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525

MINUTES

OF

Evidence relating to Wool.

(28th APRIL 1800.)

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MINUTES.

Lunæ, 28^o die Aprilis 1800.

Mr. WILLIAM HUSTLER,

Bradford, Yorkshire; Woolstapler.

Sixteen Years in Business—My Father Sixty Years.

DURING your Period of Business, have you been accustomed to purchase long and short Wool in this Kingdom?
Yes.

In what Counties have you personally bought Wool?
In Durham, York, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Nottinghamshire, Warwick, Northamptonshire, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Stafford, Norfolk, Herts, Middlesex, Surrey, Berks; Bedford, Bucks, Hants; and by my Partner and Agents, in Worcesterhire, Essex, Scotland, Northumberland, South Wales, Lancashire, Kent, Suffex, Suffolk, Wilts, Dorset, Oxfordshire, Salop, Hereford, and Somerset.

Have you had Access to your Father's Papers?
Yes.

From all your Information on this Subject, what is the Quantity of Wool grown in this Country at this Time?

From the best Documents, I have Reason to believe it is 600,000 Packs; such was my Father's Estimate in 1782; he confirmed it in 1788. I have seen other Estimates, made by others in 1791 or 1792, in which the Quantity was estimated at 600,000 Packs, of 240lbs. each; and I have no Reason to believe the Quantity is increased since.

Have you Reason to believe the Quantity in 1791 has increased or decreased since?

I have Reason to think it has decreased, but not materially.

Have

Have you any Knowledge of the Price of a Pack of Wool for some Years since?

In 1779, from my Father's Accounts, the Average Price was £. 5.; from that Time till 1791 I cannot tell.—In 1791 the Average Price was £. 9.—In 1792 to about £. 11.—In 1793 fell to between 7 and £. 8.—In 1794 from £. 8. to £. 8. 10s.—In 1795 about £. 9.—In 1796 from £. 9. to £. 9. 10s.—In 1797 £. 9.—In 1798 from £. 9. to £. 9. 10s.—In 1799 £. 11. and at the present Time to about £. 11. 10s.

From your Knowledge of the Purchase of Wool, is there at present a sufficient Supply for the Demand?
I conceive there is not.

Have you, in the Course of your Experience, found there is an Insufficiency?

I have made Applications lately in different Parts, by Letters and by Agents, and found that there is none left; but in some Parts I have been able to supply myself with a sufficient Quantity.

In 1782, and subsequently, had there not used to be a Quantity on Hand unfold?

I never met with any Difficulty in buying Wool in the Springs, except in the latter End of the Year 1792.

What was the Reason in 1792?

The Demand for Woollen Goods was greater than at any other Time, greater than the present, which was owing to the Demand for Woollen Goods for the French Army.

How was it in 1782?
I was then just come into the Business.

How was it prior to 1792?
I believe there was always a Stock.

According to your Judgment, is there any Prospect of the Growth of Wool being increased?

I do not conceive there is any Probability of it.

Supposing an Increase in the Progress of Agriculture of the Country, would that increase it?

I know of no other Means of increasing Wool than converting Arable Land into Sheep Pasture, or destroying the Horses and Oxen.

Supposing an Improvement in the Pasture of Sheep, would that have any Effect in the Produce of Wool?

A better Pasture will increase the Weight of Wool, but will make the Quality worse—the Quality is worse as the Weight increases.

Worse for what Purposes?
It is worse for the Manufacture of Cloth, the Hair is thicker; and Goods made from it are less per Yard. Though the same Number of Sheep were kept, upon a given Pasture the Weight of Wool would be increased, yet I have found where the Pasture has been improved fit for the Feeding of Oxen, a Number of Oxen have been introduced so as to lessen the Number of Sheep.

If

If the Growth of Wool is considered, is it necessary that the Sheep should have an encreased or narrow Pasture to range in?
That would be best answered by a Farmer.

Have you made any Calculation how much the Wool is encreased by being worked up into Manufacture in this Country?

It is difficult to make a Calculation of the increased Value—some Sorts are increased rather more than Double—some by Manufacture Nine Times, or even more, but I have averaged the Increase at Three Times—all the Calculations I have seen make the Increase considerably greater, and therefore when I say increased Three Times, I am under the Truth.

Upon that low Estimate, what is the Total Amount of the Value of Wool manufactured in this Country?

It would amount to £. 19,800,000.

From all your Knowledge, and from Information you have received, can you state any Calculation of the Number of Persons employed in this Manufacture?

I can't speak from my own Knowledge.—I have seen Calculations made by my Father and others and they are stated, as Persons engaged immediately in the Manufactory, and those dependant on them, at 3,000,000.

What Number of Packs do you compute upon, and what per Pack, in the above Sum of £. 19,800,000?

Upon 600,000 Packs, at the Rate of £. 11. per Pack, to be increased Treble by Manufacture.

Have you any Knowledge what has been the Price of Irish Wool imported?

I know of none imported.

What has been the Price of Wool in Ireland compared with the Price here?

I have no Knowledge of the Price myself, but from those in the Trade; and I received an Account from one in the Trade, that in 1795 the Price of long combing Wool in Ireland was 11d. per lb.; the like Wool at Norwich at the same Time was 8d. per lb.—In 1796 the Price in Ireland was 14d. per lb. at Norwich 10d.—In 1797 in Ireland 9d. at Norwich 8d.—In 1798 in Ireland 12d. at Norwich 7d.—In 1799 in Ireland 15d. at Norwich 8d.—being Wool of the same Quality.

From your Knowledge can you state any comparative View of the Freights in conveying Wool to Ireland and to Yorkshire from the Western Coasts of this Kingdom?

The Carriage of a Pack of Wool of 240 lb. from Exeter to Leeds, by the Way of London, would be 29s. 3d. by Land Carriage; if sent by Sea from London would be 21s. 3d.—The Freight from the Western Coasts of this Kingdom, I conceive 3s. 9d. or 4s. would be sufficient Freight to the nearest Ports in Ireland, leaving about 25s. in favour of the Irish Manufacturer—if the Wool was sent from London by Land to Leeds, it would be 25s. and about 17s. if sent by Sea to Leeds.

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Is there any Reason why the Wool should be brought by Land from Exeter to London rather than by Sea?

The Reason is owing to the great Detention if sent by Sea. We have had Wool by Sea from some Parts of Dorsetshire, and the Detention has been so great, and the Injuries it has sustained so great also, that now we always have it by Land to London.

Have you made any other Calculations of the Freight?
From Wilts, Dorsetshire, Suffex, and Hants, I estimate the Average Rate of Land Carriage to be about 10s. per Pack to London; from London to Leeds 15s. 9d. making together 25s. 9d.—From the Coasts of Wilts, Dorset, Suffex, and Hants, I think 5s. per Pack to be a sufficient Freight to Ireland, which would leave 20s. 9d. in Favour of the Irish; but if sent by Sea from London to Leeds, there would be a Saving of about 8s. making 12s. 9d. in Favour of Ireland.

When you state the different Modes of Conveyance to Leeds, is it usual for the Manufacturers to supply themselves from the Places you have stated, both by Land and Sea, notwithstanding the Difference?

The principal Part of the finer Wools are sent by Land Carriage from London; the heavier and less valuable Sorts by Water.

Might Ireland be supplied with Wool cheaper than Yorkshire from many Parts of this Kingdom?

I think certainly from the Southern and Western Coasts.

Could not another Article, that is Coals, be supplied to Ireland cheaper than many Parts of this Kingdom where the Manufacture of Wool is carried on?

I am engaged in the Freight of Coals to Ireland myself. The Freight from Liverpool, Whitehaven, and other Parts of the Western Coasts of this Kingdom, is frequently very low. I have sent them from Liverpool to Newry and Dublin at from 5s. to 6s. per Ton.

What is the Freight of Coals which are supplied from the same Places to Parts of this Kingdom where the Manufacture is carried on?

From Liverpool to Devonshire the Freight is double, and sometimes treble, to what it is to Dublin, upon Coals got from Wigan. Whether the Coals we send to Devonshire are used in the Wool Trade I don't know, but I believe they are.

(By Members.)

Has not the Growth of the Fine Wool encreased greatly in this Country within these few Years?

I believe the Growth in some Parts has encreased, but in other Parts it has decreased, by the Inclosures of Waste Lands, &c. where Sheep were kept before.

Have not Hants, Wilts, and other Counties, changed their Breed of Sheep?

They have, and the Finer Wool in those Counties has encreased.

Have

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Have you not heard that a Farmer, by the Change of the Breed, can now keep 800 of the South Downs, where he used to keep 400 of his former Sort?

I am not a Farmer, therefore can't speak accurately; but I have heard that by the Change of Breed a greater Number of the South Down Sheep can be kept on a given Number of Acres than Sheep of a heavier Kind.

Have you purchased Wool of South Down Sheep fed in Norfolk?
Yes.

Is that Wool superior to the Norfolk Wool?
I think it of more Value; but of the Norfolk Wool, One Part of the Fleece is finer than the other.

Is it not fold higher?
Something higher.

Are the Fleeces of the South Downs of the same Weight as the Fleeces of the former Breeds?
In Hants it has not been the Case.

Was the Wool bought in Devonshire sent to Yorkshire to be manufactured into Cloth, or only to be spun into Yarn, and sent back again?
To be manufactured into Cloth in Yorkshire.

Is not Wool bought in Devonshire often sent into Yorkshire to be spun into Yarn, and sent back again?
I don't know of any Thing of the Kind.

Do you know what Proportion of the whole Manufacture of Cloth is manufactured in Yorkshire?
I am not qualified to answer that Question.

In what Proportion is the Wool bought from the different Counties you have mentioned for the Manufacture of Cloth?

I can't tell the Average Quantity of Wool grown in each County; but the Wool of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Herts, Bedfordshire, Bucks, Hants, Essex, Northumberland, Suffex, and Suffex, I think are the principal Counties from whence we draw our Wool— from other Counties a considerable Part is sent into the West and other manufacturing Parts of this Kingdom.

What Proportion comes from Suffex?
I can't tell.

Does Yorkshire produce much Wool?
A great Quantity.

Is that worked up in Yorkshire?
I conceive it is.

Upon what Grounds have you calculated the Whole of the Wool in the Kingdom to be 600,000 Packs?

I take my Calculation not so much from my own Knowledge as from my Father, who was much longer in the Trade, and other Persons who have

have made Estimates, which were sent to me; but it is impossible to estimate the exact Quantity, or to come near the Truth—there being no Documents to which we can refer.

At what Time were those Calculations made?
In 1782 and 1788, and in 1791.

Upon what Grounds were those Calculations then made?
One states that the Quantity of Sheep in the Kingdom in 1791 was supposed to be 28,800,000—that the Fleeces averaged 5 lbs. making 144,000,000 lbs. or 600,000 Packs.

Upon what Grounds was the Calculation of the Number of Sheep made?
It was not a Calculation of my own.

Can you state any Grounds upon which you conclude the Quantity is the same as in 1791?

I have no Account to which I can refer of the Number of Sheep now in the Kingdom—but I judge the Quantity is not much increased or decreased since that Time, because the Parcels of Wool grown upon certain Farms with which I am acquainted, are nearly the same as they were before, therefore I suppose the Number in the Country to be the same.

What has been the Price of Spanish Wool imported into this Kingdom?
I do little in that Business, but the Price is lower than last Midsummer.

What is the Price of Coals put on board at Liverpool, whose Freight to Newry and Dublin was 5s. or 6s. per Ton?
The Price has varied from 7/6d. to 10/6d. per Ton.

What are they per Ton in the manufacturing Parts of Yorkshire?
From 5s. to 7s. per Ton, I believe.

Have you any Reason to believe there is any Quantity of Wool in Hand over and above the Quantity supposed to be used this Year?

I do not know that there is any Quantity, but there may be a little; but I believe the Quantity in the Markets is not nearly so great as Twelve Months ago at this Time of the Year.

Since what Year has there ceased to be any Stock on Hand over and above the Produce of the Year?

The Quantity has gradually decreased since 1784.—In 1792 it was bought up from the Farmers nearly as much as at present; but was not consumed.

What Quantity was there on Hand in 1784 over and above the Produce of the Year?

I have heard it stated as being nearly Three Years Growth of Combing Wool, perhaps not One Year's Growth of Clothing Wool.

What Proportion of Combing Wool and Clothing Wool is there?
By my Estimate it appears to be One Half of the Growth of Combing Wool.

Since

Since 1792 has there been any Stock on Hand, over and above the Growth of the Year?

In the Spring of 1794, the Stock of Wool of the Growth of 1793 in the Hands of the Farmers was very considerable. I should suppose One Half of the Growth of the Year of Long Wool unmanufactured, either in the Hands of the Farmers or Wool Staplers. The Stock in the Hands of the Wool Staplers and Growers in the Spring, is generally sufficient to serve till the Winter following. The Quantity now in the Hands of the Wool Staplers in Yorkshire is much less than usual, many have scarcely any left, who have had considerable Quantities in Springs of former Years. As far as I am acquainted with the Stocks of other People, I believe there is not One Fourth Part of the Quantity as in other Years.

Since 1794 when did there cease to be a sufficient Stock in the Hands of the Wool Staplers?

The Quantity appears to me to have decreased gradually each Year less than the former, but we have never found any Difficulty in supplying our Customers before the present Year.

Has there been, subsequent to 1794, a considerable Stock either in the Hands of the Wool Staplers or Wool Growers.

In 1795 the Quantity was considerable, to the best of my Recollection; since that Time it has decreased till the Spring of 1799, when it was nearly bought up. In the Spring of 1799 the Quantity was large, but it was nearly all bought up before July.

What is the Period of the Year when the Wool Stapler generally buys his Wool?

From the beginning of July till the beginning of November.

Must not the Manufacturer, previous to July, be working up the Produce of the former Year?

Certainly he has no other to work, except from the Skins of Sheep which are slaughtered or die.

Has the Yorkshire Manufacture been going on for these Four Months in the present Year to the same Extent as in the similar Months of former Years?

I believe it equal or greater than in any former Years.

Is there Wool in Hand sufficient to go on with till July, equal to the Demand of the Manufacturer?

I am afraid there is not a sufficient Quantity to supply them if they continue to manufacture in the same Proportion as they have done.

How much has the Manufacture this Year exceeded the First Four Months of the Years for these Three or Four Years back?

I can speak as to the Increase of the Yorkshire Manufacture from the Returns made at the Quarter Sessions for the West Riding of York; it appears that during last Year they have increased considerably.—I can't speak as to any Four Months of the Year.

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What is the Value of a Piece of Cloth, according to the Return made at the Quarter Sessions?

It raises from 2s. to 14s. per Yard; but others can speak more fully to it.

When you spoke as to the Price of Wool in 1791, did you mean Combing Wool, Clothing Wool, or both together?

All Sorts taken together.

What is the Average Weight of a Fleece of Clothing Wool?

The Fine Clothing Fleeces vary from 1 1/2 lb. to 4 lbs.—the Coarse Scotch Pieces weigh 5 lbs.—the Fleeces of Combing Wool vary from 6 lbs. to 15 or 16 lbs. I have seen a Fleece weighing 30 lbs.

In 1782 and 1784 what was the Price of Wool per Pack, when there were three Growths on Hand?

From £.3 to £.5 a Pack.

At that Time was there not a Complaint of the Prices being so low, that the Grower could not afford to produce it?

There were general Complaints; and Attempts were made for Leave to export it.

[Witness delivered in to the Committee the following Account:]

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An ACCOUNT of the Number of Broad Cloths milled at the several Fulling Mills in the West Riding of the County of York, from the 24th of June, 1725, (the Commencement of the Act) to the 12th of March, 1726, and thence Annually, distinguishing each Year; and of the Narrow Cloths, from the 1st of August, 1737, (the Commencement of the Act) to the 20th of January, 1738, and thence Annually, distinguishing each Year: Likewise the Number of Yards in Length made in each Year from Easter Sessions 1768.

	Broad.		Narrow.		Broad.		Narrow.			
	Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.		
1726	26,671		1748	60,765	68,080	1769	92,522	2,771,667 1/2	87,762	2,144,019
1727	28,990		1749	60,705 1/2	68,889	1770	93,075	2,717,105	85,376	2,255,625
1728	25,223 1/2		1750	60,447 1/2	78,115	1771	92,782	2,966,224 1/2	89,920	2,235,625
1729	29,643		1751	60,904	74,022	1772	112,370	3,223,913 1/2	95,539	2,377,517 1/2
1730	31,579 1/2		1752	60,724	72,442	1773	120,245	3,635,612 1/2	89,874	2,206,235
1731	35,503		1753	55,358	71,618	1774	87,201	2,587,364 1/2	88,323	2,133,385
1732	35,548 1/2		1754	50,070 1/2	72,394	1775	95,878	2,841,213	96,794	2,441,007
1733	34,620		1755	57,125	76,295	1776	99,773	2,975,389	99,386	2,488,140 1/2
1734	31,123		1756	33,590 1/2	79,318	1777	107,750	3,158,891	99,586	2,601,583
1735	31,744 1/2		1757	55,777	77,097	1778	132,566	3,795,990	101,629	2,746,712
1736	38,899		1758	60,396	66,396	1779	110,942	3,427,150	93,143	2,659,959
1737	42,256		1759	51,877 1/2	65,513	1780	94,625	2,802,671	87,399	2,571,324
1738	42,404	14,495	1760	49,302 1/2	69,573	1781	102,018	3,099,127	98,721	2,671,397
1739	43,068 1/2	58,848	1761	48,944	75,468	1782	112,470	4,458,405	96,743	2,598,751
1740	41,441	58,620	1762	48,621	72,946	1783	131,092	4,563,376	108,641	3,292,002
1741	46,304	61,196	1763	48,038 1/2	72,096	1784	138,023	4,694,335	115,000	3,356,648
1742	41,954	62,804	1764	54,916	79,458	1785	157,275	4,844,855	116,036	3,409,178
1743	45,178 1/2	63,545	1765	54,660	77,419	1786	158,792	4,934,975	123,025	3,536,889
1744	54,627 1/2	63,005	1766	72,575 1/2	78,893	1787	155,748	4,850,832	128,740	4,058,157
1745	50,453	63,423	1767	102,448	78,819	1788	139,406	4,716,460	145,495	4,190,573
1746	56,637	68,775	1768	90,036	74,480	1789	154,134	4,744,322	132,143	4,208,303
1747	62,480	68,374				1790	172,588	5,151,677	140,497	4,582,122
						1791	187,569	5,815,079	154,373	4,797,594
						1792	214,851	6,766,728	190,468	5,531,698
						1793	190,331	6,054,916	150,666	4,783,722
						1794	190,988	6,067,208	130,403	4,634,258
						1795	250,993	7,759,907	155,087	5,172,514
						1796	246,770	7,830,536	151,594	5,245,704
						1797	229,292	7,235,038	156,709	5,503,648
						1798	224,159	7,134,114	148,566	5,180,313
						1799	272,735	8,806,688	180,168	6,377,277

Which was read.

What was the Total Manufacture of the Woollen Trade of England, 10, 15, or 20 Years ago?

I have seen an Estimate of the Value in 1791 being about £.19,000,000. Some Years preceding, I think 1782, it was estimated at about £14,000,000.

Was the Wool, where you made a Comparison between the Prices in Ireland and Norwich, of the same Quality?

The Person who gave me the Account states it to be similar, and manufactured into the same Kind of Goods.

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What was the Price of Combing Wool in Yorkshire at the same Period?

I believe the Prices of Wool in Yorkshire, and the same Kind in Norwich, have not varied more than $\frac{1}{4}$ per lb. sometimes in the one Place, and sometimes the other.

Do you think there is any considerable Quantity of Wool in the Hands of the Growers at present?

We have applied lately to Farmers and Agents in different Parts of the Kingdom, who inform us they have none left in their Neighbourhood:—I speak of Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Durham, Northamptonshire, and Leicestershire.

Do you conceive it has become the general Practice to kill the Sheep at an earlier Period at present than formerly?

I have been informed, and I believe it is the Practice to kill the Animal earlier than formerly.

Withdrew.

Mr.

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Mr. CHRISTOPHER RAWDON, near Halifax,
about 30 Years a Baizemaker and Woolstapler.

HAVE you lately found a Dearth in Wool, and a Difficulty in procuring it more than formerly?
I have.

Have you in any considerable Degree?
I have; I am sure there is a greater Scarcity this Year than in any former Year.

From what Market did you usually supply yourself?
From Lincoln and Wakefield in particular.

Have you lately made any Applications for Wool without Effect?
Yes; at Wakefield I could not procure it, particularly since Christmas, where hitherto I could always procure it.

Do you know whether any Difficulty of Supply has existed in Halifax and Keightly?
They have been more slender than Wakefield in their Supply.

In what Proportion?
Not Half so much in the general Market as in former Years, and that bought up as soon as exposed to Sale.

Have your Works partially ceased from the Want of a Supply?
They have since Christmas at one Period. I sought the Markets of Halifax and Wakefield, and could not procure Wool.

Do you know any other Person in your Neighbourhood in the like Predicament?
A neighbouring Manufacture stood still nearly a Week.

Were any Persons employed in the Manufacture out of Emloy?
They were.

Were they out of Pay?
We give them Half. Their being out of Work is our Fault.

Did you offer any higher Rate for the Wool when it was so difficult to obtain it?
I could not meet with the Wool.

Did you use any Endeavours for procuring it?
I did.

Can you say whether the Long Wool is wrought up?
It is that of which I speak.

Can you form a Judgment what Effect the Exportation of the remaining Part of the Wool would have on the English Manufacture?
Our Works must stand still, and the Workmen go to the Parish.

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Have you any Means of forming a Judgment of the Vested Capital necessary to carry on the Manufacturing Business of the Country?

Taking my own Works as a Data, I can form some Judgment, knowing from the Documents that have been presented to the House of Commons of the Amount of the Export of Woollens, and that being to the Amount of £. 8,400,000; and the Home Trade being to a greater Extent than the Export, I estimate the whole Woollen Manufactory at £. 19,500,000; and as I find the Cost of my own Manufacture, that I cannot manufacture Three Times their Value in a Year, I conclude that the Machinery, &c. are of the Value of more than £. 5,000,000; if all the Works were on the same Footing, from my own, it would amount to more than £. 6,500,000.

Is that Capital consisting of Mills, Machinery, &c. capable of being transported; or whether, upon the Removal of those Mills, the Manufacturer would not incur a total Loss in those Particulars.

The principal Part could not be removed at all, and no Part without great Loss.

Upon the Whole, as far as you have been able to ascertain, has there not been a considerable Decrease in Wool within these Two or Three Years?

I cannot say.

Is there any great Quantity in the Hands of the Woolstaplers or Growers?

There is less than at any former Period that I remember; I mean long Wool.

If more could be had, could more be worked up?

Certainly; I have been under the Necessity of returning Orders, not being able to procure Wool.

What is the total Quantity of Wool grown in a Year?

I have no Means of knowing but from general Report; I know the Value is increased Three Times.

Do you know the relative Quantity manufactured exported, and the Quantity used at Home?

I cannot exactly ascertain the Home Trade, but it has always been considered as more than the Export; but I have no Documents.

What Proportion does the Quantity exported bear to the Home Consumption?

The Home is as Five to Four of the Export.

(By Members.)

Did you endeavour to supply yourself with Wool at any other Markets than the Yorkshire?

I have employed an Agent in Lincolnshire, and he has informed me, that he has sometimes rode Forty Miles without finding a Parcel.

Was

Was he commissioned to buy wherever he could get it?

Wherever he could meet with the Quality I wanted, which was long Wool; but he seldom went to any other Part than Lincolnshire.

Did he buy in Norfolk?

He did not—he lives in Lincolnshire.

Did he meet with the same Difficulties in former Years?

Far from it; he used to buy more than I wanted, as it was to his Interest, being paid a Commission.

Is your Manufactory confined to long Wool?

It is not; but principally so.

Can you give any Information concerning the Quantity of Clothing Wool in the Country?

I have found Difficulty in obtaining the small Quantity I wanted even of that.

Do you think the present Difficulty is occasioned more by the Encrease of the Manufacture, than from the Deficiency of the Growth?

The Manufacture has certainly increased.

Whether, independantly of this last Year, have you found the Supply diminishing for some Years?

It has for these 4 or 5 Years.

Has not the Manufacture been increasing during those Years?

It has.

Has not the Quantity of Spanish Wool imported been greater this Year than formerly, and in consequence tended to add to the Stock of Wool?

I can speak little as to Spain—I have imported considerable Quantities of Wool from Portugal, and others have imported considerable Quantities also; and that must have added to the Stock of Wool to be manufactured.

At what Age are Sheep ordinarily now killed?

I cannot say.

Are they killed earlier than formerly?

I understand they are, in consequence of the South Downs being more early to kill than the Leicestershire.

Do you attribute the increased Price for Wool at present to the increase of the Manufacture, or to the Diminution of the Produce, or to both?

Probably to both; but chiefly to the increased Manufacture.

Do you think the Quantity of Wool produced now, less than the Quantities produced some Years ago?

I should think it has; but I am not competent to answer that Question so well as others.

In your Branch of the Manufacture, is any Use made of Fuller's Earth, Tobacco Pipe Clay, or any other Scouring Clays?

There is.

Is

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Is not the Use of those Articles of Importance in the Woollen Manufactory?
 It is necessary; or the Use of some more costly Substance, as Soap.
 Do you think the Exportation of those Articles would affect the Manufactory?
 It would not here.
 Have you not used a greater Quantity of Wool in your Manufactory than you did formerly?
 Yes.
 Do you not think a greater Quantity of English Wool has been used this Year on Account of the great Price of Spanish Wool.
 I think not, because Portugal Wool has come in Aid of it, and sold cheaper than Spanish Wool.
 Is it as good as Spanish Wool?
 It is not.
 What is the Difference in the Price per Pound Weight?
 There are many Qualities of Portugal Wool, from 1 s. 6d. to 3 s. per lb.—As for the Spanish I cannot answer.
 Can you give any Information concerning the comparative Freight of Wool to Yorkshire, and to Ireland?
 Only from the Length of the Voyage.

Withdrew.

Mr. THOMAS LUMB, Wakefield,—Woolstapler, 28 Years.

HAVE you any List of the Counties in which you have purchased Wool?
 I have purchased in the Counties of Leicester, Northampton, Bucks, Oxford, Berks, Wilts, Hants, Suffex, Herts, Bedford, Cambridge, Norfolk, and Suffolk.
 How many Journeys annually have you been used to make?
 Four Times into Nine of the Counties, and Once into Four of them.
 Have you perceived whether the Quantity of Wool has increased or decreased within these few Years?
 Considerably decreased.
 Do you mean to say there is a less Quantity grown than usual?
 Less Quantity grown during the last Ten Years, and a greater Demand for it.
 From what Circumstances?
 Because I find the Stocks less on Hand when I go my Journeys.

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How long previous to the Shearing Day have you found the Stock less on Hand?
 In the Journeys I generally take in March, April, and May.
 In those Months have you found the Stock less than in former Years?
 Yes.
 Within what Period?
 In the last Ten or Twelve Years.
 During that Time have the Manufacturers been used to work up their Wool sooner than usual?
 Yes; Two Months sooner in general.
 Was the Quantity formerly in October equal to what it now is in April?
 Yes.
 Have you found this to be in some of the Counties, or in all the Counties you have mentioned?
 In all in Part; but some in a greater Degree than others.
 Has the Diminution of Growth taken place both in the Clothing and Coombing Wool?
 Mine depends entirely on the Clothing Wool.
 What Cause do you attribute this Diminution to?
 The principal one is the increased Demand in Yorkshire; and the other to the many Inclosures which have taken place.
 In the Counties you mentioned, have you perceived an Increase of Inclosures which have diminished Pasture Land?
 I have.
 Have you observed fewer Sheep than formerly?
 Yes.
 In any considerably Degree less?
 I think so.
 Was the Quality of the Wool in those Counties diminished?
 It was.
 To what Cause has that been owing?
 To the Difference of Feed in the approved Mode of Agriculture, and feeding on Turnips, &c.
 Are you acquainted with any Means by which the Quantity of Wool might be increased?
 Not any of short Wool, unless the Commons were thrown open again.
 From your Knowledge could more Wool be worked up if more was grown in the Country?
 I think there might.

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(By Members.)

When you go to a Farmer to weigh the Wool, do you mark down the Number of Fleeces as well as Weight?

I only buy it by the Pack of 240 lbs.

Does not the improved Agriculture, though it tends to decrease the Quantity of the Wool, tend to encrease the Quantity?

It does.

If Wool were permitted to be exported to Ireland, would there be enough for the English Manufacture?

I think not.

Is not the Preference given to old Wool for the Purpose of Manufacture?

It is.

What is the best Age of Wool for the Purpose of Manufacture?

Eighteen Months; but I cannot speak correctly.

Do you know whether at any Period during the last Ten Years there has been a great Quantity on Hand, either with the Staplers or the Growers?

There was a good Stock in the Spring of 1793, but not since.

Has there been any Change in the killing of Sheep, as to Age?

I have heard it mentioned in Conversation that a Sheep is now killed at Three or Four, instead of Five Years old, as formerly. I have no personal Observation of it.

From which of the Counties you have mentioned, is the fine Wool derived for the Yorkshire Manufacture.

Hants and Suffex.

When you state the Number of Sheep to have been decreased, do you compute that from there being fewer Sheep Farms, or from fewer Sheep upon those Farms?

I derive my only Conclusion from there being a less Stock of Wool on Hand, when I go my Rounds.

Do you learn from the Persons you buy of, what Quantity they have sold previous to your going?

I do not.

What has been the Increase upon Clothing Wool within these last Ten Years?

Twenty-five per Cent, I conceive.

What has been the Increase on Cloth manufactured from Wool in the same Time?

I am unacquainted.

How is Wool from Hants and Suffex conveyed to Yorkshire?

Chiefly by Water, from London to Hull and Selby.

What is the Freight per Pack, from the Counties of Suffex and Hants to London, and from London to Yorkshire.

The Person of whom I buy the Wool in Suffex and Hants, delivers it Carriage free to London; from London to Wakefield, 7s. 9d. per Pack. Withdrew.

Mr. JOSEPH LEWIS, Manufacturer at Stroud, Gloucestershire.

In the Course of the last Year did you make any Application for Wool in Mendip in Gloucestershire.

I did.

Was that Place a Place where Inclosures had been made?

It was.

Had you bought Wool there formerly.

I had not.

Did you get any Wool there?

I applied to a Friend, who told me it was unnecessary to apply further, for the Wool in that Neighbourhood was all bought up at advanced Prices.

Do you know that it was bought up?

I have no Reason to believe he would deceive me; he told me there was a much less Quantity of Wool grown than formerly.

Do you know, whether in consequence of Inclosures, Wool has been diminished in Quality although encreased in Quantity?

I have seen Sheep which have been fed upon Inclosures whose Wool has been coarser in consequence, but in Quantity heavier upon the same Sheep.

Was the total Value of the Wool produced on the Inclosure less?

It was.

Do you know of any Way of encreasing the Quantity of Wool?

I do not, without sacrificing our Corn or Cattle.

Do you conceive that it is possible any such Increase can be made by Inclosures?

I do not.

Are you a Farmer?

Not at present.

Are you conversant in farming Concerns?

I farmed a Farm in the Neighbourhood of North Leech, and I had the Opportunity of observing the Mode of Farming of a Mr. Paitley; and I believe he would have adopted the Mode that I should.

Have you any Means of calculating the Value of the Vested Capital of the Woollen Manufacturers of this Kingdom?

I have calculated from the Quantity of vested Capital in Buildings and Machinery for a Manufacturer of 140 Packs of 7 different Sorts of Wool, from £. 12 to £. 14 per Pack, to be manufactured in One Year. I find the Amount £. 2,400; which makes the Vested Capital necessary for the whole Consumption in the Kingdom Six Millions, and something more than £. 100,000.

(By

(By Members.)

Have you been in the Habits of buying any considerable Quantity of Wool?

Not very considerable.

To what Amount?

Very small.

Withdrew.

Mr. JOHN RATCLIFFE, of Saddleworth, in the West Riding of the County of York, Manufacturer of Woollen Cloth 14 or 15 Years.

IN what Counties do you purchase your Wool?

Formerly in different Counties, but latterly from the Wool Staplers, it suiting my Purpose better.

From what Counties?

They call upon us at our own Houses?

Have you made any Observation concerning the Number of Sheep in Somersetshire?

I observed great Quantities of Sheep on the Mendip Hills, about Six or Eight Years ago; but latterly the Commons have been inclosed, and there are but a small Number at present.

Have you made any Observations in Yorkshire?

Yes; there was formerly, about Twenty Years ago, great Quantities of Wool grown in the Parish where I live; but there is now but a small Proportion grown since the Inclosures.

Have you made any Observations in any other Parishes?

I cannot speak as to other Parishes.

Is there a greater Quantity of Arable Land in Yorkshire and Somersetshire now than formerly?

Certainly there is.

Of the Sheep that are now kept in those Places, is the Wool better in Quality than formerly?

I have bought none from the Mendip Hills; but in our Parish where Sheep have been turned into Inclosures, the Wool has become worse in Quality.

Do you know how the Wool of this Country might be encreased?

The only Means would be, to turn the Arable into Pasture.

(By

(By Members.)

Have you experienced of late, greater Difficulty in being supplied with Wool than formerly?

I cannot say I have, because I have bought of the Staplers and found always enough of the Sort I wanted.

By what Staplers were you supplied?

Shropshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, and from Leeds and London.

What Kind of Wool do you use?

Fine Clothing Wool.

Have you formed any Calculation of the Value of the Mills, &c. vested in the Woollen Manufactory of this Kingdom?

Yes.

Upon what Principle?

Upon a certain District I am well acquainted with, and I know the Value of the Manufactures produced for One Year. I also know pretty accurately the Value of the Machinery, &c. in that particular District.—The annual Value of the Goods manufactured in that District is £.288,000; the Value of Mills and other Works, which may be called Vested, is £.94,000; therefore the vested Property is to the annual Value as 94 is to 288; that is, nearly One Third.—If the Amount of the whole Produce of the Manufactures of this Kingdom were known, it would be a fair Data to estimate the Whole upon.

Are Coals cheaper or dearer in the District you speak of, than in the other manufacturing Parts of Yorkshire?

Rather dearer than at Leeds.

What is the Price of Coals in your District?

About 14 or 15s. per Ton.

Is there any peculiar Advantage in this District for the Woollen Manufactory?

It is a hilly Part, and the Water is particularly good for the Manufactory.

Is the Steam Engine used?

There is only One in that District, and that of a small Size.

Withdrew.

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Mr. WILLIAM FISHER, Manufacturer and Merchant, near Leeds,—Merchant 28 Years, and Manufacturer 10 Years.

HAS the Price of Wool considerably risen of late?
In 1798 I purchased between 5 and 600 Packs in Northumberland, at 20s. 6d. per Stone of 24 lbs.

Did you subsequently purchase higher?
In 1799 I purchased the same Quantity at an Average of 24s. 6d. per Stone of 24 lbs. which was 4s. Advance per Stone.

At present is there any Clothing Wool in Northumberland, or on the Borders of Scotland?
There is none to be met with in those Places.

Have you lately come to London for the Purpose of purchasing Wool?
I came to London for the Purpose of getting Wool to mix with the Northumberland Wool, and I could only purchase Seventy Packs, an insufficient Quantity for our Wants.

What was the Quantity you had Occasion for?
I wished to purchase 2 or 300 Packs.

Was the 70 Packs the whole Quantity you could collect in London?
It was the Whole I could buy.

Did you apply to the whole of the Trade?
To the best of my Knowledge.

Have you been within the last Two Months obliged to return Orders from Germany and other Places for the Want of Wool?
I have; not having Wool for the Completion of those Orders.

What Sort of Wool would have been necessary to fulfil those Orders?
The lower Sorts of English Wool.

Have you at any former Time experienced a similar Scarcity?
Never.

Have any of your Customers consented to postpone their Orders?
They have from Necessity.

(By Members.)
Have you Reason to believe within the last Ten or Twelve Years there was at any Time a considerable Quantity of Wool in Hand?
Two Years ago old Wool might have been bought in Northumberland and on the Borders of Scotland at this Time of the Year.

Have

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Have you lately used Wool sooner after Shearing than you otherwise would have done?
Much sooner than I could have wished.

Do you know of any Alteration in these few Years in the killing of Sheep as to their Age?
I cannot say.

Withdrew.

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MINUTES, &c.

Martis, 29^o die Aprilis 1800.

Mr. John Willis	- - -	p. 25.
Mr. Jeremiah Naylor	- - -	28.
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Mr. James Mafferman	- - -	39.

Mr. JOHN WILLIS,

Lives at Stroud, Gloucestershire,

Employed in the Wool Staple Business as Agent to Jones, Willington, and Parke; two of whom reside at Rofs, and the other at Dudbridge—They carry on their Business there.

HAVE you been in the Habit of purchasing Wool in different Counties for them?

Yes; for these Eighteen Years I have been in the Habit of buying Wool; but have been with them only Two Years.

In what Parts?

Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Worcesterhire. In no other Counties, as the Business is done in about Three Months of the Year, June, July, and August chiefly.

Have you of late experienced any Difficulty in procuring Wool?

Lately we bought about 2 or 300 Packs of Wool to keep our Men employed till September; but it is not the Case this Year, for we have applied to Shropshire, Somersetshire, and Herefordshire, to enable us to purchase Wool to keep the Men on till this September; but we have not been able to procure any from the Growers we have wrote to, nor from our Agents; and the Farmers to whom I have wrote Two or Three Times,

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Times, have informed me that they do not know of any Wool of last Year's Growth in the Country.

From what Counties did they write to you?

From Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Somersetshire.

Have you had the same Intelligence from Worcestershire?

Yes.

Up to what Time will the Quantity you have procured last?

The latter end of June.

Have you in any former Year, during the 18 Years of your Acquaintance with the Trade, experienced a similar Deficiency?

Not before this Year.

To what do you impute this Deficiency?

Part by Inclosures and Part by the Increase Trade of the Woollen Manufacture.

What Effect have you observed to arise upon the Growth of Wool from Inclosures.

I have bought Wool of the Farmers, who last Year and the Year before had not more than Half the Quantity they used to have in former Years.

Have you, in Years antecedent to last Year, perceived a gradual Decrease?

I have found it so for Four or Five Years.

In the Purchase of Wool, has it been usual to purchase the Whole of the Wool that the Farmers have by them?

When I buy of the Farmers I generally buy all the Fleeces they have.

Is that usual in the Trade to take the Whole?

It is.

Have you any Reason to believe that the Persons who sold you the Wool had dealt with others?

No.

Do you know of any Place from whence you can get the Supply you want?

I do not.

What Sort of Wool do you buy?

The Clothing Sort of Wool only.

From what Period in particular did you perceive the Decrease in Wool?

I think it has been for Five or Six Years past.

Have you been lately at Northampton for the Purchase of Wool?

I was there on Wednesday and Thursday last upon Business at the Quarter Sessions, and I called upon several Woolstaplers, who told me they had very little Stock, and that they did not know where to buy any in the County. I meant to buy of them had they had any of the Clothing Wool.

Did

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Did you find any Person who had any Stock of whom you enquired?

I did not; they told me they had Orders for all they had.

Have you any Doubt if more Wool could be procured, the Manufactories could have a Demand for it?

I think they could.

Does the Demand arise from temporary Causes, or from those likely to last?

From those likely to last.

Is the Scarcity arising from any temporary Causes, or of a permanent Nature?

I think it solely owing to Inclosures that less Wool is grown.

(By Members.)

How do you ascertain that the Diminution of the Wool you had been accustomed to buy, was not above One Half the usual Quantity?

Because I have bought their Wool many Years, and by that I ascertain it.

When you weigh the Wool, do you write down the Number of Fleeces likewise?

Always the Weight, but not the Fleeces.

In what Counties do those particular Farmers live, whose Wool has decreased One Half?

In Shropshire, where I have bought the greatest Quantity.

In what Parish?

Between the Inclosures and Market Drayton and Shrewsbury. I do not recollect their Names.

Nor the Parish?

About Shawbury Heath, between Shrewsbury and Market Drayton.

What was the Amount of the Rental of those Farms, whose Produce has diminished One Half?

I cannot tell.

Do those Farmers rent the same Quantity of Land they did when you purchased double the Quantity of Wool.

I never had any Conversation about it.

Have you ever bought Wool in Leicestershire?

No.

Do you know any Thing of the Wool produced from the Leicestershire Breed?

I do not.

Do you know any Farmer who had a certain Quantity of Land inclosed, and which was formerly not inclosed, having less Wool?

They told me they had less Wool, which they attributed to Inclosures, not being able to keep so many Sheep.

Do

Do not you think the Wool Staplers of Devonshire, Somersetshire, Wilts, &c. buy up the Wool for the Manufactures of those Counties?

I think they do; but we have great Quantities from those Counties.

Do not you think the Wool grown there is bought up by the Wool Staplers in March?

They generally buy the Quantity they think they shall use.

Is it not usual for Persons, of whom you buy Wool, to give a Receipt? It is not.

Is it not usual for you to enter into your Books their Names? It certainly is.

In those Western Counties, has it not been usual formerly for the Staplers to buy up the Wool?

I should suppose the Staplers used to buy up some of the Wool.

Withdrew.

Mr. JEREMIAH NAYLOR, of Wakefield.
A Merchant or Buyer of Cloth.

ARE you a considerable Dealer in the Purchase of Cloth and Coatings? Yes; I have been employed for myself Twenty Years, and have attended the Markets Twenty-four Years.

During that Time, have you purchased annually considerable Quantities of Cloth? Yes.

Have you observed of late any Diminution in the Quantity of Cloth? I have found a great Scarcity within the last Nine Months, so much so, that in some Sorts I have been obliged to return Orders unexecuted.

To what Cause was it owing? To the increasing Demand for the Cloth, which has been gradual.

Have the other Manufacturers of Cloth been unable to supply the Demand? I cannot speak as to them.

For how long have you found your Demands unable to be executed? From last June till within these Two Months, when there has been a Decrease in the Demand, Leeds Market is where we all go to buy Cloths in the rough State. On the Continent there has been rather a Stoppage in Remittances, which has made the Market flacker.

Have

Have you within these Two Months executed all your Orders? I have not, because they were for America, and were to go in the last Autumn Trade.

Did you lose those Orders? I did.

Have you any Reason to believe that the Slackness in the Demand will continue?

I have Reason to believe it will be greater, if the Remittances should come from Hamburg and America. There are more Orders at present for particular Cloths than we can find Wool for.

In the Event of Peace, would more Markets be opened for the Sale of Woollen Goods?

For some Countries there will be an Opening, but in others a less Demand.

In which Countries will there be a less Demand? There will be a much less Demand for Portugal; where I trade largely to.

Why do you think so? Because I conceive many Goods go through thence to Spain, and up the Mediterranean; which would not be so in Peace.

Will not the Goods which do not go through Portugal, go direct to Spain in the Event of Peace, up the Mediterranean?

In my Opinion they will go in a much larger Quantity than now goes through Portugal to Spain, and also up the Mediterranean.

Will not the Market in New Spain be considerably opened in case of Peace?

I should think so.

From your Knowledge of the Trade, do you think it would admit of any Export of Wool without any considerable Detriment?

I think the gradual Increase for the Demand of Cloth in this Country will not admit of any Exportation of Wool; and I think the only Stoppage from our Cloth will then be the Want of Wool; our Trade will gradually increase if we can find Wool to supply the Manufactories.

(By Members.)

Of late Years have the Manufacturers in Yorkshire used a great deal of Spanish Wool?

I think so. I am no Manufacturer; but I buy great Quantities of Cloths manufactured in Yorkshire, made of that Wool.

Do not you know that the Manufacturers of Fine Cloths in Yorkshire are very much increased and increasing?

It is much increased and increasing.

H

That

That being the Case, is there any Danger, if Wool should be sent out of the Country, that it will affect that Trade?
Npt in the fine Cloths, for we could get a sufficient Quantity of Spanish Wool.

If the Trade in the fine Cloth increases in this Manner, would not the Poor in your Neighbourhood find Employ?
I should suppose not; there are many People in America who can afford to buy a coarse Cloth, but cannot afford to buy a fine one.

Is the fine Cloth manufactured in Yorkshire for the Home Trade, or for Exportation?
I can only answer for what I buy myself; the Fine I buy, is all for Exportation.

Do you think you could have executed the Orders you have executed, without the Importation of Spanish Wool?
Most certainly not. There was within these Eight or Nine Months very little of that Wool in the Country, and I was obliged to leave many Orders unexecuted before that Wool could be procured.

Would the Importation of that Wool be diminished in the Event of Peace?
I cannot say.

Does not the Quantity of coarse Goods exceed considerably those of the Fine?
I suppose they do; the Goods I buy are far greater in Coarse than in Fine.

From what Period did you observe that Increase in Demand in the Leeds Market for Cloth to begin?
In my own Trade it has been gradually increasing for these Seven or Eight Years past; and if our Remittances should come from the Continent, they would be greater this Year than ever.

Has the Demand for the Home Trade increased also within these last Six or Seven Years?
I am not much in the Home Trade; what I do is with London, and that has remained the same.

What is the Value of Cloth made entirely of Spanish Wool, in proportion to the Raw Materials?
I cannot answer, being no Manufacturer.

Have Woollen Stuffs increased of late Years in Yorkshire?
My Trade with them has increased considerably of late Years.

Can you give any Information concerning the general Trade of Woollen Stuffs, whether it has increased?
I do not attend the Market for those Stuffs.

Is any other Material than British Wool made up into those Stuffs?
I should suppose not; but not being a Manufacturer I cannot say.

Have

Have you observed that there has been any Diminution, during the Manufacture of fine Cloths, in the coarse Cloths?
I should suppose in that Period the Manufacture of coarse Cloths has increased.

Has the Demand for fine Cloths increased more than for the Coarse?
I could have sold more coarse Cloths than I was able to supply. I generally found a Sufficiency of Fine to answer my Demand.

Withdrew.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, Leeds,

Merchant in the Cloth Trade, and Manufacturer in Wool. I reside at Leeds.

ARE you acquainted with the Woollen Trade to Ireland?
Yes; for about Twenty Years, including an Apprenticeship.

From the Knowledge of that Trade, what would be the Consequence of permitting Wool to be exported there?
The Operation of the Article of the Union would be, as I believe, that the coarse Cloth in place of manufactured here, to supply the extra Demand of Ireland beyond her Capability of supplying her Wants from her own Wool, which is at present used in her own Manufactures, would be, that the Wool of this Country, under the protecting Duty imposed on British Woollens imported into Ireland, would be sent to be manufactured in Ireland. I conceive there is not more Wool in this Country than sufficient for the supply of its Manufactures, and therefore if any of the Wool was sent there, there would not be enough remaining, and therefore the Manufacturers would follow the raw Materials.

Have you made any Calculation of the Amount of the vested Capital employed in Mills and Machinery in the Woollen Manufactory in this Country?
I have; the Result I conceive to be from the Value of our own Manufacture proportioned to the Quantity of Wool that it produces for a Number of Years, to be £. 5,083,560.

What is the Proportion in your Manufacture between the Capital employed and the Produce?
On taking the Value of Mills and Machinery, I should suppose the Proportion to be £. 17,000 Expence, to £. 64,000, the Produce in manufactured Cloth.

Have you made any Calculation of the Number of Packs worked up in the West Riding of Yorkshire last Year founded upon the Return made to the Pontefract Session?
I believe the following Calculation to be exact, viz.—

I find the Number of Pieces of Narrow Cloth to be 180,168; each Piece would

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would require 2½ Stone of Wool, of 14lbs. to the Stone, on an Average; the Result divided by 15 Stone would be 30,028 Packs; the Value, at £. 14 per Pack of 240 lbs. would be £. 420,392;—the Number of Pieces of Broad Cloth is 272,755, or 72,734 Packs at 1 lb. per Pack, the Value of the Pack, £. 800,074; the Value of manufactured Narrow Goods is on the Average £. 6 each Piece: The Valuation of the Whole, both Broad and Narrow, is £. 4,876,165.

Are there not Blankets and other Woollen Stuffs not enumerated in the above Returns?

There are.

Have you any Calculation of the Amount of those other Articles manufactured?

There is no particular Entry of them, nor any Data to calculate by; but I conceive them to be about £. 1,600,000 which is within the Sum.

Does this include Worsted Goods?

It does not.

Can you form any Estimate of the Quantity manufactured?

I cannot; I am not engaged in that Trade; but I should suppose to a very considerable Extent.

Are Cloths made of Spanish Wool included in the Pontefract Returns?

Certainly.

Are there not Districts in Yorkshire where the Manufacture is only of Stuffs?

The Districts near Halifax and Bradford are confined to the Manufacture of Stuffs.

Is not the Extent of those Districts equal to the Cloth Manufactory?

Not equal to Extent or Value; but considerable.

Since the Introduction of Machinery, would there have been sufficient Wool in the Country to supply the Manufactures had there been no Spanish Wool?

There certainly would not.

(By Members.)

What is meant by "New Drapery" in the Irish Act?
Generally manufactured Worsteds or Stuffs.

What is meant by "Old Drapery"?

That Cloth which has undergone the Operation of the Fulling Mill.

What do you pay upon the Importation of Old Drapery into Ireland?

The Duty is paid by the Importer in Ireland of 7½d. and 10 per Cent. upon the Amount of the Duties.

How much do you compute the Duty in Ireland per Yard to amount to on New Drapery?

The Average Length from 27 to 35 Yards, the Duty about 2d. per

per Yard. I speak from Supposition, as I never dealt in it. The Duty would be 4s. 6d. to 5s.; the Value would be from 27s. to 35s. per Piece.

What is the ordinary Value, per Piece or Yard, of Old Drapery imported into Ireland?

There is a great Quantity of coarse Cloth of the Manufacture of this Country, so low as 1s. 8d. per Yard, exported to Ireland, paying there a Duty of 8d. and a Fraction per Yard; which is 7½d. and 10 per Cent. upon that. The other Extreme is 18s. per Yard, with the same Duty.

What is the Average Value of the Old Drapery imported into Ireland?

I should suppose the Average Value of Broad Cloth per Yard to be about 6s. 8d. In the Trade with Ireland as it is now circumstanced, with a very increased Army Establishment which is supplied with their own Manufactures, the Average would be lower than in Time of Peace, because in each Case they manufacture their own Wool. The Average Value at present I conceive to be as above. The Breadth is from 48 to 63 Inches, the Average Breadth 56 Inches. Of Narrow Cloths, the Average Value per Yard would be 3s. 4d. the Breadth from 27 to 32 Inches.

Has it been usual in former Times to import Woollen Yarns into the West Riding of Yorkshire from Ireland?

I believe it has been the Case, but I do not know.

Have you any Knowledge of the Value of the Worsted Goods when manufactured from the Raw Materials?

I have not.

Has Machinery been introduced to a considerable Degree within the last Twenty Years in Yorkshire?

Certainly.

Can you state the Proportion in the increased Use of Machinery in that Time?

I cannot tell. We have at present 2,450 Spindles. I deduct One-third for the Difference between the Individuals who spin each upon a distinct Spindle, and I find the requisite Number of Persons to do the same Work in a Week, which is now done by Thirty-five, would have required, about Fifteen Years ago, 1,634 Persons.

Can that Machinery now employed, be easily removed to Ireland?

Yes; and by taking very few Persons from this Country.

Is the whole Value of the Machinery in the West Riding, double or treble the Value it was Fifteen Years ago?

I have no Calculation.

Can you state the Proportion between the Quantity of Machinery now used, and that Twenty Years ago?

I cannot.

Does the use of Machinery instead of Hand Labour facilitate the Removal of it from one Place to another?

It does.

How

How are the Spindles worked?
 By Hand; a Frame of a certain Number of Spindles is worked by a Man or Woman; the carding and scribbling of the Wool is by Water or Steam. In the Cotton Manufactures it is the same, except as to the Frame-work.

To what Extent is Steam used in the Woollen Manufactory?
 We employ by the Power of One Steam Engine, 1,000 Persons.

What Sort of Work were these Persons engaged in?
 The sorting of the Wool, the different Operations of the Manufactory for sorting the Wool from the Fleece, till it is in a compleat State of Manufacture.

What Part of that Process is performed by the Steam?
 The opening of the Wool, and preparing it for the scribbling and carding Machines, then the scribbling and carding, then the fulling.

Are those Operations chiefly performed by Steam or Water?
 A great Proportion by Water, but it depends upon Circumstances; the Introduction of Steam Engines is determined by the Value of the Fall of Water.

In your Manufactory what Proportion does the Value of Fuel bear to the Manufacture.
 I cannot answer.

What Quantity of Coal is used in your Manufactory in the Year?
 About Six Tons per Day the Year through.

What Price do you pay per Ton?
 6 s. 8 d.; we are very near Coals, and very conveniently situated.

What is the Value of Goods you manufacture in a Year?
 I cannot answer.

What Proportion does the Fuel used, bear to the Value of the Goods manufactured?
 I cannot answer.

Is there not a considerable Quantity of Machinery already in Ireland?
 I do not know.

In the whole Extent of the Manufactory, in which you consume Six Tons per Day of Coals, how many Hands do you employ?
 I have already said about 1,000, or rather more.

What Wages are generally paid to Persons employed in your Part of Yorkshire?
 The Labour of Men is different; a good Artificer will earn more; on an Average it may be the Year throughout from 16 s. to 18 s. per Week; Children have 3 s. per Week.

What Proportion of your 1,000 Work People are Men?
 I cannot answer; but I should suppose rather less than One-fifth.

Of

Of the other Four-fifths what do they consist of?
 Women, Old Men, and Children; to Women, the Wages are 5 s. or 6 s. per Week; the Old Men from 9 s. to 12 s.; older Children 5 s. or 6 s.

Of Old Men, Women, and Children, which are the greater in Proportion?
 Greater Number of Children than of Men; rather less Women than Men, but I cannot say the Proportion.

Did you include the Wages of the Children and Old Men on the Average.
 Yes.

What Number of Operations, exclusive of those performed by the Steam Engine, does the Wool undergo in the State of Manufacture?
 Sorting the Wool, scouring and cleaning it, dyeing and drying it, preparing it for spinning, weaving, attending the different Operations of the Steam Engine, attending the fulling, and the dressing or finishing the Cloth after the fulling.

Is not much Skill necessary for a Man to earn 17 s. per Week?
 Some Degree of Skill, but not so much as formerly; by attending the Machine, few Individuals of Skill will soon inform the others. In the whole Number of Workmen the Skill is not so necessary.

Is not the greater Part of your Work done by Task Work?
 Yes; Nine-tenths of the Whole by Task Work.

In consequence of the Introduction of Machinery, are not many Species of Wool not heretofore used, now employed?
 During the last Part of the American War, there was a Description of the coarse Wool not used, from the depressed State of the Manufacture at that Time; at present every Species of Wool is used that we can get Possession of; and there are some Descriptions of Wool used for Woollen Cloth now, by breaking or shortening the Fibres of the Wool by means of the Machinery, which formerly was not used.

In consequence of Machinery, does the same Quantity of Wool produce more Cloth than formerly?
 It produces somewhat more by breaking the Fibres of the long Wool by the Machine, and increases the Quantity in some Degree.

Has it caused any Increase in the Cloths in Yorkshire?
 Not in fine Cloths.

Has it in coarse Cloth?
 I cannot answer.

Do you purchase Cloth at the Cloth Halls?
 Yes.

Do you chiefly sell for Exportation or Home Consumption?
 Extensively in both.

What

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What Proportion is used for Home Consumption, and what for Exportation?
I do not know.

Withdrew.

Mr. WILLIAM HUSTLER.—(Again.)

WHAT is the Value of the Woollen or Worsted Manufactures which is not included in the Pontefract Account?
I have no Documents to which I can refer; therefore must be not very precise. I have estimated the Value of Worsted Goods, which I can only speak to. The Worsted Manufactures which are brought to the Neighbourhood of Bradford, will amount to upwards of £400,000 annually. Halifax, Keighly, and other Places, must manufacture Worsted Goods to the Value of £1,000,000. I calculate partly from the Quantity of long Wool sold, and seeing the Quantity of Goods sent from the Markets of Halifax and Bradford.

What was the Quantity of Wool sold to those Manufacturers?
I stated Yesterday that I believe the Quantity of long Wool, grown in the Kingdom, equals the Growth of Clothing Wool, or One Half of the Whole. The whole of that Wool is not manufactured into Worsted Goods, a considerable Part of each Fleece being too short for that Purpose; and I think the Quantity of long Wool brought into the Yorkshire Markets is upwards of One Third of the whole Quantity.

Have you any other specific Goods upon which you calculate the Quantity used in the Manufacture of Worsted Goods?

I have some Knowledge of the Quantity of long Wool brought to Bradford, Wakefield, Halifax, and Keighly Markets.

Within what Period did you mean, when you spoke of the Freights Yesterday?

At the present Time.

What was the Freight of Wool last Year to and from the Places you mentioned?

What is now 15 s. 9 d. was 12 s. 6 d. last Year; and what is 10 s. now, I believe the Advance last Year has been in the same Proportion.

Have you any Calculation of the Freight of Coals from Dublin to the Places of Manufacture there?

I am unacquainted with the Woollen Manufacturing Parts of Ireland.

Does not the Manufacture of long Wool extend to Lancashire?

Yes; particularly to Colne, and a few Miles round it, where I think it is confined.

Is

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Is there a Hall there for the Sale of Stuffs?
Yes; similar to those of Halifax, &c.

Does the Leicestershire Breed of Sheep produce Clothing Wool or Combing Wool?
Combing Wool.

Has not that Breed been substituted for other Kinds, which formerly were bred?

There are Two kinds of Sheep in Leicestershire, one called the Improved Breed, which has been introduced in many Parts of Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Northumberland, to my Knowledge.

Is the Wool of that Improved Breed, for Combing or Clothing?
Combing.

What was the Wool which was of the former Breed?
Combing also.

Do you conceive the Wool of this Improved Breed better or worse?

It is lighter and finer, and on the Whole more valuable; but produces a smaller Quantity of Wool invariably, when they have been substituted for the Lincolnshire Breed, or Old Leicestershire.

Does this apply to Northumberland and other Places?

I think in Northumberland, the Weight of the Wool has increased, but not improved in the Quality.

Do you know of any other Place where an Increase of Wool has taken place?

I know of One or Two Instances in Norfolk.

Has the Breed been substituted for Sheep which before produced Clothing Wool?

In the Instances of Norfolk, it was substituted for Sheep which did produce Clothing Wool.

Withdrew.

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Mr. JOSIAS NOTTIDGE, the Younger,
Manufacturer at Bocking, in Essex.

HAVE the Woollen Manufactures declined much of late?
They have.

State what was the Poor Rate Five Years ago?
8s. to 10s. in the Pound per Annum; last Year 24s. 6d. upon the Rack Rent.

What is the Cause of that Increase?
From the Loss of the Woollen Trade in our Part.

What has occasioned the Loss of that Trade?
The War in one Measure, and the Establishment of Machinery in other Parts of the Country, has destroyed our Trade.

Has a similar Increase of Poor Rates taken place in your Neighbourhood?
There has been a considerable Increase; but not so great as at Bocking, it being much more populous. The Circumference of the Parish is 30 Miles, and the Rental upwards of £. 5,000. I cannot say what Proportion is Land.

Withdrew.

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Mr. JAMES MASTERMAN,
Croydon, Surrey.

WHAT is the Amount of the Poor Rates at Lavenham, in Suffolk?
They are now 32s. on the Rack Rent; they were 10s. about Four Years ago.

What were they last Year?
The same as at present.

Was there a Woollen Manufactory carrying on there, when the Rates were 10s.?
Yes.

Has that Manufactory declined?
There are only Two Manufactories at present; there were several before.

Withdrew.

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A D D I T I O N

TO

Minutes of Evidence relating to Wool.

Mercurii, 30^o die Aprilis 1800.

SEVERAL of the Witnesses examined, on the 28th and 29th, desired to correct or explain certain Parts of their Evidence.

Mr. WILLIAM HUSTLER.

The Question and Answer in Page 4 being read,—

“ Have you, in the Course of your Experience, found there is an Insufficiency?
“ I have made Applications lately in different Parts, by Letters and by Agents, and found that there is none left; but in some Parts I have been able to supply myself with a sufficient Quantity.”—

The Witness desired, that, to his Answer might be added, “ of the finest Wool only.”

And the Question and Answer following, being read,—

“ In 1782, and subsequently, had there not used to be a Quantity on Hand unfold?
“ I never met with any Difficulty in buying Wool in the Spring, except in the latter End of the Year 1792.”—

The Witness desired to amend his Answer by adding after the Word “ Spring,” the Words “ or at any other Time.”

L

And

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And the Question and Answer following, being read,—

“ What was the Reason in 1792?

“ The Demand for Woollen Goods was greater, than at any other Time, greater than the present, which was owing to the Demand for Woollen Goods for the French Army.”—

The Witness desired, that to his Answer might be added, “ This Demand continued for so short a Time, and the Check occasioned by the War was so great, that not Half the Year's Growth was worked up. It was bought by the Woolstaplers and others upon Speculation, and a great Part remained for a Year or Two on Hand. The Country Banks furnished the Means.”

And the Question and Answer following, being read,—

“ How was it in 1782?

“ I was then just come into Business.”—

The Witness stated, he meant to have said, “ He was not then come into Business.”

And the Question, and Beginning of the Answer, in Page 6, being read,—

“ Could not another Article, that is, Coals, be supplied to Ireland cheaper than many Parts of this Kingdom where the Manufacture of Wool is carried on?

“ I am engaged in the Freight of Coals to Ireland myself, &c.”—

The Witness stated, that he expressed himself, “ that he was engaged in the Sale of Coals to Ireland himself.”

And the Question and Answer in Page 7, being read,—

“ Is that Wool superior to the Norfolk Wool?

“ I think it of more Value; but of the Norfolk Wool, One Part of the Fleec is finer than the other.”—

The Witness desired to amend his Answer, by leaving out the last Word, and substituting “ finest Part of the South Down Wool; another Part is coarser.”

And the Question and Answer in Page 8 being read,—

“ What Proportion of Combing Wool and Cloathing Wool is there?

“ By my Estimate it appears to be One Half of the Growth of Combing Wool.”—

The

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The Witness desired to amend his Answer by leaving out from “ Estimate” to the End of the Answer, and substituting “ Combing Wool appears to be One Half of the Growth of the Wool of this Kingdom.”

And the Question and Answer in Page 37 being read,—

“ Do you know of any other Place where an Increase of Wool has taken place?

“ I know of One or Two Instances in Norfolk.”—

The Witness desired that to his Answer might be added, “ On the Whole I think the Introduction of the Leicester Breed of Sheep, has lessened the Growth of Wool.”

Mr. THOMAS LUMB.

The Question and Answer in Page 17 being read,—

“ Was the Quantity formerly in October equal to what it now is in April?

“ Yes.”—

The Witness stated, that his Answer to that Question should have been, “ The Quantity formerly in October of the last Year's Growth but one, was equal to what it now is of the last Year's Growth in April.”

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT.

The Question and Answer in Page 33 being read,—

“ Can you state the Proportion in the increased Use of Machinery in that Time?

“ I cannot tell—We have at present 2,450 Spindles. I deduct One-Third for the Difference between the Individuals who spun each upon a distinct Spindle; and I find the requisite Number of Persons to do the same Work in a Week, which is now done by Thirty-five, would have required, about Fifteen Years ago, 1,634 Persons.”—

And the Witness having stated, “ That the Information he had to give on this Point was not founded on his own Knowledge, but derived from “Hearsay,” the Words in his Answer from “ I cannot tell” were struck out of the Minutes.

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Additional Evidence relating to Wool.

Jouis, 1^o die Maii 1800.

Mr. JOSEPH STANCLIFFE.

WHERE do you live?
At Hopton, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

What Buifnels are you engaged in?
I am a White Broad Clothier.

Are you one of the Trustees of the Cloth Hall at Leeds?
Yes.

Was you engaged in the Woollen Manufacture before the general Intro-
duction of Machinery?
I was.

M Can

ADDITION
to
Minutes of Evidence relating to Wool,
(30th April 1800)

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Can you state what is the Saving of Labour by the Introduction of Machinery ?

[The Witness read a Calculation, which he had made himself, which he delivered in, and is as follows :]

A CALCULATION of the Saving by the Introduction of Machinery, being made for One Pack or 240 lb. of Wool, at £.20 per Pack, to be performed in One Day.

By MACHINERY.	By the OLD METHOD.
2 Wool Sorters.	2 Wool Sorters.
2 Cleaners of the Wool.	6 Cleaners of the Wool.
2 Dyers.	2 Dyers.
Teazing before Scribbling, $\frac{1}{3}$ } of a Day.	4 Teazing, &c.
4 to Scribble and Card.	43 Scribble and Card.
2 Slubbers.	54 Slubbers, Feeders, and Spinners.
6 Feeders.	
10 to Spin, Warp, and Weft.	2 For the Loom.
2 to Warp the Web and prepare } for the Loom.	
24 Weavers.	24 Weavers.
12 Bobbin Winders.	12 Bobbin Winders.
2 to prepare for Fulling.	2 for Fulling.
2 to Mill the Cloth.	2 to Mill.
1 to Superintend.	1 to Superintend.
<hr/> 71 $\frac{1}{3}$	<hr/> 154
6 Cloth Dreffers.	6 Cloth Dreffers.
<hr/> 77 $\frac{1}{3}$	<hr/> 160
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Are the Wages of Persons employed now, the same on an Average as they were before the Introduction of Machinery ?

The Wages are now according to the different Species of Work.

Is

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Is the Proportion of Men to Women and Children, employed since the Introduction of Machinery, nearly the same as before it ?

I cannot tell.

How many of the 154 Persons, mentioned in the Paper delivered in as formerly employed, were Men ?

I never made the Calculation.

Are the Wages now paid to Men, the same as the Wages paid to Men formerly ?

For the same Species of Work the same—for some Sorts more.

Do Women and Children receive the same Wages for a Day's Work ?
Much the same.

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(1A Mar /89)

W O O L

RELATING TO

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE