deduced from them. In a similar way general averages were determined for each breed in the several countries without regard to sex. These averages show the relative position occupied in each case.

FINENESS		
Breed.	No. of Sample.	Thousands of inch.
Merino	321	0.837
Hampshiredown	14	1.137
Southdown	41	1.166
Dorset Horn.....	6	1.192
Shropshiredown	77	1.321
Cheviot	5	1.339
Oxforddown.....	35	1.384
Lincoln	6	1.407
Cotswold	37	1.413
Fat Tail.....	11	1.620

ULTIMATE STRENGTH.

Breed.	No. of Samples.	lbs. per sq. inch.
Cheviot	5	32,834
Cotswold	37	31,593
Lincoln	6	31,499
Oxforddown	35	28,751
Dorset Horn.....	6	27,120
Shropshiredown	77	27,037
Merino	295	25,667
Southdown	41	24,551
Hampshiredown	14	24,241
Fat Tail.....	11	10,191

MODULUS OF ELASTICITY.

Breed.	No. of Samples.	Moduli.
Cotswold	37	84,272
Merino	295	80,974
Shropshiredown	77	79,745
Southdown	41	79,604
Cheviot	5	77,725
Lincoln	6	76,719
Hampshiredown	14	75,021
Oxforddown	35	94,761
Dorset Horn	6	61,408
Fat Tail.....	11	59,108

During the past decade there seems to have been deterioration of the fineness of the merino wool, but an increase in the strength and elasticity. Larger frame, larger fleeces, hardier constitutions, and consequently heavier fleeces produce coarser and stronger wool.

The following table shows how the products of various leading wool countries compare, not only as to qualities of fibre, but as to weight of fleece. It will be seen that, generally speaking, the larger the weight of fleece the coarser the fibre. The table will be interesting to preserve for reference:—

Country.	Weight of fleece. lbs. oz.	Length of staple. in.	Fineness. Thousands of in.	Strength. lbs. per sq. in.	Elasticity. Moduli.
Argentine Republic..	4	2.70	0.860	22,096	68,619
Cape Colony.....	7 1	3.99	0.7405	27,617	87,197
New South Wales ..	11 6	4.50	0.7675	25,582	80,516
New Zealand		4.27	0.8454	28,056	92,106
Russia.....	14 9	2.12	0.850	25,070	82,495
Spain	5 6	2.74	0.878	20,059	76,676
Uruguay.....	8 5	2.67	0.797	24,180	77,789
Victoria	9 0	3.52	0.7524	25,498	84,694
United States	13 14	2.85	0.887	25,667	80,974

THE SWEATING SYSTEM.

The City Council of Toronto a short time ago discussed the alleged presence of the sweating system in that city. Mr. Edgar, at the instance of the Trades and Labor Council of Toronto, stated that he had himself made investigations into the existing state of things, and had found that in certain Jewish tailor shops hands were employed in filthy dens at wages varying from \$1.50 to \$3 per week, some of them working fifteen hours a day. From what some other members of the City Council said, it looks, however, as though this evil had been exaggerated, and we sincerely trust this will prove to be the case. At any rate there ought to be a thorough and impartial investigation. Canada ought to be the last country in the world to admit into its cities such a crying evil as the sweating system,