UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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WORLD WOOL PROSPECTS

Summary

The improved condition of the wool industry was fairly well maintained during September and October in the United States and in foreign countries, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Wool prices remained firm in the domestic market though trading at Boston in October was slow in contrast to the high activity in September. Prices in foreign markets were slightly irregular and declines were reported from the Southern Hemisphere the latter part of September. Opening prices for merino wools were not fully maintained to the close of the London series on October 11. Higher prices have been reported from the foreign market since the middle of October.

Consumption by United States mills reporting for the first 8 months of this year was 50 percent larger than in the same period last year, and was well above the 1924-1929 average. A continuation of the high rate of manufacturing activity of the summer months over any considerable period is not expected, but consumption during the last quarter of the year will probably be above that of last year.

Imports of wool into the United States have been above average since July but the total for the first 9 months of the year is below average because of the small quantity imported from January to June. Imports of combing and clothing wool from January to September amounted to 31,464,000 pounds compared with 14,055,000 pounds imported in the same period last year. In view of the heavy consumption, further increases in imports of such wool appear likely. Price changes in foreign markets will probably have considerable influence on the domestic market during the remainder of the present season.

Trading in wool and semi-manufactures was reduced somewhat in the United Kingdom and continental Europe the latter part of September as a result of price declines in Southern Hemisphere markets. Manufacturing activity continued at the improved levels of recent months and reports from the United Kingdom the middle of October stated that the market was firmer and trading had increased.

Latest reports of the seasonal movement of the 1933-34 wool clip in Southern Hemisphere countries tend to confirm earlier estimates of a reduced output of wool in those countries for the 1933-34 season. The reduction in receipts at selling centers in Australia for the first quarter of the new season amounts to 6 percent. It is reported that shearing has been early this year on account of the drought, and wool has therefore reached marketing centers earlier than usual. The recent improvement in weather conditions in Australia and the Union of South Africa has probably come too late to affect the current clips materially, although later shorn sheep may be expected to cut heavier fleeces than those being shorn now.

Despite reduced supplies, however, disposals at selling centers for the early months of the season are considerably greater than for the same period of recent years. Apparent supplies 1/ of wool in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa on September 1 were approximately 1,453,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 16 percent below the same date last year and 10 percent below the 5-year average, 1928-29 to 1932-33, at the same date.

Exports for the first 2 months of the 1933-34 season from the same three countries amounted to approximately 82,000,000 pounds, an increase of 15 percent above the same period a year earlier, and 25 percent above the 5-year average, 1928-29 to 1932-33, for the same period.

1/ Carry-over plus estimated production minus exports.

The 1932-33 season in Argentina and Uruguay closed at the end of September. Exports from these two countries were much above those of last season, about 24 percent in Argentina, and 22 percent in Uruguay. Stocks are reported as low and it is stated that a large percentage of the 1933-34 Uruguayan clip has already been sold. Official estimates of production are not yet available for 1933-34 for these two countries.

Marketing Situation

United States

Unusual activity marked the last 2 weeks of September in the Boston wool market although during the last week of the month volume began to fall off, according to the monthly market review by R. L. Burrus of the Boston office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the month ended October 14. Trading was sharply curtailed the first half of October.

The decline in volume of sales at Boston came only after new high prices for the year had been realized and the higher levels were fully maintained to the middle of October. Medium fleece wools scored the largest advance of the month when strictly combing 56s Ohio and similar wools sold at 40-42 cents in the grease, strictly combing 48s, 50s from similar lines brought 40-41 cents, an advance of 2 cents on each grade. Strictly combing 58s, 60s advanced a cent a pound, in the grease, to 34-35 cents, while fine Ohio Delaine or strictly combing 64s and fine fleeces realized a cent advance on a few sales at 34 cents in the grease, most lines continuing to sell at 32-33 cents.

In graded territory lines of strictly combing greasy wools, 64s and finer qualities sold at 82-84 cents, scoured basis, 58s, 60s at 79-81 cents, 56s brought 76-79 cents and 48s, 50s moved at 70-72 cents, these prices representing advances of 1-2 cents scoured basis on all grades. Sales were considerably ahead of grading on all except the fine grade.

Original bag lines of bulk 64s and finer territory wools advanced 2-3 cents, scoured basis, the market holding firm to the middle of October at 81-82 cents, scoured basis, on good French combing and average strictly combing staple, 80-81 cents on average French combing and 77-78 cents for bulk short French combing. Twelve month Texas wools realized 81-82 cents, scoured basis, for choice lines while average wools brought 78-80 cents.

Prices of foreign greasy combing wools were strong the latter part of September. In early October, however, the strength of the dollar in foreign exchange and lower quotations abroad made importation possible at lower costs. Moderate quantities of merino and crossbred foreign wools were moved during the month.

Demand for woolen wools continued strong during late September. Choice AA scoured pulled wools advanced 7-10 cents a pound before buying slackened to sell at $1.00-$1.05 a pound. Advances of 3-5 cents were made on Fine A and

A super lines. Strength in these lines was caused by the small supply which cannot be replaced in quantity until the early months of next year. Advances on lower grades were more moderate, amounting to about 2-3 cents as supplies were readily available from current pullings. Scoured shorn clothing wools were very strong in late September, but trading was slow the first half of October. Prices remained firm as a result of limited supplies. Trading for noils has been slow, though a brief speculative movement brought about some recovery in prices from the dip in the previous 2 months.

Topmakers sold some large contracts in September, but late in the month demand began to slacken and very little new business was transacted in October. Prices made further advances before trade fell off. Choice staple oil combed 64s sold as high as $1.15 and average staple brought $1.13-$1.14. Sales have been closed on 60s at $1.12-$1.13 on 58s at $1.07-$1.08; on 56s at $1.05-$1.06 and on 50s at $.95-$1.00.

The consumption of combing and clothing wool in the first 8 months of 1933 by United States mills reporting to the Bureau of the Census was 50 percent greater than from January to August 1932. Average monthly consumption in this period was greater than the 1924-1929 average and was only 2 percent below the average for 1929, which was the highest in recent years. Consumption for the summer months of 1933 was greater than in any similar period since 1923. A continuation of this high rate of activity over any considerable length of time was hardly to be expected and some decline was evident in August and September. Consumption prospects for the final quarter of the year, however, are good, particularly in the men's wear field.

Imports of combing and clothing wool into the United States in the first 9 months of 1933 were 31,464,000 pounds compared with 14,055,000 pounds imported in the first 9 months of last year. Imports since July have been well above average for this season of the year. Total imports for the first 9 months of the year, however, were below average as imports were very small from January to June. If consumption continues at the present rate, a further increase in imports will probably be necessary before the new clip is available. Imports of carpet wool have been much larger than last year. From January to September 94,740,000 pounds of carpet wool were imported compared with 27,571,000 pounds in the first 9 months of 1932. Receipts of domestic wool at Boston from January to September amounted to 234,000,000 pounds. The average for that period in the 5 years, 1928-1932 was 202,000,000.

United Kingdom

Trading in raw wool and semi-manufactures in the United Kingdom was slightly irregular toward the end of September and early part of October as a result of the declining price tendency in the Southern Hemisphere markets. Toward the middle of October, however, stronger markets at London and overseas were reflected in the Bradford market and trading became more active.

Opening prices for merino wools were not fully maintained to the close of the London series, but increases were reported in crossbred wool pric[illegible]. Closing quotations on most wools were above the low point of the series. An excellent clearance was reported at the series, with an urgent demand from most countries. English buyers took 76,500 bales and continental buyers too[illegible] 74,000 bales, while 2,000 bales were taken by America.

Business in merino tops and yarns declined considerably in Bradford toward the close of September and prices were also reduced in keeping with the lower levels in Australian centers. Prices of crossbreds were relatively firmer. Consumption of tops and delivery under old contracts were said to be fully maintained and inquiry was good during the period of declining prices, with traders generally awaiting a firmer basis for transactions. The firmer prices in Australia the middle of October were reflected in prices of tops at Bradford.

In the piece goods section the improvement which began 3 months ago is expected to continue for several months, according to Vice Consul Fleming at Bradford. It is reported that unemployment in this branch of the industry is lower than it has been at any time in the past 7 years. No change is apparent in the demand for fine worsted fabrics, but an improved turnover has occurred in medium qualities.

The percentage of unemployment in the woolen and worsted industry on September 25 as reported by the Ministry of Labour was only 10 percent compared with 12.3 percent in August and 21.4 percent on September 26, 1932. Reports indicate that the high rate of activity has been maintained in October.

The export trade of the United Kingdom in semi-manufactures for the first 9 months of 1933 was better than for several years. Exports of tops and yarns are well ahead of exports from 1930 to 1932. Overseas trade in fabrics has been somewhat irregular but is better than that of last year. Net imports of foreign and colonial wool from January to September were about 9,000,000 pounds smaller than in the same period last year.

Continental Europe 1/

Business in tops, noils, and washed wool on the continental European markets was fairly good during September, though a noticeable reduction resulted from the price declines in Australia and South Africa toward the end of the month. New sales by spinners and weavers, although reduced, were considered fairly satisfactory and manufacturing activity was maintained at the favorable levels of recent months.

Prices of wool and semi-manufactures in France and Germany in the currency of these countries showed little change during September, though some irregularities were reported toward the end of the month as a result of the price declines in the Southern Hemisphere.

With the exception of Belgium, the principal consuming countries of continental Europe have imported larger quantities of wool thus far in 1933 than in the corresponding period last year. The increase was particularly marked in France in the first 7 months of the year. An increased trade in tops and yarns has been reported by these countries. Conditioning houses in France and Belgium treated a larger quantity of tops in September than in August. An increase in combing activity is probably responsible in part for the heavy stocks of tops held by combing establishments in these countries the end of

1/ Based largely on a report from D. F. Christy, Assistant Agricultural Attache at Berlin.

September as compared with last year. Stocks in France and Belgium combined were 1,301,000 pounds smaller the end of September than the end of August, but in Germany an increase of 259,000 pounds was reported.

Conditions in continental countries in September were reported by Mr. Christy as follows:

Trading in tops and noils in France, while still active at the beginning of September, was later restricted by price declines in Australia, and the fluctuations in sterling and dollar exchange rates. Washed wool had a good sale throughout September.

Occupation of the industry remained satisfactory, despite some reduction in new orders for yarn and cloth. Unfilled orders on hand are still of significant volume and assure a favorable mill activity for several months ahead.

Business in tops, noils, and washed wool on the Italian market was generally quiet in September. The Italian industry showed a very reserved attitude in the face of weaker prices both overseas and in the European futures markets. Crossbred tops were in somewhat better demand than merinos, and noils prices remained firm.

Occupation of the industry was maintained at August levels, with only a slight decline reported in new orders for yarn and weavings.

Rather optimistic reports were received from Verviers, Belgium during the month of September. Despite the retarding influence of overseas price declines, trading in wool and noils was fairly active, and weavers as well as woolen spinners and hatmakers report satisfactory activity. Worsted spinners and combers remained inactive as a result of the workers' strike. This had an unfavorable reaction on the demand for tops which was very quiet.

Trade in tops, noils, and washed wool in Germany during September was mostly quiet. The industry operated with caution, because of the price declines in overseas markets. Demand for crossbred tops was somewhat stronger than that for merinos.

Occupation of the industry remained good and the previous high levels seem to have been practically maintained during September. While the influx of new orders for yarn and cloth was lower than during August, a substantial supply of old unfilled orders assures favorable mill activity for some time to come.

Southern Hemisphere

The high prices realized during the opening weeks of the new season's sales in Australia and the Union of South Africa were not fully maintained to the end of September. Declines were not great, however, and some improvement was reported the middle of October. Competition has been good at most sales. Japan is reported to be purchasing freely and frequently dominates the Australian sales for certain types of wool.

The average price per pound of greasy wool sold at all centers in Australia in September was 13.55 pence (Australian currency) compared with 12.45 pence in August and an average price 8.72 pence a pound for the season ended June 30, 1933. At current rates of exchange Australian prices expressed in United States currency were as follows: 21 cents a pound in September, 18.6 cents in August, and 10.2 cents for the 1932-33 season.

Prices at the opening sale in Port Elizabeth, South Africa on September 11 were 125 percent higher than at the opening of the previous season, according to a report from Vice Consul Taylor. Competition at this sale was fairly general with the Continent dominating the market. The greatest activity was manifested by France which was reported to be buying to a certain extent on behalf of Russian interests, reports the Consul. Germany took little part in the sale. Japan was buying freely and the local trade hopes for a steady demand from Japan during the present season as an inducement to importation of Japanese goods by South Africa. American firms also showed some interest in the opening sales which was in marked contrast to their lack of interest during the last season. The opening prices were not maintained through September and quotations at the end of the month show declines of about 2 pence (3.5 to 4 cents) a pound on most grades.

Clean scoured costs at the opening sale in South Africa this year and comparable quotations for the previous season, as reported by the Ministry for Agriculture, are given in the following table. Prices are converted to United States currency at the monthly average rate of exchange published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin.

South Africa: Prices of wool at the opening of the 1933-34 season, with comparisons

Quality	Pence per pound			Cents per pound		
	Sept. 1932	May 1933	Sept. 16 1933	Sept. 1932	May 1933	Sept. 16 1933
70s warp	13.0	17.2	30	25.8	27.9	56.1
70s average..	12.5	16.2	28	24.8	26.3	52.3
64s warp	12.5	16.2	27	24.8	26.3	50.5
64s average..	12.0	15.2	26	23.8	24.7	48.6
60s super ...	11.5	14.8	26	22.8	23.9	48.6
60s ordinary	11.0	13.8	25	21.9	22.3	46.7

September is the last month of the season in South American wool markets. Since the clip in Uruguay was largely disposed of in the first half of the 1932-33 season, there was little activity during the final month, according to Consul General Reed. No arrivals of new clip wool were reported in the Montevideo market during September, but sales of the coming clip on the sheep's back have been rather freely made in the country for some time. No quotations are as yet available on the new clip wool.

Supply Situation

United States

There was material improvement in range and pastures in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado during September, according to the

Western Livestock and Range Report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. Range feed was also reported as fair to good in western Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado, and Washington. On the other hand range feed was still short in the Texas Panhandle and Edwards Plateau sheep section of Texas. Late rains helped to improve ranges and supplied much needed stock water, but indications are that winter feed in northern areas will be scarce.

The condition of ranges on October 1 was only 76 percent of normal compared with 75 percent last month and 84 percent in 1932. The condition has improved slowly since the beginning of August. On October 1, 1931, the condition of ranges was the lowest in the 11 years for which reports have been made, i.e., only 71 percent of normal.

There is a good demand for ewe lambs and young breeding ewes with a general tendency to hold ewe lambs to build up flocks, states the Western Livestock and Range Report. There is also a large number of old ewes for sale. Present indications are that fewer lambs will be fed in Colorado and Nebraska this year than last year.

The condition of sheep and lambs on western ranges was 83 percent of normal in October, or the same as in September. Last year the condition was 90 percent of normal. The lowest condition so far reported was 82 percent on October 1, 1931.

Australia

Present indications point to a favorable spring (September-November) in the greater part of the sheep grazing areas of Australia. With the exception of the far western and southwestern divisions of New South Wales and outer areas of Queensland where rain is needed to insure summer feed, pastoral conditions look promising in contrast to the very dry fall and winter months.

During the first quarter of the 1933-34 wool season receipts have been considerably under those for the same period last season, whereas disposals have been much larger. Stocks at the end of September were low for that time of year. The quantity of new clip wool received into store during the first 3 months of the season amounted to 323,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 6 percent below the same period of 1932-33, but were approximately the same as for the same period of 1931-32. Receipts for the same period of the preceding 5 years amounted to only 294,000,000 pounds.

Disposals so far this season on the other hand, reached 115,000,000 pounds, and were 32 percent greater than for the corresponding period of 1932-33 and 70 percent greater than the preceding 5-year average.

Stocks of current clip wool at selling centers on September 30 amounted to only 208,000,000 pounds, with only about 1,000,000 pounds of the 1931-32 clip still on hand. Last year on the same date, stocks amounted to 259,000,000 pounds with approximately 16,000,000 pounds of the preceding clip still on hand. Stocks on September 30 for the 5-year period 1927-1931 averaged 234,000,000 pounds.

The fact that receipts into store showed a decrease of only 6 percent, whereas the decrease in the clip is estimated at 14 percent, is probably due to earlier shearing as a result of the drought and the improvement in marketing conditions.

Exports for the first 3 months of the season as reported by Dalgety and Company are greatly in excess of the same period last season and also larger than for this period of any other season even 1930-31. The quantity shipped was 147,000,000 pounds compared with 121,000,000 pounds last year. In 1930-31, however, shipments during that period reached 120,000,000 pounds.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in Australia, for export, for the 11 months, September 1 to July 31, 1932-33 amounted to 5,736,000 head, an increase of 28 percent above the same period of 1931-32. Slaughter for the same period of the 5 years 1926-27 to 1930-31 averaged only 3,130,000 head annually. There has been a heavy increase in the slaughter of lambs for export, the number increasing from 1,268,000 in 1927-28 to 3,873,000 in 1932-33. Slaughter for export in 1930, the latest date for which an estimate of total slaughter is available, constituted only about one fourth of total slaughter in the country that year. The increase in slaughter of lambs for export in recent years is a good indication of the progress made in developing a type of lamb suitable for the British market. It is believed, however, that owing to the dry autumn (March-May) this year, exports for 1933-34 will show a material falling off as compared with 1932-33.

New Zealand

The 1933-34 wool clip is expected to be relatively large, although smaller than the record clips of the two preceding seasons. Last season's production is now officially estimated at 282,000,000 pounds compared with 283,000,000 pounds in 1931-32, according to the monthly report of the Empire Marketing Board. An estimate based on the reported decrease in sheep numbers as of April 30, 1933 places the 1933-34 clip at about 273,000,000 pounds. The average production for the 5 years, 1927-28 to 1930-31, was 266,000,000 pounds. Fleeces this season are reported as light in condition, but of better style and more free from defects than usual.

Exports of wool for the first 3 months of the 1933-34 season reached approximately 26,000,000 pounds. This is an increase of 6,000,000 pounds above the corresponding period of 1932-33. Exports for the corresponding period of the five seasons 1927-28 to 1931-32 averaged 16,905,000 pounds.

Ewes came through the winter in much better condition than was anticipated, considering the shortage of winter feed, in parts of South Island especially. Spring lambing , which takes place during the months September to November, is progressing under favorable conditions this year and the percentage marked is reported as considerably above average. Last year the lambing percentage was high also, being estimated at 89 percent compared with 87 percent in 1931 and 84 percent in 1930. The percentage of breeding ewes to total sheep numbers in the Dominion was 59.5 percent in 1932 compared with 59.1 percent in 1931 and 57 percent for each of the three preceding seasons. Before the war the percentage was about 52 percent. The number of breeding ewes on January 31, 1932 was reported at 17,063,000 compared with 17,609,000 at the same date of 1931 and 17,564,000 in 1930 when a record number was reported.

The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered for export during the season ended September 30, 1933 is estimated at 10,820,000 head, a decrease of 7 percent compared with the record slaughter in 1931-32. Lamb slaughter alone amounted to 8,785,000 head, compared with 8,805,000 killed last season. The decrease occurred principally in ewes, however, as only 950,000 head were slaughtered for export this season compared with 1,435,000 in 1931-32. Slaughter of sheep and lambs for export constituted about two thirds of total slaughter in New Zealand in 1930-31.

Union of South Africa

It is officially estimated that wooled sheep decreased 2,646,000, and other sheep 2,543,000 between June, 1932 and June, 1933, according to a cable from the South African Department of Agriculture to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The cable also stated that losses were continuing. The number of wooled sheep on June 30, 1933, therefore, was reduced to 40,370,000 head, a decrease of 6 percent as compared with 1932 and 8 percent as compared with the record number reported in 1931. Recent unofficial estimates of sheep losses place them as high as one fifth to one fourth of total sheep numbers or 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 sheep, whereas more conservative estimates place losses at from 10 to 12½ percent. In addition, to the number lost, many sheep are reported to be in a very poor condition on account of lack of feed. These sheep may be expected to shear much lighter fleeces than those cut last season. Sheep and goat losses for the 5 years, 1925-26 to 1929-30, averaged 4,246,000 head annually, the season of greatest losses during that period being in 1927-28, when 5,414,000 died. In 1922-23, however, losses were reported at 6,945,000 head. In 1930-31 and 1931-32 losses were unusually light, probably not exceeding 2,500,000 annually. As the number of sheep in the Union is about six times that of goats, the greater proportion of losses was in sheep and lambs.

The 1933-34 wool clip is officially estimated at 280,000,000 pounds or 12 percent below the record clip of 1932-33. Private estimates, however, place production at a somewhat lower figure. The quality of the clip is expected to be good. Fine quality and good sound wool are expected from the best Karroo and mountain districts, while the wool from Orange Free State and the more northern districts will show the effects of the drought more.

Wool exports during the first 2 months of the 1933-34 season amounted to 7,433,000 pounds grease basis and were less than half the heavy exports for those 2 months last year. The average for the 5 years, 1926-27 to 1931-32 for the same 2 months was 4,778,000 pounds.

Stocks of unsold wool at ports in the Union at the end of August 1933 were only 6,000,000 pounds and were the lowest on hand at that date for the 5 years that records have been published. Last year at the same date stocks amounted to 14,000,000 and on the same date of 1931 they reached 19,000,000 pounds. Scoured wool has been included at its scoured weight in these estimates.

Argentina

Early spring rains brought about a material improvement in weather and feed conditions in Argentina where pasturage had begun to show definite signs of deterioration as a result of the unusually cold winter and dry conditions in certain parts of the country.

The 1933-34 wool clip in Argentina promises to be an abundant one of good quality, according to information supplied by Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, C. L. Luedtke. Production last year was estimated by the Buenos Aires branch of the First National Bank of Boston at 331,000,000 pounds, which was an increase of 2 percent above 1931-32. For the past five seasons, i.e. 1927-28 to 1931-32, production averaged 327,000,000 pounds, according to estimates from the same source. This bank made an exhaustive study of the sheep and wool industry in Argentina a year or so ago.

Official estimates of wool production for a series of years were published for the first time in Anuario Agropecuaria, 1932, an official publication of the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, and, according to these estimates, production in 1931-32, the latest year given, reached 359,000,000 pounds compared with 342,000,000 pounds in 1930-31, 331,000,000 pounds in each of the seasons, 1928-29 and 1929-30, 322,000,000 in 1927-28, and 309,000,000 in 1926-27. These figures show an upward trend in production since 1926-27, whereas, according to the figures of the First National Bank of Boston, 1926-27 was the year of highest production, with production fluctuating at a lower level since that time. However, both of these estimates shows production to be considerably below the pre-war level. The figures of the First National Bank are based on exports, stocks, and consumption, and are issued each year, usually in October.

The carry-over of wool in Argentina at the end of 1932-33 season, i.e. September 30, 1933, was probably considerably below that of last season when, according to reliable unofficial estimates, 26,500,000 pounds was carried over compared with the average carry-over of 15,873,000 pounds for the preceding 5 years. Stocks at Central Produce Market near Buenos Aires were very small on September 20, amounting to only 388,000 pounds compared with 1,519,000 pounds at the same date a year ago.

Exports of wool from Argentina for the season ended September 30, 1933, amounted to 355,990,000 pounds grease equivalent, an increase of 20 percent above exports for the same period of 1931-32, according to information furnished by Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, C. L. Luedtke. Scoured and washed wools have been converted to grease wool on the basis of the customary shrinkage allowance. The estimate of exportable surplus made at the beginning of the season has been exceeded by approximately 11 percent. There are recent reports to the effect that Japan, which imported 204,000,000 pounds of wool last season, almost all of which was purchased in Australia, is now considering Argentina as a possible future source of supplies. The Japanese woolen industry has made rapid strides recently, imports increasing from only 59,000,000 pounds in 1924 to 204,000,000 pounds in 1932. There are still varieties of woolen cloth which cannot be made in Japan, but the range and quality that can be made is much greater than it was 10 years ago, states the London Chamber of Commerce Journal for October, 1933.

Uruguay

At the beginning of the spring months (September) drought was assuming a serious aspect in many parts of Uruguay. The condition of pastures at the beginning of September was not good as they had been much affected by drought and frosts. Sheep were reported as losing condition rapidly.

Although there is no reliable estimate of the 1933-34 clip as yet available, it is reported that nearly 10 percent of the clip had already been sold on the sheep's back by the end of September, although none of the new clip wool had as yet reached Montevideo.

Exports from Uruguay for the season ended September 30, 1933 amounted to 114,988,000 pounds, which was 22 percent above exports for the preceding season, but 18 percent below average exports for the preceding five seasons. Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and France were the chief purchasers, and all took more than last season. The United States took a little over four times as much as last year, but the total quantity was comparatively small, amounting to only 3,170,000 pounds. The quantities taken by the principal countries are as follows, in pounds, with percentage of last year given in parentheses: Germany, 28,848,000 (109.6); Great Britain 23,757,000 (117.7); Italy, 21,059,000 (142.0); France 15,863,000 (106.4). During September wool exports fell to only 786,000 pounds. The bulk of the clip was shipped during the first 6 months of the season and very little remained on hand at the end of the season.

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