UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Division of Statistical and Historical Research

WOOL-95

March 31, 1936

WORLD WOOL PROSPECTS

Summary

Wool prices in the domestic market at the present time are being influenced chiefly by the limited supply of domestic wool available and by the strength in prices in foreign markets. Although activity in the Boston market has declined recently, demand conditions abroad continue quite favorable. Domestic prices are likely to remain near present levels during the next few months in view of the small stocks of wool in this country and abroad and the strong demand in foreign wool markets. The new domestic clip will not become available in large volume until May and June. Present indications are that domestic production this year will not differ greatly from that of last year when it was estimated at 429,000,000 pounds, including pulled wool.

Prices at the close of the second series of 1936 wool sales at London on March 24 were generally 5 to 7-1/2 percent higher than at the close of the previous series on January 30. Demand from English and continental European buyers was good. The selling season in the Southern Hemisphere is drawing to a close, and prices have advanced steadily during most of the season. It appears that the carry-over in most selling centers will be very small.

On March 1, this year apparent supplies of the 1935-36 clip still on hand in the five principal wool producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere were 24 percent smaller than at the same time a year ago and 10 percent smaller than the preceding 5-year average for that date. Exports from these countries for the current season up to the end of February totalled

1,153,000,000 pounds, an increase of 19 percent above the same period of 1934-35 and 1 percent above the preceding 5-year average for that period.

Despite the increased purchases of wool by European countries in the current season such information as is available does not indicate a piling-up of raw material in consuming countries and it appears that wool is going rapidly into manufacture in foreign countries as well as in the United States. A slight decline in activity was reported in the wool manufacturing industry of the United Kingdom in February, but the surplus of imports over consumption in the first 2 months of 1936 was much smaller than usual for this time of the year.

Wool manufacturing activity in the United States continued high in the early months of 1936 but consumption was somewhat below the unusually high level of the last half of 1935. The rate of consumption of apparel class wool in January was about 2 percent higher than in December but was almost 25 percent below the peak of activity in October 1935. The tendency of wool consumption toward a 2-year cyclical movement in recent years points to a smaller consumption in 1936 than in 1935; on the other hand, continued improvement in economic conditions may wholly or partially offset this tendency.

United States imports of apparel class wool have increased rapidly in the last few months. Imports for consumption in the first 2 months of 1936 were 18,164,000 pounds, compared with 3,776,000 pounds imported in the same months of 1935. Imports in the first 2 months of 1936 were larger than in the same months of any year since 1929.

Chiefly because of the large carry-over of wool in the United States at the beginning of 1935, the increase of 81 percent in mill consumption in 1935 was not accompanied by a large increase in imports until the last few months of the year, and imports in 1935 were only slightly larger than in 1934. The marked increase in wool production in this country since 1922 has greatly reduced import requirements. The prolonged business depression was also an

important factor in the reduction of imports after 1930. Figure 1 at the end of this release shows domestic production, imports and quantity of apparel class wool available for consumption, 1900 to 1935. Figure 2 shows actual mill consumption of such wool from 1918 to 1935.

Market Situation

United States.- The movement of domestic wools in the Boston market in the month ended March 14 was too restricted to test market prices, according to R. L. Burrus of the Boston Office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Much of the business consisted of clean-up sales of odd lots of less desirable wools that accumulate toward the end of an active marketing season. The few sizable accumulations of good wools left in the market were mostly held at asking prices above prices obtained in January and early February and quotations in the first half of March were almost entirely nominal.

The limited activity in domestic wools after the middle of February was partly the result of the limited stocksof wool available in the market and partly due to a weakening of demand from manufacturers as consumption declined from the peak activity of 1935. The decline in demand appears to have checked the rising tendency in prices of domestic and foreign wools at Boston which had been under way since last August. Prices of domestic wool are also influenced by the larger supplies of foreign wool available in the Boston market as a result of the increase in imports in recent months.

Contracting of wool in the Western States, which was quite active in January and the first half of February, slowed down considerably toward the end of February. The National Associations of Wool Manufacturers reported that prices paid to growers in February for some of the larger and better known clips were more than 10 cents (in the grease) above 1935 prices. This increase is equivalent to approximately 25 cents a pound clean basis. Some contracts reported from the West were said to place prices of such wool clean, landed at Boston somewhat higher than prices of Australian wools in the Eastern market. Manufacturers have been using Australian wools in increasing quantities and with the let down in demand for wool at Boston dealers' interest in the relatively high priced western contracts declined. The average farm price of wool on February 15 was 25.6 cents a pound compared with 24.1 cents on January 15 and 18.2 cents on February 15, 1935.

Fine Ohio delaine or strictly combing 64s and finer brought a maximum of 36 cents a pound in the grease on the Boston market and similar 58-60s brought as high as 37 cents after the middle of February. This represented a slight increase over prices reported the early part of the month. Quotations for strictly combing 56s and 48s-50s were unchanged at 41-43 cents in the grease. Business in territory wools was chiefly in the finer grades. In graded lines, sales included French or average combing at 90-93 cents a pound scoured basis, for 64s and finer and at 85-87 cents for 58s-60s. Sales of original bag wools were mostly of average or average to good French combing 64s and finer at about 90 cents scoured basis, and average to short French combing staple of the same grade at 86-89 cents scoured basis. No advance in prices was indicated by the scattered sales reported. Prices appeared to be maintained chiefly by the force of limited supplies since demand was distinctly less urgent than in the previous month.

The limited spot supply of domestic wool was reflected in a fairly active trade in spot foreign apparel wools in Boston. Moderate price advances were reported on some types of foreign wools. Recent selling prices of spot foreign apparel wools in Boston were reported by Mr. Burrus to represent a slight premium over replacement costs or the import price of similar wools bought in the leading foreign primary markets. The demand for spot foreign wools in the first 2 weeks of March, however, was not so strong as in February. Also, the orders to be filled in foreign markets showed a decline.

Prices of wools for use on the woolen system showed a slight decline in the month ended March 14. The decline, however, did not exceed 1-2 cents a pound on scoured pulled wools and wool noils.

New business in wool tops has also declined and the maximum prices realized in February were not duplicated in March. The limited business was mostly for piecing out orders and prices were generally 1 to 2 cents below those obtained a month earlier. Deliveries of tops were fair.

Imports of apparel class wool continue to increase. Imports of such wool (formerly reported as combing and clothing) were 9,417,000 pounds in February compared with 8,747,000 pounds in January and 1,754,000 pounds in February 1935. Imports of apparel wool are usually largest in the first 4 months of the year, before the new domestic clip becomes available in April or May. This period coincides to some extent with the height of the selling season in Southern Hemisphere markets. Imports of carpet class wool were 11,433,000 pounds in February, 12,097,000 pounds in January, and 10,118,000 pounds in February 1935.

Total imports in recent months have been somewhat larger than imports for consumption. Entries into bonded warehouses have exceeded withdrawals and stocks of apparel class wool in bonded customs warehouses at the beginning of February were the largest since October 1934. About 18,000,000 pounds of apparel class wool were held in bond at the beginning of February, an increase of 7,000,000 pounds from the low point reported at the beginning of last July. Stocks at the beginning of February 1935 were 14,000,000 pounds.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston were 4,576,000 pounds in February compared with 6,410,000 pounds in January and 2,380,000 pounds in February 1935. Arrivals of domestic wool at Boston usually increase rapidly after April when the new clip arrives on the market and reach a peak in July.

Consumption of wool by United States mills continued high in the early months of 1936 but at a rate somewhat below the unusually high rate of the last half of 1935. For the 5 weeks ended February 1 the Bureau of the Census reports that the weekly average consumption was 5,645,000 pounds, scoured basis, compared with an average of 5,548,000 pounds in December and 5,485,000 pounds in January 1935. The high point in 1935 was reached in October when consumption averaged 7,395,000 pounds a week. The weekly average for the entire year 1935 was 5,846,000 pounds. The consumption of apparel class wool in January was equivalent to 51,900,000 pounds of shorn wool, greasy shorn basis and 7,810,000 pounds of pulled wool, greasy pulled basis.

Wool: Production, exports, imports, and amount available for consumption of combing and clothing wool, and imports of carpet wool, United States, 1920 - 1935

Calendar year	Combing and clothing wool						Carpet wool
	Production			Total exports domestic 1/	Imports less re-exports	Available for consumption 2/	Imports less re-exports
	Shorn	Pulled	Total				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1920	250,888	42,900	293,788	8,845	207,419	492,362	35,093
1921	241,723	48,500	290,223	1,927	217,233	505,529	97,820
1922	228,367	42,000	270,367	453	189,486	459,400	172,828
1923	230,168	42,500	272,668	535	243,270	515,403	121,518
1924	238,205	43,800	282,005	309	94,495	376,191	140,684
1925	253,203	46,800	300,003	273	171,980	471,710	157,579
1926	269,261	49,600	318,861	292	170,142	488,711	115,235
1927	289,404	50,100	339,504	323	109,850	449,031	143,871
1928	314,820	51,900	366,720	485	87,132	453,367	148,794
1929	327,795	54,500	382,295	239	100,352	482,408	174,483
1930	352,129	61,900	414,029	162	68,000	481,867	92,756
1931	376,301	66,100	442,401	274	36,772	478,899	119,939
1932	350,996	67,100	418,096	179	12,020	429,937	40,697
1933	374,152	64,200	438,352	19	43,554	481,887	130,256
1934	369,036	60,500	429,536	119	3/23,156	452,573	3/85,187
1935	363,145	66,000	429,145	20	28,957	458,082	171,504

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Production figures from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; imports and exports from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The total United States production is combing and clothing wool only.

1/ Hair of angora goat, alpaca, and other like animals included in exports for all years.

2/ In computing these figures, stocks were not taken into consideration.

3/ Imports for consumption, beginning 1934.

The marked increase in wool production in this country since 1922 has greatly reduced import requirements. While domestic production of wool rose from 270,000,000 pounds in 1922 to 442,000,000 pounds in 1931, imports of combing and clothing wool declined from 189,000,000 to 37,000,000 pounds. The business depression was also an important factor in the reduction in imports after 1930 and in 1932 imports reached the low point of 12,000,000 pounds. Imports increased considerably in 1933 but were again reduced in 1934.

Because of the large carry-over of wool at the beginning of the 1935 season imports in 1935 were only slightly larger than in 1934 despite an increase of 81 percent in consumption in 1935. Figure 1 at the end of this release shows domestic production, net imports, and the quantity of wool available for consumption in the United States, 1900-1935. The above table gives production, exports, imports and quantity available for consumption and also

imports of carpet wool, 1920 to 1935. In computing the quantity of combing and clothing wool available for consumption in each year no account is taken of carry-over, from the previous year.

The consumption of apparel wool, scoured basis, by United States mills from 1918 to 1935 as reported by the Bureau of the Census is shown in Figure 2 at the end of this release. The downward trend in consumption from 1922 to 1929 was accelerated after 1930 by the business depression. Since 1928 consumption has shown a 2 year cyclical movement. This tendency, together with the general improvement in business conditions and large government orders for wool goods, resulted in unusually high consumption in 1935 which was greater than in any year since 1923. A continuation of this cyclical tendency would result in a somewhat smaller consumption for 1936. The continued improvement in economic conditions, however, will tend to maintain consumption at a higher level than in recent low years, namely 1932 and 1934.

United Kingdom.- The second series of wool sales for 1936 opened at London on March 10. At the opening sale prices of most wools were equal to or slightly higher than at the close of the previous series on January 30. Further advances were reported as the sales progressed and at the close of the series prices were generally 5 to 7-1/2 percent higher than at the close of the previous series on January 30. The quantity of wool available for this series was somewhat smaller than is usual at this season, supplies of Australian wools in particular being limited.

Russia, Austria and Alsace, Belgium and Germany were reported to be the chief buyers of merino wools in the second series while England, Germany, Holland, Austria, and France were the important crossbred buyers. Continental European buyers were particularly eager competitors. The reentry of Russia as a purchaser at recent sales is of great interest because this outlet has been closed in recent years. United States buyers were not active at this series at London.

At the close of the series on March 24, average quotations, top and noil in oil, at current rate of exchange were 59.4 cents for 70s, 34.1 cents for 56s, and 22.7 cents for 46s. Prices at the close of the previous series on January 30 were 56.8 cents for 70s, 33.9 cents for 56s, and 21.9 cents for 46s. The next series of London sales will open on May 5.

Prices of wool, top and yarn continued to advance in the Bradford market in February. The Weekly Wool Chart index number for raw wool was 87 in February (English currency basis, July 1914 = 100) compared with 85 in January and 63 in February 1935. The corresponding index for tops was 92 in February, 88 in January, and 69 in February 1935. The yarn index advanced to 107 in February compared with 106 in the previous month and 90 a year earlier. Business in all sections of the Bradford market is dominated by the strong position of raw wool. Topmakers and spinners are unwilling to sell ahead for any considerable period at present quotations and are making a strong effort to obtain higher prices which would be more in line with current raw wool costs. This effort has met with considerable resistance on the part of buyers and consumption appears to have declined slightly since the beginning of the year.

An important feature in the Bradford market since last October has been the large increase in shipments of wool products to the United States. Consul Ernest E. Evans at Bradford reports that consignments to the United States in the 5 months, October to February, far exceeded those of any previous month in the last 2 years. While shipments in January and February 1936 were about one-third smaller than at the peak of the movement in October and November 1935, the February shipments showed an increase of 150 percent compared with the same month of 1935.

The American demand in Bradford is chiefly for raw or partly processed materials and does not greatly affect fully manufactured products. Raw wool and noils formed, in value, about 60 percent of the February shipments to the United States with woven fabrics of wool and other hair representing only about 18 percent of the total. Wool waste and rags were the other principal items for export to the United States.

The value of wool and wool products consigned to the United States from Bradford from October to February are shown below. Values have been converted to dollars at the monthly average rate of exchange for each month.

Wool and wool products: Value of exports from Bradford to the United States, October 1935 to February 1936

Commodity	1935			1936	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Raw wool	684,721	515,115	197,038	209,699	240,928
Noils	497,703	509,644	278,333	376,624	343,997
Waste	125,400	134,057	84,164	79,577	99,714
Rags	113,297	135,983	81,349	96,500	99,974
Tops	27,464	14,031	8,068	5,965	11,176
Yarns	28,456	29,451	21,287	32,595	27,408
Mohair fabrics	2,655	2,891	1,203	5,459	4,015
Wool and other hair fabrics	75,453	153,939	176,849	213,262	188,008
Pile fabrics	3,921	5,171	3,795	2,248	1,445
All other	18,007	19,025	14,693	23,747	21,527
Total	1,577,078	1,519,308	866,779	1,045,675	1,038,192

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Compiled from report of Consul E. E. Evans, Bradford. Converted to United States dollars at current monthly average rate of exchange.

Contrary to the usual seasonal trend, activity in the wool manufacturing industry of the United Kingdom declined slightly in all departments in February. The British Ministry of Labour reported that unemployment among insured workers in the woolen and worsted industry was 9.7 percent on February 24 compared with 9.3 percent in January and 16.3 percent in February 1935.

Retained imports of wool in the United Kingdom in the first 2 months of 1936 were 146,000,000 pounds, an increase of 23,000,000 pounds over imports retained in the same months in 1935 but only slightly larger than the average for the 5 years 1930-1934. English buyers have been very active in Southern Hemisphere markets up to the present time and imports will probably continue large for several months. Wool imports into the United Kingdom in the first half of the year are generally much greater than consumption. In this way a surplus is built up to care for the needs of the mills during the period between selling seasons in the Southern Hemisphere when arrivals in England are light. As a result of the heavy consumption in January and February the weekly Wool Chart estimate of surplus of net imports over consumption for the first 2 months of 1936 is only 13,000,000 pounds. The surplus of imports over consumption was also small in the same months of last year (11,000,000 pounds) but averaged about 50,000,000 pounds for that period in the 5 years 1930-1934.

The Continental European Wool Situation in January and February 1936 1/

Conditions in the wool textile industry of France and Belgium continued favorable during January and February. A substantial amount of new business was booked and orders on hand were reported sufficiently large to maintain activity at current levels for several months in most of the important branches of the industry. In Germany mill activity has shown a slight decline, mainly because of the difficulty of procuring raw materials of adequate quality. Recent increases in consumption are reported for mixed wool and staple fiber fabrics. Developments in Italy continue very unsatisfactory as a result of the many restrictions necessitated by the war and by trade sanctions. The high prices and difficulties of obtaining supplies are reported to have led the Italian Government to decide to seize all domestically produced wool from the 1936 clip.

Stocks of merino tops in combing establishments of France and Belgium were slightly larger at the end of February than in January but were smaller than in February 1935. Stocks of crossbred tops declined in those countries during February. German combing establishments reported a decline in both merino and crossbred stocks at the end of February and stocks in that country are very small. Stocks of merino tops in combing establishments of the three countries combined were 18,510,000 pounds at the end of February compared with 17,702,000 pounds at the end of January and 22,847,000 pounds in February 1935. Stocks of crossbred tops at the end of February were 20,243,000 pounds compared with 21,781,000 pounds a month earlier and 28,199,000 pounds a year earlier. Statistics for Italy are no longer available.

1/ Reported by L. V. Steere, Agricultural Attache at Berlin.

France.- Wool industry reports from France are preponderantly favorable. Activity in worsted spinning mills is decidedly on the increase and woolen spinners recently were also favored by an increase in new orders. The occupation in weaving mills was likewise reported satisfactory. Only the knitting mills complain of a reduction in unfilled orders on hand as a result of the approaching end of the old selling season, and the lack, as yet, of orders for the new season. Generally speaking, orders now on hand in France will keep the industry active for some months ahead.

Trading in top and noils was rather quiet during January and February, and despite the expectation of a further rise in prices, customers appeared reluctant to make commitments for longer periods ahead. February demand for washed wool, however, was relatively satisfactory, and the situation in this section is reported to have further improved.

Belgium.- Quiet tendencies in top, noils and washed wool trading prevailed at Verviers during January and February, but occupation in the industry was maintained at previous levels, particularly in the worsted spinning and weaving sections. A slight recession has occurred in the occupation of woolen spinners because of some reduction in new orders received.

Italy.- The difficult situation apparent in the Italian wool textile industry for some months past continued during January and February. Import restrictions, including taxes on imported wool, as well as a reduction in consumer buying power have contributed toward further recession in Italian wool textile activity. This is particularly true of worsted spinners and weavers; woolen spinners, however, are aided by orders for military requirements. It is reported that the Italian Government, by decree, has decided to seize all domestic wool production from the 1936 clip. Since publication of import statistics as well as all other important statistics are discontinued, it is impossible to follow with any definiteness the developments of the Italian supply situation in recent months, but it seems likely that stocks are very low. Active demand and high prices are reported for such supplies of domestic wool as are still available.

Germany.- There was little change in German textile conditions during January and February, but a slight downward tendency in mill occupation was evident as a result of increasing difficulty in obtaining raw wool supplies of good quality. It is also reported that there have been increased production and sales of mixed wool and substitute fiber fabrics during the past 2 months. The use of substitute fiber as a raw material for the German wool industry is still restricted, first because output is not yet large, and second, because most of it is being and will be taken up by the cotton industry, which is now under an obligation to mix cotton and substitute fiber in the production of the bulk of German cotton yarns. So far as is known, there is as yet no compulsion to mix substitute fiber and wool, except for certain military cloths.

Imports of wool have been relatively low during the past several months, and it is reported that German purchases in South Africa and Argentina have been considerably below last year for the past few months. This fact may have some relation to the recent increases in foodstuff and feedstuff import requirements, which compel Germany to use some of her means of acquiring raw materials from Argentina and South Africa for the purchase of food and feedstuffs. Stocks of tops in combing establishments have shown a further marked decline.

Japan.- Imports of wool into Japan in 1935 were 243,000,000 pounds, thus surpassing the previous record high level of 239,000,000 pounds in 1933. The 1935 imports showed an increase of 61,000,000 pounds over imports in 1934. Australia was again the principal source of supply. Imports from Australia in 1935 were 228,000,000 pounds or 94 percent of the total imports. The increased share obtained by other countries in 1934 was entirely lost in 1935. Only 2,900,000 pounds were imported from the Union of South Africa and 900,000 from Argentina in 1935 compared with 5,200,000 and 7,900,000 pounds, respectively, from those countries in 1934. See World Wool Prospects, November 1935, page 31, for imports of raw wool into Japan by countries, average 1926-1930 and annual 1931 to 1934.

Despite the large increase in imports, stocks of raw wool in reporting warehouses throughout most of 1935 were smaller than in the same months of 1934. The following statistics published in Wool Intelligence Notes (England) show stocks at the end of each month, 1934 and 1935, together with the number of warehouses reporting in each period.

Japan: Stocks of wool in warehouses at the end of each month and number of warehouses reporting, 1934 and 1935

End of month	Stocks		Warehouses reporting	
	1934	1935	1934	1935
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Number	Number
Jan.	54.2	44.5	106	108
Feb.	60.0	45.8	108	108
Mar.	65.1	41.0	108	108
Apr.	73.8	43.9	107	108
May	76.9	48.5	108	107
June	72.4	50.4	108	107
July	63.2	55.2	108	107
Aug.	52.2	55.5	108	107
Sept.	41.0	40.9	108	108
Oct.	36.4	30.8	108	109
Nov.	36.5	37.0	108	110
Dec.	40.3		107	

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Compiled from Reports of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Stocks reported in bales have been converted at 320 pounds per bale.

The expansion in Japanese consumption of wool and increase in imports into Japan has offset a considerable part of the reduction in imports of unmanufactured wool into European countries in recent years. While the production of wool products in Japan at the present time is chiefly for home consumption the export trade in wool yarns and tissues has expanded greatly in the last 6 years. Statistics since 1933 show a considerable export balance for these products. The increase in exports in 1935, however, was considerably smaller than in the 3 previous years. See table below. Exports of wool products from Japan go principally to Asiatic markets with Africa second in importance. Exports to South America have increased considerably in the last 2 years but are still very small.

Japan: Trade in wool and manufactures of wool, 1929 to 1935

Item	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Wool							
Imports 2/	107.1	114.6	189.1	204.2	238.8	181.5	245.4
Tops							
Imports 2/	.7	.1	.1	3/	.1	.1	.1
Yarns							
Imports	7.4	7.9	9.5	3.2	1.6	.9	1.1
Exports	.4	.6	.7	1.3	3.1	5.9	5.3
Net exports	- 7.0	- 7.3	- 8.8	- 1.9	1.5	5.0	4.2
	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.	Million sq.yds.
Tissues 4/							
Imports 5/	10.9	6.8	7.1	6.8	4.5	3.4	4.1
Exports 6/	3.4	3.0	1.4	4.4	10.2	20.2	21.3
Net exports	- 7.5	- 3.8	- 5.7	- 2.4	5.7	16.8	17.2

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Annual and Monthly Returns of the Foreign Trade of Japan.
A minus sign indicates that imports exceed exports.
1/ Preliminary.
2/ Reexports are negligible.
3/ Less than 50,000 pounds.
4/ Includes small quantities of cotton which cannot be separated.
5/ Imports of tissues of wool and silk or wool, cotton and silk reported in value only and are not included.
6/ Excluding "Other Wool Tissues" which were given by value only until 1935 when exports aggregated 7,100,000 square yards.

Supply Situation

Summary

It now appears that the 1936 spring wool clip of the Northern Hemisphere will come onto a market unusually short of supplies, with prices at a higher level than a year ago. The Northern Hemisphere furnishes roughly a little over 1,000,000,000 pounds annually or about one-third of the total world production, excluding Russia and China.

The United States and the United Kingdom together produce a little over half of the Northern Hemisphere clip. Present indications are that production in the United States will not differ greatly from that of last year when it was estimated at 429,000,000 pounds according to the revised estimate, including pulled wool. There are at present no indications available of the size of the coming clip in the United Kingdom which was unusually small last year, amounting to only 127,000,000 pounds. Increases are in prospect for Germany and Hungary.

The bulk of the Northern Hemisphere clip comes on the market in the first half of the calendar year. On March 1, this year, apparent supplies 1/ of the 1935-36 clip still on hand in the five principal wool producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere were 24 percent smaller than at the same time a year ago and 10 percent smaller than the preceding 5-year average on that date. Demand in the United States and in European consuming countries has been good and consumption has been keeping pace with supplies, according to latest reports.

Exports from the five principal countries of the Southern Hemisphere for the current season up to the end of February totaled 1,153,000,000 pounds, an increase of 19 percent above the same period of 1934-35 and 1 percent above the preceding 5-year average for that period.

Northern Hemisphere Countries

United States.- There was a slight falling off in the condition of sheep in the western range area during February owing to severe weather conditions. Losses, however, are reported as slight, according to the Western Livestock and Range Report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

Severe weather with snow resulted in heavy feeding of stock in Montana, the Dakotas, western Nebraska, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. However, feed supplies were generally ample. With the exception of southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, western Oklahoma, northwestern Texas and southeastern New Mexico, where range feed was short and the soil dry, range feed is good and moisture there is sufficient for the growth of spring feeds.

1/ Carryover plus estimated production minus exports to latest month. No deduction made for quantity sold but not yet exported and relatively small quantities used for domestic consumption.

The condition of ranges on March 1, 1936 was 77 percent of normal or the same as on February 1. On the first of March 1935, however, the condition was only 61 percent of normal; whereas the 10-year average was 79.9 percent. The condition of sheep in the 14 Western States for which reports are available was 86 percent of normal on March 1, 1936, compared with 88 percent on February 1, 78 percent on March 1 a year ago and the 10-year average of 87.1 percent.

The estimates of sheep numbers on farms and ranges, the number of sheep shorn, and wool production in the United States have been revised from 1920 to date, in line with the revised estimates of sheep numbers on farms made in February on the basis of the January 1, 1935 census of sheep on farms. The information secured by the Census Bureau on the number of sheep shorn and the quantity of shorn wool produced in 1934 is not yet available. When this report is available it may be necessary to revise the estimates of wool shorn per sheep in 1934 and several other recent years in some States.

The revised estimates of wool production in the United States show that in 1935 the total production of shorn and pulled wool was 429,145,000 pounds or approximately the same as in 1934. In 1933 the production of shorn and pulled wool reached 438,352,000 pounds and in 1930 reached the record output of 442,401,000 pounds. Production in 1935, therefore, was about 3 percent smaller than in the year of record production.

Shorn wool production in 1935 is now estimated at 363,145,000 pounds according to revised figures, compared with 369,036,000 pounds in 1934, and the record clip of 373,152,000 in 1933. The number of sheep shorn from year to year bears a very close relationship to the number of stock sheep and lambs on hand on January 1 each year. It seems likely, therefore, that the number shorn in 1936 will not differ greatly from the number shorn in 1935 as the number of stock sheep and lambs on hand for January 1, 1936 was 99.4 percent of the number on hand at the same date of 1935. Then too, the condition of sheep on western ranges, where about three-fourths of the United States clip originates, has been much better this season than a year ago, the average condition for the 9 months July 1, 1935 to March 1, 1936 being 89 percent of normal compared with 75 percent a year ago. In the 9-month period of the seasons 1932-33 and 1929-30, the condition was the same as it is this season. (See page 22 for revised estimates of sheep numbers, number shorn, and wool production in the United States, 1920 to date.)

Canada.- The Canadian Agricultural Situation and Outlook for 1936 indicates that at the close of 1935 sheep raisers were retaining their breeding stock and that there was considerable demand for range ewes.

In 1935 owing to severe weather at lambing time, the crop of range lambs was reduced 15 to 20 percent as compared with 1934. In June 1935 the number of sheep and lambs was reported as 3,399,000 compared with 3,421,000 in 1934, 3,386,000 in 1933 and 3,644,000 in 1932. Increases were noted on farms in Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan while other provinces showed declines of from 2 to 5 percent.

In the spring of 1935 the number of sheep and lambs shorn was 3,401,000 and the quantity of wool produced was estimated at 19,371,000 pounds. In the 4 years 1929 to 1932 over 3,600,000 sheep and lambs were shorn each year with wool production averaging over 20,000,000 pounds. (See table on page 23).

The 1935 wool season in Canada opened with buying on a very conservative basis. Some wool in Eastern Canada sold at 6 cents a pound. The price strengthened until 12 cents per pound was paid by local buyers. Competition was keen in the buying of western range wools and prices offered varied from 9 to 12 cents. The average value of farm wool, grease basis, was only 10 cents a pound in 1934 whereas in 1928 it was 26 cents a pound, the highest in recent years.

Germany.- The plan of the German Government to encourage an expansion in sheep breeding and wool production by granting credits for the purchase of ewes appears to have had some degree of success already . (See World Wool Prospects, September 30, 1935, pages 12, 13, 14 and 15, for details of plan.)

The estimate of sheep numbers at the beginning of 1936 (i.e., December 1935) was 3,918,000, an increase of 435,000 or 12 percent above that on the same date of the preceding year. This is the largest number reported since the beginning of 1927 when the number was 4,080,000.

Wool production in 1936 based on the number of sheep at the beginning of this year is unofficially estimated at approximately 35,000,000 pounds, compared with only 31,000,000 pounds in 1935 and a preceding 5-year average of about 30,000,000 pounds. At one time, in 1861, Germany had as many as 28,000,000 sheep with an annual output of almost 80,000,000 pounds of wool.

Hungary.- It is estimated that wool production in Hungary in 1936 will show an increase above 1935 according to a report of the Secretary of the Wool Section of the Hungarian Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce. Production in 1936 is estimated at 14,330,000 pounds, an increase of about 17 percent above 1935. The carry-over from the 1935 wool clip is estimated at a little over 1,500,000 pounds. It was reported that part of this was to be exported to Rumania in exchange for corn.

The number of sheep in Hungary in the spring of 1935 was 1,228,000 compared with only 1,081,000 at the same date of 1934.

Turkey.- It is now estimated that the 1935 wool clip of Turkey shorn in the spring of 1935 was between 12,100,000 pounds and 16,500,000 pounds according to a report from American Acting Commercial Attache' John A. Emby, under date of February 5, 1936. In 1934 production was estimated at about 12,000,000, over 3,000,000 of which was reported carried over from the 1935 season.

Exports of 1935 clip wool up to the end of January 1936 are estimated to be between 9,000,000 and 11,000,000 pounds and purchases by local mills between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 pounds with unsold stocks about the same. Unsold stocks at Istanbul alone were estimated to be from 1,500,000 to 1,800,000 pounds. It is believed that the stocks of wool which remain unsold will have been entirely disposed of by the middle of March or the opening of the 1936-37 season.

Prices of Anatolian and Rumelian wool, quoted in October 1935 at 16.74 to 17.11 cents and 20.38 cents a pound respectively, declined subsequently, but rose again during January to the levels of last October.

During January Russian and German buyers competed actively in the market. Both Russian and German purchases of Turkish wool are prompted by the requirements of these two countries for Turkish compensation exports under their clearing agreements with Turkey.

Southern Hemisphere countries

Australia.- The month of January (summer) was characterized by widespread rain over practically the whole of eastern Australia, including South Australia. The general outlook throughout practically the whole of New South Wales has been greatly improved. Queensland also benefited materially from rain in January. With the exception of Tasmania and western Australia where it was still dry, conditions are now favorable to the growth of the 1936-37 wool clip, i.e., that to be shorn during the last half of the calendar year 1936. The earliest reliable estimate of the coming clip is usually made in June.

The unusually large quantity of wool of the current clip received at Australian selling centers during the first 6 months of the season, compared with the average, has led to the opinion that production in 1935 was much larger than originally estimated by the Australian growers and brokers in June, or approximately 948,000,000 pounds, a decrease of about 8 percent compared with the preceding season. The following three facts seem to indicate that earlier marketing rather than greatly increased supplies may be the chief reason for the increased receipts in the early part of the season: (1) the fact that receipts have fallen off so materially since the end of December as compared with earlier seasons despite heavier disposals at higher prices than was the case last season; (2) the materially smaller supplies on hand at selling centers at the end of February; and (3) the fact that the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers has been obliged to rearrange the Sydney sales owing to a shortage of supplies. Based on the average for the past 10 seasons, the percentage of the total clip received in the first 8 months of the season indicates a production of about 980,000,000 pounds for disposal during the season ended June 30, 1936. This indicated production is the smallest since 1927 and 5 percent below that of 1934.

This season's Australian wool clip has disappeared at a more rapid rate than usual. Disposals during the first 8 months of the season, i.e., up to the end of February, constituted 87 percent of receipts, whereas last season only 67 percent of receipts had been sold and shipped by that date. The average percentage of the clip disposed of in this period of the preceding 5 years was 77 percent. Exclusive of the 6,400,000 pounds of wool lost by fire by one broker, disposals still remained larger than a year ago and also are above the average.

Receipts of wool at selling centers for the first 8 months of the season, i.e., up to the end of February, amounted to 744,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 4 percent compared with 1934-35. Receipts during February were unusually small, only amounting to about 3,000,000 pounds, compared with 18,000,000 in February 1935 and a preceding 5-year average of about 13,000,000 pounds for that month. Disposals so far this season have been large, the quantity sold and shipped reaching 644,000,000 pounds, an increase of 21 percent above a year ago and 13 percent above the preceding 5-year average. Stocks at selling centers at the end of February 1936 were unusually small, being reported at only 99,000,000 pounds, compared with 243,000,000 pounds at the same date of 1935 and an average of 168,000,000 pounds on that date of the 5 years 1930-1934.

Exports from Australia for the first 8 months of the season reached 617,000,000 pounds and were 12 percent larger than in the same period of the preceding season. Statistics of exports by countries of destination show that in the first 7 months of the season the United Kingdom took the largest quantity or 178,000,000 pounds, or 2 percent less than in the same period of 1934-35. On the contrary, Japan took approximately 141,000,000 pounds or 53 percent more than last season. Japan's purchases are reported as subject to further check by the company reporting. Most of the other countries took increased supplies, although Germany's purchases were only a small fraction of usual takings from Australia.

No barter arrangement has as yet been made between Germany and Australia. The proposal to barter Australian wool for German motor-car parts was declared impracticable by the Australian Minister in charge of trade treaties. Three reasons why the proposal was not favored were: (1) Australia would not sanction the agreement with Germany unless it was extended to other foreign buyers such as France; (2) an exchange of raw material for manufactured goods on an equivalent money basis was declared unrequitable in principal and would react disadvantageously on Australia; and (3) the plan would lead to increased purchases of foreign cars, to Great Britain's disadvantage.

The executive council of the United Graziers of Queensland recently made a report concerning German Australian wool trade. The principal suggestion was that tariff and exchange of adjustments be made which will give definite preferences to favorable customer countries over unfavorable countries, and that in no case shall the total load (tariff exchange and primage) on imports from the former exceed the total load of imports from the latter.

New Zealand.-As the summer months advanced pastoral conditions improved and in mid-summer (mid-January) were generally described as excellent throughout the Dominion.

Apparent supplies of wool in New Zealand on March 1 are estimated at 189,000,000 pounds, a reduction of 12 percent below the same date of 1935 and 15 percent below the preceding 5-year average.

As in the case of other Southern Hemisphere countries disposal has been rapid this season. Exports for the first 8 months of the season, i.e., up to February 27, totaled 170,000,000 and were 53 percent larger than a year earlier and 80 percent above the preceding 5-year average.

The increase in merino wool prices is reported as creating a better demand for crossbreds, which are still comparatively cheap. At the six different selling centers in New Zealand, 52,000,000 pounds were offered in January, the majority of offerings being crossbreds. Approximately 98 percent of the New Zealand clip is classified as crossbred, in 1934-35 it was 97 percent. Of the total carry-over of 81,000,000 pounds as of June 30, 1935, only 2,114,000 pounds or 3 percent was merino. The remaining 79,000,000 pounds consisted of 82 percent crossbred.

Offerings of wool for the first 7 months of this season amounted to 112,000,000 pounds compared with only 79,000,000 pounds a year earlier. Approximately 95 percent of the quantity offered so far this season has been sold whereas a year ago only 87 percent had been sold.

Estimates of the season's output of lambs based on sheep returns would indicate a decrease of 100,000 to 200,000 from last year. However, the favorable pastoral conditions, high prices for wool and the improving financial situation of farmers may result in restocking on a fairly large scale so that there may be a drop in exports of fully 250,000 lambs. The average weights will be substantially higher than last season, and light weight lambs will be scarce. As far as sheep are concerned, present indications are for an increase in the number of wethers killed and possibly ewes.

The number of lambs slaughtered for export during the season ended September 30, 1935 was 8,839,000, an increase of 1 percent above the preceding season. The slaughter of lambs for export has reached or exceeded 8,000,000 since 1930-31. The bulk of the mutton and lamb exported goes to the United Kingdom. The number of wethers killed was 950,005 or 13 percent above the preceding season and the number of ewes, 1,197,000, an increase of 21 percent.

The number of breeding ewes in New Zealand has increased from 17,063,000 in 1932 to 17,812,000 in 1935. The lambing percentage in 1935 was not as good as in 1934 and the estimated number born was 15,374,000 compared with 15,680,000 in 1934.

Union of South Africa.- Further rain in January improved conditions in Orange Free State and Natal to a marked degree and conditions are now more favorable for the growth of the 1936 wool clip to be shorn during the last half of the year.

The movement of wool at selling centers during the first 8 months of the 1935-36 season, up to the end of February, exceeded that of a year ago considerably. While receipts of wool during the period under review reached 182,000,000 pounds and were only 11 percent larger than in 1934-35, exports for the same period exceeded those for the same period last season by 24 percent, amounting to 162,000,000 pounds. Unsold stocks at ports were very small on February 29, and amounted to only 6,000,000 pounds compared with 27,000,000 pounds a year ago and a preceding 5-year average on that date of 32,000,000 pounds.

The average export price of wool in February was 21 cents a pound compared with 16 cents in February 1935 and 24 cents in February 1934. The average price for February for the 3 preceding years did not exceed 11 cents a pound.

The production of shorn wool, alone, in the Union increased from the low level of 210,000,000 pounds during the season beginning July 1, 1934 to 232,000,000 pounds in 1935 and a further increase is unofficially forecast for 1936. As a result of the drought of 1932-33 combined with low wool prices, production had decreased over 100,000,000 pounds between 1932 and 1934.

In August 1935 the number of wooled sheep on occupied farms in the Union of South Africa was officially estimated at 32,300,000, according to information published by the Imperial Economic Committee of the United Kingdom. This is an increase of 7 percent above the 1934 census but 24 percent below the number enumerated at the time of the census of 1930. No census figures were made for the years 1931 to 1933 but the numbers in 1931 and 1932 are unofficially estimated at 45,000,000 or 46,000,000. In addition to the wooled sheep on hand in 1935, there were 5,100,000 non-wooled sheep, an increase of 7 percent above 1934 and 15 percent above 1930. As there has been some confusion in the reporting of wooled and non-wooled sheep from time to time, it is impossible to ascertain the proportion of non-wooled sheep in the flocks from one period to another.

Although sheep numbers in Cape Province increased 6,300,000 head between 1925 and 1930 and made a still further increase in 1931 and 1932, there was a decrease of 6,100,000 head between 1930 and 1934, so that sheep numbers in August 1934 in that Province were about the same or only slightly larger than in 1925. Since then there has been some increase as indicated by the total number on occupied farms in 1935. Cape Province in 1925 had 54 percent of the total number of wooled sheep on occupied farms, in 1930, 53 percent, and in 1934, 57 percent. The next largest sheep raising province of the Union, Orange Free State, had 29 percent of the total in 1925 and 1930 and only 24 percent in 1934. (See tables at end of this issue.)

Argentina.- Toward the end of February (late summer) further slight to heavy general rain was reported in the Province of Buenos Aires. Still more rain is required to enable stock to overcome the effect of the severe drought in 1935 which caused a reduction in the number of sheep and a reduced wool clip that year. However, weather conditions have been more favorable so far to the growth of the new clip than they were a year ago.

As a result of reduced production and carry-over combined with heavier disposals during the first 5 months of the current season than was the case a year ago, available supplies of wool for disposal during the remainder of the season are unusually low. Apparent supplies of wool on hand 2/ on March 1 are estimated to be about 17 percent smaller than at the same date a year earlier and 6 percent smaller than the average on that date of the preceding 5 years. The Argentina wool export season does not close until September 30.

Buyers from the United States are reported to be keenly interested and the largest operators in the Argentine markets. Prices are reported to be firm, especially for low crossbreds. Sales are unofficially reported to amount to 157,000,000 pounds since the beginning of the season or 6 percent above the same period of 1934-35.

2/ Carry-over from preceding season plus estimated production minus exports to latest date available. No deduction made for wool sold but not yet exported or for relatively small quantity used for local consumption.

Exports of wool, grease equivalent, totaled 148,000,000 pounds for the first 5 months of the new season up to the end of February, an increase of 6 percent above the same period a year ago. Of the above quantity, 116,000,000 pounds was exported in a grease state compared with 112,000,000 pounds last season. Approximately 40 percent or 47,000,000 pounds of the quantity exported in a grease condition was coarse crossbred this season, whereas last season only 40,000,000 or 36 percent of the total was coarse crossbred.

The United States has already taken almost 30,000,000 pounds or 22 percent of the 136,000,000 pounds of wool (actual weight) exported by Argentina during the first 5 months of the current season. Last season during the same period the United States took only about 10,000,000 pounds or 8 percent of the total. During the 5 seasons 1929-30 to 1933-34 when exports averaged 135,000,000, the United States took an annual average of 10 percent of the total. The largest quantity taken by the United States during that period was 21,000,000 pounds in 1932-33 or 14 percent. The percentages taken by the important European importing countries so far in the current season are as follows: United Kingdom 29 percent; France 20 percent; and Germany 12 percent.

Uruguay.-Apparent supplies of wool in Uruguay on March 1 were much smaller than at the same date of 1935 3/. Wool production and the carry-over from the preceding season was smaller this season than last and exports have been considerably larger. One reason for the earlier disposals this season is the revival of demand in the United States and the United Kingdom, and another is the fact that the barter agreement with Germany was in effect from the beginning of the season, whereas last year it did not go into effect until December 1.

Receipts of wool at Montevideo reached 100,000,000 pounds for the first 5 months of the season, an increase of 12 percent above a year earlier and 8 percent above the same period of the preceding 5-year period, despite an estimated smaller wool clip.

Sales and exports of wool have been considerably larger so far this season than last. Exports for the first 5 months of the season up to February 26 amounted to 65,271,000 pounds, an increase of 49 percent above the same period last year, but 13 percent smaller than the average for that period of the preceding 5 years. Whereas exports to Germany amounted to 12,207,000 and were about the same for the 5-month period as a year ago, exports to the United States were double what they were in the same period a year ago, amounting to 16,167,000 pounds. January and February exports to the United States exceeded 4,400,000 pounds, whereas for the whole 1934-35 season they were only 5,214,000 pounds. Shipping firms report that about 3,000,000 pounds more may be expected to be shipped to the United States during March, after which the exports to United States will probably fall off completely owing to exhaustion of stocks, states American Vice Consul H. Bartlett Wells. Up to the present approximately one fourth of the Uruguayan export for the 1935-36 season has gone to the United States which

3/ It was in the season 1933-34, not 1934-35 as stated in World Wool Prospects, February 26, 1936, p. 12, that smuggling operations on a fairly large scale took place between Uruguay and Brazil. From various reports available it appears that operations of that kind take place on a small scale from year to year - some years Uruguayan wool being smuggled into Brazil and other years vice versa.

is the largest proportion to come to this country since 1925-26. The proportion of Uruguayan exports to this country was largest in 1922-23 when exports to the United States were 46,000,000 pounds compared with a total of 96,000,000 pounds exported from that country. Since 1925-26 Germany and the United Kingdom have been the largest buyers of Uruguayan wool. The average price of Uruguayan wool exported was 16 cents a pound in the calendar year 1922 and 23 cents in 1923, compared with 17 cents in 1921 and 38 cents in 1920.

At the end of February 1936 the price of wool in Uruguay ranged as follows according to quality and condition: merino 70s to 80s, 12 to 13 cents per pound; fine crossbred 50/56s to 60s, 28 to 35 cents per pound; medium crossbreds 46s to 50s, no sales; coarse crossbreds 32/36s to 44s, 21 to 23 cents a pound; all other sorts, 12 to 24 cents a pound. At the end of February 1935 the prices averaged as follows: merinos, no quotations; fine crossbreds 50/56s to 60s, 22 to 26 cents per pound; medium crossbreds 46s to 50s, 17 to 22 cents a pound; coarse crossbreds 32/36s to 44s, 13 to 15 cents a pound.

Germany: Number of sheep and estimated wool production, pre-war, 1922 to date

Year	Number of sheep on hand Jan. 1 1/	Estimated wool production 2/	Year	Number of sheep on hand Jan. 1 1/	Estimated wool production 2/
	Thousands	Million lbs.		Thousands	Million lbs.
Pre-war ..	4,988	43.9	1930	3,480	31.9
1922	5,891	49.0	1931	3,504	30.8
1923	5,566	49.0	1932	3,499	30.8
1924	3/ 5,900	52.0	1933	3,405	30.0
1925	5,735	50.2	1934	3,387	29.8
1926	4,753	48.8	1935	3,483	30.7
1927	4,080	41.8	1936	3,918	34.5
1928	3,819	35.9			
1929	3,635	33.6			

Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Compiled from Vierteljahrshefte and Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.

1/ Although the German estimate is as of December 1, it has been considered as of January 1 of the following year for the purpose of estimating wool production.

2/ Estimates furnished by United States representatives abroad, or made by multiplying sheep numbers at date nearest shearing time by an estimated average weight per fleece as furnished by the Verein Deutscher Wollkaemmer und Kammgarn-Spinner, or estimates based on changes in sheep numbers from year to year.

3/ Unofficial estimate. No estimate for December available for 1923.

Movement in primary markets, season 1935-36 up to February 29, 1936, with comparisons for earlier years

Country	Item and period	5-year av. 1929-30 to 1933-34	1934-35	1935-36
	Receipts at selling centers	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia 1/	July 1 - Feb. 29	738	776	744
New Zealand 2/ 3/	July 1 - Feb. 29	137	119	---
Argentina	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29 at C.P.M. 4/	63	54	54
Uruguay	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29	93	89	100
Union of South Africa	July 1	5/ 234	164	182
	Disposals at selling centers			
Australia 1/	July 1 - Feb. 29 1/	569	533	644
New Zealand 3/	July 1 - Feb. 29	121	105	---
Argentina	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29 at C. P. M.	57	49	47
Uruguay	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29	5/ 81	46	76
Union of South Africa 6/	July 1 - Feb. 29	7/ 114	103	119
	Exports			
Australia 8/	July 1-Feb. 29	599	550	617
New Zealand 8/	July 1 - Feb. 29	142	111	170
Argentina	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29	140	132	139
Uruguay	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29	74	44	65
Union of South Africa	July 1 - Feb. 29	191	131	162
	Stocks at selling centers			
Australia 1/	Feb. 29	168	243	99
New Zealand	" "	---	---	---
Argentina	Feb. 29 at C.P.M. 4/	7	10	7
Uruguay	Feb. 29	23	54	24
Union of South Africa	Unsold Feb. 29	32	27	6

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from cabled reports from Agricultural representatives abroad and reliable commercial sources. Later data, if any, may be found in the text. Season begins July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay. The statistics in this table have not been converted to a grease equivalent unless otherwise stated owing to the fact that details are not available. Figures in parentheses interpolated.

1/ Wool of season designated only. 2/ Offerings at selling centers. 3/ Converted from data published in bales in Wool Intelligence Notes - Imperial Economic Committee. Converted to pounds by using Dalgety and Company estimates of average weight per bale. 4/ Central Produce Market near Buenos Aires where between one fourth and one third of Argentine clip is marketed; adjusted to monthly basis for season beginning October 1 from weekly reports for season beginning July 1. 5/ Four-year average. 6/ Sales at public auctions only. Much of the wool is disposed of by private sale after auction closes. 7/ Three-year average. 8/ Estimates of Dalgety and Company.

United States: Revised estimates of sheep numbers on hand, numbers shorn, and wool production, 1920 to date

Year	Sheep and lambs: Number of stock sheep and lambs on hand Jan. 1 1/	Sheep and lambs: Number shorn	Wool: Average weight per fleece	Wool: Shorn wool clip	Wool: Pulled wool production	Wool: Total production of wool
	Million head	Million head	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1920	37.3	34.6	7.2	250.9	42.9	293.8
1921	35.4	33.1	7.3	241.7	48.5	290.2
1922	33.4	31.4	7.3	228.4	42.0	270.4
1923	32.6	31.0	7.4	230.2	42.5	272.7
1924	32.9	31.8	7.5	238.2	43.8	282.0
1925	34.5	33.6	7.5	253.2	46.8	300.0
1926	35.7	35.0	7.7	269.3	49.6	318.9
1927	38.1	37.4	7.7	289.4	50.1	339.5
1928	40.7	39.8	7.9	314.8	51.9	366.7
1929	43.5	42.0	7.8	327.8	54.5	382.3
1930	45.6	44.5	7.9	352.1	61.9	414.0
1931	47.7	46.8	8.0	376.3	66.1	442.4
1932	47.8	45.2	7.8	351.0	67.1	418.1
1933	47.3	46.0	8.1	374.2	64.2	438.4
1934	48.5	46.6	7.9	369.0	60.5	429.5
1935	46.6	45.5	8.0	363.1	66.0	429.1
1936	46.4	---	---	---	---	---

Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Compiled from records of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

1/ The classification "Stock sheep" does not include sheep and lambs on feed for market. The number on feed was estimated at 5,751,000 in 1933, 5,259,000 in 1934, 5,611,000 in 1935, and 5,310,000 in 1936.

Canada: Number of sheep June 1, number shorn and wool production 1926-1935

Year	Sheep and lambs				Wool production		
	Number on hand June 1	Number shorn			Sheep's wool	Lamb's wool	Total wool production
		Sheep	Lambs	Total			
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1926	3,142	1,665	1,372	3,037	11.7	5.5	17.2
1927	3,263	1,425	1,192	2,617	10.0	4.7	14.7
1928	3,416	1,910	1,506	3,416	13.5	6.2	19.7
1929	3,636	2,042	1,686	3,728	14.5	6.9	21.4
1930	3,696	2,017	1,682	3,699	15.1	5.9	21.0
1931	3,608	1,933	1,675	3,608	14.5	5.9	20.4
1932	3,644	1,984	1,663	3,647	14.9	5.6	20.5
1933	3,386	1,880	1,509	3,389	14.1	5.2	19.3
1934	3,421	1,900	1,524	3,424	14.2	5.3	19.5
1935	3,399	1,871	1,530	3,401	14.0	5.4	19.4

Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Compiled from Monthly Bulletin Agricultural Statistics of Canada.

Union of South Africa: Distribution of wooled sheep and angora goats on occupied farms, by provinces, according to agricultural censuses, 1925 - 1935

Aug. 31	Wooled sheep on occupied farms					Angora goats on occupied farms				
	Cape Province	Natal	Transvaal	Orange Free State	Total	Cape Province	Natal	Transvaal	Orange Free State	Total
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1925	17,130	1,711	3,864	9,301	1/32,006	1,998	35	32	72	2,137
1926	18,856	1,889	4,203	10,321	35,269	1,695	31	27	72	1,825
1927	18,502	2,024	4,651	10,829	36,006	1,280	29	27	72	1,408
1928	19,298	2,266	4,954	11,724	38,242	1,192	25	17	68	1,302
1929	20,736	2,532	5,177	11,909	40,354	1,458	30	22	62	1,572
1930	23,402	2,607	5,280	12,623	43,912	1,690	35	23	53	1,801
1931	---	---	---	---	46,400	---	---	---	---	1/1,876
1932	---	---	---	---	2/45,300	---	---	---	---	1/1,719
1933	---	---	---	---	2/42,500	---	---	---	---	1/1,523
1934	17,290	1,907	3,756	7,304	30,257	884	18	6	36	944
1935	---	---	---	---	32,300	---	---	---	---	---

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics of the Union of South Africa, 1924-25 to date.

1/ The difference between this estimate and that for same year as given below is that this figure was later revised and 202,225 sheep and lambs originally classified as wooled sheep were later classified as nonwooled sheep. The revised estimate is not available by provinces.

2/ Unofficial estimates based on changes reported in June adjusted to an August census basis.

Union of South Africa: Number of wooled and nonwooled sheep on occupied farms and total number, including cities, 1923-1935

Aug. 31	Wooled sheep: Owned by Europeans on occupied farms	Natives on European occupied farms	Owned by natives in rural reserves & locations	Total on occupied farms	Total including cities
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1923	22,734	338	2,604	25,676	25,824
1924	23,870	318	2,749	26,937	27,084
1925	28,539	297	2,967	1/31,803	32,153
1926	31,684	324	3,261	35,269	35,378
1927	32,041	348	3,617	36,006	36,114
1928	34,201	335	3,706	38,242	38,351
1929	36,153	322	3,879	40,354	40,463
1930	39,420	328	4,164	43,912	44,021
1931	---	---	---	2/46,400	2/ 46,500
1932	---	---	---	2/45,300	2/ 45,400
1933	---	---	---	2/42,500	2/ 42,600
1934	27,362	166	2,729	30,257	30,365
1935	---	---	---	32,300	3/ 32,409
	Nonwooled sheep				
1923	4,727	273	547	5,547	5,595
1924	4,626	260	540	5,066	5,113
1925	3,082	284	400	3,766	3,611
1926	2,885	258	447	3,590	3,643
1927	3,376	230	498	4,104	4,157
1928	3,503	222	533	4,258	4,311
1929	3,903	220	533	4,656	4,709
1930	3,731	204	511	4,446	4,499
1931	---	---	---	2/ 4,682	2/ 4,738
1932	---	---	---	2/ 5,094	2/ 5,155
1933	---	---	---	2/ 4,651	2/ 4,707
1934	4,127	149	478	4,754	4,807
1935				5,100	3/ 5,153

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Agricultural Pastoral Production 1933-34, pages 11 and 12.

1/ The difference between this estimate and that for same year as given below is that this figure was later revised and 202,225 sheep and lambs originally classified as wooled sheep were later classified as nonwooled sheep. The revised estimate is not available by provinces.

2/ Unofficial estimates based on changes recorded in June adjusted to an August census basis.

3/ Unofficial estimates including numbers reported in cities in 1930.

Wool, Combing and Clothing: Production, Net Imports, and Consumption, United States, 1900 to Date

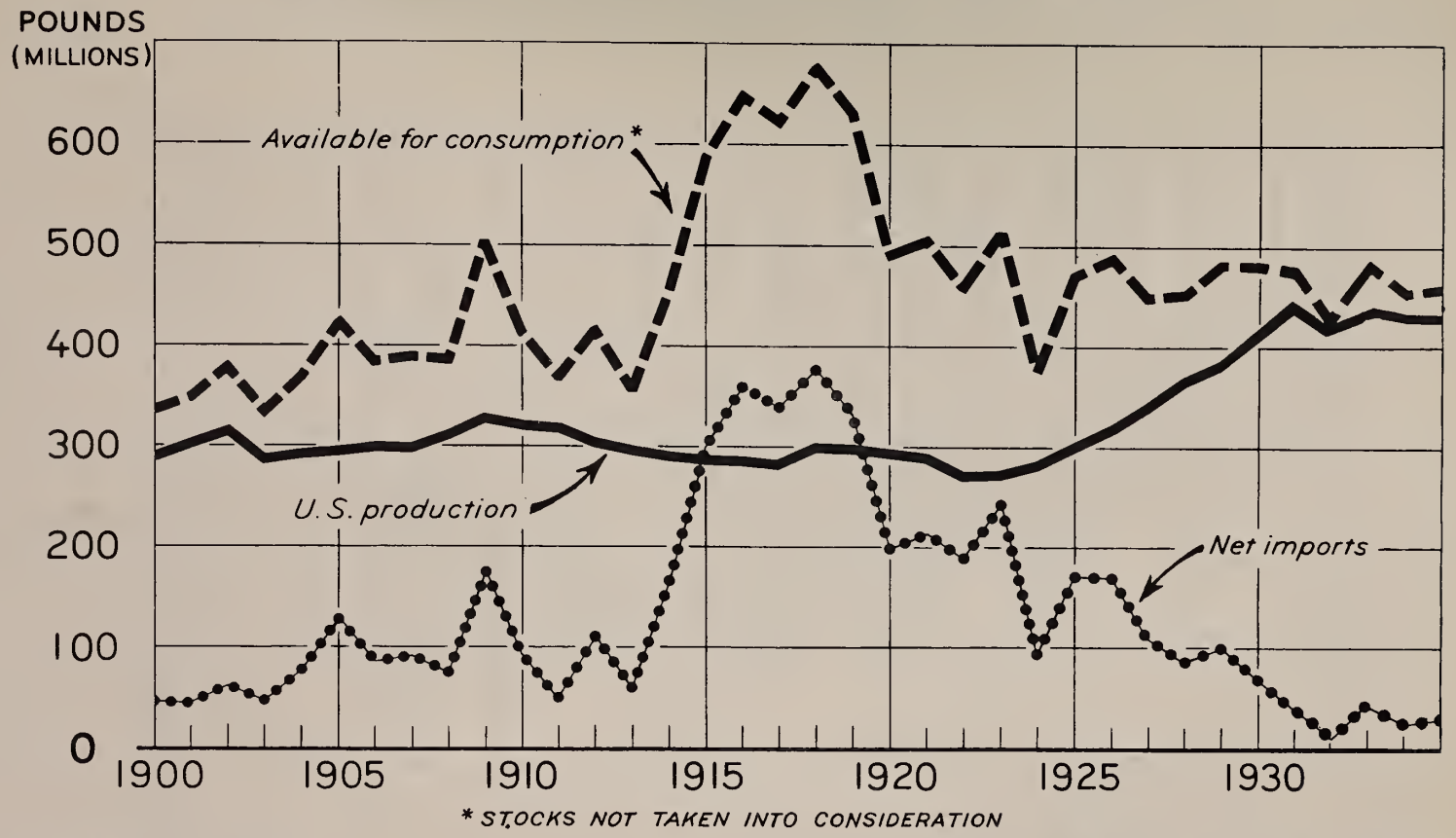

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FIGURE 1.- THE MARKED INCREASE IN WOOL PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE 1922 HAS GREATLY REDUCED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. THE BUSINESS DEPRESSION WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE REDUCTION IN IMPORTS AFTER 1930. CHIEFLY BECAUSE OF THE LARGE CARRYOVER OF WOOL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1935 SEASON, AN INCREASE OF 81 PERCENT IN MILL CONSUMPTION IN 1935 WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A MATERIAL INCREASE IN IMPORTS.

MILL CONSUMPTION OF WOOL, APPAREL CLASS, UNITED STATES, 1918 TO DATE *

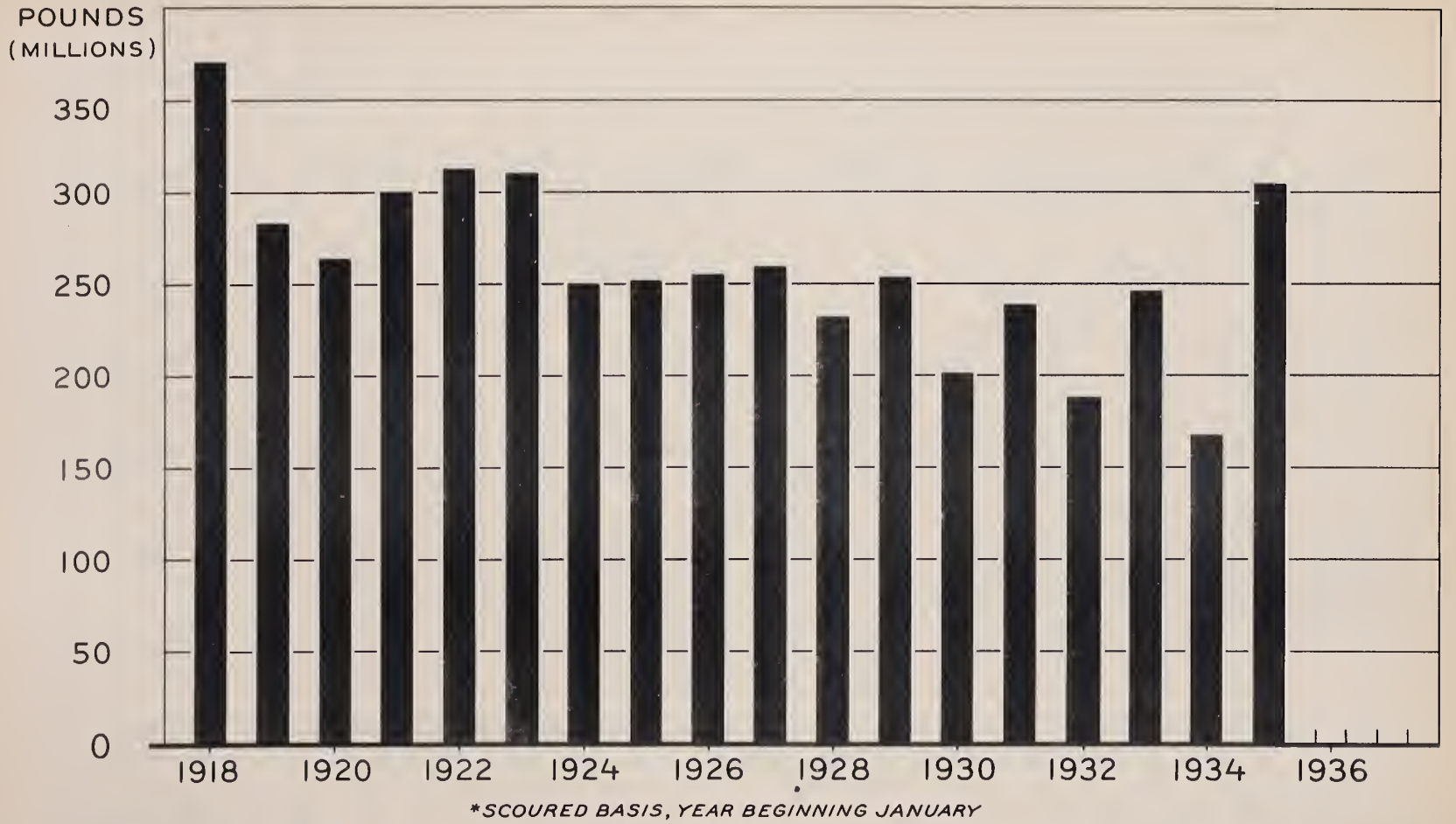

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FIGURE 2.- THE TREND IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL CLASS WOOL HAS BEEN DOWNWARD SINCE 1922. SINCE 1928 CONSUMPTION HAS SHOWN A 2-YEAR CYCLICAL MOVEMENT. THIS TENDENCY, TOGETHER WITH GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS CONDITIONS AND LARGE GOVERNMENT ORDERS FOR WOOL GOODS, RESULTED IN UNUSUALLY HIGH CONSUMPTION IN 1935, WHICH WAS GREATER THAN IN ANY YEAR SINCE 1923.