The Irish Textile Journal, which is incorporated
The Belfast Linen Trade Circular.

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NOTICE.

Correspondence and letters of interest bearing upon the Textile Industries, Technical Education, and other matters may be forwarded to the Editor. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will take place, and this meeting of the manufacturers, respecting the position and prospects of our Irish industry, will be scientifically and commercially important. Correspondence should be sent to the Editor, and also to the Chief Commissioner for Ireland, who will be glad to see any facts or figures that may be of interest to the manufacturers. The Irish Textile Journal is published on the 15th of each month. Yearly subscriptions, $1.00. Samples of the Journal are sent free to manufacturers. The Irish Textile Journal and The Linen Market are sold at the same time, and will be supplied by post for 21s. 6d. per annum.

The Home and Foreign Linen Trade Directory is now in preparation.

The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

The work in connection with this gigantic undertaking is making rapid progress, and it promises, in point of extent and importance, to fulfill the most anxious and expectant expectations formed of its success. The World's Fair, like the Exposition of 1851, will be an institution for the future, and its influence upon the world's trade is now felt. It will form a permanent and lasting monument to the industrial progress of this country, and will be a source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importance to the manufacturers of linen. It will be an exhibition of the progress of the world, and will be a great source of profit and honor to the manufacturers of linen. The World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will be a great event in the history of the world, and will be of great importan...
extensive use of linen as napery would understand—that it has already a good name throughout the length and breadth of the land, and a firm position in the esteem of every true housewife. Here are Dr. Rutherford's well-deserved marks upon the passage:

If there is not the least intimation that the public can be made to believe, in linen, and buy and wear it, through the same processes by which the “bread-crumbs pill” may be invested “with amazing virtue,” then relying on the gullibility of the public, we do not understand the meaning of the words. As the public can be gulled believing in the amazing virtues of bread-crumbs pills, so by the same token—“dogged advertising,” etc., they can be made to “believe in linen” for no more virtue than drugged, or shoddy, or bread-crumbs pills. In the face of these words and facts, will our editor try to purgle himself of the opprobrium of having advertised like manufacturers to avail themselves of the public gullibility, for the advancement of the linen trade?

Blessings on such innocence as can either be unaware that worthless articles have been palmed off upon the public by strenuous advertising, or would conclude that because an article is extensively advertised, it must be supplied at the time it is proposed upon! But when Dr. Rutherford’s comments are carefully read, a slight deviation from the original text may be noticed. It is only the substitution of one tense for another, so as to make a supposititious case into an actual and real one, and there you have a charge of falsifying a bogus article upon the public all complete. This is not misrepresentation—according to Dr. Rutherford. It is only making the best of a bad case in the course of a magazine article. But Dr. Rutherford, with all his inflated zeal for the integrity and proper use of the English language, must surely have known, if not at first, certainly after the reply to him in July, what a false construction he was putting (and has again put) upon the paragraph.

A Wool-witted Accusation.

Now for a boot upon the other leg. We are charged with all sorts of literary sins because of the following sentence:

Dr. Rutherford goes further and maintains that it [wool] is the one fibre designated by Providence for the clothing of man—“providentially designated for the clothing of an animal body.” . . . Why wool alone should be thought to have the approval of Providence is hard to understand, unless it is that other animal substances—fur and fashions and skins, with non-vegetable silk—are not adapted to the requirements of the one and only system.

It is wrong, says Dr. Rutherford—it is a “trick,” a “malintelliged record.” With his usual delicacy and civility he insinuates that another “correspondent” will have to be found for a scapegoat “to bear away the reproach of this injustice.” What he wrote was that “it is no wonder that Count Rumford spoke of wool and hair and fur as being providentially designed for the clothing of an animal body,” and in a fine fit of dramatic indignation he protests again any “one fibre” or “wool alone” theory being fathered upon him. Serious, isn’t it? On the next page he writes of an argument being one person’s by origination and another’s by inspiration so that the principles that sauce for the Belfast goose is sauce for the New York gander, we may grant that Dr. Rutherford accepts Count Rumford’s doctrine as to the providential provision of wool, hair, and fur only for human clothing. Why intermediate rather than first principles should be adopted by either Count or Doctor is not explained. It may be remembered that coats of skins were the garments divinely fashioned for the use of our first parents, although the guilty couple in the garden of Eden had already incurred the condemnation of Dr. Rutherford and his true followers by subjecting themselves to vegetable aprons. Milton does not doubt that the leaves of the banyan tree were chosen for this purpose; but there is one of Dr. Rutherford’s authorities who knows all about pre-historic textiles. We may trust Dr. Bell to tell us what Adam and Eve actually wore, and Dr. Rutherford, in the unavoidable absence of Count Rumford, will perhaps explain what Providence intended cotton, flax, jute, and numberless other plant fibres to be used for. Taking man rather as “a little lower than the angels” than as on a level with the brute creation, we do not believe that Adam and Eve was provided to wear and fur wool and fashions, and Dr. Laumann shows clearly enough that the “animal” qualities of Jaeger are not only inconclusive but absurd. But what says Dr. Rutherford of hair and fur? Not a word anywhere in favour or in defence of either of them. More than that, he wrote, or said, on one occasion—

It is a very easy matter to demonstrate to anyone of average intelligence the validity of its [the Jaeger theory’s] fundamental principle, namely—that wool [only wool], a material provided by nature for the clothing of an animal body, is the most suitable material for the clothing of the animal man.

He repeats, in another place, that this proposition is “absolutely impregnable,” and adds that:

To one that believes in the wisdom of Providence, or in the aptness of Nature to adapt her means to her ends, there is no need of argument to support this foundation of the Jaeger system. There is nothing retail about this proposition; it is all wholesaler. Jaeger declares for his version of the foundation fact of his system—

Animal wool, which Nature has created to clothe the animal body, is the “survival of the fittest” clothing material.

Yet we are charged with untruth, and iniquity, and what not, for stating that Dr. Rutherford maintains that wool is the one fibre designated by Providence for the clothing of man. Such are the virtues of bunkum! The Jaeger prescription, as set forth in Health Culture (price one shilling; new abridged edition, 193 pp., price sixpence), is made up of wool, 49 parts; camel-hair, mainly for bedding and linings, 1 part; and wool alone. All vegetable fibres, flax especially, in all and every particular, and physiological peculiarities about salutary exhalations, warmth-causing odours, fatigue matter, the physical source of the emotions, and such like, Dr. Rutherford does not like these things, any more than he likes the Jaeger method of deodorising bedding, or the Jaeger toleration of any dirt not apparent or malodorous. He would rather write 48 roundabout pages than stand quietly or speakmen for the ridiculous statements in Health Culture. He sees how thin a plank there is between the Jaeger experiment and the Jaeger conclusion of a tolerable absurdity; and would rather argue as to whether a note of interrogation is in place at the end of a question. But he has to “face the music,” and, so, first opening a door wide behind him to the convenience of escape, he will “accept as defensible, in the sense and to the extent advocated by Dr. Jaeger, more of these propositions than our editor, on his reputation for scientific intelligence, dare deny.” This, it will be noticed, still leaves him freedom of choice, but there is one of Dr. Jaeger’s tests too nonsensical for him to swallow and, no wonder! Dr. Rutherford tried his running powers in three different suits of clothing, and found that in the brown suit, which he tried ten times, the minimum distance was 800 metres, and the maximum 2,400 metres. On the three occasions on which he tested the indigo suit he could proceed no further than 800 metres, and in the grey suit he was completely exhausted at 500 metres. What the brown suit was dyed with is not stated, but the other two were certainly artificially vegetable in colouring, and, like curtains or blinds of vegetable fibre and books printed upon vegetable paper, could only come under the major condemnation of all true woolenites. But, returning to the fresh charge which Dr. Rutherford has brought against us, it is probable that he will take shelter behind the camel-hair fraction of the Jaeger system, making no mention of fur, which was anthomatised in the Times by the Jaeger Company a few years ago, when the question of overcoats was being discussed; or, as is quite likely, he may ignore the matter altogether.

So Dr. Rutherford, who is “with the Jaeger Company” by one account, or “the scientists attached to the Jaeger Company,” as another states, ignores Mr. Milton’s explicit statement that he has no pecuniary or personal interest whatever at stake in Belfast, and, indeed, while he would not “insinuate that the Doctor is a stockholder in the Belfast mills,” still holds by the opinion that he wrote “more out of solicitude for his friends in the Belfast trade than for the public benefit,” and he can still say that the Egyptians, with their trade in fine linen to protect and their hatred of shepherds to extenuate, were “not less concerned for the product of their looms than Mr. Milton seems to be for the outputs of the Belfast mills.” Said we not truly that Dr. Rutherford’s methods are peculiar? He ignores the express declaration of Sir Erasmus Wilson, late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, that the roundness and pliability of the fibre of linen give a smoothness and softness to its surface which adapt it perfectly as a soft, unendurable covering to be worn next the skin. There is no room to sneer at Sir Erasmus Wilson’s position or attainments, no chance of cavilling about his opinion; and so it is quietly disregarded. So Dr. Rutherford glosses over the inconvenient circumstance that wool is generally considered to be a contagious vehicle of infection more likely to carry contagion. At this point he becomes mightily jocose upon the subject of rags, changing a conjunction in a phrase of ours, so as to make merry about the qualities of linen, and might be thought to know all about the plague of leprosy in a garment which has puzzeled so many students of the Penitente. But by these means the serious impu
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article of commerce, was cultivated and sought after in preference as soon as another stage in civilization was reached and man enjoyed a settled habitation. In early days it was often a case of Hobeon's choice in clothes—when either a good linen or wool available, vegetable fibres took the first place. It is more than likely that "purple and fine linen," the accepted synonym for indulgence in dress, did not always represent the use of two fibres, but sometimes, at least, an all-linen garment, which栖uates the "progressive use of linen among the Greeks and Romans," says that the Emperor Alexander Severus, as we learn from the following passage of his Life, written by Florus Lampridius, was a great admirer of good linen, and preferred that which was plain to such as had flowers or feathers interwoven, as practised in Egypt and the neighbouring countries. He took great delight in good linen, and preferred it plain. "If," said he, "linen clothes are made of that material in order that they may not be at all rough, why mix purple with them?" But to interwoven gold in linen he considered madeness, because this made it rigid in addition to its roughness. The following passage of the Life of the Emperor Caracalla by Florus Vespasianus is remarkable as proving the value attached by the Romans of that age to the linen imported from Egypt and Phrygia, especially to the transparent and flowered varieties. Why should I mention the linen cloths brought from Egypt, or those imported from Tyre and Sidon, which are so thin as to be transparent, which glow with purple, or are printed on account of the labour they cost?"

Here linen is linked with comfort and luxury, and other records establish beyond dispute not only the high esteem in which linen was held, but also the considerable and extensive trade carried on with it, while the widespread incorporation of the name of linen in different languages gives biological proof of the general use of this fibre. And yet Dr. Bell could "originate" a statement—which has neither been withdrawn nor substantially, only superseded—to the effect that Royal robes, head-dresses, and mantles of the finest wool, and tent-covers, carpets, and carpets of heavier texture, were made of aזרחed wool of the Asiae in such profusion that for many ages flannel appears to have been the only textile in use.

Wool in early India is an unknown quantity, but cotton has been made up and worn there from time immemorial, while China and Central Asia have spun and woven silk to a remote period. A stated period of deprivation of pen and ink should be the punishment for such unwarrantable nonsense as this about wool and "flannel."

A Few Questions.

It is complained that we have not paid sufficient respect to the "authorities" which occupied a dozen pages or more of the first number of Woolen or Linen, and it is now stated that several of them are men who have scientifically experimented with these materials, or have worn linen or cotton underclothing nearly all their lives, some of them for as little as five years. When the Jaeger goods were first introduced into this country [the United States]. This is all well enough, but it is all now. The nearest approach to any practical research which appears in any of these testimonies is that of a man who found that his previous predilection for Jaeger fabrics ended in an empty pocket, after an hour and a half spent in a Jaeger store. This is likely enough, but these are not the lines on which investigation should run. What were these scientific experiments? On what points did research turn? What were the results? Why were not particulars given before? Why are they not given now? As to the witnesses, three of them are not experts, but editors of religious papers. We fail still to see that conductors of religious papers, as conductors of religious papers, are the most competent men to decide upon the merits of textile fibres or fabrics. One of the "authorities" is an anonymous letter writer to a New York daily paper, and another a tradesman who sends a testimonial to the Jaeger Company. One other is Dr. Bell, editor of the Sanitarium, who writes so thoughtlessly about the history of textiles, and there are two bakers of medical men who hold a public position while his conclusions cannot be accepted, if special practice is, as in Mr. Milton's case, considered to invalidate his judgment, since he is a Professor of Diseases of the Thorax. What is there in these "authorities" to set against the opinions in favour of linen from skin specialists, who declares wool may be inferior. It cannot be said that we are best qualified to speak upon what is best for the skin in health as well as in disease; and what is there in all the dozen pages or more that will weigh against the conclusion of Sir Erasmus Wilson, to which we once more invite attention?
WOOLENITE ORTHODOXY.

One authority quoted with approval in the first pamphlet is the Director of the Hygienic Institute at Munich, Professor Pettenkofer. But the Professor, not being a bigot, and not being a dogmatic individual, he has changed his opinions—which, as has been pointed out, is but to plead that he is wiser to-day than he was the day before—has in the meanwhile, as our readers are aware, let the public know that linen has found grace in his sight. He adopts the deductions of Rubner as to the absorbent power of flax, based upon actual tests with soaks of linen and woollen worn alternately by several persons, and states that “the capacity of conducting heat is almost the same for the subsequent use of wool,” that is, for animal fibres and for linen. Forthwith, Professor Pettenkofer is deposed from his position as an authority upon the subject, and Rubner’s experiments with the feet are set down as “tomfoolery.” Upon this matter we may have something more to write at another time, now that the decks are cleared of this defensive matter; but if there is any reason why experiments should not be carried out, as regards bodily clothing, upon human bodies instead of metal cylinders, or why modern investigations should be rejected in favour of decisions a century old, we should like to know it. The experience of Pfeiffer Kneipp, extending over a number of years and thousands of cases, covering not merely skin diseases but well nigh “all the ills that flesh is heir to,” and bearing not merely upon the recovery but the maintenance of health, is the best of evidence in favour of the material and salutary virtues of linen. We stick to our position, and hold a brief on behalf of linen for underclothing, and we not hope but confidently expect to carry our case. Surely, if slowly, public opinion is being won over to the time-honoured and wholesome practice of wearing linen next the skin, and one good and sufficient indication of the change is the fact that it is found expedient, if not necessary, to publish Jaeger pamphlets of 29 and 48 pages in support of wool.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

AVING been for years helplessly and hopelessly behind our Continental neighbours in the matter of Technical Instruction, England has at last really begun to move in the right direction. The passing of the Technical Instruction Acts of 1889–91, together with the allocation of large sums of money to the County Councils and Borough Authorities, have made the pressing forward of this most necessary portion of National Education possible. In the present paper we intend to give a rapid summary of what has been done in England, together with a few general remarks on the subject. Promising that far as England still is behind other countries in the direction of this practical training of her artisans, Ireland is as far again behind her. With Ireland for the moment we have nothing to do, our task lying in the endeavour to see what has been done elsewhere, and thus to lay a foundation for pointing out what might be done at home. For our general purpose the Annual Report of the National Association for the Promotion of Technical and Secondary Education will be found most useful. When, under the Local Taxation Duties Act, a large sum of money was set free and allocated to the Local Authorities, an effort was made to induce the latter to appropriate it to educational purposes, and not to the mere reduction of the local rates. This effort has so far been fairly successful. By the beginning of December, 1890, educational grants had been voted out of these funds by the Committee of nineteen County Councils. Twenty-two counties and sixteen boroughs were still considering the matter, and only one Local Authority—London—had decided to appropriate the money in reduction of the rates. There was at the time, amongst others, one obstacle towards the progress of this work—the doubtfull character of the permanency of the grant. This doubt was to a great extent removed by the answer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a question put by Lord Harrison. Mr. Goschen, while not in a position to give any official assurance, stated that “if County Councils set themselves heartily to work, as many plans they appear to be doing, to utilise the grants for important educational purposes, it would probably be difficult for any minister to persuade Parliament to divert them, even if he himself desired to do so.” On this a very great impetus was given to the movement, and the permanence of the fund being practically assured, County Councils settled down to draft schemes for the organisation of Technical Education. Difficulties naturally arose; the Act was found defective; and as the end of the financial year approached, most schemes were still uncompleted, the fear being expressed that the unappropriated grants would lapse. These were again in turn overcome, and at the end of June last there were twenty-seven English and eleven Welsh County Councils devoting all the grants to educational purposes. Of boroughs, thirty-three had spent the whole of their allocation, and one in the same position. Thirteen had only given part of the grant, and in two the money had gone to reduce the rates. Besides this, there were at the same period seventy-two Local Authorities giving rate-aid to Technical Education under the Acts. In Scotland, things were not so favourable; the progress had been much slower, and may be accounted for by the fact that there the previous grant of the Probose Duty, which in England had gone to the relief of the rates, had been applied to the partial freeing of Elementary Schools. Secondly, the Technical Schools Act is in Scotland a narrower measure than the English Act; however, notwithstanding all, progress has been made and the work is still being pushed on. In Wales, as already partly noted, the advance has been rapid. In almost all the counties the whole of the grants have been given to the furtherance of either Intermediate or Technical Education. It is estimated that some seventy or eighty new schools, or existing Endowed Schools, will be brought under the Technical Instruction Act, of which far the largest number will be new. They will for the most part be day schools with low fees, and many will be for both boys and girls. The direction will lie in a local government body, in most counties, a County Governing Body having a full representation on the County Council. It is expected that from the arrangements now being made under the powers conferred by the Act the University Colleges will derive a great deal of benefit, and that the gap existing in the National Education of Wales will be filled up. In England, in Manchester, the funds available are £22,000 per annum. A Special Committee of the Corporation is engaged in considering the best methods of meeting the many claims on the money. As a tentative measure, some £4,000 were called up and allocated to the Technical School, the School Board, and the School of Art. In June and July last, a deputation from the Technical School visited some Continental and English Technical Schools, and drew up an elaborate report, from which extracts have already been given in these columns, and to which we shall have to refer presently. The Manchester Technical School is at present engaged in elaborating plans for a larger and better equipped building, to be devoted chiefly to the engineering, chemical, and textile trades; and it is hoped that the Corporation will contribute towards the erection and maintenance of it. In Nottingham, the whole of the funds placed by the Government at the disposal of the Town Council have been devoted to Technical Instruction. In Leeds, a scheme has been drawn up and strong representations made to the County Council, whose final decision is now being awaited. At Southampton, the Town Council, after a long and careful inquiry, have decided to allot the grant in portions to the Hartley Institution, the Taunton Trade School, the Committee for the University Extension Lectures, and the School of Art. In Manchester it is to be hoped that there will shortly be an extensive increase of highly qualified Technical teachers to the staff of the Hartley Institution.

Scotland is also pressing forward. In Dundee, we find that during the ten years 1880–90 the number of individuals receiving instruction in Drawing in Elementary Day Schools has increased from 859 to 8,509; and the number receiving instruction in the Dundee School of Art and two Art Classes had gone up from 1,006 to 2,225 during the same period. This gives us a very fair idea of what has been and is being done across the channel in this all-important matter of Industrial Education. The money set free by the Local Taxation Act is in very few cases being frustrated in the reduction of the rates, but is being almost everywhere devoted to the practical and useful purposes of Secondary and Technical Instruction.

Continued on page 7.
The Belfast Linen Trade Report.

Drawn up by the Linen Trade Board, appointed under the sanction of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce.

URING the latter half of last month, and down to the present time, a quiet tone has characterised the market, and little improvement can be reported by any department. The fluctuating weather at Christmas and the wide-spread influenza epidemic have doubtless largely retarded the distribution of textile goods throughout the home trade. Though spinners hold firmly to the advanced prices obtained for yarns—owing to the increased cost of flax—manufacturers complain of the great difficulty of getting prices commensurate with the present cost of production.

FLAX.

Supplies of flax at the Irish markets are rapidly falling off, and season will soon be over. A great deal of flax has been bought this season at the scutch mills, so that supplies at open market have been smaller than usual. Coarse flax has met with a slow sale of late, but any good medium to fine sorts offering have brought top rates in all cases. Subjoined are corresponsants’ reports since last issue.

December 26th.—Ballymena—20 tuns of middled, prices from 4/6 to 7/6 per stone; the greater proportion was of medium quality; market fairly attended; demand not so active, and prices unchanged. 21st.—Monaghan—2 tons of middled, varying in price from 5/- to 9/-, and 5 tons of hand-sctchedt, which sold from 3/- to 5/-; quality of a mixed description; usual attendance. 23rd.—Lisnakea—2 tons of middled, prices from 4/- to 8/-; most of common description; any picked lots eagerly sought after, but coarse slow of sale. 20th.—Armagh—2 tons of middled, prices from 5/- to 8/-; 30th.—Ballinlough—10 tons of middled, running in price from 4/6 to 6/6. 21st.—Maidstone—22 tons of middled, prices from 5/- to 8/6 per stone; all offered of fair quality; very active demand, and all flax bought up. Newry—13 tons of middled, prices from 4/- to 6/- of very poor quality; without change in prices. January 14th.—Belfast—4 tons of middled, varying from 6/6 to 7/6 in price. Cootehill—14 tons of middled, which sold at 6/- to 7/6, and 2 tons of hand-sctchedt at 8/- to 10/-; well attended by buyers; flax offered mostly inferior, with the exception of a few fine lots; prices firm. 2nd.—Ballinden—2 tons of middled, prices from 4/- to 7/-; 8th.—Ballymena—9 tons of middled, prices from 5/- to 7/-; 6/6. 21st.—Ballymena—9 tons of middled, prices from 5/- to 7/6. 7th.—Ballymenone—12 tons of middled, varying in price from 4/6 to 6/-; chiefly medium quality; demand steady; some left unsold. Newry—4 tons of middled, prices from 4/6 to 7/6. 8th.—Belfast—No flax offered in to-day’s market. 11th.—Monaghan—9 tons of middled, prices from 6/- to 9/6; and 2 tons of hand-sctchedt, which sold from 8/- to 10/6, and which was of mixed quality; usual attendance; demand quiet; prices easy.

A rough estimate of the yield of Irish flax has been made by the Flax Supply Association, from which it appears that the total quantity of the 1891 crop will be 13,335 tuns, against 20,045 tuns for 1890, a decrease of 7,710 tons.

YARNS.

The general demand for some weeks past has been quiet, manufacturers not doing more than supplying their immediate requirements, whilst, on the other hand, spinners have been careless of booking ahead, pending the clearing off of contracts already placed. The export trade is fairly steady. Prices continue firm for all classes of yarn, both lines and tows, and in the finer counts of lines the tendency is still in favour of producers. Stocks of all kinds are very low in the market, and production was much curtailed by the holidays.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

Orders placed for light power-loom bleaching cloth are of limited extent, buyers being unwilling to give the advanced prices required by manufacturers. Old contracts still on hand keep machinery well engaged, so that stocks on the market are very small. For medium and heavy makes, manufacturers are asking a shade more than last month. Cloth for printing and dyeing purposes, as well as dress linens, are in moderate demand, supplies small and prices very firm. Roughs of special make are in fair request, but ordinary qualities meet with a rather slow sale. There has been rather more doing lately in coarse goods and drills, which had previously been in dull demand. Ballymena cloth continues in very good demand; manufacturers well cleared out of stock, and prices firm at the advanced point of last month. County Down makes are also freely bought at late rates, and in some cases rather more money is demanded. Linen handkerchiefs, both power and hand-loom, have been dull for some time, but stocks are light on the market and rates well maintained. Cambriees, especially in the finer counts, are in somewhat better demand, and prices in favour of manufacturers. No damasks and diapers there is a steady business doing, which takes off the production, and rates are very firm.

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—Continued quietness has been the prevailing feature in this branch of trade for some time past, the retail interests having been unfavourably affected by the unseasonable weather at the end of last month, as well as by the prevailing epidemic. Stock-taking has also kept many buyers out of the market.

United States.—Advices of late indicate a quiet season’s trade at the other side, the Christmas business being said to be a disappointing nature, mainly owing to the wet and exceptionally mild weather. Shipping houses here are still fairly engaged in the execution of orders for spring account. Shipments of piece-goods from the United Kingdom last month were 9 per cent. over same month last year.

Continental.—General trade is without any change. Trade with Germany and Spain, according to the Board of Trade returns, was larger than in previous year, but there was a falling off with France and Italy. On the whole, the difference is small for the year.

Other Markets.—Business with the Australian market shows a considerable increase according to official figures, and one-third more goods for last month have been sent to Canada than in December, 1890, but to the West Indian and South American markets there is more or less a falling off compared with same month of previous year.

For the twelve months the total quantity of linen piece-goods exported from the United Kingdom shows a decrease of 13.3 per cent. and values 12.6 per cent.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH AND IRISH PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Year ending 31st December. 1890. 1891.

Animals, living ....... ..... 2682,377 2672,377
Articles of food and drink ...... 11,258,813 10,687,139
Raw Materials ...... 21,540,602 22,348,807
Artificial manufactured and partly manufactured, viz. 
A. Yarns and Textile Fabrics .......... 112,447,219 106,017,948
B. Metals and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery), ..... 45,229,727 39,280,009
C. Machinery and Mill Work ...... 16,410,665 15,820,319
D. Apparel and Articles of Personal Use, ..... 11,386,207 11,326,947
E. Chemicals, and Chemical and Medicinal Preparations, ..... 8,963,848 8,882,069
F. All other Articles, either Manufactured or partly Manufactured, ...... 34,133,417 32,193,728
G. Parcel Post ...... 1,000,553 1,096,463

£263,530,855 £247,372,273

Showing a net decrease of £16,158,582 for the 12 months, or 6.16 per cent.


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<th>70</th>
<th>75</th>
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<th>130</th>
<th>140</th>
<th>150</th>
<th>160</th>
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<td>Line</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These prices are per bundle of 60,000 yards of grey Yarn, subject to the usual discount for cash.

They are made up in bundles of 25 yds., 25 lbs., etc.

100 threads 25 lbs., 25 lbs., 25 lbs.
15 tows = 1 bundle
10 bundles = 1 bundle
10 bundles = 1 bundle
## Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 31st December, 1891; and in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1891, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1889 and 1890.

### COUNTRIES.

#### MONTH ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Declared Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>148,900</td>
<td>225,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Holland</td>
<td>184,000</td>
<td>146,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Belgium</td>
<td>155,800</td>
<td>144,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From France</td>
<td>155,000</td>
<td>95,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Spain and Canaries</td>
<td>338,000</td>
<td>303,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Italy</td>
<td>58,400</td>
<td>45,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From United States</td>
<td>77,800</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Other Countries</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>140,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,269,900</td>
<td>1,132,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Declared Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>2,442,700</td>
<td>2,775,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Holland</td>
<td>1,389,400</td>
<td>2,184,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Belgium</td>
<td>1,314,200</td>
<td>1,585,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From France</td>
<td>1,156,000</td>
<td>1,492,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Spain and Canaries</td>
<td>3,268,800</td>
<td>2,366,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Italy</td>
<td>495,700</td>
<td>511,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From United States</td>
<td>663,900</td>
<td>1,074,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Other Countries</td>
<td>1,408,100</td>
<td>1,641,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Imports of Flax—Dressed, Undressed, and Tow or Cotilda of:

#### COUNTRIES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Value of Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cwts.</td>
<td>Cwts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Russia</td>
<td>81,773</td>
<td>123,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Germany</td>
<td>2,802</td>
<td>3,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Belgium</td>
<td>16,995</td>
<td>7,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Russia</td>
<td>24,501</td>
<td>15,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Other Countries</td>
<td>2,323</td>
<td>3,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>141,887</td>
<td>167,528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Value of Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cwts.</td>
<td>Cwts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Russia</td>
<td>1,335,305</td>
<td>1,331,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Germany</td>
<td>42,024</td>
<td>33,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Belgium</td>
<td>97,385</td>
<td>96,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Russia</td>
<td>51,922</td>
<td>50,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,783,189</td>
<td>1,800,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
January 19th, 1892.

The Irish Textile Journal.

There is a sum of £200,000 due to Ireland, and we shall on another occasion have something to say about it.

It would be out of place to conclude without touching, even though briefly, on the general bearings of this question, the reasons why such efforts are being put forth to press it on, and the purposes it designs to accomplish. Technical Education has been well defined as being in its widest sense that "kind of education which directly keeps in view the work of after life," and which will enable all classes on whose material welfare the nation depends to play their part better in the industrial and commercial life of the country. This fact has long been recognised by the Continental nations. They have long realised that the matter was a national one, and not one to be deputed to private effort. They have never hesitated or scrupled to use the resources of the State or the Municipality to this end, and have insisted on the thorough training of the youth of the country in technical and trade matters. England has, owing perhaps mostly or entirely to her absolute commercial supremacy, neglected to do so, deeming it even unworthy of them who are now waking up to the fact that, notwithstanding all her superiority, she is being ousted from some of the markets of the world. She is being beaten on her own ground, and all from the lack of intelligent education of her youth. Secondary Education in Great Britain gives some indication of such a state as to demand serious attention. Of its condition in this particular portion of Great Britain the less said the better. If we would avoid disgrace, modern languages, natural sciences, commercial geography, have all been neglected. The system of trade apprenticeship is at last being found out to be by no means the best mode of teaching trades and handicraft. We have before us the views of a mechanic on the subject of Industrial Education. He says the first year of apprenticeship is spent as errand-boy to the establishment. The second year is spent as errand-boy to the workmen, being often called upon to do things which "have not the slightest bearing on the trade." About the end of this period he is given his first skilled job, and he will probably spoil it because "he does not know how to set or place the tool in the machine, or he is at a loss to know how to hold the tool and do the work." He is then taught to teach him, and the foreman also is too much engaged. What is wanted, our mechanic says, is that "a boy should be better prepared to enter the workshops;" he should have a sound education, especially in geometry and mechanics, and "should have practical lessons in the use of various tools." Sound views such as these are gradually forcing themselves to the front. Both workman and employer are beginning to recognise that more than the proximity and abundance of the raw materials are requisite for England to hold her commercial supremacy. They are beginning to see the importance of making the workmen and the workmen and the nation of the cultivation of the intelligences of the working population. For nothing is more certain than that the absence of an advance in this direction will seriously weaken the industrial power of England. Mr. Booth has thought that the advocates of Technical Education wish in any way to neglect the ordinary literary education. Far from it; they do wish to bring the one into contact with the other, and get the two to so fit together as to form one harmonious whole. The primary education as at present given to the youth of England fits them for clerks, not to become artisans. They leave school able to read and write, but if they enter upon a trade they do so in absolute ignorance of everything which would fit them for it, and without the slightest notion of what a "warp" or "weft" means and the warp and weft in the loom. Sir Henry Bessemer attributes much of the blame to the short period of school life. No great improvement, he says, can be looked for until two more years are added to the time passed at school. Fourteen, not twelve, should be the general age for leaving, except in the case of a boy in a Royal for definite training. As a first phase as our primary system, our secondary—such as it is—is worse. Professor Huxley, in an address delivered in Manchester, pointed out that the "terrible battle of competition" between the nations of the world is no trystory phenomenon, and does not depend upon that fluctuation of the market, or upon any condition that is likely to pass away. It is, he said, the inevitable result of what takes place throughout nature, namely, the struggle for existence arising out of the tendency of all creatures in the animated world to multiply indefinitely. Thus, what we call "the terrible battle"—to-day may be the prodigious disaster defeat if we do not look to it. For long we stood without a rival to our commercial supremacy; in many departments we had no rivals; but that state of affairs no longer exists, and the commercial position of the country in a generation or two is a thing no man can forsee. "This, however, is certain," says the writer of one of the pamphlets issued by the National Association for Technical Instruction, "energy, wealth, determination, will carry us far; they have carried us far in the past. But in the future knowledge and flexibility of mind will count for more and more in the industrial struggle among the nations. The battle in the future will be to the wise as well as to the strong. Educational methods are not reformed in a day, and it is wise we should begin in the right way—a skill, patience, money wisely expended on National Educational reform are more certain of a good return than any other investment that can be made." England is rapidly sinking vast sums in this investment, and it is as sure as that the mirror will dawn that she will reap a corresponding advantage. She is to have all the investment and all the profit, while Ireland looks on and patiently and neglects the opportunity, to take up her share in the capital, and neglects to consider the position she must inevitably continue to hold amongst the great commercial peoples of the world if she fails to better herself at once and in earnest.

Correspondence.

NOTES ON SOUTHERN INDUSTRIES.

To the Editor of the Irish Textile Journal.

SIR,—As you take an interest in the industries of the South, you may like to hear that pleasing accounts come from Limerick with respect to the lace-makers employed by Messrs. Cannon & Co., whose work I examined when there. Seeing the patterns used at the time were rather old-fashioned, I recommended that better ones should be got, and was glad to see a great improvement. The demand for the run and tambour lace made by these workers has increased, but I cannot supply all that is wanted, being unable to find a sufficient number of capable hands. An effort is now being made to train some young girls, and with good prospects of success, and it is to be hoped they will remain in the district instead of emigrating to America as so many other trained workers have done. It would be very desirable that the city of Limerick should maintain the name which it once had as being the home and headquarters of a beautiful class of Irish lace. The praises worthy endeavours of Mrs. Vere O'Brien, through whose influence a school of lace has been formed, guarantee the permanence of the industry. So far as can be seen, the school will greatly excite the old workers, as the style and quality of Limerick lace had declined greatly for some time, and the women of the last generation are not likely to keep pace with the improvements of the present day. The efforts now made to apply art to industry are tending by degrees, and will in time extend considerably. Here, in Cork, the Crawford School of Art will certainly exercise an increasing influence. This institution gives a course of instruction, comprising Elementary Freehand Drawing, Geometry and Linear Perspective (elementary and advanced), Shading from the Flat and from the Nude, Ornament, Design, and Ornament, together with flowers, foliage, and natural objects; Modelling from ornament and figure; Painting in oil and water-colour from the Flat and from Nature; Figure and Landscape; principles and practice of design, as well as other subjects; whilst the Science Classes at the School of Art include Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Machine Drawing and Building Construction. The present able and efficient Head Master of the Crawford School of Art (Mr. Mulligan) informs me that there is a large class of trade students, comprising masons, stone-cutters, carpenters, and plasterers. Eighty of these joined the class last autumn, owing to the initiative of the United Trades Association, which pays half the fees, whilst by order of the Committee the School itself reduced the fees by half for this class. It is satisfactory to find that the working classes availing themselves of the facilities given at the Crawford School. Mr. Mulligan, however, tells me (as Mr. Brenan did formerly) that there is no demand amongst the Cork industrial for design, any designs being produced at the School were disposed of last year, and the name of Miss Emily Anderson, who is one of the assistant teachers, is well known in connection with these designs. The works of students at the
dublin

Augusta Jane Good.
CONSULAR DISTRICT OF BELFAST.

Declared value of Exports for 1891, compared with 1890.

Year ending Dec. 31st.

1890. 1891.

Flex and Tow ... ... £70,191 10 0 £70,965 6 11
Thread and Yarns ... 38,111 18 0 38,111 18 0
Linens, Unions, and Cottons ... 1,711,926 0 9 1,460,582 5 2

We have to thank Mr. S. G. Ruby, United States Consul for Belfast, for kindly supplying the above particulars for publication.

MONTHLY REPORTS

(From our Correspondents.)

Irish.

DUBLIN.—The markets are still quiet, very little is doing in any direction, but still prices on the whole are being maintained. Linens may be said to have advanced about nine and a half per cent. in the principal markets in Europe, and in woolens, although very little is doing, the general feeling is hopeful. The exports to the United States have undoubtedly suffered enormously from the McKinley tariff, but this has affected England more than the United States, and manufactories. They too, no doubt, feel the effects of the change, but I believe not to anything like the extent their competitors across the channel did. In yarns, operations for export are very restricted, but there is an encouraging inquiry, and spinners are by no means inclined to waver in their stand out for good prices. The latest quotations for wool are:—Demand better than usual for hogsheads, and prices slightly improved. Hoggets, 10d. to 10d. per pound, woollen, 10d. to 9d.; worsted, 10d. to 9d.; worsted, 9d.; mountain, 8d., worsted 6d. to 6d.; washed Scotch, 6d. to 6d. Silks and poplins are as usual.

The Industrial League.

This League does at last appear to be moving, and moving more or less in the right direction. It certainly is more vigorous and, as far as I can judge, more practical than it was. Its meetings are better attended, and it really does seem to do some business in the way of assisting industries and obtaining information about and for them. At its last meeting, for instance, a letter was read from Glenstal, from a member who has already much assisted the industries there, asking the League to exert its influence in finding an enlarged market for the knitted wares. The work, as all know, is excellent, well finished, and neatly executed, but the people are poor, and unless a ready sale is found for the completed articles, they cannot afford to obtain materials for making others. The poverty, it is pleasing to learn, are thoroughly in earnest and hard working. The League wisely decided to do all in their power to extend the market, and as this lies within the sphere of action assigned to the Congested Districts Board, it also decided to bring the matter under its notice, especially as the industry is one with which the Board is empowered to deal. At this same meeting of the League, other industries, such as weaving, tape and lace-making, were brought under notice, and in every instance steps were taken to assist or advance them. On the whole the League is progressing, and as long as it really does attempt and accomplish something, I shall be glad to notice it—if permitted—in these notes from time to time.

The Metropolitan School of Art.

With Christmas and the New Year has come the exhibition of the work accomplished in this School during the past season. Mr. W. J. Brennan, R.H.A., the Head Master, has every reason to be proud of his School and his pupils. In art work, one of the pupils has gained the highest award which the Science of Art Department give; but however much such work may interest or concern a different portion of this Journal, I have only to here note those exhibits and prizes gained by the execution of designs for textile fabrics. I am pleased to note that this year these are more numerous and many better than those of the previous season. This shows that more time is given up to them, and that the knowledge is progressing, also that there is a demand for them commercially, else such would not be the case. Miss E. Wilson has taken numerous prizes and awards for her work, including designs for a handkerchief in Limerick lace; in Carrickmacross appliqué, designs for trimmings on net ground, flowers, handkerchief and trimming borders in Carrickmacross appliqué; lace, handkerchief in Carrickmacross guipure, collar and cuffs in crochet, and a tea-cloth border in Mountmellick work. Miss K. G. Smith has designs for a sideboard cloth in Mountmellick work, a handkerchief in Carrickmacross open-work, and trimming borders in silk crochet. Miss Fannie C. Barlowe shows a design for a flounce in Carrickmacross appliqué, and a trimming border in Limerick lace, and Mrs. A. J. Crowe has taken an alm in tambour Limerick lace, and an altar frontal embroidered on satin with silk crochet border. Miss K. A. Smith shows a plaited, cuffs, and collars in silk crochet, and she has passed the examinations, and now the second step for them. I hope, for ever. That at one time certain schools turned out pretty but unworkable designs cannot be—and is not—denied; but what the friends of Art and Technology have done, and that in most schools, is not now the case, and that for every unworkable design which these schools under the Science and Art Department of South Kensington produce, you will find a hundred of really useful ones. In other words, the schools are practical—as far as they go; but that is not by any means far enough to satisfy the writer of these notes, or to be in a position to satisfy the demands which such industries ought to, and I hope will, before long, make upon them.

LURGIAN.—The linen cambric handkerchief trade here, which had been very dull for a long time, is believed to be on the turn for the better. The small stocks of goods, no doubt, will now be sold, but those which are made at present of line yarns will, it is feared, only slowly sell, the advance in price is so great, and buyers are hard to be persuaded that the price will not rise. Power-loom machinery is very well in demand, and in woolens, although very little is doing, the general feeling is hopeful. The exports to the United States have undoubtedly suffered enormously from the McKinley tariff, but this has affected England more than the United States, and manufactories. They too, no doubt, feel the effects of the change, but I believe not to anything like the extent their competitors across the channel did. In yarns, operations for export are very restricted, but there is an encouraging inquiry, and spinners are by no means inclined to waver in their stand out for good prices. The latest quotations for wool are:—Demand better than usual for hogsheads, and prices slightly improved. Hoggets, 10d. to 10d. per pound, woollen, 10d. to 9d.; worsted, 10d. to 9d.; worsted, 9d.; mountain, 8d., worsted 6d. to 6d.; washed Scotch, 6d. to 6d. Silks and poplins are as usual.

NEWTOWNARDS.—There has been a break in the activity which for the past six or eight months has characterised the hand-loom weaving trade; but this in some measure is to be expected, in consequence of the Scotch manufacturers being off for the holidays and stock-taking. There are rumours, however, that an improvement is near at hand. The various mills and factories in the neighbourhood have been fully employed, which makes any slackness in the hand-loom weaving not so much felt as it would have been in former times. Mr. William Grant's new power-loom factory at Movilla, for weaving of shirtings and other woolen goods, is being proceeded with, and when finished will mean a further branch of industry in the neighbourhood.

LEEDS.—The farmers good results on an average, and, in consequence of the higher prices paid this season, it is expected that the growing for the approaching season will be greatly increased. Of course there are instances where the crop has not been remunerative, but this is true of all crops grown by the farmer.

NEWTOWNARDS.—There has been a break in the activity which for the past six or eight months has characterised the hand-loom weaving trade; but this in some measure is to be expected, in consequence of the Scotch manufacturers being off for the holidays and stock-taking. There are rumours, however, that an improvement is near at hand. The various mills and factories in the neighbourhood have been fully employed, which makes any slackness in the hand-loom weaving not so much felt as it would have been in former times. Mr. William Grant's new power-loom factory at Movilla, for weaving of shirtings and other woolen goods, is being proceeded with, and when finished will mean a further branch of industry in the neighbourhood.

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during the year, either in the buying of wools or in other commodities, the general run of business has been having to purchase for actual needs.

BRADFORD.—Little but what is of a very despondent character can be written of trade in this district during last year. There has been a scarcity of wool during the whole course of the last months, and it has been the general feeling that this district has never before passed so gloomy a time. There have been, previously, periods of depression short spurt of good business, but this has not been the case during 1891. Of course, it is well known that the tariff in the United States has been chiefly to blame for this state of things, but, in addition, the condition of the countries with which America has had great effect in this district, as it has in other parts of England. The year opened with a slow and dragging demand for woools, which has characterised this branch more or less during the whole twelve months. Staplers generally have had a bad time, and those have been lucky who have been able to hold their own. As regards prices, there has been but slight changes, still the year closed with rates from 6 to 7% lower than the previous year. The general feeling amongst dealers, now, is that wool generally are safe stock, the price of nearly all classes being very low. With respect to the yarn trade, the foreign business for the first six months was fair as regards demand, although prices were cut very fine; but during the second six months a gradual falling off was perceptible, and had it not been for the steadiness which the home trade has exhibited, business would have been as at a very low ebb, and prices would certainly have dropped considerably. At the close of the year there were signs that yarns for the last quarter would shortly have a run, and makers began to be of a large business being done in these. Mohair and alpaca yarns have only had a demand of a hard-mouth character. The total turnover of all these in the last July has been below the average. The results in the piece branch is not going very far. Mohair, and alpaca yarns have only had a demand of a hard-mouth character. The whole classes are likely to be successful, judging by the reports of the wholesale houses and merchants here amongst manufacturers. It is expected that 1892 will be more in their favour, and that, with the past year, they will leave behind a depressing remembrance that has taught them many lessons. The result is that new markets will very likely be opened out that have hitherto not been approached as they might have been.

BARNSLY.—During the earlier months of the year the trade of this district was, as a whole, in a fairly satisfactory condition; profits did not, perhaps, tend in the manufacturers' favour, as the prices of the raw material and yarns advanced, still, as regards rates, 1891 compares favourably with those of the preceding year. The greatest demand, in nearly all classes of goods, has been for the medium and lower qualities, and producers consequently turned their attention mostly in this direction. Perhaps the least satisfactory branches of business have been fine quality damask, chiffon, and hand-woven lace, which latter seems to be gradually declining, and it is evident only a question of time when the hand-loom will be a rarity, so far as it is being utilised for the production of these goods in this district. The business in other descriptions of fabrics has been about an average one for the year, and had it not been for the outlook in South America, which has so largely affected other industries, this branch might have recompensed the trade more than it did. The foreign business with other countries kept fairly good up to August, since when there has been a gradual decline in the demand. The home trade has been fairly good until within a few weeks of the close of the year, when business became much quieter, and this fact, coupled with the slower call for foreign account, has already compelled manufacturers generally to curtail their production, and to this end many are now running short time, and have also stopped many looms altogether. Should the political outlook in South America improve, producers are hopeful of a return of satisfactory business. As regards the effect of the McKinley tariff on this district, it has not been felt to the same extent as in many other industries, and, up to the present, lines have only been produced in a small way in the United States. In the production of novelties, as regards design and colour, the fabrics made during the year compare very favourably with former ones, and in numerous instances have been much ahead of preceding years, the tendency being, even in the cheaper classes of goods, to put effective designs, and well-drawn cloths upon the market.

MANCHESTER.—The linen trade here displays no new features. Deliveries on account of orders already given have been made, but no new contracts are being placed just now. The shipping houses have received more inquiries from South America than heretofore, and there has been a brisk demand. Jute bagging and sacking for Brazil is wanted in large quantities. French spits of flax yarns are not seen as much as formerly. The Chinese market is a very good one, and the Chinese are evidently not holding their own in outside markets. As far as this country is concerned, consumers are unanimous in their support of this staple, and the Chinese are only getting out in it of late. The American buyers are the representative of one of the large Chicago houses who was here recently stated that his firm had now commenced to look upon the cotton houses as the leaders in the fancy damasks, with ornamented fringes, sold for the American and the better class home trades, are embroidered by hand.

The large fortune left by the late Mr. Taylor of Barnsley—the personality amounting to about £120,000, in addition to which there were considerable investments in land—shows that there is still some money in the Yorkshire town. A large portion of this money has been invested, and the remainder is being prepared. It will deal largely with the linen trade of the town.

Blankets from Irish Bog.

Some time ago—it is unnecessary to particularise, as the gentleman I am about to refer to was a well-known man of business of a certain newspaper forwarded an extraordinary paragraph concerning a cloth said to have been woven from yarn produced from the post found in Ireland. It seemed that the yarn had been made into a coat, which could be seen at the address of an agent whose name I forget. The report was of such an extraordinary character that the accuracy was doubted, but the gentleman whose word there is little reason to doubt, that Dunsburn is actually producing shoddy goods, including blankets, of which the web is composed of yarn spun from fibres obtained in the bog of Ireland. The yarn is coarse, and will not, it need scarcely be added, bear much tension; while the process of washing is not, one would think, calculated to improve the appearance of such goods. My informant told me how other clothiers could carry such yarn from side to side of the loom without breakage. "Well," was the reply, "there are shuttles now which run on wheels!" This is not offered as a "big game-shaving" story. It has reached me from two sources entirely unconnected with each other, and is now given for what it is worth. The man who invented the "devil" may not have rendered his task of producing a machine to replace the human hand difficult. It will not encourage buyers to know that they may have to pay good money for fabrics produced of such extraordinary materials. Yorkshiremen have, however, done many clever things in connection with their staple trade, and they may have further surprises in store.

A Record in Low-priced Cotton.

Indirectly your readers may be supposed to possess an interest in connection with the cotton market. The low price to which cotton has fallen at the time of writing has surprised the oldest spinners in the trade, who say that the material has not been so cheap since the period which preceded the American Civil War. On the 9th of the month, quoted from 4d. to 4½d., the former being for January and February, and the latter for August and September delivery. Business was done on the 9th at 3½d. This latter is the bottom price so far, although no one knows whether rates will go lower or not. "Big crop" prophets are jubilant, and spinners are told they must not allow the market to be "bullied." Liverpool, however, has some peculiar tricks of its own which Manchester does not always fathom; the meaning of the fall in the sense made shippers cautious, as they expect to reap a portion, if not all, of the benefit. This makes the position little, if any, better for the trade. Belfast should be able to reap some slight advantage from the change, seeing that, from the showing recently made in the Journal, such large quantities of cotton yarns are consumed in the North of Ireland.

Ramie Yarns.

Further experiments are being made in connection with the spinning of ramie; and if the truth were known, it would be found that the consumption of this material is largely more than has been supposed to admit. The fear of prejudice amongst buyers against fabrics composed of materials as to which they are ignorant may account for this. The yarns are used in combination with woolen, and it is said that the cloth resulting possesses most valuable features which should ensure for it a steady sale. A most attractive feature in connection with ramie is that it takes the dye very well, and thus contributes toward the obtaining of an attractive effect. French spinners, I am told, have made the production of ramie yarns a commercial success. Spinners at Wakefield once embarked in the business, but nothing has lately been heard of their results. It may be added that though the production of ramie has been unable to compete with linen goods owing to their dearth; although, if the cost of production could be lessened, many think that they would have a fair chance to come amongst the goods.

LONDON.—The dense fog which commenced a week before Christmas, and remained with us till after the holidays, had a most paralyzing effect upon the dry goods trade of the city and suburban districts. For six consecutive days we were practically closed down, with the exception of florists and grocers; and it was not till St. Stephen's day that a fleet of vessels, numbering considerably over one hundred, bearing all manner of produce for the Christmas market, were able to pierce the foggy wall. This was very heavy. In the great majority of cases the cargoes were only intended for the Christmas market, and were therefore thrown upon their own resources, to be sold at whatever price they would bring. Some of the goods were declared unmarketable, and were ordered to be destroyed. Some merchants who had bought early were, however, more fortunate; for the market was the only one in the city and suburbs, but sold at very profitable prices on account of restricted supplies. An immense business was done at the Post Office owing to the fog; for the government had the power to do in the case of the Post Office, backed by the police, who at all times expedite the progress of the royal mail, was able to carry parcels, and deliver them in reasonable
time. Hence the city houses took advantage of this mode of conveyance for small parcels sent from a return to a house in London, that no fewer than 112,908 parcels were posted at the Christmas time, or nearly 42,500 more than in 1890. 37,000,000 letters, etc., were posted. This is the general return for the London districts, and of this enormous amount 33,000,000 were safely delivered in the week ending 24th Dec., 1891, which beats all previous records. To cope with this, 4,634 additional sorters were engaged, which included a force of nearly 800 police—the entire extra work involving an expenditure of £15,000.

The statistics of Mr. Richard Seyd, F.S.S., which have now been published, show in the aggregate the whole of the trades a decrease of 36 in the number of insolvents. Unfortunately, however, in extracting the statistics which refer to the various branches of the dry goods trade, I discover that we are in excess of 1500 by about 76 failures. The volume of business done during the year, notwithstanding all the drawbacks, will, however, be larger than in 1890, but, I am told by some of the most experienced men in the trade, very much less profitable than in 1890, consequent upon the number of sacrifices which it has been necessary to make from time to time.

The Milk Street Agents in bad spirits.

Owing to the quietness of trade, one would have thought that, with the advance in prices, they were actually gaining. I thought it, but upon congratulating one of them, I received the reply, "You are quite mistaken. We are virtually at a standstill, the distributing houses being nearly every one overstocked since October, and the manufacturers will not take orders except at the advance prices which we find at the present impossible to get from buyers in London; and as for the makers-up, they too are of little service to us, seeing that they bought largely before the advance for forward delivery. The market has been nearly swept by the Continental and American trade, the former having bought largely in anticipation of a rise to meet the London tariff. Possibly next month we may see the business done in table damasks and in household linens generally during the annual clearance sales in the retail trade. The handkerchief trade is also quiet, buyers having nearly all placed their orders; and it will be hard to get the higher prices asked by the manufacturers, unless the houses are forced into it by some unexpected great demand."

Here my gloomy interval ended; and as I came away looking back at the dark picture which had been sketched for me, I remembered the depressing effect which London fog has even upon Milk Street men, and that past, I believe, all deal of the shading was the result of the heavy atmosphere. It is to be hoped that I am not out in my surmise, and that the sun of prosperity may shine more brightly on the Ulster trade of 1892 than it has in the year which we have hidden good-bye to.

Scotch.

DUNDEE.—A fairly good demand is kept up all round for season of the year, and the outlook for business is encouraging. Prices rule firm for both yarns and cloth. On spot, demand for flax is quiet, but sales continue well at top rates for the better sorts. Yarns continue to move steadily into consumption, and spinners keep well foresold. There is no change to note in prices. Linens—Current demand has been quiet since orders placed have been mainly for assurance purposes. Still, with old contracts on hands, manufacturers keep fairly well employed.

Scotch Yarns (lst Quality) Per Spl. Per Bundle.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yarn Type</th>
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<td>Flax</td>
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<td>Dark 12</td>
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3 lbs. Dark Warp | 16 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7

4 lbs. Deep      | 16 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7

5 lbs. Medium    | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 11

6 lbs. Dark      | 8  | 8  | 7 | 7 | 7 |

Continental.

BRUSSELS, January 9th.—FLAX—Good qualities—that is to say, medium, good medium, and fine—continue in very good demand; but the general opinion seems to be that there is more choice in medium and good medium than some few weeks ago. YARNS—There is still no change, the actual advance in Russian qualities being from 3d. to 1½d. per bundle, and in Flemish yarns from 1½d. to 4½d. per bundle. This state of matters is likely to continue, although stocks in spinners' hands are almost sold; so much so, that in many cases they cannot deliver in enough time. Of course, Flemish flax has been selling at very low prices, as indeed have low Flemish qualities. Although prices of Belgian yarns have advanced but little, there has been a very smart advance in French flax yarns in Flemish qualities. This end of the trade, combined with linen threads, continues in a thoroughly lifeless condition, one hearing of few orders even at old prices.

In Courtrai, where manufacturers do largely with South America, sales have been almost nil, but substantial returns from a return to a house in London, that no fewer than 112,908 parcels were posted at the Christmas time, or nearly 42,500 more than in 1890. 37,000,000 letters, etc., were posted. This is the general return for the London districts, and of this enormous amount 33,000,000 were safely delivered in the week ending 24th Dec., 1891, which beats all previous records. To cope with this, 4,634 additional sorters were engaged, which included a force of nearly 800 police—the entire extra work involving an expenditure of £15,000.

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TRADE IN THE INDIUSTRIAL DISTRICT OF SAXONY.—At the conclusion of the preceding year the whole German industry, and especially that of Saxony, found itself in an unfortunate situation. Orders were almost altogether wanting, England a show in the aggregate of all the trades a decrease of 36 in the number of insolvents. Unfortunately, however, in extracting the statistics which refer to the various branches of the dry goods trade, I discover that we are in excess of 1500 by about 76 failures. The volume of business done during the year, notwithstanding all the drawbacks, will, however, be larger than in 1890, but, I am told by some of the most experienced men in the trade, very much less profitable than in 1890, consequent upon the number of sacrifices which it has been necessary for manufacturers against the textile products have not been compensated for by enterprise in other directions. Even the new commercial treaties, which offer more favourable conditions to the trade with Austria and Germany, have not been able to inspire our manufacturers with great hopes. Neither the cloth nor furniture-covering industries have very much to show for their work during the past year; because their expert to the United States has been made very difficult—Eakins’ American Textile Trade Review.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF PLUMBERS.—The Northumberland County Council, in addition to promoting classes for plumbers’ apprentices at different local centres with a view to the certificate of registration offered by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, London, has appropriated £400 for the purpose of providing facilities early next year for a few practical men to pursue a course of instruction for three weeks at the London College of Science and Technology, other county councils and county boroughs in the northern district will do the same, and at the annual general meeting of the district council for the North of England a resolution was carried to allow the natural necessity for securing the greater sanitary efficiency of plumbers’ work by an organized and efficient system of registration, which could only be secured by a competent jurisdiction and the payment of suitable fees. A bill to this effect is now being promoted, and a copy of the resolution has been sent to the members for the district. At a recent meeting of the district council it was decided to invite Mr. Charles Williams, the organizing secretary to the Technical Education Committee of the County Council, to undertake the duties of honorary secretary.

United States Market.

(From our Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, December 31st, 1891.

The STEAM THERMOMETER sometimes stands at 42°, or 1 or 2 degrees warmer than freezing point. This abnormal winter temperature has spoiled the fitness of things in and about New York City—and one hundred miles north—ever week since the cool season began, and weather prophets are holding the mirror up to Nature, and telling her that her reflections thereon bear a very strong resemblance to those of 1889-90. That was the famous "open winter" that upset all calculations, and worked serious damage, if not ruin, to many branches of business. Seasons must come and go in normal fashion in this land, if the commercial equilibrium is to be preserved. Preparations are made long in advance. Clothing for next fall and winter, 1892-93, is now in process of manufacture; the material for the coming summer's shirts was ordered months ago, and some of it is already made into garments,—it is not difficult to see, therefore, that a warm winter or a cool summer will throw our business affairs out of adjustment.

Christmas trade was a failure—not a teetotal failure, of course, but, etc., etc. The week after London airs to perfection, almost. Nothing was wanting to complete the semblance of business: but the preserved and lasting London fog! The week set in with clouds and threatening of rain, but the weather contented itself with scattering showers, until that-day-of-all-days for the retailer—the day before Christmas. That was a day! The rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew; and when night closed upon the scene, a day had gone by that had left, as an entail to its eternal strife, many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stock upon our retailers' hands—stock that will make heavy losses in the fancy end, and which in the staple departments will remain to affect importers' clearing accounts for months to come. If the reader remembers what he will observe that I am saying a word for our hard-knitted houses. Many of them had poor luck with sales leading up to Christmas. "It's all cheap
cottons and trash embroideries. No money in it. The Christmas handkerchief trade is nothing like what it was in former years. There's far too many of us in the trade, anyhow," said an old-time importer to me at the mid-point of the month. Then followed the poor Christmas week: there'll be 'cud' kail in Aberdeen for a while.

The housekeeping-linen show will enliven our retailers' windows next week. It is the season at the beginning of each year, and is not confined to fine damasks, by any means. Towsellings of all grades, and crushes, are to the fore, as well as ordinary damask in the piece, craggily looking up, etc. but the basis of the show consists, of course, of handsome damask effects. Should I discover anything worthy of claim to originality it will be reported for February lotter. At the same time what is known as the "shrift Fair" will be in progress. For weeks gone by, shirt-makers who make a specialty of the plain white garment have been preparing for delivery to the big retailers (not the very swell ones) of many thousands of dozens of shirts prepared in the unadulterated state. These, or a good portion, were delivered this week, and on Monday coming, 4th instant (New Year's day and Sunday having Saturday coming between them), counters will be piled high with shirts that will be sold for prices that will leave little margin to discover what he obtains for his ready cash payments to the manufacturer. A garment of fair quality muslin, with boom and neck-band of 14" linen, will be sold for 80 pence and could scarcely be expected.

4½ linens hung dull in the scale throughout the month. Heavy contracts at varying ranges of prices are upon all importers' books. "Covered with" has been doing that provides for months past, and trading transactions now consist of "orders to ship" such linens as manufacturers' cutting books call for. Being well secured, they need nothing to anxiety, these provident manufacturers, and importers, do no changing-up until ordered. Prices remain firm, all the same, nor should the situation be otherwise, according to Belfast gosp. Market dull all throughout. Business consists, for the most part, of very few, and such as we should not give a thought to the handkerchief line. Samuel W. McBride has given up his store, and has made over his business to David Carlisle. W. E. Story goes with the second, Lyons & Woods have branched off from a simple "nonsense" and will carry stock. They will occupy the premises on White Street vacated by McBride. H. T. H. O'Neill have passed out of the handkerchief trade entirely. John Cleindien & Co. have gone into quarters, at 119, Franklin Street. John W. Cochran, an old-time handkerchief man, has retired from business. James W. Aughtliffe, who once represented the Sintons, died at Christmas time. John Dugan & Co., linen threads and cotton handkerchiefs—house in business since 1864—retire, and will be succeeded by John R. Hall & Co.

The Dry Goods Economist gives the following list of linen mills built or in course of construction. Josco—Cedar Rapids.—The Cedar Rapids Linen Company, incorporated for the manufacture of toweling, towelling, and household linens. Michigaw—Crawwll, and associated—established at this place by Livingston & Co., of Baden, Ont. Wisconsin—Waucon, N. Y. —Agricultural Education in Ireland.

URGING again to the last Report of the Commissioners of National Education, the following is a continuation of what Mr. Carroll, the Head of the Agricultural Department, states as the position of the National School-farms and School gardens at the close of 1890.

There were 42 school-farms and 29 school-gardens, compared with 51 and 90 in the previous year, so that in point of numbers instead of increasing they are diminishing. Mr. Carroll states that there has been a fair amount of progress at these schools; and it is to be hoped that the experiment is already introducing among the boys belonging to the Agricultural Industrial Class may be productive of increased earnestness on the part of boys and teachers.

In the previous report the school-farms in the East and West of Ireland were visited, but last year those in Munster are reported on viz., 2 in Cork, 6 in Kerry, 3 in Clare, 1 in Limerick, and 1 in Waterford.

Mr. Carroll speaks highly of the results, stating that the system of farm management carried out here showed a possible increased return from holdings of the same character as this farm of at least 20 per cent. In looking for an explanation of this highly satisfactory of things, we find that the manager of the school give considerable attention to the industrial side of education, and consequently the boys and girls examined by Mr. Carroll had an almost intense interest in the subject of farming and gardening. Here is a good example of a well-managed technical school which one would be glad to see imitated all over Ireland wherever these industrial schools have been established. The farm at this school was reclaimed from rough, rocky land, but the teacher knows his business thoroughly, and putting heart into the work has made the school a success. The patron of the school backed him up most energetically, so that Mr. Carroll's report by stating that "the teaching of such prosperous systems of farming to the pupils, and an example such as this set in a district, should have considerable influence upon the country as a whole" is worthy of the paper. In fact, there is no not a few of schools like it all over Ireland; the benefit they would confer on the country would be incalculable.
At Glenmore School-farm, Co. Kerry, there is nothing cheering to note. The district is a backward one, and the farming of a primitive character. Yet this is the place where a well-managed farm would be so well managed that it is only able to support the farmer's family. There has been fair progress made in improved cultivation of farm and garden, but much remains to be done. The farmers of the district are designing and building their houses, and spending their money, and are with great difficulty taught the use of improved hard implements. As an illustration—it is stated—if the farmers knew how to use the hoe, it almost would make a difference to them of several shillings per acre in cropping.

At Lansdowne, Co. Kerry, a better state of things exists, and an addition to the number of such farms is made to the original farm, which, it is stated, is very well cultivated. Mr. Carroll is hopeful that with increased facilities this school will be very useful to the neighbourhood. The progress of the pupils is, however, spoken of with some reserve.

Dundarragh, Co. Kerry. The farm here is situated in the midst of a large extent of uncultivated mountain land, and a good system of culture would be productive of real benefit to the district. This is another district where a well-managed school might be productive of the greatest good to the neighbourhood, yet the example is of little benefit, and Mr. Carroll was obliged to notice the teacher that more careful management would be expected. Here is an inefficient technical school in a mountainous district where it is stated progress in agriculture is very slow, yet where attempts at cultivation have been made the results have been very satisfactory. Surely the number of schools is not sufficient enough without having them inefficiently officered. A school of the kind to be of real value should form a striking contrast with surrounding farms; but this is not the case. It is being shipwrecked with unnecessary and ill-taught instruction to aim at a high standard it would be most desirable to make a change.

Sneem, Co. Kerry. The school-farm is situated on a very unprofitable site; the locality is described as made up of bog, heath, heather, and water, and yet it has a fairly dense population. Little is said about the school except that a new teacher has been appointed, and that improvement in agricultural teaching is expected.

Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry. This farm is situated in a district of very poor land, but here, as in many other places, Mr. Carroll speaks of the system of agriculture at present existing, and of the capabilities of the land, and of the means of increasing the output. The agriculture is not good, and yet the land is a good pasture for cattle, and the soil is a good pasture for cattle, and the soil is a good pasture for cattle. The land is not really good land, and yet the soil is a good pasture for cattle.

Dublin, Co. Meath. This farm is at one time very unsatisfactory, but is now considerably improved. Parteen, Co. Kerry. Another small farm, within 3 miles of Limerick. Land is extremely good, and the cultivation of the farm is carried out to perfection. Whether of these cases are worse than this.

Scurpol, Co. Clare. School-farm fairly managed, but better results are expected, and the teacher was instructed to carry out a more extensive and improved system of cultivation. Mr. Carroll writes there are few where agricultural instruction is more needed, and there are still fewer districts where such a considerable improvement in farming profits might be expected from the adoption of improved methods of farming.

Kilkilloa, Co. Limerick. Management of this farm is stated to be fairly satisfactory, but little more can be said. Carriglea, Co. Waterford. Farm out of much importance as an example, but, further than this, Mr. Carroll was so dissatisfied with the management that he reports unless there is improvement he will be obliged to recommend its removal from the list of agricultural schools.

On the whole, the report regarding the school-farms inspected in 1890 is an unsatisfactory one. It is quite evident the Inspector wishes to say the best he can of them, and encourage the teachers as far as possible, doubtless taking into account the comparatively small remuneration which they get. But granting all this, it is quite evident the standard of efficiency is much below what he would like, and that most of those visited did not fulfil the objects for which they were organised, viz., the practical training of the pupils in the most improved system of agriculture and dairying, and, secondly, as being an example to the neighbouring farmers.

It ought not to be a difficult matter to procure really efficient teachers for the small number of technical school-farms already existing, and we take it that the first claims on the fund available for educational purposes in Ireland is to supply the salaries of these school-farm teachers. If bandicraft instruction could be added to the agricultural system in these schools, and the interest should in every case be stirred up, so that a high standard of proficiency might be aimed at; and an annual exhibition in the district, which is a great farm, and dairy produce might be given, would stimulate the farmers all round to improved methods of husbandry.

**Chemicals and Dyes.**

(Special Report by Messrs. Bawn & Co., Ed., Midlandborough.)

The Alkali trade is somewhat dull, and the same remark applies to dyes and general chemicals. There is a holiday spirit in the market, and buyers have been endeavouring to use up their old stocks with the old price. Caustic Soda in weaker, and the common opinion prevails that this article will yet go lower, though whether that will increase the use of it, it is doubtful to say. Bleaching Powder is in fairly good request, and at distinctly better prices. Soda Ash—both Ammonia and Le Blanc—are weaker, and look like falling lower. In general chemicals there is an extraordinary demand for Oxalic Acid at improving rates. Sulphate of Copper, as well as Tin Salts, are all in better demand, at higher prices. Ammonia products are weak all round, Sulphate having been sold at less than £10 per ton, and £16 per ton for delivery. In the dyes trade, the cheaper prices of Aniline Oil and Aniline Salt have augmented their consumption. Alizarine is also in good request at prices quoted below. It is being largely used in wood-dying, giving very satisfactory results compared with other dyes. Tar products continue weak. Benzal, Carbolic Acid, Naphthalene, and Common Tar Oils being most difficult of sale at almost any price. Pitch is one of the few goods in very good demand, and with the market opinion to aim at a high standard it would be most desirable to make a change.

**Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.**


- J. P. Strangman, London, No. 21,725. "Improvements in means for applying liquid to roving in spinning flax and other vegetable fibres." 15th December, 1891.

**PATENTS COMPLETED.**

The specifications of the following patents have been printed and published during the month, and copies thereof may now be obtained at the office annexed (which include postage):—

1891.


- G. Thompson, Baldon, Yorks, No. 1,326. "Improvements in shuttle-checking and loose-reed apparatus for looms." 24th January, 1891.


**LIST OF GERMAN APPLICATIONS.**


E. M. Cane, Paris, No. 5,062. "Improvements in machinery for separating the fibres of the said material." 20th February, 1891.

