

the estimate given by our correspondent is not far astray, as we find on reference to the Trade and Navigation returns that the value of hats and caps of beaver, silk or felt (not including straw, grass or chip), for the fiscal year ending in 1901, was \$1,074,418. For the same period Canada exported hats and caps to the value of \$10,063. The latter is very satisfactory, as the figures jumped from \$1,731 in 1900.

The difficulties under which our hat manufacturers labor may be stated under two heads. Were these goods known to have been "Made in Canada" they would not sell in the home market, for there is a large class of customers who, as in the case of tweeds and some other lines, will not buy Canadian goods, though they will take the very same goods on their merits if they do not know that they are home produced. In consequence, most of the Canadian made hats are not marked with the maker's name, but "Made for —," just as imported goods are also frequently marked. Some of our readers may be wearing Canadian made hats without being aware of it. The other difficulty arises from want of adequate protection. The preferential tariff does not affect them as it does the woolen men, because English made hats are not of the style which takes, but our makers suffer from the competition of the large hat producing centres in the United States, which make Canada a slaughter market. In fact if Canadian hat makers did not adopt the American styles they would not be in it at all.

The present duty on hats imported from the United States is thirty per cent. A meeting of hat manufacturers was held at Montreal a couple of weeks ago at which forty-five per cent was named as the rate which would give them a fair protection. It is to be hoped that in any readjustment of the tariff which the Government may have in contemplation the claims of Canadian hat-makers will not be overlooked. There are only some fourteen or fifteen hat factories in the country now. The one just removed to Brockville, and a proposed new one at Hamilton, will increase the output, and with a little more protection we should be able to supply a greater proportion of the home consumption, and increase our exports as well. There is no reason why we cannot produce a class of goods which will command both markets.

—The colored man, who at one time was considered only good enough to work in the cotton field, is asserting himself in the after processes which follow the growth of the cotton. A 3,000 spindle mill has just been built at Dallas, Texas, and the machinery installed by negro workmen under colored superintendence. The principal stockholder and secretary of the company is Joseph E. Wiley, one of the leading colored men of the south. The product will be 8's and 10's cotton yarn.

—It pays to make a good quality of goods. The Shareholder makes the statement that the Boyd Caldwell Co., of Lanark, which makes fine woollens, rugs and shawls, sold the entire production of this year in ten weeks.

—Another instance of the mill being taken to the raw material is seen in the establishment of a rope factory near Manila, in the Philippine Islands. American machinery has been installed, and a market will be found in the islands, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc.

—With regard to the utilization of the fibre of the sweet clover for binder twine, lath ties, etc., as suggested in a recent number, we learn that a large manufacturing firm is making experiments with this material, and we hope to report the result at an early date.

—Rumor has it that tariff changes will be made at the coming session of the Dominion Parliament, which is expected to convene about February 19th. If such is the case, no doubt the woolen men will benefit, for there is no branch of manufacture which has a greater claim. Of course nothing definite will be known till Hon. Mr. Fielding makes his budget speech.

—The German Emperor and his Government have brought sufficient pressure to bear on the German legislative machine to secure the acceptance of the new tariff, but the woolen manufacturers of that country, like those of Canada, find that they are called to sacrifice their business prospects on the altar of patriotism; and the cry has gone up from all the textile towns of the Empire that the German woolen industry will be ruined if the tariff remains in its present shape.

—According to the statement made by Alex. Macpherson, manager of the Canadian Rubber Co., of Montreal, he who buys Canadian rubber goods in preference to those manufactured abroad, is not making much of a mistake. "In our reclaiming plant," said Mr. Macpherson, "we always prefer to use stuff which has been made up in Canadian factories. Why? Because there is more rubber in it. In the States, again, their goods have a higher percentage of rubber than have those made in Europe, where there are also very large factories. But Canada stands at the head of the list." Made in Canada evidently stands for much in the rubber goods line.

—An effort is being made in Italy to work up a trade in knit goods with Brazil. Here is a chance for Canada. Large quantities of knit fabrics are consumed and very little is manufactured. There is one mill at Rio, another at St. Paul, and a third one of small capa-