

plies of wool required to meet the demand for domestic goods are no greater than they were in 1890. This is assuming also that the abnormal wool imports of the free wool period have passed into consumption, and are no longer a factor in the supplies. In the present general prosperity of the country, the people are buying goods with quite as much freedom as was ever the case; it would seem to follow, therefore, that the use of cotton goods as a substitute for woollens has been increasing of late years. The advances which the cotton manufacture has made in the direction of imitating various makes of woollens have been very great in these ten years. So also has been the advance in the use of cotton in connection with wool, and this use has been stimulated by the unwillingness of the buying public to pay prices for woollens which are commensurate with the increased cost of wool since the restoration of the duty on the latter. Even with cotton at 10 cents a pound, the difference between its cost and that of wool at 50 cents a scoured pound is so great in these days as to encourage the use of more or less cotton in fabrics which will not command prices which allow a fair return, provided the materials used were all wool. A duty of 11 cents a pound on wool advances its cost so materially that it is now distinctly tending to reduce its consumption in this country. It has not been possible, notwithstanding the general advance in prices, to obtain the values for woollen goods which ruled prior to the tariff revision of 1894. Yet the wool and labor are costing just about as much as before." These conclusions distinctly point to the failure of the United States wool tariff to effect what it was intended to effect.

—We wish our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. If they live to see the beginning of the year they will also see the beginning of the 20th century. It is a long wish, but we hope that many of them will live to see the end as well as the beginning of the century which bids fair to be the most remarkable age of the world.

—Great Britain leads in the art of waterproofing; Germany in that of dyeing, at least in some departments of textiles. In consequence, a large trade is done between the two countries, the German manufacturers sending over the finer of their woven fabrics to England to be waterproofed and returned in the finished condition, and the British yarn manufacturers in certain lines sending over their undyed yarns to be dyed and returned for finishing in England. Some of the protected German interests have protested against this practice under the belief that if it were suppressed, it would increase the sale of German yarns abroad, but when the case came to be looked into, it was found that the yarns were of a class that is not, or cannot be, produced in Germany. The Hamburg Chamber

of Commerce, in a report on the subject, cited several cases which showed the complicated character and the relations of this interchange of industry, and which disclosed, incidentally, the ignorance and indifference of one protected industry to the interests of another in the same country.

—Mention has been made of the recent congress at Paris, convened with the object of bringing about a universal system of numbering yarns. The congress, it will be remembered, advocated applying the decimal system to the numbering of yarns of all kinds in all countries, and the co-operation of British manufacturers appeared to be the only thing required to bring about its early adoption. W. D. Shaw, of Huddersfield, who had been sent as a delegate from that district, reports that since the congress, he has visited the heavy woollen districts, such as Leeds, Dewsbury, and Batley, and found that the commercial men of those places were decidedly in favor of the proposed change, for the sensible reason that it would help their trade abroad. This, one would think, would in turn induce the manufacturers to move in the matter, as increased trade abroad means increased work for themselves. Mr. Shaw, in an address to the Huddersfield Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that not only was it necessary to adopt the metric system, but to put all yarns on one basis. English exporters foolishly, as he thought, stuck to the old system, and they feared to adopt the decimal, because by doing so they would lose their old prestige. It was very difficult, under the present system, for foreigners to arrive at an estimate of the value of yarns, especially those in which cotton and wool were mixed. It seemed to him to be an old-world rule-of-thumb system, and one that ought to be done away with. A discussion took place as to whether the cotton people should be communicated with, and it was decided that other Chambers of Commerce, connected with the woollen, worsted, cotton, and silk trades be communicated with with the idea of ascertaining their views as to the enforcement of the metric system in their several trades. It therefore looks as if the manufacturers of England were at last awaking to the fact that the advantage possessed by other nations in having the metric and decimal systems is one of the causes why so much foreign trade is slipping out of their hands.

WOOL SORTING.

In an article on spinning processes in *The Textile Recorder* (from which the accompanying cuts are reproduced), E. B. Fry, headmaster of the textile department of the Keighley Technical Institute, has the following remarks on wool sorting in England:

The variation in the quantity of fleeces is greatest in the coarser wools, while in the merino and fine crossbred wools it is comparatively small, and in consequence of this much of the