

der last year. White Fox—This was another cause for surprise in the sale room, and the orders which were in hand for the American market have affected prices to the extent of an advance in prime skins of 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., seconds improved 10 per cent. Mink have sold fairly well, and there seems to be a more extensive use of the article predicted both for France and England. The competition was good and the prices average an advance of 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. on those of last year. Lynx—Although prices have now reached a lower level than can be remembered for many years, it has been quite impossible to find a consumption for the article, so that very large quantities have remained in hand for the past few years without an outlet presenting itself. A very considerable decline was therefore anticipated, as compared with last March, and the result was a fall of from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. on all kinds. Wolf are neglected. The best sold 15 per cent. cheaper, and the lower grades are about 30 per cent. lower. Wolverine in no demand, and prices for the best skins are from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. lower, seconds and thirds being quite neglected, show a decline of about 35 per cent. Skunk are also very considerably lower than they have been for some years past, the present collection showing a decline of about 25 per cent., which is equal to the prices of January last. Black bear—The demand for bears has now almost passed away, and only the greatly reduced values have tempted the home trade to compete for them, the result being an average fall of from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. Brown bear declined from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. Grey bear declined from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. Musk ox—The collection was a very limited one; firsts advanced 25 per cent.; all other sorts are from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. higher. Hair seals about 20 per cent. lower. Ermine advanced 40 per cent.

#### LONDON WOOL SALES

For the March series of London wool sales there were catalogued 331,000 bales, of which 106,000 were taken for home consumption, 95,000 for the Continent, and 95,000 for the United States. Sixty one thousand bales were held over, including 27,000 bales that were not offered. "In consequence of the large American purchases," Helmuth, Schwartz & Co., London, say, "which according to the suitability of the catalogue range from 2,000 bales to 5,000 bales per night, good and super Australian merino grease have gradually risen 5 to 10 per cent. and all kinds of greasy crossbred fully 10 per cent. above the January level. An opposite tendency manifests itself in the wools generally bought for the Continent. Partly owing to the depressed state of trade in France and Germany, which makes their buyers hold aloof, and partly to the very unsatisfactory yields which many of this season's wools have shown, short, heavy and faulty Australian grease have fallen 5 per cent. and are heavy of sale at this reduction. Under the influence of these opposing currents the market for greasy wool presents great irregularities, prices showing

a high range for the top lots of many flocks, and then, the moment American competition ceases, dropping suddenly to a totally different level. Cape wools have not materially changed since the opening. Snow-whites and scoureds remain on the January level; good grease is but slightly lower, and only inferior and heavy grease have lost further ground and are fully 5 per cent. cheaper than last series." The next series will begin on 4th May.

#### SPENCER AUTOMATIC OILER.

We believe all manufacturers realize the necessity of an improvement in the system of oiling and dampening stock now in general use. An old broom or water can is out of place with modern methods, but they are still used because nothing better has been known, and though several oilers have been placed on the market, it is claimed they have all failed to meet many of the conditions under which they must work. The immediate and perfect success of the Spencer Oiler is due to its meeting every requirement, under all conditions. It is attachable to any picker, lump or lapper, whether fed by hand, self-feeder or duster, and works perfectly with emulsion or with oil warm or cold, thick or thin. Any required amount can be placed on the stock in a continuous spray, and this amount regulated accurately, simply by turning a tap. If moisture is required the proper degree can be added without mixing the water with the oil, or interfering in any way with the oiling process. No oil is wasted, but on the contrary there is a great saving of oil because it is sprayed directly on the stock, covering it more thoroughly and uniformly than is possible in any other way. By a simple registering device a given quantity of oil can be made to cover the batch exactly and evenly, and the superintendent or carder can tell at a glance whether the right amount is being used.

Some of the many advantages of the Spencer Oiler are so apparent as scarcely to need mention, while each manufacturer will see many new ones in adapting the machine to his special work. In the saving of labor and oil alone it will pay for itself in a very short time. Twenty-five per cent. less oil, when sprayed through the oiler, will produce the same effect and much better results than if applied in the old way. The stock will card better, the yarns will be more even, the goods will scour out more easily and there will be a great saving in card waste. To manufacturers who are troubled with electricity, the oiler will be of the greatest possible benefit. Much better and more even yarns can be made with less oil and waste, where the stock receives the proper degree of moisture, a fact recognized by manufacturers who are putting in Drosophores, and worsted manufacturers who are compelled to card their wool wet to make fine yarns. The manufacturers are Geo S Harwood & Son, 7 Water St., Boston, Mass.

THE history of H. A. Lozier & Co., bicycle manufacturers in Canada, is one of progress. In the fall of 1895 they manufactured the first "Cleveland" bicycle in Canada, and in the short space of time which has ensued since then they have become one of the most successful manufacturers in the trade. Their success has been due not to luck, but has been honestly earned by embracing in the manufacture of the "Cleveland" bicycle everything that ingenuity, skill and wealth could devise. The thoroughness of manufacture and the rigid inspection which every part of the wheel has to undergo before being allowed to be used, is responsible for the fact that of the thousands of "Clevlands" that were turned out last season there was not one returned on account of defective workmanship. The prejudice against American wheels was, perhaps, natural, but not being based on any sound objection, has vanished before the "Cleveland." Not only is the "Cleveland" solidly established in popularity in all Europe, but it can be seen in use in every civilized country on the globe, and it is said to be, for instance, in Australia, the typical American wheel.