

until the dinner time. In the meantime "the accident" could be reported at the Trades Union offices, and a record be made and the trap laid for the employer. He goes to his work, nobody being aware of the cause of his absence. In the course of a few days the inspector turns up and enquires if there has not been an accident. Every official, from manager down to the piece-hooker in the warehouse, is quite ignorant, and says "No, there has been no accident here." But the inspector is wiser than they are: out comes his memorandum book, with a record of time, place, and circumstances—a knowledge acquired, like the policeman's, "from information received." Investigation is made, the injured person is called, and there surely enough is the condemnatory evidence in a bit of sticking plaster over a small cut, or a blackened finger nail. The majesty of the law must be upheld, a summons is issued, and the minimum fine of "one pound and costs" is inflicted. This is no fancy picture; something very like it has recently occurred in East Lancashire, even under the present law. And what, we ask, would it be if the proposed amendment became law?

Clause 10 of the Bill, which comes next, extends the application of section 36 of the existing Act to textile factories, which it hardly touched before, and which never in the history at least of the cotton manufacture required it less than they do now, and it brings in with this extension a complex piece of official mechanism to ensure its application. The only reason we can find for this being dragged in is that the clause in the existing Act cannot by any conceivable means be twisted into an instrument of torture for the back of the employer. It is the clause relating to the generation of dust.

We have now reached section 11 of the Bill, which first reenacts literally clause 62 of the existing Act, which is simply a restricting clause, excluding the application of the Act to flax scutch mills. So far so good. But opportunity is taken here to interpolate a proposed amendment, which is utterly outside the scope and purpose of the Factory Acts. It is the introduction of a principle and feature entirely foreign to this class of legislation from the beginning to the present time. It is such a choice specimen of trades-union tyranny that we reprint it in full:—

62 (a.) Every person engaged as a weaver in the cotton, worsted, or woollen trade, or as a winder, warper, or reeler, in the cotton trade, who is paid by the piece, shall have supplied to him or her with each piece of work particulars as follows:—To the Weaver: The number of threads in the warp. The number of threads per inch in the reed. The number of picks per inch. The counts of twist and weft indicating the thickness thereof. The length of cloth in yards (Standard measure), except where it is the custom to pay by the length of warp, and in that case, the length of warp shall be given instead of the length of cloth. Together with the price to be paid for the weaving thereof. To the Winder: The counts of twist. The weight of each weight or set. Together with the price to be paid for the winding thereof. To the Reeler: The length of each knot or hank. The counts thereof, indicating the thickness of the threads. In the event of any contravention of the provisions of this Section the occupier of the factory in which such contravention takes place shall for each offence be liable to a fine of not less than twenty shillings nor more than five pounds.

In the digest just issued Mr. Birtwistle has been careful not to reproduce this clause in detail, so we have done it for him. He says it

"Is a new clause, the necessity for which is found perhaps more particularly in the weaving branch of the cotton trade, but is essential throughout the textile trades, as weavers, winders, and others are all engaged on piecework, and on the quantity, quality, etc., of the work given out to them depends their earnings, and the employers in a great many instances refuse to give them these particulars. By this means a number of the more unprincipled ones are enabled to defraud the workers out of a portion of their earnings, and in many instances have we found this to be done to the extent

of 10 per cent. An unpractical person might say that the workers can ascertain all these particulars for themselves, but this is not so. A winder cannot tell the counts of the twist she is winding; a weaver, the number of threads in the cloth nor the number of yards in the piece, which in some instances go up from 20 to 150 or 200 yards each."

We are certainly surprised at the insinuations conveyed in this statement. To the amount of 90 per cent. of their number and extent they can only be characterised as untrue, both in letter and spirit. A winder of very little experience can tell to a hank the counts of yarn she is winding. The work of a warper, who follows after, is mechanically measured with the greatest accuracy, and by that measurement she is paid. The same occurs in the case of the sizer. The next is the drawer-in or the twister, and he is paid by the number of threads in the warp, which is always stated upon the ticket. This ticket goes down to the weaver, and furnishes the weaver with the particulars of the warp supplied to him. These consist of the width of the cloth to be made, the length of the piece, and the counts of the reed. The remainder of the information, such as the counts of the weft, the number of picks, and the description of the "heading," by which the piece is afterwards recognised to consist of the said particulars throughout its further handling in the mill, and also in the warehouse of the agent and merchant, is given to the weaver by the overlooker. The counts of the reed are all marked upon the reed, and the weaver therefore has the means at command every moment at which he is at work of ascertaining the number of threads in his work, and the number of picks per quarter inch he is putting into his cloth have been given him, and the accuracy of the statement he can test any moment by counting the teeth in his change-wheel upon the loom. We hold, therefore, that there is absolutely no need for this clause, because any attempt to falsify the particulars of the work would lead to inextricable confusion, which would entail far greater loss than any gain therefrom would compensate. If there be such cases of falsification as is alleged, Mr. Birtwistle and his union are sufficiently powerful to punish them to their hearts' content without placing the whole trade under such grossly arbitrary regulations, which would enable every competitor at home and abroad who should be desirous of imitating our manufactures to accomplish his purpose with perfect ease. The clause stands utterly condemned as the most ridiculously absurd and mischievous proposition which the irrationalism of Trades-Unionism has yet conceived and propounded.*

Section 12 of the Bill increases the stringency of the clause in the Act by making it penal for any one to obstruct the inspector or assist people out of the way of detection. We offer no remarks upon this.

Mr. Birtwistle's manifesto concludes with the following:—

* The importance of this matter warrants the reproduction of the following remarks in reference thereto, which appeared in *The Textile Mercury* of December 13th last:—"Really they [the weavers] are making demands here which would at once betray their whole trade into the hands of foreign competitors, and provide by English law for the benefit of foreigners the very knowledge they are so anxious to obtain in order to become competitors with us. Does Mr. Birtwistle not know that on the acquisition of this knowledge the United States Government has spent thousands of dollars through its consuls, and has, very properly, failed? Does he not know that having thus failed it is now trying on another dodge to effect the same purpose, namely, that invoices of goods exported to the States shall contain the particulars for which he is asking? We hardly thought he would have shewn such want of enlightenment regarding the interests of the cotton trade, and not least of those of his own clients, as he exhibits when putting forward proposals of this kind."

"With the object of securing a more faithful observance of the Act, and preventing unprincipled employers violating it with impunity, while the more honourable ones observe it in all its fullness, we suggest that the penalties in sections 22, 31, 68, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85 of the principal Act be so amended as to create a minimum and raise the maximum penalty for each case, as it was previous to the passing of the Act of 1878."

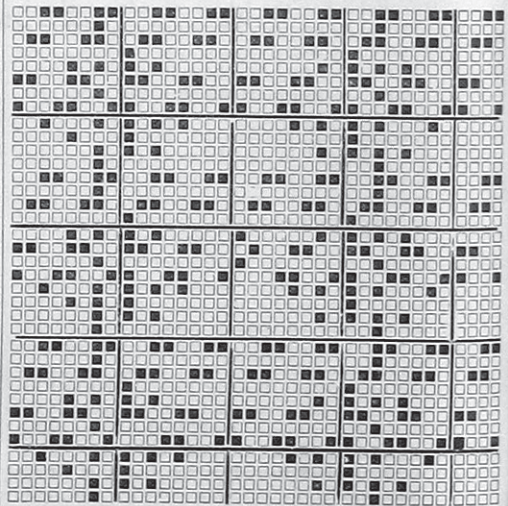
We are sure it will startle the public to be told that five out of six of the offences penalised in the sections referred to are breaches of the law by the operatives themselves, for which, by one of the strangest freaks to be found in legislation, the law has made the employer responsible. Trades-unionists are utilising this vagary of our law-makers to harass and render impossible the conduct of their business, and the Governments of the last few years have steadily helped them by placing the instruments wherewith to do it in their hands, in giving inspectorships to leading unionists and their sons, in return for political support at election times. It is high time that the interests of the most important industries of the kingdom ceased to be made a sport of, either by those dependent upon them for their existence, or by professional politicians seeking votes or office. We shall have something more to say on this point before long.

Designing.

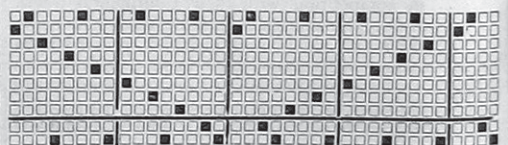
NEW DESIGNS.

NEW FANCY DRESS CORD.

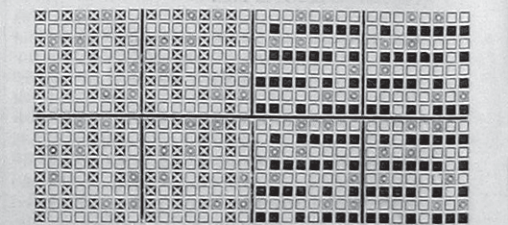
The full design, draft, and pegging plan of a new fancy dress cord is given in this issue. It is likely to be in fashion as a dress material for between-season wear, and may be used for the



NEW FANCY DRESS CORD.—FULL DESIGN.



FANCY DRESS CORD.—DRAFT.



DESIGN 14.

promenade without the addition of a jacket. The cloth must be piece dyed in delicate neutral tints or very plain dark colours, such as navy blue, bottle green, and deep chocolate, the brighter colours being more suitable for indoor wear. A new colour is in vogue called "mushroom tint"; also light tan, grey, drab, tabac, ruby, bronze, olive, terra-cotta, fawn, salmon, reseda, claret, moss, heliotrope, would all be becoming and well adapted to give effect to this cord fabric. Violent contrasts, though fashionable, are vulgar unless the fabric used be of the most costly nature. This design, on a 36-end draft, 12 to the round, may be made in a 36 reed with 50's two-fold, and 52's soft cop weft, picked at the rate of 9 oz. to the yard. Of course this is only a basis to work from where the make would be all cotton; but a careful study of the design will suggest the combination of other materials, such as linen, silk, mohair, or worsted; for instance, the binders 3 and 8 in the pegging plan stitch the face cloth and form the back. This portion may be formed with a soft cop weft so as to give the cloth a kindly elastic feel; the second shuttle, for the face, spun silk of any shade, or grey, or this shuttle could be used with mohair and worsted, and the pegging could easily be altered to suit the occasion by having the binder treads together, or putting in two cotton picks on one tread with a catcher at the selvage;

the round would then be 14 picks, 4 on the binders, 10 on the face. Many ways may be adopted for a variety of unions in this desirable cloth.

NOVELTIES IN DOUBLE CLOTHS.

Designs 11 and 12 given last week are further supplemented by Designs 13 and 14, Design 13 being a twill effect produced by allowing the woollen backing, if such it may in this instance be called, to weave plain partly on the surface instead of on the back as is usually the case. The following sett may be used:—

<i>Warp.</i>	<i>Weft.</i>
2 threads 2/40's worsted for face,	Same as warp,
1 thread 20 sk. woollen for back,	84 picks per inch.
14's reed 6's.	

If the stripe, check, or twill formed on this principle be large, it may be desirable to tie the two cloths together other than by simple exchange of places.

Design 14 is a stripe effect constructed with the same idea as the above, only there is one thread and pick of face to one thread and pick of back. This will necessitate either the reduction of the backing yarn in diameter or a reduction of the face yarn. This latter method will probably, for the type of cloth required, yield the best result, since the requirements are simply a contrast between coarse and fine work,

and the contrast may be heightened either by introducing finer work in the case of the worsted yarn, or coarser in the case of the woollen yarn.

WORSTED MANTLE CLOTHS.

A type of cloth much used for short jackets, etc., is illustrated in Designs 15 and 16.

Design 15 is a stripe effect developed in 8-end buckskin, double plain and warp rib weaves. The buckskin forms the ground, upon which is developed in double plain a broad stripe, which should form a slight contrast of analogy with ground, while the 6-and-2 rib is introduced with the idea of applying stronger contrasting colour end and end.

The following should prove effective:—

<i>Warp.</i>	<i>Weft.</i>
24 ths. 2/56's medium olive,	1 th. 2/56's dark red,
16 ths. 2/56's dark brown,	1 th. 2/56's dark green.
24 ths. 2/56's medium olive,	Repeat for 16 threads.
18's reed 6's.	

All 28's dark brown or olive.
100 picks per inch.

Coarser yarns and a more open sett may be used if desired.

Design 16 is a similar effect, checked. The end-and-end contrast, however, giving equal surface to the two colours, will require attention, but the principle of construction is precisely the same, the same setts being suitable.

