

The Irish Textile Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

The Belfast Linen Trade Circular.

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Notices.

Correspondence and items of interest bearing upon the Textile Industries, Technical Education, or other questions treated in this Journal, are solicited. Market reports, or notes respecting the position and prospects of our Irish industries, will be specially acceptable. Correspondents should write briefly and on one side of the paper. Foreign readers are invited to send reports, and to point out any facilities which may exist for promoting the interests of Irish manufacturers.

The *Irish Textile Journal* is published on the 15th of each month. Yearly subscription, including postage, 11/6. Subscriptions payable in advance. Free sample copy sent to any address. Advertisers will find the Journal an excellent medium for announcements suitable to its pages. Terms may be known on application.

All remittances to be made payable to the Proprietor, F. W. SMITH, 7, Donegall Square East, Belfast.

The *Linen Market*, published every Saturday, at the above address, deals exclusively with the Irish linen trade in all its branches. Annual subscription, £1 1s. The *Irish Textile Journal* and *The Linen Market*, if ordered at the same time, will be supplied by post for £1 4s., or if within the City delivery for £1 2s. 6d., per annum.

The *Home and Foreign Linen Trade Directory*. Price, Limp cloth, 2s. 6d.; boards, 3s.

A *Souvenir of the Irish Linen Trade*, being a series of 12 Views, illustrating the Cultivation of Flax, the steeping, drying, scutching (by hand and power), and preparation of it for market. The Spinning of Flax by hand on the old spinning-wheel, the reeling, winding, and warping of the Yarn. Weaving of Linen by hand, the bleaching and finishing of the Cloth, and the subsequent examination, lapping, and making up of the goods in the Warehouse, together with a view of the old Irish Linen Hall or Market in Dublin for the sale of the Linens. From original engravings in the possession of Messrs. J. N. Richardson, Sons & Owden, Ltd., Belfast—dated 1791.

Carefully printed Bromide Photographs (7½ × 6), on India-tinted card mounts 10½ × 14, £1 5s. per set, or unmounted, £1 for the set of 12. Published at the office of this Journal.



Visit of the Marquis of Salisbury to Ulster.

IN connection with the visit of this most distinguished statesman to the North of Ireland last month, accompanied by the Marchioness and members of their family—in fulfilment of a promise made some months ago—we have pleasure in recording that in every respect it was a brilliant success, all classes and creeds joining in a hearty welcome. Considerably over 100 addresses were presented to his Lordship, and we draw attention to two, which will interest our readers, coming from local commercial bodies, viz.—the Linen Merchants' Association and the Belfast Technical School, and which will be found in another column. The first gives statistical information of much interest in regard to our staple trade, and expresses the strong conviction of the commercial community in opposing the Home Rule Bill now before Parliament. The second in a no less degree states similar views, and in suitable words points out that the real wants of the country will best be served by promoting industrial, technical, and agricultural education in Ireland, and that under Imperial rule this remedial course will be fully secured.

New Linen Materials.

In our correspondent's report, in the present issue, on the trade of the making-up factories, there are one or two references that we deem deserving of the careful consideration of the linen trade. These touch upon the introduction, actual or possible, in several branches of the making-up trades, of linen goods where, up to the present, cotton

goods have been solely used, or almost entirely so. It seems that one or two of the more enterprising of the local makers-up have, of their own motion, introduced green dress linens as material for the manufacture of "fancy," as distinguished from ordinary "holland" pinafores, and for ladies' blouses, &c. This end of the trade is a large one, both here and across the channel, and the introduction to it of green linens of very superior make would lead to the securing of a large additional outlet for our production, if properly and carefully followed up by the linen houses. The further suggestion of our correspondent, that brown and striped linen drills might be made to take the place of cotton drills and striped cotton goods, also seems to us a practical and useful one. We have often advocated greater attention being given to the securing of additional outlets for our linen production, as being the most effective remedy for that keenness of competition and cutting of prices of which power-loom manufacturers complain so much at times; and the suggestions of our correspondent refer to but a few out of many ways in which this desirable result might be arrived at. At home and abroad the makers-up are now become the chief consumers of linen goods of all kinds; and in a careful study of, and catering for, the wants and possibilities of the making-up trades, lies the chief hope of a considerable extension and remunerative future for the staple trade. We venture to commend the subject to the thoughtful consideration of the leading members of the trade.

The Irish Industrial League.

We must congratulate the Industrial League on continuing to do good work. There was a time when this organisation appeared to hardly deserve its name, and even quite lately some of its actions did not meet with our approval. So long, however, as it confines itself to legitimate labours, we shall gladly urge it forward, and, so far as we may, give it a helping hand. At the last meeting the League was engaged upon considering some proposals of Mr. J. H. Parnell, of Avondale, for the utilisation of the spare wood of the Avondale forests. He is sanguine that he can open out a market for his wares in America, especially should there be an alteration in the tariff for the better. Meanwhile, he proposes to make Dublin a centre for the disposal of such goods as can be supplied; one of the items being wood-wool, for which some considerable orders have already been booked. Another matter which engaged the attention of the League was the American Mail contract, and the following resolution was adopted:—"That, as a very strong belief exists that if immediate and proper steps be not taken to retain the American Mail contract it will be lost to Ireland, the Irish Industrial League calls on all Irish public bodies to arouse public opinion on the matter." It is not a moment too soon to move in this matter. Southampton is making strenuous efforts to oust Queenstown; the new line of heavily subsidised American liners run to the English port, and other influences are being brought to bear to get the mail contract transferred, and Queenstown and other Irish ports cut out. This is entirely a matter for the consideration and action of the League, and as long as it interests itself in legitimate matters such as the Avondale industries or the mail contract, it will flourish, and deserve to flourish.

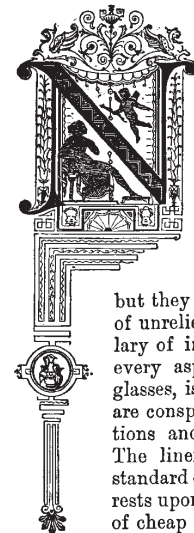
Rival Irish Villages at Chicago.

It is with extreme regret that we notice what looks like a serious *contretemps* at the Chicago Exhibition. A special meeting of the Cork Committee of the Irish Industrial Association has been held, and at it a declaration to the following effect was adopted and sent for signature to all the Mayors in Ireland:—"As some doubts appear to have arisen as to the representative character of the Irish Industrial Village at the Chicago World's Fair, we, the undersigned Mayors, desire to state in the most explicit manner that the Irish Industrial Village has been established by the Irish Industries Association, under the presidency of Lady Aberdeen, in pursuance of a widespread movement supported by representatives of all sections of the community, irrespective of creed, party, or class, and that in our opinion the Irish Industrial Village is a thoroughly representative undertaking." Responses in the way of signatures came from Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Sligo, Drogheda, and Clonmel, and a cablegram was sent to America asking that the declaration might be communicated to the Chicago papers and the American press generally, concluding with the words, "Act promptly." We very much fear that this forebodes a condition of rivalry at the World's Fair which must militate against the interests of Irish industry. Healthy competition and honest opposition only tend to stimulate both sides to greater and better efforts, but there must be something radically wrong if action such as has been taken by the Cork Committee is at all requisite. We have

sufficient confidence in the good sense, tact, and judgment, but above all in the loyal interest in Ireland, of those in charge of the exhibits in Chicago to feel sure that whatever evil threatened has now been averted. Disaster must follow on jealousy, and for the sake of the poor workers at home, for the sake of the success of the enterprise which has seized upon this opportunity of introducing Irish cottage industries into the American markets, we earnestly deprecate any acts or words which might have the tendency to open up a bitter hostility between those who, after all, are working for the same good cause.



Belfast as seen by a London Special Commissioner.



More gloomy sketch of a great manufacturing centre than that lately given of Belfast by the *Daily Chronicle* has ever been put upon paper. The hives of modern industry are generally grey and dull, almost inevitably in big cities, but Belfast is painted an unmitigated black by this Special Commissioner. So as not to represent it as an Irish Inferno, it is admitted that there are gorgeous shops, substantial warehouses, and colossal factories to be found in it,

but they are quite eclipsed by "regions of utter squalor, of unrelieved ugliness and foulness." With a full vocabulary of invective, in substantives and adjectives together, every aspect of Belfast life, as seen through *Chronicle* glasses, is forbidding. Public spirit and civic patriotism are conspicuous only by their absence, charitable institutions and benevolent endowments are equally lacking. The linen lords approach more nearly to the nursery standard of Fee-fo-fum than most employers; their industry rests upon "the command of a practically unlimited supply of cheap children's fingers;" destitution and poverty prevail everywhere. It is stated, in so many words, that "a more

piteous struggle for a bare and half-starved existence than that which goes on in Belfast can be found in no other busy and constantly employed manufacturing town," and that "the mill hands of Belfast are living a life of lingering misery and destitution utterly exhausting to every physical and mental faculty." They will probably not be flattered, and will certainly be very much surprised to hear it. Their wretched state, from a *Chronicle* point of view, is only in keeping with everything else about them. It is shown, to the discredit of Belfast, that its five parks are not situated in the centre of the city, where the Special Commissioner apparently expected to find them, and that the Free Library is not distributed in instalments through the suburbs. The only noteworthy circumstance about the School of Art, as the Commissioner regarded it, is that its surroundings are suggestive "of a deserted graveyard;" and the Museum is described as though it ought rather to be called a mausoleum. It only needed that the Dead March in *Saul* should have been discovered to be the favourite air of the people, for the finishing touch to be put to this funeral picture.

Full proof of the outrageous statements, to any unprejudiced person who knows Belfast, is found in the terms in which the poorer quarters of the city are described. There are, unhappily, insanitary spots about it, more than we like to see, all of which we would be glad to clear out with one sweep, instead of by degrees, as the civic broom is obliged to deal with them. Belfast has grown so fast that it has been pinched for building room. Much of it is built on land reclaimed from the sea, and almost at sea-level. It is, consequently, not well situated for efficient sanitation; and when the first settlers came here, modern standards of drainage and accommodation were not anticipated. There may not be any absolute injustice in visiting the architectural sins of our forefathers upon their children, but to say, as the *Chronicle* Commissioner does, that the streets generally are composed of "narrow, slatternly, unwholesome files of houses, built neither for the convenience or health of the inhabitants," and that "the standard of construction and space is far below that of the English work-a-day town," is—to keep within parliamentary limitations of expression—a deliberate perversion of the facts. A flat denial can be given, too, to the statement that house accommodation has been left to the jerry builder, "uncontrolled by

any of your fussy municipal regulations." There is some humour, of a queer sort, about this *Chronicle* Commissioner, and his descriptive touches have at times a grotesque turn which is quite entertaining. But to aver that the crowded parts of Belfast fairly lifted a sigh "for the light and colour and space of the Mile End Road" in the East End of London, and "for the comparative cleanliness of the Whitechapel courts," is, to use a phrase appropriate to such assertions, playing it rather low down. To have the cleanliness of Whitechapel courts brought to a degree of comparison is ludicrous enough in any case, poor joke though it may be; but to have it applied to any part of Belfast is ridiculous. Such impressions were evidently intended for *Chronicle* consumption only. They were not meant for cosmopolitan reading. In a little bit of private and confidential information, it appears that the articles were written in Slobland, and in a room where the floor was rippling "in gentle undulations." What a pity Belfast had no notice of the coming of the Special Commissioner of the *Daily Chronicle*, so that he might not have been obliged to take up his quarters in the moving bog of the city. In all charity, this remarkably undulating floor must be held largely accountable for many shaky statements and untenable conclusions in these articles on "Sweated Ulster."

But the verbal vagaries of a *Chronicle* Commissioner—so eminently appropriate to the paper with a "program"—must not divert attention from the serious questions which are at issue. Rooms may ripple, and Whitechapel appear inviting, but there are topics of a different kind brought forward in these articles. It would be quite fair to put the case of Belfast from the positive side; to show, as might easily be done, that there is not general indifference to the interests or welfare of workers; or to prove, on other testimony than our own, that the people as well as the trade are prospering. It almost seemed, from the *Chronicle* way of putting it, that the recent revival of business was not quite creditable to Belfast. Reports of buoyant trade were only made a foil to tales of low wages. On that score the total linen exports of the *United Kingdom* are credited to Belfast, so as to increase its importance, and to make a grand total to be put against the unsupported assertion that women's wages here "are the lowest paid in any department of the textile trade." No account is taken of the long period of unremunerative trade through which the flax industries have had to pass, or to the disturbance of the M'Kinley tariff, although wages and employment were maintained all the time. Either through ignorance, or something worse, the initial rate for half-timers—2s. 9d. a-week—is specially pleaded against Belfast, although both in the Manchester and Oldham districts as low or lower rates prevail. Again, there is an attempt to prejudice Belfast on the score that women go to the mills in the early morning, "and the half-timers pace along by their side, their little bare feet making no echoes like the volleying clogs of the Lancashire lasses on the paved roads;" no mention being made of the fact that only a portion of the half-timers choose to adopt a bare-foot fashion followed by children with impunity throughout rural Scotland as well as Ireland. In fact, every possible point capable of being used against Ulster is, for party purposes, seized upon and used without reserve or scruple. It was no concern of the *Chronicle* Commissioner to find good in anything over here; his mission was to play the part of Mr. Justice Overdo in "Bartholomew Fair," and to spy out enormities. The same methods applied to any industrial centre would result in the disclosure of many defects and shortcomings. Municipal perfection under microscopical examination—especially if the microscope be turned a little askew until the object looked at is somewhat distorted—is not attainable in any place. But we are not desirous of taking shelter under other folks' failings, and shall only in one particular have further occasion to bring other places into comparison. For, happily, the *Chronicle* Commissioner has been so unguarded as to give a few particulars—not too many—to testify to the absolute impregnability of his case. And at that point, especially in respect to the health and sanitation of Belfast, we join issue with him.

Hardly any part of the heavy indictment of Belfast life looks blacker, in *Chronicle* type, than that dealing with "that element of prime importance in the real wealth of a community—the health of the people." The records of this Journal will show that the question, not only in the light of social economics, but as affecting industry particularly, has not been neglected in our columns; and in the fuller sense that Health is Wealth, where the public weal rather than only riches is intended, we are glad to regard it as "an element of prime importance." Then the Commissioner, after claiming that he

has spent a great deal of time in trying to find out how Belfast stands in this respect, says:—

It is impossible to come to any other conclusion than this: The sanitary policy and administration of Belfast would disgrace any fifth-rate English town, whilst the medical charities stand confessed as more completely inadequate than those of any other large city. So scandalous is the manner in which the public health is cared for, that the 1892 death-rate of Belfast is higher than that of any great town in England. This is clearly a matter which ought to be probed to the bottom. But, putting aside for the moment the question of municipal incompetency, what are we to think of the fact that Belfast is more poorly provided with public means for relieving the sick than any other large city in the United Kingdom. See the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1891. According to his last report, the Royal Hospital is the only public general hospital; and to those who need it most the conditions are almost prohibitory—patients must be subscribers, or pay some 21s. a-week. The capital of Ulster cannot, it seems, afford to exercise the luxury of humanity, for one-third of the contributions to the Royal Hospital come from the halpence and pence deducted from the wages of the workpeople in the mills and factories.

It is not mentioned here that the death-rate of Belfast in 1892 was lower than either that of Cork or Dublin city, English towns only being adduced to prove the scandalous deficiencies of Belfast. Nor is it mentioned that Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Blackburn, and Oldham all had higher death-rates than Belfast in 1891; nor that the Belfast death-rates for '91 and '92 were considerably higher than for six out of eight of the preceding years; nor, once more, is it pointed out that the high rate of '91 was due to an attack of influenza, and that of last year to an epidemic of measles, a disease over which Dr. Whittaker states we have little control. All of these palliative facts must have been under the notice of the *Chronicle* Commissioner; but, in the interests of Home Rule, all are carefully disregarded. Indeed the extent to which this report, so confidently referred to, is misrepresented, is surprising. Dr. Whittaker states, not that Belfast stood worst of any city in the United Kingdom as regards hospital accommodation, but that "the hospital accommodation of our city is much inferior to that of most large cities in the United Kingdom," which is something entirely different; and adds, "such as it is, it is but little availed of by the majority of the people, so far at least as disease is concerned, more especially of an infectious nature." Further he says, on the same page, that the Union Hospital is open to all cases, and that it has latterly been altered, at considerable expense, for purposes not then settled. Dr. Whittaker only uses the phrase adopted in the *Chronicle*—"almost prohibitory"—to apply to *infectious cases* at the Royal Hospital. Then, taking the last sentence in this curiously inaccurate passage, the contributions of the workpeople to the Royal Hospital are *voluntary* offerings, not *deductions*, and do not nearly amount to a third of the total sum subscribed.

It may be well in this connection to give a few brief extracts from the last report of the Working Men's Committee of this Hospital, for all creeds and classes are represented in the management. They say—"We believe it is our duty, so long as the Hospital is only maintained by voluntary contributions, to render it all the assistance we can to perform its noble work." Then follows a table showing the number of intern patients treated, which last year amounted to 3,041, exclusive of attendances in the extern department of 20,293. They then say—

When we take into consideration that over 90 per cent. of these numbers belong to our class, we are forced to the conclusion that the working people in this large city are far from doing their duty to the Hospital. Indeed, we question much if it is not a privilege instead of a duty for the working people to contribute to the support of such an indispensable institution. We wonder if its doors were closed to-morrow in what state would our city be in one month; or, supposing our class received but one-fourth the treatment they get at present, which would be fully equal to what they subscribe (for it requires over £8,000 yearly to maintain the Hospital), how many sufferers would be turned away from its gates? No doubt, the wealthy and the employers of labour are entitled to assist in the maintenance of such an institution. Still, we believe it behoves every man and woman employed in the community to subscribe a something in aid of the Hospital, seeing that its existence is chiefly for their benefit.

We may add that workpeople contributing $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per week are taken in free as intern patients. In case the patients are not subscribers, the management inquire into their circumstances, and only charge what they can afford. There is no hard-and-fast rule. Of course every case, day or night, coming to the Hospital, is treated at once, the question of payment never being a bar to admission.

In another of the articles, headed "Death in the Mill," it is said that the prosperity of Belfast has its roots, in one dire d'd alliteration, in "destitution, disease, and death." This is what might rather be expected from the *Little Pedlington Gazette* than an influential London newspaper; but it is added—

The road to death is short and direct, and goes through the linen mill. I doubt if any shorter cut is to be found in any other industry. There is no getting over

the figures which I have obtained—the official death-roll of the mill-workers of Belfast during the course of a single year. Words can add nothing to this truly appalling record. In the year 1891, according to the certified figures which the chief registrar of the Belfast Union has obtained for me from the six purely urban divisions of his district, 528 deaths occurred among the mill-hands; 241 of these were from phthisis, and 113 from respiratory diseases, the deaths from phthisis being thus 45·6 per cent. of the whole number, and from phthisis and respiratory diseases together 67 per cent. That this is due to no local circumstances is shown by the fact that only 13·6 per cent. of the deaths among the rest of the population of Belfast were due to phthisis.

Now we have no desire to belittle in any way the local mortality from respiratory diseases, but it must be said that, so far as these vital statistics are intended to place Belfast on a vicious eminence, or to prove that these ills are particularly fatal in one district, they are altogether misleading. If the statement made by the *Chronicle* Commissioner be correct, it reveals a rather unexpected state of affairs. In the year '91, 241 deaths, he writes, occurred from phthisis—as the millworkers number some 30,000, this would give us for the year 8 deaths per 1,000; 113 occurred from diseases of the respiratory organs—this would give us a rate of 3·8, or for the two combined 11·8. This certainly appears more satisfactory than we could have imagined amongst the millworkers, inasmuch as the death-rate per 1,000 from these causes in the city, including its healthiest suburbs, amounts to 11·2 for the same time, according to Dr. Whittaker's report. His elaborate and unquestionably accurate returns show that phthisis is tolerably, and sadly even throughout the city, ranging from 3·0 per 1,000—not per cent. of course—in the College district to 5·6 in Shankhill. Respiratory diseases are at their lowest, 4·7 per 1,000, in College district, and highest with 10·2 in the Falls district. In only two districts, Falls and Millfield, did the deaths from all chest affections together run above 13·6, not for phthisis only, and per 1,000, not per cent. We would have it borne in mind that all these particulars must have been before the *Chronicle* Commissioner. That this is so is again evident through Dr. Whittaker's report being quoted in the slobland contribution, which deals with made-ground for building. From that the following passage is taken:—

Naturally, Dr. Whittaker protests against this practice, but the zeal of the Corporation does not appear to have consumed the offending jerry builder, for though Dr. Whittaker reports "some improvement," he returns to the charge again, introducing his recommendations thus:—"I have often called attention to the tipping stations, and the manner which they are filled up, in some cases, with matter which, to put it as mildly as possible, is in a very objectionable state."

Then follow marks to denote an omission from the original. But the part omitted is as follows:—"Considerable improvement has taken place, and your officers have strict orders as to the regular inspection of same from time to time, and to report when necessary." What a different complexion is put upon the action of the Corporation by the mitigating clause which is left out. And as regards "the somewhat debased standard of the Belfast authorities," and "the sanitary policy and administration which would disgrace any fifth-rate English town," this report of Dr. Whittaker for 1892 shows that the Corporation has nearly completed an extensive and costly main drainage system; that a hospital for infectious diseases was, at the time when it was written, engaging the serious attention of the authorities; that in other respects the Public Health Committee was evidently alive to its responsibilities, and that "the city was never in a more cleanly condition than at present." None of these qualifying circumstances find a place in the *Chronicle*.

That there is still plenty of room for sanitary improvement in Belfast nobody would be disposed to deny. That the faces of the powers that be are steadily set towards reform is equally beyond question. It was, we presume, no part of the instructions given to the Special Commissioner to find out if the Corporation, Water Commissioners, or any other public body had really done anything to improve this Northern Inferno discovered by the *Daily Chronicle*, into which some eight thousand fresh emigrants are annually sent every year, to be ground up, according to this fantastic description, in the linen mills and shipyards, or done to death in some other form. In the interests of humanity, however, and to afford some comfort to the unhappy people who are still being consigned to this "water-logged town," we will only mention a few odd things done of late years by our authorities to improve the place; although the Special Commissioner says, "after a long and weary search for signs of the public spirit and civic patriotism which everyone in England must by this time associate with Belfast, I have entirely failed to find them."

To provide for the recreation of the people, some five parks of late years (all on the city tram lines) have been acquired, and laid out at a large cost, whilst, to keep them up, a sum of about £8,000 per annum is contributed by the ratepayers. Since 1878, considerably over half-a million of money has been laid out in the sweeping away of old and insanitary property, culverting the Blackstaff, and widening the streets; and a further sum of £105,000 has just been voted for improving Bridge Street and North Street. The new Main Drainage Scheme, which is approaching completion, will cost upwards of a quarter of a million sterling, irrespective of some thirty-eight thousand pounds previously spent on district sewers; whilst upwards of £8,000 per annum are spent on the cleaning out of the ashpits. Some £25,000 have been spent on baths and wash-houses, and £20,000 on the Public Library. In regard to the water-supply, about £400,000 have been spent, whilst further large extensions are about to be undertaken. But small matters like these do not come within the scope of the inquiry instituted by the *Chronicle*; nor does it attempt to explain, in the face of such an account as it gives of the city, how its population has grown from 100,301 in 1851, to over 270,000 at the present time, or how the valuation has risen in the same period from £196,485 to £761,489. We take it that the standard by which Belfast should be tested is not merely that which is wrong, but by what is being done to set wrong right, and to keep pace with its marvellous growth. If that be so, these *Chronicle* articles would need no further notice. Still we may take occasion to criticise the assertions made respecting trade and employment in Belfast, which is still so attractive a market for labour; but as regards the subjects we have dealt with, no fair-minded man will attach any importance to such unfair and one-sided evidence, when the complete case, and not partisan pleadings upon it, are put before him.

Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving.

VII.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THIS JOURNAL, AND ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

Linen Looms.



LOOMS have to be specially adapted for the weaving of linen textures, more so than those constructed for fabrics made of other materials. There is no doubt there are many good loom constructors; but it may be said in all fairness that those made by Hall, of Bury; Butterworth & Dickinson, of Burnley, Lancashire; and Robertson & Orchar, of Dundee, give every satisfaction. To have good looms, and kept in proper order, is of paramount importance to any manufacturing establishment—in fact, they are a necessity, as well as every improvement attached, to keep pace with the competitive spirit of the age. With the dobbies or shedding motions made by the above-named firms, there is no question the most complex patterns may be produced next to applying Jacquard machinery.

Dress Linens.

I have previously given many details how a variety of beautiful designs within the compass of heald shafts may be easily produced; and I now take the opportunity of giving a few novelties that will well repay reproduction. Of course, it is necessary that colour should play a part in dress goods; and when they are moderately fast, so that the material may be washed, there are no fabrics made from any fibre will equal linen in crispness, cleanliness, and neatness, whether as stripes or checks. The patterns given will be found suitable for the spring season of 1894, and equally adaptable for the home or export trade; they have the merit of being easily woven, and in no way beyond the capacity of an ordinary power or hand-loom, if required. The 1st pattern, as shown by No. 1 weave plan, is on 4 shafts of healds, a straight draft with 12 weft picks to the round, simple enough even on the ordinary shedding or Woodcroft's section tappets. A reed measuring 25 dents per inch, 2 in a dent, will be sufficient—in fact, a coarser set of reed in the splits can be used without any detriment to the fabric; the white yarns used must be well bleached, though a variety may be used—grey or *ecru*—that is, unbleached—merely the French term, but now in common use. The construction of the twists are from 30's lea line, two threads loose twists. 1 brown and orange twist, 2 slate 30's single, 2 white 30's single, 2 black and white twist, 2 slate 30's single, 2 white single, 1 black and white twist; order for warping, repeating from the 1 of brown and orange twist the weft of 15 leas tow or line, picked with 2 black and white twist, 2 black and grey, 2 grey single, picks per inch in proportion to the warp counts in the reed. This being a novelty, there is plenty of scope for experimental patterns in colours. Counts of twists, when joined together

either in warp or weft, will be broken up in the patterns by the weave, giving very peculiar though very effective results, and will be found something out of the beaten track. By a judicious selection of fancy-twisted yarns, a great improvement would be introduced in linen dress goods with very simple weaves; perhaps the above pattern will furnish sufficient practice to those who may wish to adopt this system of broken colourings, either by the way of enlarged stripes or in all-over figured designs. Fancy twist may be considered when of equal counts as two-fold yarns; but when unequal or tripled, some calculation is necessary; taking the twists given in No. 1 pattern, a 30's lea coupled would be nearly 15's, because some allowance must be made for the take-up of the twist again, in the weft the twist from 15's lea might reasonably be considered 7's; but when a three or four fold yarn is required, the rule is as follows:—Divide the single counts by the number of folds—30's lea ÷ 3 = 10, or 30's lea ÷ 4 = 7.5; but it is more complicated when the counts vary. For instance, if we want a three-fold yarn, say of 20's, 40's, and 50's (the colours are of no consideration in the calculation), a good rule that may be safely relied upon is to take 300 yards, the number in one lea or cut, for a dividend; this divided by each count in succession, and the quotient added together for a new divisor, by which the constant dividend is divided, will give the actual counts of any number of folds. Of course, no allowance is made for the number of twists in the combinations, which may be many or few per inch; but this can easily be ascertained by one or two experiments. Taking the above counts, we have 300 ÷ 20 = 15; 300 ÷ 40 = 7.5; 300 ÷ 50 = 6; then 15 + 7.5 + 6 = 28.5; then, finally, 300 ÷ 28.5 = 10.5, the counts when all are combined. It may be as well to note that any other length or number of yards may be used as well as 300, provided it is common to all the counts. For instance, if we take 150 yards the result will be the same, the quotients being respectively 7.5 + 3.75 + 3 = 14.25, and 150 ÷ 14.25 = 10.5. There are many ways of employing twisted yarns by checks, weft and warp being composed of this class of yarns; in other patterns the warp twists are all brought to the face of the texture by means of a satin weave. Some curious though very novel effects may be effected by this particular method of colour ornamentation which are well worth consideration. In a future paper it is possible I may give a few simple weave plans which can be used with advantage in developing the beauties of varied twists for fancy fabrics in linen shirtings, blouses, and chiffonettes. From the ordinary 4-shaft twill, 2 up 2 down, we may evolve a very neat dress pattern, by the use of 40 dents per inch reed 2 in a dent of 70 lea line for warp, and the following pattern—12 buff or dark cream, 8 sky blue (1 red, 1 dark fawn, 1 red, 1 dark fawn, 1 red, 1 dark fawn; these 6 ends to be drawn two in a heald eye), 2 buff, 8 light cinnamon brown (6 dark fawn, draw 2 in a heald); this repeated from the first 12 buff will give the warp pattern. The weft pattern may be made with coarser counts, and 56 picks per inch; in any case the checking warp and weft must form a square, because neatness is desirable in this form of pattern. Then, if we use 8 dark cream, 2 dark fawn, 2 navy blue, 2 dark fawn, 2 light blue, 4 shuttles will be necessary, repeating from the first 8 dark cream; it will be no difficult task to vary the picks and counts of weft to form a proper square, and the result will give satisfaction, twill thrown to the left. Another pattern with same weave plan, reed, warp, counts, etc.—6 white bleached, 3 red, 3 dark indigo blue; weft pattern, 6 white, 2 mid blue, 2 green drab, 2 mid blue.

Again, a variety may result worth notice as a large plaid from this pattern: repeat 4 dark navy blue, 4 cream, 16 times; then 4 of mid seal brown; 4 coral, repeat from the first navy blue and cream; the weft pattern the same, only in place of the mid seal and coral, to finish up the square plaid effect with 2 blue, 2 cream, 2 blue, 2 cream, so that two shuttles will suffice; in this pattern, warp and weft, one counts number of picks per inch equal to warp threads per inch, making a balanced fabric.

For a stripe in the same reed, with counts, etc., only drawn in as shown by marginal figures given with weave No. 2, the following pattern will be found deserving of reproduction:—8 yellow fawn drawn in 1, 2, 3, 4 shafts, 4 cream or white drawn 3, 2, 1, 4, and 8 dark purple or chocolate drawn on 1, 4, 2, 3, 1, 3, 2, 4; the weft all bleach white, one shuttle.

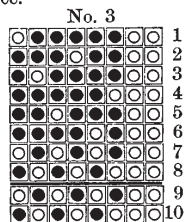
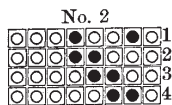
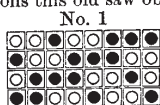
For shirtings, or, in fact, general purposes, with the 4-shaft twill thrown to the left, a fabric 64 × 64, that means as an order in many cases 64 ends, 64 picks, we may take a 32 dent reed 2 in a dent of 50's line warp and weft, *ecru* or unbleached, 6 threads, 2 light blue, 6 unbleached, 2 red, 6 unbleached, 4 of dark indigo blue, and repeat from first 6 threads of unbleached yarn, the weft pattern the same. Now in this case the best yarns, warp and weft, must be used, the colours exceptionally fast to the washing process, and the finishing all that ability can give without any stiffening; and if these instructions are carefully carried out, the fabric is sure to command a sale for the export trade, with repeat orders. As these papers indicate instructions in weaving, I am not departing from the object by merely giving pattern weaves. Students and others will, from this information, learn how to make cloths with taking patterns that will command a sale, or else all my writing will be in vain. Let it be clearly understood that the goods most profitable are the outcome of judicious selections of simple weaves with good colourings in combination. An inexhaustible source is open in this way to any one of ordinary ability in making trial samples—in fact, it is the realisation of all that is required in the trade. This has been my experience, and I feel assured practical weavers will endorse the assertion.

The leading idea among purchasers for large houses is a class of patterns in 4-shaft twill weaves for the early spring, where a very irregular block-printed yarn in black and white, brown and white, or white printed with any dark shade, shall form a feature in large checks, both warp and weft way. "Taking time by the forelock," the following dispositions will perhaps be found of value, or lead on to novelties:—Let the fabric be made in a 40 dent reed per inch, 2 in a dent, with the best yarns in counts 80 lea line, warp and weft picks per inch equal to warp threads per inch, the weft patterns same as warp; the printed yarns to have large and very small irregular blotches without any given measure—in fact, the more irregular the better results. Then the patterns may be 80 dark blue, 2 white, 2 print, dark fawn and white, 2 white, 2 print, 2 white, 80 dark blue, 12 white (1 print 1 white four times), 12 white (1 print 1 white 12 times), 12 white (1 print 1 white 4 times), 16 white, 16 dark blue, 16 white, 1 print, 2 white, 1 print, 2 white, 1 print, 4 white, 1 print, 16 white, 16 dark blue, 8 white, the pattern to be repeated from the first 80 of dark blue. The variations in colour always retaining white can be dark brown for blue with dark green and white print, dove for dark blue with cardinal or coral red print and white, light blue for dark blue with deep orange and white print, very dark brown for dark blue with bright emerald green and white print; with these combinations, good yarns, weaving, and finish, a number of samples may be produced that will meet with success.

I will conclude this paper by referring to another class of fabrics likely to attract attention in open weaves, a mock gauge the actual value of the effects being produced in the finish. A range of patterns either all white or with coloured yarns may be made so extensive as to give an almost unlimited combination in styles, and the drafts with a little judgment will produce unique effects. The one or two now given, though really useful, will be exercises to encourage fresh ideas, and the book can be opened at will for reference or guidance. No. 3 gives a 6-shaft satin, numbered on the margin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, the shafts for the plain weave 7, 8, 9, 10; the dots in the squares give the tie for warp yarns up on the face of the cloth. To those who are not experts in making this class of open cloth patterns I give the following system, which will prevent mistakes, and save a waste of material in warping, drawing-in, and reeding. The pattern we will say is to be made in a reed 40 dents per inch, 30 inches in the reed, width then $40 \times 30 = 1,200$ dents at disposal, warp yarns 100 lea, line all grey, bleached and well finished in the piece out of the loom.

Pattern	{	18 ends 6 dents, 3 in a dent on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 shafts	on 7, 8, 9, 10 shafts repeated
		4 " 2 " 2 " "	12 times
		3 dents empty	
		6 ends 2 dents on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 shafts	
		3 dents empty	
		6 ends 2 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	
		18 ends 6 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	
		6 ends 2 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	
		18 ends 6 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	
		6 ends 2 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	
		6 ends 2 dents on " "	
		3 dents empty	

and repeat from the first 18 ends given; this will be the pattern all through. Now in looking over the details we find the first part of the pattern 18 ends of satin, 4 of plain, repeated 12 times = 264 threads, and the rest of the satin threads following number 72, making a total of 336 threads as a full pattern filling 120 dents and 27 dents left empty, total dents covered by pattern 147; we have now to find from these items the number of warp threads for the entire width of 30 inches. Then briefly we may say as follows:—If 147 dents will cover 336 warp threads, what should 1,200 dents, the number on a 40 dent per inch reed 30 inches wide, hold? As $147 : 336 :: 1,200 : 2,743$, with 21 threads over to form selvages. It is a fact that, for the want of some proper system in the calculations previous to warping, etc., many yards of valuable material are wasted along with the loss of time. I do not, therefore, think it out of place to give in this respect complete information; and if the instructions are followed out, no matter how extensive the pattern or number of empty dents, it will be found impossible to make a mistake. There is no question that a "stitch in time saves nine," and in textile calculations this old saw obtains full credence.



SPECIAL REPORTS.

The Making-up Trades.

The Shirt and Collar Factories.

THEN the shirt and collar factories business has improved very considerably during the past month; orders for immediate delivery have been coming forward with great regularity, and to an extent that compensates in a great degree for the dullness reported earlier in the season. The long-continued spell of fine weather has greatly favoured the trade; and, should the demand keep up for a few weeks longer, the turnover of the half-year will be fully up to the average of the corresponding period of previous years.

As was to be expected, the trade in the finer classes of goods has been specially brisk and well sustained. Fine white shirts for the principal English and Scotch centres of trade have been selling freely, the demand, in a very marked degree, being for better qualities than have been wanted in anything like substantial quantities for some seasons past. The demand for all-linen shirts is nearly *nil*; but white longcloth shirts, with fine linen fronts and fittings, are in greatly improved demand. In this connection it is satisfactory to note that the demand for pique fronts has almost completely died out, their place having again been taken by plain white linen fronts.

In coloured cotton shirts, Oxford shirtings of the better qualities and pure finishes have been going fairly well. These, in striped designs, and made up with the bar showing crosswise on the front of the shirt, have been selling well to the more select branches of the English trade. In printed shirts the demand has been increasing steadily as the season progresses, the designs most in request being light effects, such as haircord stripes with the lines pretty far apart, and small ball and scroll patterns. French prints, it is regrettable to have to report, are still making headway to the prejudice of Manchester prints, on account of the much superior printing of the former. Even with precisely the same designs, the very best Manchester work will not compare with French printing; and the difference in cost of similar qualities of fabric is not now so great as it was in former years. In expensively-made shirts, especially, the difference of cost per yard is not much felt.

Collars and Cuffs, Fronts, &c.

These have been in fair request, though the demand continues to be mainly for low-priced and not too remunerative qualities. Very few, indeed, of the higher-priced or even of medium-priced qualities are to be found in the English and Scotch orders, and it is in the home trade alone that the exclusively collar and cuff houses find an outlet for their production; the profit on some of the orders is described as being very similar to that derived from changing a shilling. The charge of "cutting prices" has been heard with wearisome iteration in this branch of the trade, season after season; in spite of which, however, it is a notorious fact that most of the firms engaged in it have succeeded in becoming at least moderately wealthy, so that, as regards profit, the state of things can hardly be so bad as is generally reported.

Many of the collar and cuff factories, like the apron and pinafore factories, are engaged to a considerable extent in competing for the trade in ladies' shirts and blouses, which this season has attained to enormous dimensions. They have, consequently, not been so much dependent on collar and front orders to keep their workers employed, and have been more free to refuse such orders as they may consider are offered at too keen a price.

The cost of material continues to be against makers-up, though the majority of them have, up till almost recently, been able to cover themselves without paying much of an advance. At present, however, the cost of cotton goods is somewhat greater than at the beginning of the season, while for all kinds of white linens and bleached unions a smart advance is being paid. Some of the factories are kept going, as far as possible, on "job lines," the wisdom of which course of procedure is very questionable: occasionally goods of standard make can be procured having a few damages of so trifling a nature that the pieces are almost as good for making-up purposes as regular goods would be; more often low-class Ballymenas and inferior makes of power-loom are purchased as "jobs" and "seconds," for which almost as long a price is paid as would purchase goods of standard make. The purchasing of tender linens that goes on is too "tender" a subject to be dealt with lightly.

The Apron and Pinafore Factories.

The apron and pinafore factories have been very fully employed during the past month, and almost up to date of writing; but the demand is now slackening considerably, and orders are coming in but slowly. The houses are, however, busily engaged in preparing their samples for the coming season. As usual, holland goods, though most easily got up and taking least time in preparation, have been the first to receive attention, and by the time the present report is in the hands of the readers of the Journal, the manufacturers will be engaged in showing the new styles in

The Belfast Linen Trade Report.

DRAWN UP BY THE LINEN TRADE BOARD, APPOINTED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE BELFAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

AT the date of last report a very animated feeling characterised trade, in consequence of continued bad reports from the Continent respecting the state of the growing flax, and spinners had orders pressed upon them from all quarters. Within the past week or so things have quieted down, but values are very strongly maintained.

FLAX.

The raw material which had been gradually advancing for months previously took a further fresh start last month, as it became certain that the foreign crop this season would fall considerably below an average. For any sales effected the extreme rates have to be paid, and locally there has been a steady demand *ex store*.

As regards the Irish crop, up to the present it may be reported as all round looking in splendid condition, but rain is now much wanted, and if it does not come soon, the good prospects may be materially changed.

The Flax Supply Association report upon the Irish crop this year, and the following is the summary they give on the reports made to them by their correspondents:—

It is many years since the reports of the growing flax crop at this season were so unanimous in speaking well of the young braids, and all fears respecting the want of rain have happily been removed, an ample supply having come in good time, and as far as can be known at present, it has been very general.

There is the usual range recorded in the height of the braids—3 inches to 2 feet; but it may be observed that the shortest stages do not indicate any deficiency in the growth, but the difference in the time of sowing, or the earliness and lateness of certain districts. The short braids are spoken of in the same terms as the long, and as one correspondent remarks, "many farmers sowing exceedingly early, and others doing exactly the opposite," accounts for much of the differences in length.

As far as the various estimates can be classed together, the area in Armagh, Cavan, and Londonderry will about equal last year's. Donegal apparently has increased its sowing, but Antrim, Down, Monaghan, and Tyrone have all curtailed the area more or less. It would be impossible to fix an average, but the decrease should be about five or six per cent.; the experience of last year has shown the openness with which all these estimates should be received.

YARNS.

Last month a very animated demand sprung up for yarns when it became certain that flax was going to advance materially and maintain a high level for a long time. Buyers, as a rule, had left themselves practically without stocks, and being anxious to cover themselves for some time ahead, bought freely and prices advanced considerably. The extreme rates have since been firmly held to, and in the case of tow yarns a still higher point has been reached. Spinners are well supplied with orders, and for the present only take on new work when the old is finished up.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

There has been a gradually improving demand for bleaching cloth, and green yarn power-loom makes are well cleared off the market, manufacturers asking a further advance. For the finer end, viz.,

patent power-loom goods, demand has been sluggish and business curtailed, owing to the fact that the great rise in yarns necessitates an advance in cloth, which buyers are reluctant to pay. For medium and heavy makes there is a steady demand, stocks small and prices firm. In the hand-loom end Ballymena makes have not sold just so freely of late, owing to the advanced rates required by manufacturers caused by the greatly increased cost of production, but the output at present is small and kept moving, except perhaps in the very fine sets. County Down linens are in very fair request, stocks small and prices firm. Dress linens have been in good request, stocks almost *nil* and prices advanced. Roughs have met with an improved demand, and prices are slightly higher. Drills and other makes of brown heavy goods have been more or less brisk, the prospect of still higher rates stimulating buying. Glass-cloth, crash, and various makes of union goods move off pretty freely, prices showing a hardening tendency. Linen handkerchiefs are in moderate request, but the present limited production is disposed of, and prices are somewhat higher. Cambric handkerchiefs have been selling a little better, but bordered makes are slow. Plain cambric for hemstitching continues to move off regularly. In damasks, business is much of the usual average. On the whole, manufacturers are well supplied with orders, and everything at present points to continued firmness in values.

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—There seems to be rather more doing all round, the hardening tendency of cloth having led to increased business, but a good deal more would need to be done before the market could be regarded as at all brisk.

Continental.—The quiet season has set in as usual at this time, and not much improvement need be looked for for some time. France seems to be the only country that took larger supplies last month, as appears by official returns.

United States.—Business keeps very steady with this market, and the Board of Trade returns for last month show an increase of 8½ per cent. in the quantity of linen piece goods shipped for May as compared with same month last year.

Other Markets.—The Foreign West Indian trade is keeping up, the increase over May, 1892, being nearly 8 per cent. Very large shipments were made last month to British North America, amounting to upwards of 55 per cent. over same month last year. Among the South American markets Mexico is a larger customer, but with the United States of Columbia the figures are much smaller. Australia also marks a smart decline.

For the five months ended May 31st, the total quantity of linen piece goods exported from the United Kingdom shows an increase of close on 7 per cent., and values an increase of nearly 5½ per cent., compared with same period last year.

Prices Current for ordinary Line and Tow Wefts. June 14th, 1893.

LEA NOS.	14	16	18	20	22	25	28	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	
Line Wefts	—	—	—	8/-	7/3	6/6	6/-	5/9	5/6	5/1½	4/10½	4/7½	4/6	4/4½	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/4½	4/7½	4/9	5/-	5/3
Tow Wefts	6/3	5/10½	5/9	5/6	5/6	5/4½	5/1½	5/-	4/9	4/8	4/4½	4/3	These prices are per bundle of 60,000 yards of grey Yarn, subject to the usual discount for cash.										120 threads 2½ yds.—1 lea 12 leas—1 hank 16 hanks 8 cuts—1 bundle					

London and Manchester. Union pales again play the chief part in the new season's preparations; all-linen pales will be in evidence to about the same extent as last season; but I regret to hear that fancy roughs and checked dowls, both in all-linen and union, are being to a considerable extent displaced by checked cottons of similar weight and appearance. These checked cotton goods have been sold, I am informed, in very large and increasing quantities during the past season; the demand for them seems to be growing, as they are so little different in appearance and finish from checked linens and unions, and come in at a much less price than either, and the demand for the latter has been falling away proportionately. An even larger trade is expected in the checked cottons during the coming season, and the makers-up are catering for it accordingly. Croydon aprons are also, I hear, again coming into increased demand, which is further against the interests of the linen trade.

New Linen Fabrics.

On the other hand, I hear of the introduction of all-linen fabrics in a

variety of garments, which, if at all so successful as it promises to be, or as the manufacturers anticipate, will prove to be of no small importance to the staple trade. They are, for instance, being used for ladies' blouses, and in the manufacture of fancy pinafores, classes of garments in the making of which linen goods have not hitherto been used at all. One of the largest Belfast firms, which has long taken the lead in the fancy pinafore trade, is using for these purposes a material something like a very well-made green rough, very much resembling, but hardly so green and glossy as the beautiful dress linens of days gone by. The firm in question is receiving much encouragement from their English customers for these goods, and confidently expects to do a substantial trade in them this season. Several very taking "novelties" are being brought out made from the material I have described. One is called the "1830" pinafore, supposed to be in the style worn in that year, and a very quaint and charming appearance it presents. It is made with a plaited collar and waist-belt of pad print of a shade to harmonise with the green linen,

Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 31st May, 1893; and in the Five Months ended 31st May, 1893, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1891 and 1892.

COUNTRIES.	MONTH ENDED 31st MAY.						FIVE MONTHS ENDED 31st MAY.					
	Quantities.			Declared Value.			Quantities.			Declared Value.		
	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893
LINEN YARN.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
To Germany,	280,400	268,800	518,700	24,741	21,849	38,180	1,397,300	1,214,600	2,209,300	115,308	101,334	164,430
Holland,	195,300	120,200	147,700	6,996	5,265	5,898	937,400	803,300	1,026,100	32,448	29,357	36,239
Belgium,	144,500	101,300	210,300	12,453	7,141	14,594	690,000	532,000	980,500	56,822	41,807	68,083
France,	154,700	80,000	116,000	17,052	9,161	13,419	585,200	590,200	559,100	64,378	66,343	62,922
Spain and Canaries, ...	249,900	286,000	306,700	10,414	10,744	15,241	1,615,600	1,612,200	1,372,100	58,466	59,941	63,161
Italy,	27,300	41,800	28,200	1,521	2,109	1,281	174,000	188,100	144,400	8,476	8,664	6,712
United States,	36,700	76,700	37,200	1,101	2,141	1,524	169,400	187,100	203,500	6,648	6,441	7,149
Other Countries,	178,700	112,100	230,200	8,128	5,526	8,969	711,200	780,200	1,136,600	32,838	34,210	47,924
Total,	1,267,500	1,086,900	1,595,000	82,406	63,936	99,106	6,280,100	5,907,700	7,631,600	375,384	348,097	456,620
LINEN MANUFACTURES.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	£	£	£	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	£	£	£
To Germany,	287,200	337,700	320,600	13,833	16,396	14,696	1,542,900	1,574,900	1,625,500	75,333	76,252	78,798
France,	212,800	103,700	116,400	9,969	4,686	5,272	839,500	935,900	562,000	37,450	41,595	25,183
Spain and Canaries, ...	182,400	251,600	31,700	5,183	10,162	1,139	705,400	681,300	204,400	24,332	27,198	6,807
Italy,	71,400	86,900	80,900	3,143	4,265	4,136	425,400	440,000	335,900	17,804	18,608	14,177
United States,	4,139,000	5,968,600	6,475,500	88,796	116,974	131,567	34,254,400	39,551,600	45,042,800	723,620	813,452	936,900
Foreign West Indies, ...	1,211,500	1,586,100	1,710,400	24,502	30,166	38,072	6,496,000	7,654,500	8,346,800	131,753	146,801	167,438
Mexico,	127,000	117,800	185,700	3,126	2,973	3,793	756,300	601,600	482,200	18,911	14,929	12,907
United States of Colombia,	371,800	539,700	300,900	7,018	8,198	5,088	1,455,600	1,770,400	1,580,800	25,285	28,919	25,951
Brazil,	312,800	257,000	239,500	9,268	7,367	7,342	1,574,200	951,400	1,197,800	52,469	27,560	35,176
Argentine Republic, ...	78,000	71,300	119,200	1,402	2,131	3,434	221,600	182,900	405,700	5,533	5,956	13,815
Philippine Islands, ...	46,400	52,100	26,600	880	643	1,094	590,400	208,500	199,200	10,785	8,714	4,796
British North America British West India Islands & Guiana } Do. East Indies, ...	235,300	402,700	626,900	5,569	7,488	9,976	3,444,800	3,559,100	3,446,100	63,843	67,483	60,736
Australasia,	157,800	158,200	90,300	2,938	3,261	1,686	841,500	721,700	604,600	16,171	15,269	11,754
Other Countries,	233,000	225,900	233,900	6,515	6,024	6,481	1,212,600	1,350,400	1,496,200	35,846	36,781	40,047
	863,700	1,090,400	498,800	22,949	27,194	12,615	4,402,600	4,692,600	3,286,400	127,832	125,213	88,299
	1,235,200	1,429,400	1,754,500	32,568	31,105	39,697	6,904,300	6,461,200	7,506,200	161,876	147,200	158,886
Total Plain, Un-bleached, or Bleached	8,700,500	11,538,200	11,312,000	205,042	248,884	250,018	59,014,500	65,545,600	68,721,000	1,834,866	1,427,249	1,493,245
Total Checked, Printed, or Dyed, and Damasks or Diapers,	763,200	937,600	1,225,200	19,081	20,889	25,839	5,260,600	4,561,200	6,508,500	135,352	112,559	139,375
Sail Cloth and Sails, ...	301,600	198,300	224,600	13,536	9,260	10,231	1,392,400	1,231,200	1,093,100	63,225	57,122	49,045
Total of Piece Goods, ..	9,765,300	12,674,100	12,761,800	237,659	279,033	286,088	65,667,500	71,338,000	76,822,600	1,533,443	1,596,930	1,681,665
Thread for Sewing,	209,200	214,300	227,500	26,367	26,767	27,704	1,023,500	1,042,700	1,032,800	127,659	128,570	127,511
Other Articles,	53,994	56,100	61,751	383,699	358,759	379,721
Total Value of Linen Manufactures,	318,020	361,900	375,543	2,044,801	2,084,259	2,188,897

Importations of Flax—Dressed, Undressed, and Tow or Codilla of:

COUNTRIES.	MONTH ENDED 31st MAY.						FIVE MONTHS ENDED 31st MAY.					
	Quantities.			Value of Imports.			Quantities.			Value of Imports.		
	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893
From Russia,	11,991	9,442	12,760	321,127	255,176	406,542	26,954	34,131	18,900	717,681	877,407	580,378
„ Germany,	229	154	183	5,691	4,536	4,678	1,449	1,694	1,751	39,995	36,403	44,648
„ Holland,	712	518	749	40,413	22,903	21,362	2,389	3,067	3,538	126,726	143,268	145,370
„ Belgium,	1,589	1,349	955	90,520	70,221	47,859	7,845	8,150	7,963	439,016	430,025	400,634
„ Other Countries, ...	863	262	44	21,803	4,786	1,498	2,950	998	394	70,813	22,176	11,459
Total,	15,384	11,725	14,691	479,554	357,622	481,969	41,587	48,040	32,546	1,394,231	1,509,279	1,182,489

puffed bust and short waist, and with a detached "pocket" hanging from the waist-belt by ribbon of pad. It is produced in ladies' and children's sizes, and in both has a very unique and effective appearance. Another novelty shown to me was a "Japanese Pinafore," in children's sizes, made loose and intended to be slipped over the youngsters when in "full dress," for temporary "protective" purposes. It is also made of green linen, with a Japanese-like goffered and striped design for trimming and front, and for bands on cuffs of sleeves. It has also a very fetching and stylish appearance, and is certain to take well in the coming season.

In fancy pinafores generally, prints have fallen into disfavour to some extent; fancy muslins are going well; and white lawns are again going to be used on an extensive scale. I hear of a ladies' fancy pinafore that is being brought out by a Belfast house, and that will, I am told, create a sensation, if not a revolution, in the pinafore trade when produced. It is at present being patented.

Suggestions for the further use of Linen for Juvenile Clothing.

The manufacture of juvenile clothing is continuing to make steady progress in Belfast. Some of the factories have been kept so steadily busy on orders taken from their samples of last September, that they have produced no new samples since, and will continue to run on the old ones until September coming, when they will again produce fresh samples for the ensuing spring. A very large trade is done in blue serge suits, and in sailors' suits made chiefly from white drills and striped galateas, but all of cotton. No material could be more suitable, if any so suitable, for this class of manufacture than low linen drills—brown or striped drills—and yet I have not seen in any factory linen drills being made up to any extent worth mentioning. Some of the largest makers-up have even told me that they have never been offered linen drills. Of course, the linen drills, if they are to be cut up in such quantities as would make the trade in them worthy of the attention of the power-loom factories, would require to be low-priced; but here there is not, I am persuaded, the slightest difficulty. It is merely a matter of careful inquiry, and of care to be in a position to offer slightly, low-priced linen drills of widths suitable for the cutter. Some of the largest producers here have been so busy on the production of suits made from cotton drills and cotton stripes, that they have not been able to accept a single order this season for serge suits. The question of catering for the making-up factories is well worthy of the earnest attention of the linen manufacturers.

The Irish Woollen Trade.

At present it is a sort of "between seasons" period with the Irish woollen manufacturers—that is to say, so far as taking fresh orders is concerned. The placing of orders for the coming winter season has been an unduly prolonged business this year, for some reason not easy to specify. About the last of the winter orders were placed only last week, while in ordinary seasons the earlier buyers have ere now begun in June to look at new patterns for the following spring. The orders have totted up smaller in amount than last year; but the ranges selected embrace a wide enough variety of both qualities and designs; and, should the trade of the coming autumn and winter be as good as is generally expected, the Irish manufacturers will be quite as well to the front as ever. A peculiar feature of this season's trade is that some of the leading retailers and merchant tailors have already taken in their purchases for the coming autumn, of course with the invoices taking the same date as if delivered two or three months hence. Whether this system, if it becomes general, will be of advantage to either the retailer or the wholesale warehouseman, remains to be seen. In tweeds, as was reported in last issue, the chief sale has been for cheviots, with a fair assortment of medium-priced Saxonies; but, contrary to general expectation, worsted tweeds have again been in demand to some extent.

Condition of the Markets.

The home trade, which, from a variety of causes, had been much duller than could have been desired in the early part of the season, has brightened up considerably during the past two months. The termination of the strike in Lancashire, and the passing away of serious labour troubles that had been threatening in some other districts, inspired both wholesale and retail buyers in the North of England with more confidence than they had previously been showing, and a fairly active trade for the season of the year was the result. In London and the South of England there has been a marked improvement in the general trade within the period specified, and the Irish shirt and collar factories have participated to a very satisfactory extent in the more prosperous condition of business.

The export trade of these branches is almost entirely confined to colonial business; in the United States markets, for some reason not easily to be explained, the Berlin makers-up have a monopoly almost, so far as American imports of outfitting goods are concerned. It is not easy to understand why Irish makers-up do not, or cannot, compete successfully in these goods with Berlin makers, who are under the double disadvantage of having to pay freight on the material they purchase in Belfast, and also the duty on the linens when they arrive.

The Canadian trade has been comparatively satisfactory; but those Irish firms who have for a considerable time past been cultivating the Australian trade, and relying on it to some extent, are suffering from the long-continued dullness that has prevailed in that market. There is, unfortunately, very little hope of an immediate recovery in that quarter. Though many of the leading houses are undoubtedly sound, a good deal of anxiety prevails as to the stability of Australian mercantile firms generally.



The Ulster Cotton Trade.

Yarns.

SINCE our last issue there has been a marked quietness in cotton warps throughout the entire district, and very few fresh transactions of any importance have been recorded. Contrary to expectations, prices shortly after the settlement of the strike and the resumption of work began to decline, and although the drop was only fractional at any one time, the reduction up till the present may be roughly set down at about one penny per lb. on the highest level. Buyers have been, therefore, reluctant to renew their orders so long as a chance remained of lower rates, and have been only buying small lots from time to time as circumstances required. Within the past few days rates have stiffened somewhat, so that if the turn has definitely taken place an early renewal of buying may be anticipated, as old contracts are for the most part run off. The manufacture of union goods is going steadily forward, and although there has been lately a pause in the demand the extension and development of this branch of the trade continues. Heavy household goods are still in favour, of which nearly all descriptions are being now turned out in union cloth, and what with the slightness of texture and lowness of price as compared with the linen articles are dangerously threatening the sale of the latter. Union towels are being now manufactured in fairly large quantities, as are also glass-cloths, crashes, creamed roughs, and kindred goods. The demand for shirting unions has somewhat improved since last report, but there is still room for an increased turnover of these goods. Light union lawns for ladies' dresses, after being dyed in various shades, are in good request, and are consequently being produced in tolerable quantities. There is no improvement in union cambrics, although a moderate demand exists for these goods, both for export and home consumption, and the production is in consequence being kept within narrow limits.

Cloth.

The trade done in cloth during the past month has been somewhat restricted, as the demand for cotton handkerchiefs keeps rather quiet, both in the home and Continental markets, and the turnover consequently of less volume. The American and shipping trades, however, have been fairly good for this article, and have sustained the business in a satisfactory condition. Some very large lots of both printed and embroidered handkerchiefs are being regularly shipped to the States, where an exceptionally large trade is expected during the World's Fair. If it were not for the probability of a reduced tariff coming shortly into force, and which necessarily hampers speculation, very much larger shipments would now be made. The demand for cotton interlinings has not been strong, the collar and cuff trade not being active for some weeks past.



Monthly Reports.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Whilst we endeavour to obtain the most reliable reports from the best sources of information, it will be understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of our correspondents.

Irish.

DUBLIN.—In woollens, spinners have, and continue to be, well employed, and seem perfectly satisfied with the present state of affairs; though the same does not hold good as regards manufacturers. The latter seem to feel that advances in the market for raw material are not always attended with an ability on their part to put up prices to an equal extent, and consequently some dissatisfaction reigns. All the same, the market for the raw material, though still quiet, evinces a tendency to hardening, and considerable confidence and strength is displayed. I shall deal later on more fully with this subject, so for the present will pass on to linens, in which the trade must again be reported as being favourable. The tone all round has generally been good, the demand fairly strong, and prices maintained at the recent advances. Silks and poplins show no change whatever, remaining in their old groove, out of which it would appear impossible to move them; perhaps one should be content that things in this direction are as they are, and that no decline is visible, nor are any of the not too numerous weavers out of employ. Most of the industries in Ireland have to be thankful for small mercies, and with the output and demand the same, the silk and poplin weavers are no doubt justified in congratulating themselves even on the *statu quo* being maintained. Returning to wools and woollen wares, Messrs. Ganly & Sons'

Wool Sales

demand notice. The first of these for the current season was held on the 2nd inst., at the Warehouse, Ussher's Quay, when some 1,000 packs of wool were affirmed. Consignments had come from growers and dealers in almost every county in Ireland, and the competition throughout the sale was keen, the lots with few exceptions being disposed of. Amongst

the company present I may mention representatives from Messrs. W. Wilson, Sinnott & Co.; Whitwell, Hargreaves & Co.; Jessop & Co.; and Crawford, Cree & Co., from across the Channel; from Messrs. Hill & Son; Gleeson, Smith & Co.; Sherrard, Smith & Co.; and Pressley & Co., in Ireland; with, from Dublin, Messrs. Harrison, Milner & Sons, and Chew & Co. The country trade was well represented by, amongst others, Messrs. P. Dunne, T. M'Wey, J. Phillips, Burke, Clarke, M. Kelly, Moylan, Willoughby, R. Smith, Murphy, Elcock, O'Connor, etc. The prices at this sale ranged high, and ran from 9d. to 11½d. for fleece wools; the latter high price being made by a choice lot of South Down grown by the Hon. H. Bruen, of Carlow. Since the above sale the prices have been well maintained, and the latest report runs:—Supplies still coming in slowly; trade quiet. Quotations—Down, *nil*; hogget, 9½d., 9½d., 10d.; ewe or wether, 9d., 9½d., 9½d.; seaside, 8½d. to 8½d.; mountain, 7½d. to 8d.; Scotch, *nil*.

The Bray Industrial Exhibition.

There is no necessity at this time to extol the usefulness of such exhibitions as the annual one held in the township of Bray; all I need do is to congratulate the organisers, and mention a few of the textile exhibits. From Donegal came an embroiderer who exhibited her art as carried on in that county, which, besides, sent tweeds, stockings, serges, etc. From the Convent of Mercy, Skilbhereen, were exhibited the finest linen towellings, handkerchiefs, tweeds, all hand-sewn; whilst a linen loom for the same town, worked by girls, had also been sent up. County Wicklow showed some excellent flannel, both white and red. Dublin had some imitation Axminster rugs on view, and a fine selection of underclothing and embroidered handkerchiefs. The Convent of Mercy, Parsonstown, sent a fine display of lace and exquisitely embroidered underclothing. Clones contributed specimens of its crochet work in cotton and in silk, in imitation of old lace. From Limerick, of course, laces were on view, and Mountmellick sent some of the work which bears its name. Clare was to the fore with embroideries, and Tipperary with stockings and specimens of "Marfield Embroidery;" while last, but not least in usefulness, the boys of the Baltimore Fishing School showed their hand-made fishing-nets. Of course it has been quite impossible for me to do more than try and summarise the exhibits. Practically, every county in Ireland was represented, and well represented, in textile fabrics only; not to mention other home industries such as wood-carving, copper-work, etc. Taken all round, the display at this exhibition was particularly good and representative, and must have been a revelation to many who, up to visiting it, had been ignorant of what Irish cottage and home workers were capable of producing.

The World's Fair.

Since Lady Aberdeen's return to Ireland there have been ominous rumours from across the Atlantic with regard to the "Irish Village" at Chicago. I do not wish to say anything on this subject here, further than that something must be wrong, when a declaration is drawn up and forwarded to all "the Mayors in Ireland" for signature, declaring that a certain "Irish Village" is the only genuine one. Lady Aberdeen left behind her in Chicago Mrs. Peter White and other capable managers in whose capacity I for one have perfect confidence; but the mere thought that there is friction in the "village" is disheartening. Surely home rivalries are not going to be transplanted across the Atlantic, and the success of one or both enterprises endangered by perfectly avoidable causes? So far as it has gone, Lady Aberdeen's project has exceeded the most sanguine hopes formed as to its success. Speaking in Cork, on her arrival, Lady Aberdeen said:—"I would like to mention that if the sales of lace and crochet which we have taken out go on at the rate they have begun, if the interest is increased, if we are able—as we hope we may be—to make valuable trade connections in various cities, then we must urge the workers here, and those interested in promoting industries, to see that the supply is equal to the demand—and not only a supply, but a good supply of good articles, which should not fall off during the Exhibition." This is all-important. There is no use in setting the "Irish Village" going, and in introducing Irish manufactures into America, unless the supply can be maintained equal to the demand. The greater the demand, so much the better—as long as it can be supplied; but to break down in the supply now, should the demand be established, would be far worse than never to have created a demand at all, for it would close America for ever to these Irish products. It lies now with the working centres to do their duty. American markets have been tapped, and the flow of dollars should be stimulated and not allowed to dry up.

LURGAN.—Business is slightly duller in our staple industry here, although importing houses are very busy this month shipping the large orders entered beginning of year. The demand by the yarn spinners will no doubt curtail business, and prevent manufacturers making anything only for orders. Plain linen cambric for hemstitched handkerchiefs is still in good demand, as stocks of it are quite exhausted. The output from hand-looms is very limited, and is much smaller than at this period last year. Woven bordered cambric handkerchiefs are in slow demand, as is also demand for linen handkerchiefs (woven borders) from boiled yarns. If the plentiful supply of rain improves the flax crop here and on the Continent, the line-yarn spinners may not persist in the demand which they are at present making for their yarns. Power-loom manufacturers are still quite fully employed, and some of the factories are

short of hands. A good demand still exists for sheer cambrics and embroideries on tea-cloths, pillow-shams, quilts, sheets, sideboard covers, &c. Machine hemstitchers keep fully employed, also blouse and apron factories; demand moderate for damasks, diapers, &c.

English.

BRADFORD.—The wool trade of this district has ruled rather quieter, and especially was this the case towards the latter part of the month. English descriptions have kept up fairly well in price, lustres having been very firm, whilst colonial wools have been a shade easier. As regards yarns, most spinners are extremely busy, and, generally, have orders on hand that will keep machinery running for some weeks to come. New orders, with the exception of lustre yarns, have not been numerous, as spinners generally have kept very firm in their demands, and have refused new contracts offered at a reduction in prices. Rates for nearly all classes of yarns keep very firm, the only description showing any weakness being Botany, yarns of this class having been neglected, and business in them having been decidedly dull. In the piece branches there is little new to note. In the dress goods department only a quiet business has been done as regards new orders, as prices offered are out of proportion to the cost of yarns. The coating departments keep up well, and orders have been up to the average of the last six months; but in this branch prices are only low, manufacturers complaining much under this head.

LEEDS.—In this district, whilst some branches of the worsted and woollen trade have shown a rather improved state of things, others have remained very quiet. In worsteds of a fine quality, with good designs and colouring, there has been more business recently; and the same may be said of woollens in fancy patterns. In the medium and lower kinds, especially the latter, business has been fair, and about an average of the past twelve months; but in cloths suitable for the ready-made trade there has been a decided falling off, the turnover of the houses engaged in this branch being much less than is generally the case at this time of the year. The serge branches keep busy, the demand being both for fancy and plain styles, and makers of these have fairly numerous orders on hand. The mantle-cloth business is still extremely quiet, there being nothing new to note; orders have come in very meagrely, and rates are unremunerative. As regards the prices of other classes not mentioned, although not altogether satisfactory to the manufacturer, still, when compared with those ruling in other industries and the keen competition, there is less complaining than formerly.

BARNESLEY.—There has been a rather better feeling in most branches of the linen trade during the month, the only departments that have shown no improvement being carpet and such-like fabrics and damasks. The new patterns of the latter in light weights have not met with many orders, whilst the heavier makes have been in very weak demand, and there seems no sign of any early improvement in this class of goods. Fine drills, in both plain and fancy makes, have had more inquiry, and orders recently given out will make manufacturers busy for the next two or three months. A steady business has been done in bed linens, sheetings, tickings, and pillow casings, all being in better demand. Narrow goods with initials, crests, and monograms are at present in much favour, the call for them exceeding the production. Drabnets, olivettes, bluettes, and such-like fabrics have been in fair request, the chief demand being for the home trade. Towellings in twilled, bordered, and fancy designs generally have improved, and the same may be said of most classes of domestic cloths. Manufacturers are hopeful of a further improvement in business, as far as demand is concerned; and if prices were a little more remunerative, they would at the present time be in a much more satisfactory position than for some time past.

MANCHESTER.—Operations in linens are rather slow; but as far as jute goods are concerned, the market is steadier, owing to the fact that gambling in the raw material is not carried on so extensively, and the trade can form a better idea as to the probabilities of business. Fine hessians (such as those used in the home trade) are firmer, owing to the stiffness of quotations for raw material suitable for their manufacture. This tendency has been more strongly marked of late, and a determined effort to get better prices for both yarns and cloth is being made—so far, it should be noted, without appreciable success. With reference to flax, I have received a communication from a gentleman well acquainted with the movements of the market which may be worth perusal. He says—"Flax remains very high in price. The bulk of the crop is sold, and there are no large stocks to depress prices. The weather in France is still hot and dry, so that, whatever now happens, the French and Belgian crop must be much under an average. Spinners, therefore, are still buyers of good Russian flax at prices Dundee millowners cannot look at. So with tows: they have risen from £20 to £32 per ton, and even thereat the best qualities are difficult to be had. Flax and tow yarns of good quality are wanted; but the moment anything approaching the rise on fibre is asked for yarns, business is at an end. Yarns should rise quite 10 to 15 per cent. to cover costs. Linens are also firm, but buyers refuse to follow the advancing cost. From the English markets one hears of drapers refusing to buy. The recent strikes have destroyed the buying power of the working classes. Such a luxury as linen must be done without until more urgent wants are supplied. Arbroath remains hope-

lessly dull. Stocks do not fall, notwithstanding largely diminished production."

The situation in the home trade is fairly well outlined in the foregoing extract, although, speaking of the departments generally, business has, I believe, been fairly satisfactory, and it is reported that one very large limited company here will pay a higher dividend for the June half-year than at any previous period in its history. I do not guarantee the accuracy of the statement, however, which may possibly be true. If it is, the result is an astounding one, in face of the very serious depression in Lancashire and other portions of the country during the period in which this dividend has been earned. Lancashire, which felt the full force of the cotton stoppage, happens to be one of the most important "grounds" worked by the travellers of the firm in question, which, I may as well state, is that of Rylands & Sons, Limited.

Most of the Canadian buyers who have been operating lately in England have now returned home. Below are the names of some met by your correspondent lately—Messrs. MacIntyre (Hodgson, Sumner & Co., Montreal), Carnegie (James Johnson & Co., Montreal), H. J. Wellver (Smith Brothers, Halifax, N.S.), T. Little (Burns & Murray, Halifax, N.S.), C. E. Bentley (Blanchard & Bentley, Truro, N.S.), and T. Oliver (W. E. Sandford & Co., Hamilton, Ontario). Mr. Gault, of the well-known Montreal house of Gault Brothers, has returned home, after making some special purchases of dress goods. I do not know whether Irish woollens have come in for a large share of attention or not, but the hint that Irish woollen manufacturers might look specially after some of the better class of Canadian buyers when over here will, I dare say, be noticed. At the same time, it should be remembered that great care is necessary in giving credit to Canadian houses, and the services of a representative well acquainted with the market and with the standing of Dominion firms would be imperative. The Canadian trade is a peculiar one; and more than one house I could name, formerly shipping extensively to British North America, have thrown the business up altogether, rather than run the serious risks experienced in connection with it. The record of Canadian failures during the past ten years is in this respect instructive.

The railway companies are here and there "climbing down." The advance of 30 per cent. in the carriage of silk waste from Manchester to Macclesfield has been annulled, on the representations of a deputation which went from Manchester and Macclesfield to London recently. It is worth noting, however, that the companies were careful to ask the manufacturers interested to "keep it dark," presumably for fear that other traders might become restless if they knew too much.

LONDON.—There is very little change to chronicle in the state of the city trade since I wrote you last, but business is very fitful this month; some days have been busy, then the next day, without any apparent reason for it, a falling off is observed. Notwithstanding, however, most of the general houses hope to be able to maintain their returns for the half-year; while houses in the fancy trades hope to close with a large increase upon this season of last year, as the result of the Royal wedding, which has stimulated buying and given consumers a little heart, so much of which is just now wanted with so many depressing elements about. Very little improvement is yet noticed in the Australian trade; but cable advices daily received here state that matters are slowly settling down, and that a few months later activity in some departments may be expected.

Messrs. Finney, Isles & Co., the principal Brisbane retail house which collapsed in April last, has offered to pay ten shillings in the pound, which has been generally accepted by the colonial creditors; but the London houses, many of whom were largely interested, feel that they have not been well treated in this matter, and, while possibly there is nothing for them but to accept the offer, they have cabled a protest. Mr. Finney, the senior partner in the firm, is an Irishman who emigrated to the colonies about twenty-five years ago, and was well known to some of the Dublin houses in whose services he had been. The disturbance in the Chili market has brought about a lock-up in a large merchant house in Birmingham, and a meeting was held on the 14th inst.; the liabilities are in the neighbourhood of £70,000, but it is stated that creditors will be paid in full. In the Milk Street trade I understand there is still a steady demand for linen drills, which have been produced in a variety of colours by the Irish houses; some of the agents have done a large trade in this speciality. Already, however, they have been copied, and an inferior imitation thrown upon the market.

In the other classes of linen goods a moderate amount of business is being done; but there is evidently a lull in the handkerchief trade, which, however, must brighten up before this month is out. The course of trade has been somewhat upset by the Royal wedding; but when this is over, the retail houses expect that the exodus to the country and seaside will stimulate the demand for domestic goods.

Scotch.

DUNDEE.—The market has been very quiet in all branches lately, the advanced prices current having checked anything like speculative buying. Orders placed are mainly for the supply of pressing requirements, and are kept as small as possible. There is next to nothing doing in flax, either for spot or contract, spinners absolutely declining to book at present rates, and, as a matter of fact, think of shutting down their spindles sooner than do so. Prices may be regarded as nominal, there being no business doing to test values. Yarns continue to show all the

firmness that has characterised them for months back, but turnover is not large, as manufacturers find it nearly impossible to cover the extra cost. Tow yarns are somewhat heavier, but prices supported. *Jute* spinnings have changed hands at slight concessions, but at best transactions are limited. *Linen*—No improvement has taken place in the cloth market, and orders on home and export account are much below expectations. American branch has been disappointing, and gives promise of no change for the better. Prices are fairly well maintained for all descriptions, excepting some stock lots which have been sold at slightly lower rates. Sailcloth dull and prices unaltered.

Continental.

LILLE, 7th June.—*Yarns*—Position of affairs is practically unchanged; prices very firm for all classes. *Linen*—Business of the week amounts to a fair average, prices and demand being much the same as in previous one. ARMENTIERES, 6th June.—*Flax*—No business doing either in French or Belgian sorts. GAND, 2nd June.—*Flax*—Very little doing; any small lots, which are scarce, being rapidly bought up at extremely firm rates.—*Journal Circulaire*.

LEIPZIG, June 9.—There is no particular change to report on the flax yarn market over here, as sales of Irish weft yarns will not be of any importance as long as the present prices will not move down to a reasonable point. Manufacturers won't or can't obtain a proportionally better value for those goods, prefer to decline engagements ahead, and wait the wished-for stability, or, better, reduction of prices of yarns.



United States Market.

[We regret we have not our usual report from our Correspondent this month.—ED. I. T. J.]



THE New York *Dry Goods Economist*, writing under date 1st June, says:—The slight improvement noted last week in the linen trade continues, and an increased number of buyers are in the city. Prices remain firm, owing to the almost uniformly encouraging reports of the linen trade now being received from Europe.

There is no doubt that stocks in this city have been rather full, and the unexpected depression in business for the past two months has had the effect of making importers timid and weak on many of their prices; but with the advices of advances continually being cabled, and with stocks considerably reduced, they are beginning to ask the full amount of the present market value. The demand for stiff skirt-linings has had the effect of causing a large increase in the call for linen canvas; and this material has, in consequence, presented the most active feature in the linen business during the past two months.

An importer offers for the ensuing week six lines of linen huckaback towels at 92c., \$1, \$1.12½, \$1.25, \$1.37½, and \$1.50 per dozen, which range in sizes from 18 x 32 to 22 x 42. The same concern offers lines of bleached table damasks, 62-inch, at 37½c., and 70-inch at 67½c.; also some lines of cream damasks in 51-inch at 21c., and 58-inch at 31½c. These are all well-made goods, and of superior quality. Fancy coloured border damask table-cloths, borders all linen, are offered by another concern at 75c. for 8/4, \$1 for 8/10, and \$1.25 for 8/12 sizes. A quantity of 5,000 dozen each of ½ napkins at 57½c. and ¾ sizes at 85c. per dozen are also telling bargains for the special tables.

There has been a more active condition in handkerchiefs this week, and some very good parcels have been sold. That buyers are not doing wrong who carry full stocks, is shown by the advices received from Lurgan this week.

Among the special offerings of the week are a line of hand-embroidered handkerchiefs with hemstitched borders offered from 50c. to \$1.25 per dozen. Another line which is very cheap, and a great seller, is a ladies' embroidered handkerchief, white ground and coloured border, at \$1.25 per dozen. Some finer and more elaborate goods on the same order are offered at \$1.50 and \$1.87½. Another concern offers a large variety of patterns in ladies' printed-border handkerchiefs, imported goods, new designs, at 37½c. per dozen, and some finer goods at 45c. per dozen; also a line of 80 designs in white embroidered goods, handsome styles, at \$2.37½, which are among the cheapest goods ever sold in this market.

A better inquiry has developed for burlaps this week, and a larger quantity of goods have changed hands than for some time previously. Prices are unchanged at 4½c. for light-weights and 5c. for heavy.

The imports of foreign dry goods into the port of New York for the week ending May 25, 1893, and since January 1st for the last three years, were as follows:—

	1891.	1892.	1893.
Entered at port	\$1,314,724	\$1,593,618	\$1,624,589
Thrown upon market	1,305,877	1,576,435	1,548,416
Entered for consumption...	1,015,815	1,253,844	1,255,548

IMPORTS OF DRY GOODS SINCE JANUARY 1.

	1891.	1892.	1893.
Entered at port ...	\$53,575,365	\$54,043,618	\$63,798,012
Thrown upon market ...	55,942,700	55,060,632	63,725,282

From the above it will be seen that the imports of foreign dry goods at this port for the week amount to \$1,624,589, showing a decrease of \$1,162,491 as compared with last week, and an increase of \$30,971 as compared with the corresponding week last year. The total of goods marketed for the week has been \$1,548,416, or \$76,173 less than the imports. The total imports since January 1, 1893, have been \$63,798,012 against \$54,043,618, or an increase of \$9,754,394 for the same time in 1892, and an increase of \$10,222,627 as compared with the same period in 1891.

CHICAGO, May 29.

The wholesale dry goods trade of Chicago continues to improve. Some jobbers report the volume of business as considerably in advance of that at the same time last year, and the least cheerful of all say it is fully equal to what it was then. To this add the undisputed fact that up to a very few weeks ago it was far ahead of last spring, and it makes the season up to date a much better one than at the same date in 1892.

Buyers are numerous. This week they have been principally from the city and points near by. A feature of the trade is that they buy frequently and in small quantities—"from hand to mouth," as it were. This, while entailing a good deal of labour in proportion to the size of each bill sold, is gratifying to the jobber, as it conduces to the maintenance of good, firm prices. At the same time, advance orders from men on the road are coming in at a rate at which none can complain.

Bleached cottons are quiet, being affected by the waning of the season.

Wide sheetings are very active, due largely to the furnishing of so many World's Fair hotels and boarding-houses. The demand is reported as much in excess of anything before known.

Linens are high. Advances this week from manufacturers advanced prices, and intimated that a further advance might be looked for soon. In these goods, as in wide sheetings, noticed above, Chicago undoubtedly "has the call," owing to the abnormal demand for World's Fair furnishing.

REFUNDS ON HANDKERCHIEFS.

SOME weeks ago we reported a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals at St. Louis, to the effect that hemstitched handkerchiefs were not dutiable at 60 per cent. under the provision for "hemstitched and embroidered handkerchiefs," but at 50 per cent. as "handkerchiefs not otherwise provided for," the Court construing the provision at the higher rate as applying only to those handkerchiefs which combined hemstitching and embroidery. The importers at that time expected that the Treasury Department would acquiesce in the decision, and order a refund of the extra duty exacted on the kind of goods in question, which are imported to an immense extent in this city, and have been very generally covered with protests. Either on account of the vast amount at stake, or for some other reason, the Treasury Department did not instruct Collectors to make refunds or to change their classification on current entries of these goods, but permitted two other cases to come to argument in the Appellate Courts, one in Chicago and one in New York. A few days ago the Chicago court affirmed the position taken by that at St. Louis, and on Wednesday of this week the New York case was decided to the same effect. In its ruling the New York court went further than either of the others, for it held that, while embroidered handkerchiefs were not directly in issue, they were on a par with the hemstitched goods, and were dutiable at 50 per cent. only.

This will be good news to the New York importers, as a very large portion of the goods protested on are embroidered and not hemstitched, and the refund will probably be doubled by the terms of this ruling. The Treasury Department is, of course, at liberty to continue exacting 60 per cent. on the embroidered goods, and to compel the importers to carry a test case on them through the courts; but it is not to be supposed that they will care to prolong the defence on this branch of the case with so plain a dictum from the very court to which the case must ultimately go staring them in the face. It is more probable that the Board of General Appraisers will now take up for decision all the vast mass of suspended protests on handkerchiefs, and will rule that all those which are hemstitched only or embroidered only are dutiable at 50 per cent., thus confronting the Government with the necessity of refunding or bringing suit within thirty days of the decision, between which alternatives they would in all likelihood choose the former. It is not thought that any step will be taken by the Board until the Treasury Department publishes its circular acquiescing in the ruling of the Court. The amount which must be refunded is variously estimated, some putting the figure as high as \$1,000,000.—*Dry Goods Economist.*

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The Edison & Swan United Electric Light Company, Limited, write to inform us that they are now able to undertake, at their Works in London, Silver Plating, Nickel Plating, and Gilding, and are prepared to do such in the best workmanship and quality.

VISIT OF THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., TO BELFAST, MAY 24, 1893.

ADDRESS FROM THE BELFAST LINEN MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the Linen Merchants' Association, which is a commercial and non-political body, most heartily welcome your Lordship to Belfast, the capital of Ulster, and the centre of the linen industry.

In April, 1885, when Belfast was honoured by a visit from their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and again on the occasion of the visit of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Clarence in May, 1889, the Linen Merchants' Association presented loyal addresses expressive of allegiance to the Throne, profound respect for Her Most Gracious Majesty, the utmost esteem for the other members of the Royal Family, unflinching attachment to the Constitution, and a determination to maintain the integrity of the Empire.

The linen trade, which is the oldest and the principal industry of Ireland, gives employment to upwards of one hundred thousand persons, amongst whom it is the means of distributing annually in wages and salaries some £2,750,000, and the capital invested and employed in it is estimated from £13,000,000 to £15,000,000.

This association views with extreme and well-grounded alarm "The Government of Ireland Bill" now before Parliament. Should this measure become law, the large majority of the members of the proposed Legislature would be persons who have practically no experience in, nor have they shown any aptitude for, commercial and financial affairs.

The establishment of the proposed Legislature would, we have no doubt, cause a withdrawal of capital from this country, and create an insecurity which would prove disastrous to trade in this land, and by which our particular branch of industry would be seriously if not fatally injured.

On 6th May, 1886, and again on 20th March last, large special general meetings of the association were held protesting unanimously in the most emphatic manner against the Government of Ireland Bills.

We heartily thank your Lordship, both personally and as leader of the Unionist party, for the great interest displayed at all times in developing the resources of our country, and for the many eminent services rendered in opposing the Home Rule Bills. We fully believe your Lordship's efforts will be successful in maintaining the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland—which has been productive of such beneficial results—and in preventing ever becoming law a measure so disastrous to the social and commercial well-being and the best interests of our land.

With every desire for the peace and prosperity of our island, and that it may ever continue an integral part of the great Empire over which our Most Gracious Sovereign so happily reigns, we have the honour to remain, your Lordship's faithful and obedient servants,

CHAS. H. RICHARDSON, *President.*
W. CRAWFORD, *Vice-President.*
W. R. PATTERSON, *ex-President.*
WILLIAM H. WARD, *Secretary.*

DELEGATES.—Messrs. Charles H. Richardson, Wm. Crawford, W. R. Patterson, Sir Wm. Q. Ewart, Bart., J.P.; C. C. Connor, M.P.; John Rogers, R. G. M'Crumb, J.P.; W. H. Ward, *Secretary.*

ADDRESS FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE BELFAST TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

We, the Council of the Belfast Technical School, respectfully beg leave to welcome your Lordship to this part of Her Majesty's dominions, and at the same time to express our devoted loyalty to her throne and person.

We embrace the opportunity of informing your Lordship that we have been successfully engaged for the past ten years in promoting the cause of technical education in this district, mainly in connection with the textile industries of the North of Ireland.

Since its formation the school has been supported by private subscriptions, supplemented by a generous grant from the Worshipful Company of Drapers, London, and since the passing of the Technical Instruction Act (during your Lordship's Government) the Corporation of the City of Belfast have aided the school to a limited extent. We are at present formulating a scheme with a view to extend the scope of the work, and have reason to believe that the powers conferred on the local authority by this Act will ultimately be duly exercised.

We are strongly convinced that the promotion of industrial and technical education, not only in connection with commerce and manufactures, but also in relation to agriculture, the principal occupation of the people, is urgently needed, and that if Ireland is to make any considerable progress in future, it must be by inculcating habits of industry and thrift among the masses, aided by a popular scheme of education of this nature.

We view with very grave alarm the introduction of the Home Rule Bill now in committee of the House of Commons, which, instead of providing for the better government of Ireland, we believe, if passed, would lead to disastrous consequences to this country by disturbing in every way the present satisfactory relations with Great Britain, among which we may mention the wise arrangements made by Parliament for aiding science and art and technical education.

We very highly value your Lordship's strong opposition to this

measure, and feel deeply grateful for the sympathy and encouragement which you have given to the Unionists of this country. We earnestly trust the measure will be defeated, and Ireland saved from anarchy and demoralisation, which a very large number of Her Majesty's loyal subjects fear will result should such a measure ever become law.

(Signed on behalf of the Council of the Belfast Technical School)

JAMES MUSGRAVE, *President.*
ROBERT H. READE, *Vice-President.*
MAURICE F. FITZGERALD, *Chairman*
Executive Committee.
WILLIAM MORTON, *Secretary.*

DELEGATES.—Messrs. Robert H. Reade, J.P.; W. R. Young, Professor Fitzgerald, G. H. Kertland, John Malone, H. J. Nicholson, F. W. Smith (*Irish Textile Journal*), Wm. Morton, *Secretary.*

A NEW PATENT HACKLING MACHINE.

OUR attention has been called to a new flax hackling machine, the invention of Messrs. Ch. de Baillencourt & Cie., of Douai, about to be placed on the market. The essential principles of this machine (which has been made and exhibited for the first time in Ireland by Messrs. Stephen Cotton & Co., Belfast) may be very briefly described as follows:—1st. To hackle the flax gradually, according to the fall it obtains, by means of an inclined holder channel. 2nd. To submit the strick of flax in each holder to tools of the same gradation during its passage through the inclined holder channel. 3rd. To hackle the flax to a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree, and by only submitting it to the 2nd or 3rd degree after a complete 1st or 2nd hackling. Mechanically, the patentees claim that it comprises all the improvements realised in the construction of the various types of hackling machines up to the present. Without, therefore, going into details of the various parts of the hackling machine, it may be mentioned that they all exist in these machines, with the exception of a few modifications which were found necessary for putting the new principle into practice. The machine is composed of three distinct parts, being in reality three short hackling machines placed end to end. The first two parts are made with inclined holder channels, and the third part with an ordinary horizontal channel. It will therefore be observed that in the first two sections of the machine, on account of the inclined position which the channel takes, the holder occupies at each shift a lower position, and thus the flax is gradually hacked up to its middle, thus approaching as nearly as possible to the work done by hand-hackling, the tool operating on short lengths of the flax successively, beginning at the extremity and advancing gradually until it reaches the middle of the flax. By this method the flax is only submitted to the 2nd and 3rd degree of hackling after the preliminary process of a graduated hackling, and in this way it is claimed that the best yield and quality are obtained from the raw material. This machine will interest the Irish spinning trade.

ONE OF THE CAUSES OF FIRE.—When the oxide of iron—that is, *rust*—is placed in contact with timber excluded from the atmosphere, and aided by a slightly increased temperature, the oxide is certain to part with its oxygen, and is converted into finely divided particles of metal having such an affinity for oxygen that, when afterwards exposed to the action of the atmosphere from any cause, oxygen is absorbed rapidly, the particles become suddenly red hot, and if in sufficient quantity will produce a temperature far beyond the ignition of dry or rotten timber. Now, where iron pipes are used for the circulation of hot water, air, or steam, and allowed to become rusty and in close contact with timber, the expansion of the pipes or their contraction will account for many fires which periodically take place in the winter season, and are considered mysterious as to the cause.—From *Lister's Things Not Generally Known*.

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.—Messrs. Witter & Son, Crown Works, Bolton, who are makers of the celebrated Witter Sprinkler, have favoured us with a specially constructed sample for use as a paper weight. In order that the simplicity of the sprinkler may be studied, the lower half has been cut away, so that the working parts are seen at a glance. We understand that where installations of this make have been put in, firms have secured from the Insurance Companies the greatest possible reductions in fire premiums, owing to the unbroken record of success of this patent.

Chemicals and Dyes.

(Special Report by Messrs. SADLER & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.)

THERE has been no striking change in the values of chemical products during the month, but the demand and deliveries have been fairly satisfactory. There still continues a strong demand for disinfectants, although the price can scarcely be called so hard; indeed, in several cases a distinct check in values has arisen, but this is probably but a temporary feature. Caustic Soda and Soda Ash continue to droop, and makers, by their anxiety to sell forward, do not appear to have much faith in the continuance of even current prices. Tar Products maintain their values, though they are very low, and the production is all being taken up. Aniline and Alizarine people are somewhat busier, although there is still great room for improvement. Sulphate of Ammonia has recovered to a considerable extent, and the prospect for forward delivery is more encouraging,

especially as Nitrate of Soda appears to have reached the bottom, and has now a rising tendency. Bichrome prices remain unaltered, and although buyers are only covering their requirements by short periods, the position of the market seems strong. Prices, generally, remain about the same, with the exception of Sulphate of Ammonia, which has considerably improved in value, and is now quoted at £12 5s. less 3½%.



Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.

Compiled from the Official Records, by Messrs. W. P. THOMPSON & Co., Patent Agents, of 6, Bank Street, Manchester; 6, Lord Street, Liverpool; and 323, High Holborn, London, W.C.

F. W. GREENWOOD, London, No. 5,758.—“Improvements in the method of and apparatus for roving, drawing, fly-spinning, and twisting fibres.” 17th March, 1893.

A. T. and F. LAWSON, and M. PORRITT, London, No. 6,155.—“Improvements in cleaning and carding the waste of hemp, flax, and other tows of similar fibres.” 22nd March, 1893.

A. M'EEKIN, Halifax, No. 6,600.—“Improvement in the method of and means employed for bleaching, dyeing, and otherwise treating flax, hemp, and other fibres.” 29th March, 1893.

R. J. EKE, F. E. TUCKER, and F. HOW, London, No. 6,678.—“Improvements in machinery for spinning hair, wool, hemp, flax, grass fibre, or other textile material, either separately or in combination.” 30th March, 1893.

A. E., R. E., and J. NEWMAN, London, No. 7,104.—“Improvements in the treatment of flax and other fibrous materials, and in apparatus employed therein.” 6th April, 1893.

C. EDMONDSON, Halifax, No. 7,451.—“Improvements in drum-winding machinery for warping purposes.” 12th April, 1893.

J. C. WALKER and J. E. STEPHENSON, Bradford, No. 7,523.—“Machinery for decorticating fibrous plants, stems, and leaves.” 13th April, 1893.

G. BENSON and J. LAIRD, Belfast, No. 8,378.—“Improvement in button-hole sewing machines.”

J. S. PEEL and T. GARFORTH, Halifax, No. 8,394.—“Apparatus for weighing and indicating the weight of yarn as it is being spun on spinning frames.” 26th April, 1893.

W. M'TAGGART, Manchester, No. 8,412.—“Manufacture or spinning of cotton or other fibres into yarn, and in apparatus connected therewith.” 26th April, 1893.

J. C. MEWBURN, London, No. 8,717.—“Machinery for breaking, softening, and removing the gummy matter from hemp, ramie, and other fibrous materials.” (Jules Cardon, France.) 1st May, 1893.

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED.

The specifications of the following patents have been printed and published during the month, and copies thereof may now be obtained at the uniform price of 1s., which includes postage.

A. MATHOT, Belgium, No. 4,979.—“Improvement in machinery or apparatus for spinning string and rope yarn.” 14th August, 1891.

C. DE BAILLIENCOURT, Brussels, No. 7,406.—“Improvements in machinery for dressing and preparing for spinning long fibres.” 19th April, 1892.

F. BLEMEL, Jungbuech, No. 7,886.—“Improvements in spinning frames.” 26th April, 1893.

G. B. BIANCHI, Milan, No. 9,888.—“Improvements in or relating to machines for beetling fabrics.” 24th May, 1892.

A. ARNOLD and A. OELSNER, Siegmars, near Chemnitz, No. 9,111.—“Improvements in shirts and similar underclothing.” 13th May, 1892.

J. B., G., and J. B. SWALES, Oldham, No. 9,899.—“Improvements in paper tubes for holding yarn or thread.” 26th May, 1892.

J. GRAY, Glasgow, No. 12,115.—“Improvements in or connected with the setting of flats of carding engines.” 29th June, 1892.

1893.

T. SPEIGHT and J. SCOTT, Bradford, No. 4,662.—“Improvements in gill boxes for preparing wool and other fibre, and in ‘fallers’ employed therein.”

GERMAN APPLICATIONS.

FROMM & ROLL, Mülhausen, i.E., No. 6,441F.—“Improvements in needle segments for combing machines or the like.” 16th December, 1892.

WEBSTUHL AND MASCHINENFABRIK VORM, MAY & KÜHLING, Chemnitz, No. 8,489W.—“Improvements in mechanism applicable for changing the shuttles in looms.” 16th July, 1892.

EMIL PONGS, Odenkirchen, No. 6,053P.—“Improved stop-motion for looms.” 21st December, 1892.

HERMANN EGER und JOHANN A. RICHTER, Warnsdorf, Bohemia, No. 3,677E.—“Improved safety-stopper for looms.” 17th December, 1892.

FRIEDRICH FINGER, Pfaffendorf, near Landeshut, Silesia, No. 6,605F.—“Improved hand-loom.” 25th February, 1893.

WEBSTUHL AND MASCHINENFABRIK VORM, MAY & KÜHLING, Chemnitz, No. 8,792W.—“Improved safety-stopper applicable to looms with movable drop-boxes.” 14th December, 1892.

PAOLO VIGANO, Triuggio, Lombardy, No. 1,792V.—“Improvements in mechanism applicable for changing the shuttles in looms.” 12th February, 1892.

G. E. DONISTHORPE, London, and T. BURROWS, London, No. 5,326D.—“Improved machine applicable for heckling flax, hemp, oakum, China grass, and the like; also combing wool, silk, and the like.” 22nd August, 1892.

FERD. MOMMER & Co., Barmen-Rittershausen, No. 9,504M.—“Process and apparatus for steaming fibrous materials in a vacuum.” 23rd January, 1893.

T. GÖTZELMANN, Hamburg, No. 8,126G.—“Shuttle protector for looms.” 12th April, 1893.

SINCLAIR HUNTER, Belfast, and WILLIAM HUNTER, Jordanstown, Ireland, No. 13,061H.—“Improvements applicable to the cylinders of weaving machines for flax and the like.” 16th January, 1893.