

lationship of length to weight it is obvious that such a system could not be attained unless there were one uniform system of weights and measures. The Metric System of weights and measures is so perfect and has been adopted so widely that it forms the most suitable basis for a uniform system of counts of yarns."

Mr. Halsey is struck by the fact that the United States appears to be the strongest fortress of the English system of weights and measures. This is because the United States has, nationally speaking, lived like the oyster, self-contained within its shell, and with comparatively little foreign trade outside of the English-speaking peoples, until in recent years. Great Britain lives by her foreign trade, and her past refusal to adopt a system now used by practically all the rest of the world has cost her the loss of millions of pounds. Now she realizes it, and hence the House of Lords has passed the second reading of a bill to render the Metric System compulsory in Great Britain on and from 5th April, 1906. Inasmuch as a majority of the members of the House of Commons have already signed a memorial in favor of the system, there appears to be little doubt that it will pass. Canada and the other colonies will fall into line, because the Premiers of all the colonies at the last Colonial Conference in London, expressed themselves formally in favor of the change. Costly and inconvenient though the change may be for the time being, the gain will be worth the cost, as all Canadians will realize when they compare our present decimal coinage with the old Canadian currency of pounds, shillings and pence.

\*\*\*

—Speaking at Westmount, Quebec, last month, Hon. W. S. Fielding made a more explicit statement on the tariff than has yet been vouchsafed by a cabinet minister since tariff revision has been agitated under the present Government. He said that "time would not allow of the systematic investigation necessary for a general revision at the next session, but urgent needs of special branches of trade would be dealt with." The tariff has remained practically untouched for seven years. The woolen manufacturers of Canada take this to mean that the discriminations against which they have vainly striven for the last three or four years, will be remedied. As will be remembered from quotations in these columns in recent months, a number of independent journals as well as newspapers on both sides of politics have frankly conceded that the woolen manufacturers are peculiarly placed, and that while their mills have been equipped under high tariff conditions, necessitating heavy expenditure for machinery, their goods are sold under almost free trade conditions, in competition with the best organized industry of Great Britain. The Bradford Trade Annual Review, for 1903 shows that the shipment of goods from that district to Canada for the year were valued at \$7,222,400, and that these shipments were larger than to any

other country in the world. No one will envy the British merchant or manufacturer a large trade in Canada, but when this trade is done at the cost of extinguishing an industry that has been built up by great labor and the outlay of large capital, and has as many ramifications with other home industries as the Canadian woolen industry, the question may well be asked, is the policy that brings such destruction fair or wise?

\*\*\*

—Captain C. A. Madge, of the Royal Warwicks, who fought in the Boer war, is visiting the United States in the interests of the Transvaal Consolidated Land Co., which controls 3,250,000 acres of fertile land in the Pretoria district, a large part of which it proposes to plant in cotton. He is travelling through the cotton belt of the south, studying the conditions of cotton culture. He says Pretoria is similar to this section as to climate, and he is of the opinion that the staple can be successfully raised.

\*\*\*

—St. John Broderick, the secretary of state for India, replying recently to a deputation of the British Cotton Growers' Association and representatives of the cotton manufacturing centres of Lancashire, said the cotton acreage of India would be greater this year than ever before, and added that he believed the viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, would make every endeavor to further promote cotton growing with the view of supplying the British market. Nothing would be left undone to utilize the vast fields of India.

\*\*\*

—"Woolman," writing to the American Wool and Cotton Reporter, states that on the whole the British wool market has suffered but little from the outbreak of war, due, probably, to the fact that the hostilities are being waged in a district so remote from the great centres of the woolen industry. The exports to Japan for the month of January of this and last year compare as follows:

	1903.	1904.
Worsted goods ....yards.	490,800	159,100
Woolen goods .....do.	185,400	105,300
Cotton piece goods...do.	5,775,200	1,871,200
Cotton yarn and twist.do.	284,800	62,000

showing a serious curtailment in shipments already.

\*\*\*

## THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Editor, Canadian Journal of Fabrics:—

Sir,—Referring to the letter on the Metric System, by E. Johnson, which appears in your issue for February. I note the statement that: "It is not a fact that in France and Germany there are used old units side by side with those of the Metric System. There do exist old names—or nicknames—for some of the present units," etc.