

ready money, and in this manner many who even see the folly of such a course are tempted to take advantage of the present high prices. Flocks comprising thousands of sheep are being driven to the freezing establishments at Adelaide from places sometimes more than a thousand miles away, as long as six months being occupied by the journey. At the bi-weekly markets in Adelaide up to 2,500 lambs are yarded, and these find ready purchasers at good prices. They are all destined for the freezing process, and mean so many fleeces less at the next shearing. One freezing establishment at Sydney turns out 40,000 carcasses a month, and the thinning process grows apace, showing a possibility of increase rather than decrease. How these changes will affect the wool trade it is not difficult to predict, but the full extent has not yet been reached and cannot be estimated. There must be a curtailment some time, or both wool trade and frozen mutton industry will die out, although some consider that the new phase of affairs is not nearly as disastrous as a bad drought. Others look upon the present condition of affairs as decidedly beneficial, both to the sheep farmer and the general public, for while the latter gets cheap mutton, the former clears out unsatisfactory breeds of sheep at a good profit. There are signs that many pastoralists are taking advantage of the times to replace unsatisfactory animals by high-class stock, and already the best stud rams are in great demand, while the stud flocks of some breeders are likely to prove veritable gold mines. How this will affect the wool has yet to be seen, for if the prospects are brighter for mutton than for wool, points favorable to the former will be chosen, and the latter will have to take its chance."

In view of all these facts we are pleased to note that the farmers in Alberta are being encouraged to raise sheep for the purpose of providing wool for the mills. This step seems to point to one way in which Canadians may find a solution to what promises in the future to be a serious problem; for the raising of sheep for mutton rather than for wool has marked the course of the wool trade in this country as in the Argentine Republic and Australia and New Zealand. This is particularly the case in Ontario, our largest wool-growing province, and the present indications of the world's wool market point to a good profit for the next few years to sheep raisers in Canada who will raise sheep primarily for wool instead of mutton.

AN ALL-BRITISH COTTON SUPPLY.

The Journal of Fabrics has on more than one occasion urged the necessity of growing cotton within the Empire to such an extent as to make the British manufacturer independent of other nations in regard to the supply of that article. It is, therefore, encouraging to note that present indications point to the

establishment in the near future of a cotton-growing industry within the British Empire on a scale sufficiently large to feed all the spindles in the Mother Country and the colonies. Owing mainly to the efforts of Sir Alfred Jones, the enterprising head of the Elder-Dempster Shipping Company, and the British Cotton Growing Association, the whole of the West African colonies have been made to take a deep interest in raising cotton. Already cotton equal in quality to that of America is being shipped from West Africa to Liverpool by the steamers of the Elder-Dempster Company, who, in order to encourage the industry, are for the present carrying it free of charge. In the West Indies cotton is being grown on thousands of acres, and within the next year about 20,000 acres more will be brought under cultivation. Sir Daniel Morris has been sent out by the Imperial Government to instruct the natives in the art of cotton growing, and it is believed that many of the planters will take up this industry. Again in Egypt arrangements are being made for the development of the Soudan as a cotton-growing area. Lord Cromer, who is in entire sympathy with the Cotton Growers' Association, is pushing forward the construction of the Suakim-Berber Railway, which is to be the route of transportation of raw cotton from the Soudan. In Fiji, also, cotton is being cultivated with success, and an effort is being made to induce the British Government to enable upwards of one million acres of uncultivated land to become available for the production of cotton. India, also, is being looked to as providing in the future the largest supply, there being in that country 190,000,000 agriculturists. These and many other encouraging facts were brought to light at the first annual meeting and banquet of the Cotton Growers' Association held in Manchester, Eng., the principal speakers being the Duke of Marlborough; Sir Frederick Lugard, High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria; Sir Alfred Jones; the Lord Mayor of Manchester, J. A. Hutton; Alfred Emmott, M.P.; and Thos. Ashton, president of the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation. The Textile Journal, referring to the first year's work of the Cotton Growers' Association, says in part: "It seems almost incredible that our cotton spinners and manufacturers should have closed their eyes to the stern lesson of the Civil War of America, and have winked on during the last forty years while the United States have been forcibly disproving the Cobden theory, that they would abandon their factories and 'dig, delve, and plough for us.' To-day, we find that America is consuming an uncomfortably large percentage of the raw cotton she grows, and that if her manufactories continue to develop at the pace they have done during the past few years, especially in the Southern States, she will soon consume the whole of it. The area of cultivation of the raw material has unquestionably become inadequate to supply the great increase which has taken place in