

CANADIAN WOOL.

THE *Leader* says:—We publish below an extract from the United States *Economist*, which may prove useful and interesting to Canadian wool growers and manufacturers. It refers to a letter published in the *Economist* from Mr. Nixon, of Toronto, giving his views regarding Canadian long wools. He regrets that so many excellent bred fleeces are not used for combing purposes, as he considers that all Canadian wools that are from medium to fine quality, sound, bright, and having the staple on the shoulder 2½ in., are in proper proportion suitable for the combing, or worsted trade. He explains to manufacturers that it is impossible to get a batch of wool where the fibres are in equal length, and that there exists a considerable quantity of short fibres which lie at the bottom of the staple as well as others that are created by breaking in passing through the process, and, therefore, contends that it is advantageous to introduce a staple sufficiently long to link the two extremes of short and long for, as explained in a former letter, the reach must be further apart than the length of the longest fibre; therefore, when drafted the longer fibres have to drag the extreme short ones by their own friction.

He also adds some remarks with re, and to the proper breeds for combing purposes. The whole subject is very ably discussed as follows:—

Our friend Nixon appears again this week with another article on spinning and combing wools. We have no desire to enter into a controversy on spinning, we spin no theories; we deal with facts and that which is practical. We think if friend Nixon had read our strictures aright, he would at once perceive that we dealt with the question of what as combing wool he designates having the staple 2½ inches long on the shoulder, and not of thing wool. In treating of worsted wools, we must say that 2½ inches is delaine or short combing wool, when compared with the Lincolnshires, whose length of staple is from 10 to 13 in. long, or Leicester from 6 to 12. Six inches may be termed short for these long wooled sheep.

We would refer our readers and also Mr. Nixon, to what we said about Southdown wool: "It is a combing wool;" we did not say clothing wool. We said it makes a soft, foody thread, as he terms it, but it is a full thread, and because it is a soft foody thread is just the reason why many spinners do not want it. They want a bright strong, small wiry thread, which can only be produced by the long stapled nature wools of the Lincolnshire, Leicester, Cotswold, Teeswater, &c., &c.

We also stated this soft 2½ inch wool could to-day be bought in the States for 60c and under, and will when the low clip comes upon the market be bought for much less, hence it will not do for wool men to pay from 25c to 30c gold for this wool in Canada, for we said it would have to pay 12c per lb duty, and 11 per cent *ad val.*, which, with gold at 140, would make it cost without expense of buying or freight from 60c to 63c *ex.*, adding interest and all other expenses, would amount to 70c per lb. We said that this class of wool at 20c per lb gold, would cost 60c or over *ex.*, and no manufacturer would pay more for it when he could purchase it in the States for this sum, and if anything a better kind of wool. And we again say the Canadian manufacturer can pay a better price for this class of wool than the manufacturer in the States can pay, because of the 12c per lb and 11 per cent *ad val.* duty. Now Mr. Nixon must observe that we are not dealing with this class of wool of 2½ in. staple on the shoulder as a clothing wool, but as a combing wool and if, as he says, that short stapled wool mixed with the long makes an even thread; if he could make spinners believe this they could get plenty of it in the States to mix without importing from Canada and paying a big duty. We hardly think our friend will succeed in getting an order to buy such wool for the American spinners. If, as our friend says, that wool 2½ in. long would improve the spinning properties. We quote his exact language:—

The four classes alluded to (Cotswold, Leicester, Southdown and Cheviot) can be with advantage worked together, having particular regard to distinct qualities, the different lengths blending together will tend to make an even yard. A Cotswold or Leicester having the staple 8 or 10 inches long (3 to 4 times the length of the Southdown) has a multitude of fibres existing in it. Only 2 in. and short as these are, they are too long to be left in the nubs, consequently they have to take their course along with the much longer fibres, and unless some medium length wools are introduced, we experience the unevenness before mentioned. Now we wish to say that Mr. Nixon's experience differs from any other spinner we know of, and his theory is open to grave objections, for if in the staple that is 8 to 10 in. long, there are fibres but 2 in. long; in the Southdown and Cheviot staples there are fibres not half an inch in length, and if in order to make an even thread, we must take wool with a staple 2½ in. long to mix with wool that has a staple 8 to 10 in. long, because it has fibres in it only 2 in., then we ought to mix with this combination wool that has a staple but half an inch long. In order that the thread may be even for the Southdown, Cheviot and all wool that has 2½ in. staple on the shoulder, has fibres not more than half an inch long, and by so doing lose all distinction between clothing and combing wools. If his theory is correct, then our manufacturers are very foolish to take so much pains to select the long staples out of the clothing wools for delaines, why not buy the whole pile for delaines, they want wool from 2 to 2½ in. long, and they employ men on purpose to make the selection, and pay 2c to 3c per lb more for the selection when the shortest wool in the pile has no staple shorter than half an inch, the whole pile would make an even thread according to Mr. Nixon, and according to this, what error would there be if the Canadian did ship their clothing wool? they would have to make an even thread. With regard to half bred, Southdown and Leicester wools, we have only to say that there was a time when these wools brought

the highest price in the market in England, and when the Southdown was worth more than the Leicester, but the change in the state of trade, the manufacture of imitation alpaca, for which alone the Leicester, the Cotswold and Lincolnshires are adapted, and for which the Southdown is utterly worthless, has brought a change in values.

If a practical manufacturer employs Mr. Nixon to buy a certain class of wool because he wants it, all right, we have nothing to do with this, if he orders him to pay a higher price for half bred wool than for the pure breed, we have nothing to do with that. We can only say that he could have bought it for less upon the market. Mr. Nixon will understand that we mean that he could have bought half bred wool cheaper on the market than he could have bought the full bred. We did not expect that Mr. Nixon meant clothing wools when he wrote about Southdown, Cheviot, or Crosses, and we did not expect that the Canadian buyers would fall into the error of shipping clothing wools, but we did anticipate that Mr. Nixon and other buyers, from the tenor of his remarks, would buy and ship Southdowns and Cheviots and half breeds at the same price that they bought the full breeds, but we want again to say that such wool as he proposes to buy, and have our worsted men use, is not worth over 60c to 65c on this market; and if they do buy these soft, short combing wools paying the price we have named, they will find they have made a great mistake. Mr. Nixon will observe that we do not mean clothing wools.

In this connection we would say to the farmers of the United States, that the Southdown sheep is a profitable one; that its wool for delaines and short combing, and for some clothing purposes brings a fair price, that crossed with the Merino makes excellent delaine, and meets with a ready sale; that crossed with the Leicester or Cotswold produces a very fair combing wool but not so valuable as the pure breed, and we would say do not crop your Cotswold or Leicester ewes if you can obtain a Cotswold or Leicester ram, as you would by so doing deteriorate your wool, but if you have Southdown ewes, and can get a Cotswold or Leicester ram, do so by all means and you will greatly enhance the value of your wool. If you cannot get a Leicester or Cotswold, obtain a Merino, and this will improve your wool. Southdown wool, which is, as a general thing, somewhat dry and fuzzy and harsh, crossed with a long stapled Merino, does not decrease its length, but softens the fibre amazingly, and adds to its spinning qualities very much. We know of no wool its superior where a 2 or 2½ inch staple is required.

RAILROAD EXTENSION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

WE learn from our Western exchanges that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company is making preparations for sending out an exploring party to pass over the entire route from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. Thomas H. Canfield, general agent of the company, applied on Tuesday to General Sherman for a military escort for a portion of the distance, which will ensure a full examination.

The line will start from Duluth, the future great city of the North-west. A railway connecting Duluth and the waters of Lake Superior with the Mississippi River at St. Paul will be completed by the 4th of July, 1870. The company have established a line of propellers from Erie to Duluth, and are thus enabled, by a single embarkation and voyage, to transfer one thousand railway labourers to North-eastern Minnesota. They are required upon the first section of the Mississippi and Lake Superior Railroad, which, in a distance of thirty miles, will overcome the bluffs and channel of the St. Louis River, and the elevation of the Mississippi plateau above the basin of the lake. By the time these difficulties are fully surmounted the interval of eighty miles from Wyoming, the present terminus north of St. Paul, will be ready for the locomotive. The work is vigorously pressed on the longer southern division. An extension of this line from St. Paul to Sioux city thus connecting the great lakes with the Missouri River, and to the Union Pacific at Omaha or Fremont, is now well assured. The immense wheat product of Minnesota and the vast region west of that State, to a point where the compelling influence of Pacific ports will be felt, will find its natural outlet at Duluth, whose magnificent natural harbour seems designed by nature for the seat of a vast commercial traffic. It is stated that elevators are about to be built there that will hold ten million bushels of grain. When these products reach Duluth they are as near New York by water as at Chicago, and can be shipped as early in the spring and as late in the autumn as from the latter city—*New York Bulletin*.

There are at present in the State of Illinois eighty-seven wool-carding mills and 133 manufactories of woollens, with a capital of \$3,600,000 invested in building and machinery and employing 8,450 operators one-fourth of whom are women, and consuming annually 4,000,000 pounds of the 7,000,000 pounds of the wool clipped from over 2,500,000 sheep. The investment of capital is steadily increasing.

It is not generally known that wool-growing in South America has grown into such mammoth proportions as it really has. Even the Australian breeders have cause for alarm from this competition. It is reported on good authority, that the number of sheep shorn there exceed 10,000,000. The exports of wool to Europe and this country, amount to some 220,000,000 pounds.

NOVIA SCOTIA MINES AND MINERALS.

THE Report of the Chief Commissioner of Mines for the year 1868, to December 31st, embracing a period of fifteen months is at hand.

Gold Mining.—Throughout this period, gold mining operations have been very satisfactory—the receipts being larger than in any previous year. Eleven new crushers have been licensed, and there are six others in the course of erection. For the fifteen months the total yield of gold has been as follows:—

	oss.	dwt.	grs
Stormont.....	782	12	17
Wino Harbor.....	1,693	6	19
Sherbrooke.....	9,778	8	23
Tangier.....	1,241	17	6
Montague.....	83	18	17
Waverley.....	8,642	17	7
Oldham.....	911	7	6
Kesfrew.....	4,611	2	19
Unlace.....	3,825	12	6
Lawrence town.....	272	2	8
Unproclaimed & other dists.	44	4	14
Total.....	27,630	8	17

From the above table it will be seen that Sherbrooke (should be Goldenville) produces one-third of the gold yield of the Province.

COAL MINING.—The Commissioner says:—"I have still to report a state of depression in the coal trade. From many of the small mines no coal has been raised, and from some others for only a portion of the year. There has, however, been considerable work done in extending old works, opening up new mines, and prospecting generally, preparatory to an increase in the trade." The greatest progress in this respect has been made in Pictou County. From the Report of the Inspector of Mines, we glean the following statements in reference to the expenditure:—

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Joggins.....	\$	0
Maccan.....	1,854	00
New York and Acadia.....	853	00
Spring Hill.....	1,453	00

PICTOU COUNTY.

Albion.....	100	768	96
Acadia.....	80	611	78
Intercolonial.....	212	836	62
McBean.....	2	809	10
Marsh.....	11	481	78
Merigomish.....	1	678	13
Sutherland's River.....	1	100	00

ANTIGONISH COUNTY.

Antigonish County.....	682	00
------------------------	-----	----

CAPE BRETON.

Fort Hood.....	254	00
Chimney Corner.....	620	65
New Campbellton.....	832	00
Black Rock.....	274	00
Matheson.....	109	00
Collins.....	4	00
Sydney.....	68,670	65
Victoria.....	12,080	73
Lingard.....	12,698	18
International.....	618	69
Caledonia.....	43,156	83
Little Glace Bay.....	10,294	37
Clyde.....	49	00
Block House.....	11,283	83
Gowrie.....	80,641	00
South Head.....	172	78
N. Y. & C. B. Coal Co.....	1,224	13

The expenditure may therefore be summed up as follows:—

	8	c
Cumberland County	6,105.00	
Pictou County.....	411,808.78	
Antigonish County.....	682.50	
Cape Breton....	129,656.77	
Total	\$618,130.55	

For the year ended September 30, 1868, the amount of coal raised and sold in the Province was 411,248 tons, and for the quarter ended December 31 1868, 110,348 tons in all, for the fifteen months, 621,531 tons, as follows:—

Victoria County.....	Tons	159	737
Cumberland County.....	24,661		
Cape Breton.....	347,733		

Total..... 512,131

The quantity of coal sold for the fifteen months is given in the table of the report as follows:—

	Tons.
Sold for Home Consumption.	159,687
Exported to neighbouring Colonies.	123,965
Exported to Foreign Countries	224,553

ACCIDENTS.—During the 15 months ended December 31, 1868, the number of accidents reported from the various mining districts was 20, about 50 per cent less than the previous year. Nine of the accidents have occurred from falls of stone coal, and earth, of which 8 were fatal, 3 deaths were caused by explosions of powder, there have been two explosions of gas, neither of which, however, resulted in loss of life; 3 persons were crushed by machinery, causing the death of 1 of them, and the others were of a miscellaneous character, 1 of which was fatal. The casualties in this County were 6, of which 3 proved fatal—*Eastern Chronicle*.

The cotton crop of Missouri, this year, will be worth probably \$20,000,000.