

C172956

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Company	Type of Aircraft	Ordered from Sept. 1939	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Total Del. to Mar. 31 1945
Fleet Aircraft	Fleet 16	431	5	348	78					431
	Fleet 60	101			29	72				101
	Cornell & Pt. 23	1,642				35	1,223	384		1,642
		93				7	86			93
Noorduyn Aviation	Norseman	946		18	40	18	209	455	57	797
	Harvard	2,883			128	533	1,003	907	104	2,675
Victory Aircraft	Lysander	225	15	20	40	150				225
	Lancaster	500					16	181	103	300
	Lincoln	200								
	York	1							1	1
GRAND TOTAL		17,767	31	846	1,697	3,811	4,133	4,178	820	15,516

MELBOURNE MERCHANDISING
LIMITED

The outstanding point of note in the quarter was the increase in the requirements of #31 Drab Serge from 90,000 yards a week to 140,000 yards. In view of this sharp increase, it was necessary for the Wool Administrator to place the worsted yarn industry under directive and orders were placed by the company covering all the yarn required by those weavers who were not also spinners. U.S. spinners promised to deliver approximately 15,000 lbs. weekly of worsted warp but on account of their difficult labor situation they are having difficulty in living up to this quantity. It has been necessary to depend on the U.S. spinning industry for approximately 40,000 lbs. weekly of woollen weft yarn. This has been coming along fairly regularly but not in sufficient quantity to build up any reserve stock with the result that yarn has moved out to the mills as fast as received. Some weft yarn is being obtained in Canada and it is hoped that the reserve stock will gradually build up.

As recently as November, 1944 the crossbred top supply seemed to be adequate to meet all requirements to the end of 1945 but with the sharp increase in #31 Drab requirements it became necessary to place orders in Canada for the combing of 1,400,000 lbs. of tops. A half million pounds were purchased in Great Britain and 150,000 lbs. were purchased locally to insure adequate supplies until the arrival of tops from England. All old stocks of tops will be cleared out in the very near future.

Old stocks of merino tops have nearly all been used up. It was hoped that it would be possible to have manufacturers use their own merino tops for any Department of Munitions and Supply orders, adjusting with them to cover subsidy but on account of an overall shortage of merino tops it was felt unsafe to follow this procedure. Small quantities of merino tops have therefore been ordered from England and will be replaced as required in small quantities.

In addition to increased quantities of #31 Drab Serge, orders for #33 Drab Frieze and Blankets have increased the requirements for wool with the result that sales have been considerably larger. Most of the odd lots have now been disposed of and the remaining stock consists mainly of regular types. Sales for civilian purposes and sales in the U.S. increased sharply during the quarter and approximately 1,280,000 clean lbs. were disposed of. Surpluses remaining on hand are confined in the main to a half dozen of the fleece types.