

(British Wool Markets Continued).

whereas worsted tissues and blankets show a decrease. The exports of carpets, on the other hand, amount to about double the amount of the corresponding month last year.

The wools, which are the most difficult of sale, are the finest qualities, and we have heard of merino tops being sold at slightly lower prices than we realized a month ago. On the other hand, crossbreds and low wools and wastes in corresponding qualities seem more difficult to buy every day.

Bradford, February 17th, 1904.

D. H. Ross, Dominion Government agent at Melbourne, Australia, reports that the wool exports of the Commonwealth, for the six months ending December, were 107,000 bales. Some 100 bales went forward from Melbourne to Boston by the December sailing of the Vancouver steamer. If shipments can be sent to the principal American wool market by this route, Mr. Ross asks why cannot Canadian buyers operate in Australia for their requirements, and thus save intermediate profits, by which means the cost of their productions is lowered.

The second series of the 1904 auction sales of wool opened in London on the 8th inst. There was a large attendance. The offerings numbered 13,082 bales, including a large supply of crossbreds. Competition was brisk. Yorkshire buyers were keen bidders for crossbreds. German and French buyers competed for merinos, the offerings for which were light. Scoureds sold readily. The offerings of Cape of Good Hope and Natal were principally greasies, and they declined 5 per cent. American purchasers included a few combing greasy, and also some neck wools and pieces.

Gustav Ebell & Co.'s annual report of the wool trade of Germany for 1903 shows that German imports of South African wools continue to increase. In 1894 the Cape wools imported by Germany were estimated at 97,000 bales, and these figures were increased year by year till 1899 when the import reached 155,000 bales. The next year the import fell to 80,000 bales, but it has regularly increased since then, and stands at 150,000 bales, in 1903, a significantly large total. Messrs. Ebell & Co. predict a growing demand for merino wools due to the tendency of fashion for goods of fine texture.

WOOL MARKETS.

Toronto. Market quiet. Enquiry from domestic mills moderately active. Little or no enquiry for fleece, stocks of which have been pretty well cleared up. Prices quoted are. Fleece, combing, 17½c.; clothing, 19c.; unwashed, fine, 11c.; unwashed, coarse, 10c.; pulled, super, 19 to 21c.; extra, 22 to 24c.

Montreal.—Fine and medium crossbreds unchanged; coarse, 5 per cent. higher than closing prices last month.

The Appleton Mills closed down on February 29th owing to scarcity of water.

An order-in-council has been passed by the Dominion Government, extending the trade preference of 33 1-3 per cent. to New Zealand, in return for the preference granted to Canada by that colony. South Africa received the Canadian preference some time ago.

—The census bulletin for 1901, dealing with New Brunswick, shows a total of 182,524 sheep, in 1901, compared with 182,941 in 1891. The product of wool shows that 68,009 lbs. of fine wool was produced in 1891, and 351,250 in 1901, whereas the coarse wool produced in 1891 was 624,889 lbs., against only 358,566 in 1901. Either the census figures are incorrect, or the ten years has developed a noteworthy increase in the average yield of wool per head.

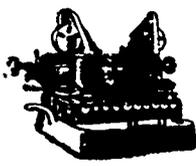
—Over a ton of cotton seed has been distributed from the Grove Station, in the island of Montserrat, West Indies, to 63 persons. About 700 acres have been planted, and despite the ravages of the cotton worm and the leaf blister-mite, preparations are already being made to increase the area next season. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 acres of land suited to the growing of Sea Island cotton in Montserrat, and with a three years' rotation this would enable planters to have over 3,300 acres annually in cotton.

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