

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Textile World Record

A JOURNAL FOR MANUFACTURERS AND
ALL INTERESTED IN THE PROCESSES AND
PRODUCTS OF TEXTILE MANUFACTURING

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
144 CONGRESS STREET

BOSTON, April, 1, 1910.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I received your kind letter a few days ago and am looking forward with pleasure to receiving a copy of your Life of Lincoln, which I shall prize very highly, first, because of its being a souvenir of the pleasant visit we had, and next, because I need such a book in my library.

I also have your letter of the 31st ult. Assuming that we had free wool the resulting reduction in the price of goods would vary widely with the grade of the fabrics, all depending upon the quantity and quality of the raw material of which the cloth is made. I have a large number of estimates of cost of difference fabrics and in a few days will go through them and give you in reply to your question some figures based on actual work in the mill.

While we are waiting for these figures, let us take the cloth referred to in the enclosed monthly comment, of which I think I gave you a copy. The manufacturer of the domestic goods states that he buys his yarn from the Arlington Mills, paying \$1.50 a pound for it and that his goods cost him about \$1.65. I have noticed on a number of different grades of worsted yarn that the American price is about double the Bradford price. Assuming this to be true in the case under consideration, and that 12 ounces of yarn is required for a yard, also assuming that under free wool the American manufacturer would be able to sell yarn at 60 per cent of the present price, the reduction in cost would amount to 45 cents a yard. This result, however, is based on the assumption that the

domestic yarn spinner would be content with the ordinary profits that satisfy the Bradford spinner. If, however, he charged a profit similar to that now obtained the calculation might be made as follows: One yard of cloth requires 20 ounces of scoured wool or 40 ounces of grease wool. The duty on these 40 ounces is 27 1/2 cents, so that if the spinner gave the consumer the benefit of the reduction ^{of} cost by removing the wool duty, the reduction in the price of the finished product would be 27 1/2 cents a yard. I would advise you, however, not to use these figures for any of your work, but I give them simply to show you how complicated the problem is.

Regarding the shrinkage of wool in different states. There has been complaining on the part of the growers of light shrinking wool that they do not get the protection which is due them. They complain that wool of class 2 washed on the sheep's back and shrinking as low as 20 per cent, can be imported at the single rate of duty, 12 cents a pound, making the duty per scoured pound only 15 cents. If you will refer to the debate in Congress in the early days of last June you will find a letter from Magnus Brown, president of the Minnesota Sheep and Wool Growers Association, in which he voiced this complaint very emphatically. You will also find in the extracts from the Bulletin I sent you, numerous references to this same matter.

Now in regard to the statistics of people having certain incomes. I do not remember having seen any such figures, but our Bureau of Statistics is industriously grinding out figures bearing on every imaginable subject and it may be possible that they have given attention to this matter. I will ask them and let you know. I have some British government reports which give comparative budgets of poor families in England and Germany, which you may be interested in looking over when you are next in Boston.

Yours very truly,

Samuel A. Dale,