January 15th, 1893.

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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, £1 10s. Subscribers payable in advance. Free sample copy sent to any address. Advertisers will find this Journal an excellent medium for announcements suitable to its class. Terms may be known on application.

All notices are to be made payable to the Proprietor, F. W. Siores, 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 10s. 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 5s. 4d., per annum.

The Uses and Foreign Linen Trade Directory is now ready. Linen cloth, 2d. 6d.; boards, 5d.

The Belfast Technical School.

The 21st ult., Mr. J. H. Reynolds, secretary and director of the Manchester Municipal Technical School, delivered a highly instructive and interesting lecture in Belfast on Technical Education, on behalf of the local school. He gave a descriptive sketch of this education movement of late years in England, referring to the great efforts made to pull up the race with Continental countries which spend such lavish amounts in aid of their industrial schools. He pointed out that the Royal Commission of 1881—which visited all the great centres of trade on the Continent—found that everywhere the English workman excelled in skill, energy, and producing power, but at the same time it was evident there was a marked inferiority in the English foreman, manager, and employer as compared with a similar class on the Continent. It was just here the difficulty arose. A better scientific and technical training of the part of those who directed the industries was needed; our capable men must understand the principles of the arts they practise; and this trained intelligence the technical school was designed to afford in aid of the practical work carried on in the mill or workshop. As a member of the deputation which visited a large number of Continental schools on behalf of the Manchester Corporation—before the erection of their new school building was decided on—Mr. Reynolds was able to give a graphic account, illustrated by a series of splendid light-view lights, of the many costly institutions for art and industrial education which he saw in France, Germany, and Switzerland, concluding his lecture by the following reference to what Manchester was now doing in furtherance of this important question.

In 1890 the Technical Education Act was passed, the object of which was to enable local corporations to assist in providing their workers with a proper scientific training, a training which would enable them to compete with the foreigner. This Act had been taken advantage of by Manchester, and the rate of £4. in the £1 had realised something like £12,000 or £15,000, and this, with a special grant obtained from the Government for the Town Council in connection with other local bodies given for the same purpose, make the sum altogether £20,000. But while desiring of having that matter in their own hands, the Corporation were now going to erect a new Technical School at a cost of £120,000 or £150,000. The Manchester Town Council devoted £5,300 towards evening classes, and all the local institutions were taking active steps in the direction of scientific and technical education, and of educating the workman before he took up his trade, a technical school as at present existed there, and he hoped that the outcome of his visit and his lecture was to be to bring the people of that city to realise the importance of technical education to the maintenance of their prosperity and the success of their local industries.

We earnestly hope it will, and that steps may soon be taken to build a suitable school in Belfast.

Unrest Feeling throughout Germany.

In Kuhlen's Trade Review of the 4th inst., the present political situation of the country in regard to military service is discussed at some length; and as the article is an interesting one, we give a short extract indicating its scope.

All present indications point to the conclusion that a serious political conflict between the Government and the people of Germany is impending—a repetition of the struggle which took place in 1861-63 between King William and Count Bismarck on the one side and the Prussian Liberals on the other. But on this occasion the arena is more extensive, and the conditions are so much more complicated, that no prudent statesman will venture to assume that a like termination to the contest is inevitable or even probable. The Emperor William, as his father did before him, has made a demand on his subjects for an increase of their burdens in the way of personal military service and military expenditure, with which a large proportion of them are exceedingly unwilling to comply. The King of Prussia, thirty years ago, was able, however, to pursue his projects from the vantage-ground of a royal authority that was, to all intents and purposes despotic. His subjects enjoyed only the shadowy and feeble right of the sufragésta of constitutional self-government. Their national history and glory, nay, their very existence as a nation, were identified in a peculiar manner with the fortunes of the ruling House. The King was served, moreover, by a Prime Minister of unequalled force of character, audacity, and fertility of resource, whose antagonists in the Parliamentary arena were singularly wanting in political experience and practical statesmanship. Add to this that Count Bismarck enjoyed exceptional opportunities of so moulding external events as to make them strong arguments in his cause, and it is not surprising that he should have been more than a match for the Prussian Liberals.

The pressure of the existing military system upon the people is well-nigh intolerable, and they would not be easily convinced that an increase of those burdens is indispensable for their future safety. The issue could not be placed before them in a clear and simple form, and their vociferous would be inflamed by insurmountable side questions and local considerations. Among these may seem overwhelmingly cogent to a military scientist a very different aspect of the gravely-taxed civilians, and perplexing to those who are regarded with cold suspicion by peasants and workmen, who of late years have become more and more strongly imbued with the ideas of Social Democracy. Just now, there seems to be a very considerable likelihood that the new Army Bills will not be accepted either by the Reichstag or by the constituencies in any state that the Government will deem satisfactory. And this prospect is in reality a serious danger to the continuance of European peace, for it may tempt the Emperor and his advisers to invoke in their support the stern argument of necessity, and hasten rather than hinder that great international conflict which almost every Continental statesman believes to be sooner or later inevitable.

PROGRESS OF BELFAST.

The following statistical summary of the valueation of the city has been published. The number of new buildings was less in 1892 than previous year, in consequence of the long-continued strike in the building trade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of New Buildings Erected</th>
<th>Total Value in £</th>
<th>Increase or Decrease</th>
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<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>2,121</td>
<td>£24,013</td>
<td>£27,176</td>
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<td>£27,176</td>
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During the above period (31 years) there were 41,371 new buildings erected in Belfast.
Industrial Peace and Goodwill.

HERE are clouds on the commercial horizon, and, although the sky overhead is as yet tolerably bright and clear, the most weatherwise of mercantile men—the "old hands" of trade—may be cautious. The "old hands" are of opinion that storms are brewing. Keeping to the nautical illustration, it may be added that too often trade mariners have to face the worst weather with a disorganized crew. This is, perhaps, not to be wondered at, much as it is to be regretted. Workmen, although much better educated nowadays than their predecessors, and lacking nothing in intelligence or physique, do not touch with market movements, cannot be expected to have business knowledge or foresight, and are, naturally enough, inclined to be sceptical when profits are asserted to be falling or have touched dangerous point, and the necessity for economy is insisted upon. It is not easy to impress the crew with the knowledge that the ship is in danger, although it must be obvious that, in case of disaster, all must sink together.

It is important to be thankful for these signs, few and slight though they may be, of an improvement in the relationship between employer and employed, although "the industrial affiliation of Capital and Labour," which some people hope for, may yet seem to be remote, and possibly impracticable. But that there is a positive development of pacification may be confidently affirmed, even in the teeth of the great cotton trade conflict, and other disquieting but less serious disturbances. With the end of the year, those engaged in the good work of reconciliation will be summing up the results of '92—how many disputes have been settled by arbitration, how many operatives were affected, the number of Conciliation Boards which have been established as oases of Chambers of Commerce, and the number of trades unions which have fallen in with the movement. This may be considered as an attempt to take stock in the goodwill department of industry, with peace for profit, and, except for occasional failures to bring contending parties to agreement, with, we may hope, no loss in strife per contra. We may have all most earnestly desire that this may become an annual event of increasing importance, with a balance on the right side progressing by the "leaps and bounds" of familiar phraseology.

Full of promise and altogether acceptable though this movement may be reckoned, its methods still seem too official and inflexible for complete success. It must not be forgotten that the principle of arbitration has long ago been adopted by the State, and that it received in 1824 the impressive acknowledgment of a special Act of Parliament. Legislative consent was again given to it in 1867 by "An Act to establish equitable councils of conciliation to adjust differences between masters and men," and, once more, by the Masters and Workmen (Arbitration) Act of 1872. That these three statutes should have been so severely let alone is very significant. In each instance action was to be optional, but any settlement arrived at could have been enforced. There appears to be no regulation by hard and fast measures. Without some elasticity in application, and unless with mutual agreement through both parties giving way to some degree, attempted conciliation or arbitration is only waste of time, and under conditions of manufactures and trade circumstances constant change, it is generally useless to try and impose limitations of work or wages for any stipulated length of time. Where there is an earnest desire for an honourable truce, if not absolutely friendliness and harmony, there conciliation as at present practised gives an award in which both sides can cheerfully acquiesce, and which carries with it no sting of defeat or sense of injury. Whenever and at what place these amicable means prevent all the anxiety and bitterness of a lock-out or strike, there is a distinct gain and advantage, as there is an absolute benefit in avoiding loss of wages and trade. It is in no spirit of disparagement that the opinion is expressed that the true value of conciliation is not yet realized, not really known, where any dispute goes so far as to be referred to and investigated by a public Board appointed for the purpose. It is well for contention to reach the point of bringing employers and employed into open opposition to one another. For them to meet at all is, of course, infinitely preferable to open rupture, and settlement by adjudication is, beyond all question, more desirable than for readjustments only to be brought about by the exhaustion and defeat of one or the other. We want to prevent discussion rather than to care it.

The term conciliation, as generally used, is misapplied. It is made to cover a modified form of arbitration, but is more correctly defined by Mr. Crompton as "the fact that the parties, says, may be conciliated,—are of opinion that storms are brewing. Keeping to the nautical illustration, it may be added that too often trade mariners have to face the worst weather with a disorganized crew. This is, perhaps, not to be wondered at, much as it is to be regretted. Workmen, although much better educated nowadays than their predecessors, and lacking nothing in intelligence or physique, do not touch with market movements, cannot be expected to have business knowledge or foresight, and are, naturally enough, inclined to be sceptical when profits are asserted to be falling or have touched dangerous point, and the necessity for economy is insisted upon. It is not easy to impress the crew with the knowledge that the ship is in danger, although it must be obvious that, in case of disaster, all must sink together.

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THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL.

Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving.

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O much has been written on plain and fancy weaving that it is rather difficult to list what may not seem more or less of a reproduction. In an endeavour to give information which may not have been already available, and to know how to make one’s own, I trust that the readers of this Journal will take into consideration that they did not at all times know what I now write about. Many of our practical weavers believe that in making a piece of cloth of a given design and putting it on the market, well finished is sufficient. This, in reality, is mistaken. It is a sad mistake to think that the taste of the buyer does not appreciate what has cost so much to produce, than it must be sold at a price below its cost. Many follow the same course that the market gets overstocked. Here comes the opportunity for practical men to show their ability, and they soon discover the fact that there is much more required than just to know how to make one’s own. The truth is, we cannot know too much; the art of manufacturing cloth is not at all finally learned, there being always plenty of scope for study. Styles may be changed, the linen from a check to a stripe, with the same warp pattern; desirable changes may be made in the weft; a little corner, less picks per inch—thus increasing the production and in no way altering the essence of cloth—are matters of great consideration. I strongly advise those who are responsible for introducing designs and weaving to make them as little complicated as possible, and with a due regard to fashion. The essential part is to exert all you know to increase the linen’s production by using every resource in your power; do not aim at results which you are not certain.

I will now give a few stripe patterns in a plain weave, which will be suitable for the spring and summer seasons. In doing so, let us keep in view the useful and profitable.

Striped Zephyr, 30 inches wide, finished of fast colours, 80 threads per inch, 80 picks per inch. These quantities may be varied; the balance can be kept by making weft picks equal to warp 80 per inch. A very neat selvage is of consequence in this simple; but less, or indeed any class of fabrics. The shuttle must not be permitted to rebound in the box—hand-loom weavers are careful in this respect—and the warp must be free from fraying off the beam, linen being more prone to this than any other fibre, being rigid and very inflexible. Further, the yarns for making these goods must be really sized, so that the colours will not be erased by an inferior size. Hand-loom weavers could make this fabric in perfection, but I am giving what I consider the best method for its production in a power-loom. Let the back rod be put in by lifting the twills, and the same rod taken by the warp. Instead of having the warp remain in the spindles, I divide them in half; one half to the two front rods; the ordinary lease, one under over, can be put in by raising the first and third healds for the one red, and the second and fourth for the other red. The color symptoms may be altered to any desired effect, but I know too well that they are important in making a perfect cloth. For instance, if a catch takes place behind the third rod, there is less stretching and straining in the cloth of the warp, ableem that cannot in any way be repaired without waste of material. Two rods may suit coarse, open reeds, but are risky in fine, close-woven goods. We may now give the warp pattern, which will be found worth reproducing—

1. Dark navy blue, 1 bleached white for 45 times, making 90 picks; 16 threads of the lightest pink, 3 white threads in one heald of 40 lea, 16 light pink, 3 white in one heald of 40 lea, 16 rose; 3 white as before; 16 light maroon, and repeat this pattern from the first 90 threads of blue and white, weft all bleached linen.

Second stripe pattern—190 turquoise blue, 3 white, 40 lea, 3 in a heald; 16 white, bleached white, 3 white, 4 in a heald; 4 red, 4 green, 4 white, 10 white, 4 red, 3 white, 5 in a heald; 16 white, 3 white, 3 in a heald; 16 blue, 16 white, 3 in a heald; 16 blue, 16 white, 3 in a heald; 16 blue, 3 white, 3 in a heald: and repeat from the 180 turquoise blue; weft all white.

Third stripe pattern same as the second, with these changes in colours—

1. Dove for turquoise blue, dark seal brown for red.

Fourth pattern—80 China blue, 16 white bleached, all two in a heald, one heald per split or dent; 12 China blue, 8 light buff, 12 China blue, 16 white, two in a heald, and repeat from 80 China blue; white all, darkest shade possible. Perhaps it would be as well if the weft for these patterns were finer in count, because it is so much to diminish the brightness of the colours in the interconnections, and there is greater length in finer yarns.

These patterns are suggestive, and may create fresh ideas. Beautiful colours in harmonious shadeings will always enhance the value of goods. On this subject of colour contrast and harmony, as connected with textiles, I shall have something to say in future communications. This is an originality, and those who have acquired a stock of crisp ideas without so much of the ‘rule of three’ will succeed. No matter how limited may be the means at our disposal, a purpose can be achieved which will tell if we adapt our resources to the creative and the natural. In selecting yarns for manufacturing purposes, no greater mistake can be made than the preference of indifferent to good yarns because of the amount of the latter, as we say anything that is not in the air. This practice is generally attended to when the yarn is too thick, the increased waste of material and faulty cloth. Yarns to be used with economy should be adapted for the work. Fine yarns for heavily picked fabrics, and coarse reeds, should be of the best quality; in fact, all fine yarns for any need.

The tension of a warp in the loom is a factor deserving of more than a passing notice; the very best yarns may be injured by over-tension as well as by length of stretch. The excellence and beauty of a fabric depend upon the warp being properly weighted; unequal or under weighted, the yarns in close reeds, should be of the best quality; in fact, all fine yarns for any need.

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A movement is on foot among the merchants of Downpatrick to establish a woollen factory in that town. This is a step in the right direction, and an example which might be followed in other northern towns with advantage and profit, seeing that the prosperity of these towns is likely to have year after year gone on increasing their trade. Having regard to the depressed condition of agriculture is all the greater reason for developing our manufacturing industries, and there is room for many more woollen mills throughout Ireland. Labour is cheap in many districts, water-power abundant, and the peasantry very quickly learned.

A report lately appeared in the Dublin papers respecting a woollen factory being started by the Lady Superior in connection with a Convent in Foxbury, County Mayo, where nothing of the kind previously existed. We sincerely trust her efforts will be successful, and that some of the poor peasantry in that wild and congested district will in the near future be able to earn their daily bread at this manufacture. Many thousand pairs of blankets, and thousands of webs of flannel and rough dress cloth made by hand from local wool, are sold for export to America at from 6s. to 7s. per yard, and are highly esteemed, being considered superior to the best of foreign goods. The demand for these articles is so great that the manufacturers are obliged to keep up a steady supply of yarn, and the spinners are kept very busy. The wages paid to the spinners are from 3s. to 4s. per week, and the prices of the yarn are from 4s. to 5s. per pound. The demand for these articles is so great that the manufacturers are obliged to keep up a steady supply of yarn, and the spinners are kept very busy. The wages paid to the spinners are from 3s. to 4s. per week, and the prices of the yarn are from 4s. to 5s. per pound.

The Wollen Manufacturer in the North of Ireland

(From a Correspondent.)

The woolen industry of the North has been touched on in these columns from time to time, and now, at the beginning of another year, it will be interesting to note its progress.

Ten years ago the trade was an unimportant one in our province, the Linen Mills near Enniskillen (Messrs. Henderson & Edie), and the Old Green Mill near Derry, were the two largest concerns in the North; and these two were largely employed in manufacturing the wool for the growers. It is well to remember that they had not only held their own, but had largely increased their output, and were making a variety of excellent cloth and other goods. The old established firm of woolen manufacturers at Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, are at present reconstructing their works with a view to increased trade.

Let us now look at other places which have started since the time mentioned, taking them as near as possible in the order in which they began.

First, about ten years ago, the Caledon Woollen Mills Co. (Messrs. Shaw & Co.) commenced working, and have ever since steadily increased their machinery, until at the present time it ranks as the fourth largest woollen factory in Ireland, their goods commanding a ready market at home as well as in the Scotch and English centres, where sound and well-made material, from pure wool, will always command a sale. This extensive firm card and spin their own yarns, and sell to wholesale houses and shippers.

Next in order comes the Convoy Woollen Mills Co., Limited, in Co. Donegal. This concern has also a very creditable record, working for the country trade, and also on contracts. They also card and spin their own yarns.

Next come the woolen mills at Currin, County Antrim, known as the Ulster Woollen Co., Limited. This is a well-made mill, and after five or six years’ working has several times increased its output. The Company card and spin their own yarns, and their goods are sold in the wholesale market.

Fourth in order is Messrs. Ross Brothers, at Drumclog Bank, Belfast, who are rapidly making headway, turning out a great variety of excellent goods for home and shipping use. This firm card and spin most of the yarns used, selling to the wholesale trade.

Fifth in order is the North of Ireland Woollen Company, Lurg, near Castleblayney, who manufacture woollens and worsteds for the wholesale trade.

Next, we believe, comes the Shamrock Woollen Company, Lurg, near Castleblayney, who have secured very suitable premises at Mullen Mills, County Monaghan, which they have opened for business, and have already begun to weave all the goods which, we believe, will be second to none in the trade. We wish them success in their new venture.

The spinners of this company are also successful in their choice of sound goods from pure wool.

THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL. January 15th, 1893.

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Ten years ago the trade was a comparatively unimportant one in our province, the Linen Mills near Enniskillen (Messrs. Henderson & Edie), and the Old Green Mill near Derry, were the two largest concerns in the North; and these two were largely employed in manufacturing the wool for the growers. It is well to remember that they had not only held their own, but had largely increased their output, and were making a variety of excellent cloth and other goods. The old established firm of woolen manufacturers at Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, are at present reconstructing their works with a view to increased trade.

Let us now look at other places which have started since the time mentioned, taking them as near as possible in the order in which they began.

First, about ten years ago, the Caledon Woollen Mills Co. (Messrs. Shaw & Co.) commenced working, and have ever since steadily increased their machinery, until at the present time it ranks as the fourth largest woollen factory in Ireland, their goods commanding a ready market at home as well as in the Scotch and English centres, where sound and well-made material, from pure wool, will always command a sale. This extensive firm card and spin their own yarns, and sell to wholesale houses and shippers.

Next in order comes the Convoy Woollen Mills Co., Limited, in Co. Donegal. This concern has also a very creditable record, working for the country trade, and also on contracts. They also card and spin their own yarns.

Next come the woolen mills at Currin, County Antrim, known as the Ulster Woollen Co., Limited. This is a well-made mill, and after five or six years’ working has several times increased its output. The Company card and spin their own yarns, and their goods are sold in the wholesale market.

Fourth in order is Messrs. Ross Brothers, at Drumclog Bank, Belfast, who are rapidly making headway, turning out a great variety of excellent goods for home and shipping use. This firm card and spin most of the yarns used, selling to the wholesale trade.

Fifth in order is the North of Ireland Woollen Company, Lurg, near Castleblayney, who manufacture woollens and worsteds for the wholesale trade.

Next, we believe, comes the Shamrock Woollen Company, Lurg, near Castleblayney, who have secured very suitable premises at Mullen Mills, County Monaghan, which they have opened for business, and have already begun to weave all the goods which, we believe, will be second to none in the trade. We wish them success in their new venture.

The spinners of this company are also successful in their choice of sound goods from pure wool.

The Making-up Trades.

The Apron and Pinatore Spring Trade.

In the various branches of the making-up trades a very satisfactory amount of business is being passed. Since the first series of spring orders were placed by the apron and pinatore makers two months ago, chiefly for holland goods of various kinds, further orders have been coming forward freely. Almost as quickly as the manufacturers have been able to put successive ranges of samples before the trade, buyers have been making their selections and placing their orders. Indeed, in this respect, they have this season acted with a promptitude, they do not always display. As a result, the factories generally are working up to the full extent of their productive power, some difficulty being met with in procuring a sufficiency of workers. In the light of the difficulty that, in this respect, is experienced in all the industries in Belfast where female labour is employed, the expression given utterance by the local newspaper lately is the necessity for the fresh industries to provide employment for the rapidly increasing population of Belfast reads strangely enough. There is a considerable run upon pinatas, and hose and fancy goods are again coming into favour. Some are in growing demand, in this department the factories being more and more the choice of the buyers and connoisseurs, and the large stocks of white goods now kept in this city by several leading English manufacturers are in trade.

Shirt and Collar Factories.

The principal manufacturers are now well engaged on orders for the English warehouse trade, for delivery within the next couple of months. A good deal of buying has resulted from the advance in prices in the

SPECIAL REPORTS.

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Shirt and Collar Factories.

The principal manufacturers are now well engaged on orders for the English warehouse trade, for delivery within the next couple of months. A good deal of buying has resulted from the advance in prices in the
cotton market, there being a general feeling that, however the present
labour dispute in Lancashire may end, values are not likely to go back to
the very low levels of three months ago. In consequence, considerable for- 
colls, cuffs, and fronts, in the ordinary lines, are selling steadily, though
it is regretful to find the old complaint of cutting prices again cropping
up. Ladies’ shirts and house, the manufacture of which has so largely
increased the turnover of the factories for the last few seasons, are again
in request, and are still likely to “go” for some time to come.

Where to the Merchandise Marks Act?

In a recent issue of this Journal I alluded to the considerable
sale of goods manufactured from unions as all-linen, no such thing
could be general; that no buyer was under any misapprehension as to
the nature of the goods he purchased; and that no maker-up had any interest
in deceiving the purchaser as to the nature of the material from which his
goods are manufactured. All that is, I am assured, in the main correct,
and the bulk of the trade of the making-up houses is honestly and
uprightly carried on. Nevertheless, I am informed that one or two
manufacturers have been endeavouring to find their profit in being
exceptions to the general rule. For the present I will refer to only one
of these, merely premising that my information is derived from reliable
and responsible sources, and merits the consideration of the Linen
Merchants’ Association. It is stated positively that considerable quanti-
ties of fronts or “dickies” — in the manufacture of which a substantial
amount of fine linen ought to be used — have recently been made and sold,
of which only one surface of the fronts — a small part of the whole —
was linen, and the remainder cotton or union, the entire article being stamped
“all linen.” The stamp is placed upon the linen portion of the garment
— a very poor substitute for the provisions of the Merchandise Marks
Act. It is alleged that the action of the manufacturers was done at the
direction of the buyer for a leading wholesale house in England. The
manager of the alleged offender has been driven to me in confidence to
think the matter should be followed up by the Association, and, if the
case be as stated, steps should be taken to stop the practice.

The Irish Woollen Trade.

The Present Position.

The new year upon which we have just entered finds the
Irish woollen trade occupying a stronger and more stable
position than it has done at any past period of its history.
Manufacturers, as a rule, are working entirely to order, a
gratifying state of trade that has prevailed throughout
the year past, a year which, favoured by the low rates
ruling for wool, must have been very fairly remunerative to
makers generally. It is true, perhaps, that the establish-
ment of the higher prices for worsted goods has tended to
invigorate trade to trade that has so sadly inconvienienced many of their
Yorkshire brethren, for whose shoddy-woven fabrics a large part of the raw material
comes from Ireland. Upon the importation of these articles was laid during the prevalence of the cholera scare, the result of which was
to interfere considerably with the even course of business in several of the
Irish woollen districts. Irrespective of this the course of trade in this country has gone
steadily and undisturbed throughout.

Another trade development that has been of signal benefit to the
woollen manufacturers of Ireland has been the demand in the ready-made
clothing business for garments of a superior quality and greater cost than
were generally produced in that trade some years ago. Ready-made
clothing, especially in the large towns across the Channel, is now being
bought by a class who would not have dreamed of so doing a few years
ago, and, indeed, for whose wants no attempt was at that time made to
cater. This demand for something better in the made-up end has led to
a corresponding demand for Irish tweeds and sashes, which are most
admirably suited for the higher qualities of ready-made goods. This out-
let for Irish woollens has not been, however, sufficiently looked after even
up till now; careful attention to it would be within a very brief period bring the
demand for Irish woollens up to a point far beyond the present
possible supply limits. All these various circumstances have
pressed the Irish woolen manufacturing trade at the beginning of this
year in a much more favourable position than that enjoyed by their com-
petitors in any other district in this kingdom.

Superior Quality of Irish Woollens.

None of the circumstances above-mentioned, nor all of them together,
would, however, be sufficient to account for the prosperity of the Irish
woollen trade, though they have been valuable aids to it. The basis of
that prosperity is to be found in the genuine excellence and superior
quality of the goods themselves, covering in this description the whole
ground of make, texture, colouring, design, and finish. It is highly
creditable to the Irish woollen manufacturing industry, and furnishes a
remarkable instance of trade progress, that whereas a dozen years ago our
manufacturers were content to aim at superiority prevailing in the manufacturing districts across the Channel, they have

since then, as a matter of fact, so far surpassed their competitors in those
districts, that English and Scotch woollens are at the present day frequently sold as Irish. And without any very unusual efforts on the part of manufacturers the improvement continues. Several of our leading manu-
facters, and notably the Belfast Woollen Spinning and Tweed Company, are producing tweeds of the greatest perfection of finish, the mark of excellence of design and finish, that are an improvement upon anything they have produced in any previous season; and I have recently seen
sashes by Dinamore of Kelburne, as regards quality and appearance com-
bining, that is unapproached by anything that is to be obtained across the Channel. No one likes to earn the reputation of being a “croaker,” but
I should like to repeat the very necessary warning given in previous issues as to the necessity of giving increased attention to novelty of design and to finish. The designs of some of our manufacturers — whether these know it or not — are being anything but anything admirably spoken of in the home trade warehouses on both sides of the Channel. The reputation of some of our best houses, as manufacturers, has been slowly enough built up; having gained a fair reputation, it would be regretful to see such Industry and effort of effort wasted.

Stamping Irish Wools and Goods.

The practice of stamping or sealing Irish woollens with the names or
trade marks of the makers at intervals of a few yards on the back of the
cloth, has been regarded by many persons well competent to judge as being one of the chief factors in maintaining unanswered the
high reputation for durability and soundness they have always merited, and
as having contributed in no small degree to the present prosperity of the trade. The practice is, however, one which the makers feel
all for all concerned. The maker had an interest in maintaining the standard of
quality, and in securing to himself the remuneration resulting therefrom; the
wholesale merchant used it as a ready evidence that the goods he
was selling were really what he represented them to be; the retailer
— say of Irish sashes — could point to the four-leaved shamrock of the
Mahony’s, or other Irish trade marks, as his justification for asking for them somewhat higher prices than for other equally sightly but inferior fabrics; while the wearer, to whom durability was a de-
sideratum, bought without hesitation or misgiving the goods upon which
he saw the Irish seal. And thus the fame of Irish woollens has each season grown with their increasing consumption, every fresh transaction enhancing that durability which they have un-
doubtedly always possessed, whatever else they may have excelled or
failed in.

It is therefore a matter of both surprise and regret to find that a con-
siderable degree of laxity has recently crept into the Irish woolen trade as regards the vital importance of practice of sealing. Some manufacturers have begun to seal or not to seal, just as their wholesale customers may dictate, and are, in so far, adopting about as suicidal a policy as their
worst enemy could devise for them. The majority of wholesale houses, including, if not by the large, the retail traders, have been
prompted to this innovation by the growing unfairness of the sale of
Irish goods in the Channel, and the ready acceptance of the goods upon which
the Irish seal was seen. And thus the very element of honesty in
the sale of Irish goods has been impaired, and the standard of quality
along with it.

Stamping from the Warehousemen’s Point of View.

One of our leading manufacturers, in conversation recently, stated
that, however much he regretted it, the sending out of unstamped woollens to
some of his customers was forced upon him by their refusal to receive
them otherwise, and that, in this respect, the chief lead was taken by two
or three of the Irish wholesale houses. Now, I take leave to say, as a
matter affecting the trade generally, that on the part of Irish
warehousemen is highly injudicious. A worse policy, from their own
standpoint, could hardly be imagined. Some of them are now doing a
substantial business across the Channel, and the sole and only pretext for
the presence of their traders there is that they come to offer goods
manufactured in Ireland. It is their direct interest to preserve, not only the
selling, but the reality of Irish manufacture in the fabrics they sell.
The warehousemen who at present are making so strong a point of having their woollens undistinguished by any mark or seal doubtless mean to act in the perfect straightforward way and have no other object in mind than in
having the goods unsalted to be prevent retailers making too easy a
comparison of prices, as to which latter it would be easy to show that standard for others. But as the goods — selling only as Irish what is Irish — they ought to remember that if one house can get its goods unstamped so can another. It is the want of almost every house, if the sale of its goods on the face of the country should become the rule, what protection would they have against less honest
The Belfast Linen Trade Report.


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

Draws to the close of last year an improved feeling sprang up in trade circles, and although usually at this period business is slow, there is now a slight improvement, compared with the dull condition, especially of the London market, for some months previously.

FLAX.

The Irish markets are closing up much sooner than usual, as the supplies of last year’s crop are getting exhausted. An estimate just published by the Flax Supply Association gives the yield of 1,092 acres as 9,554 tons against 12,433 in 1891, a decrease in the Irish supply of 21 per cent. The following market reports give the prices obtained by farmers at open sale, but it should be added that buyers all through the season were always picking up the best lots they could secure at the various whorl-mills, and at prices ranging from about 8/- to 10/- per stone.

December 31st.—Ballintra—10 tons of milled, prices from 5/6 to 5/10, and 2 tons of hand-scratch, which varied from 6/- to 6/10; market well attended by buyers. Ballintraha—17 tons of milled, prices from 5/9 to 5/11; quality market fairly attended, and demand firm. Coopstown—10 tons of milled, varying in price from 5/9 to 6/5. Donegal—24-1 tons of milled, prices from 5/6 to 5/8; full attendance of buyers; demand very brisk, and all flax quickly bought up.

YARNS.

Since last report there has been a steady improving demand for yarns, increasing from week to week, so that at the present time spinners are very slow to enter into any fresh engagements, even at the extreme rates now required. Stocks of all kinds have been reduced to a very low point in spinners’ and merchants’ hands, and the tendency of prices is strong in favour of sellers. Foreign yarns have advanced so considerably in price that buyers here cannot follow them.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

An improved demand has lately appeared for light bleaching linens, the coarser sets being most in demand; power-looms are now well engaged, and prices much firmer. For the medium and heavy grades a very steady business is doing. In the hand-loom sets, Ballymena cloth has been freely bought lately, and prices, except in the finer sets, are higher than last month. County Down makes share in the improvement, and prices are fractionally increased.

In view of the increased demand, stocks of all kinds of hand-loom linens are now much less in manufacturers’ hands. Cloth for dyeing is still quiet, and rates unchanged. Roughs come in for more attention, and supplies are light, prices showing a much firmer tone. More inquiry has appeared for drills, and in union glass-cloth, towelling, and sundry goods of union make a very considerable trade is doing, stocks of all conning in small compass, and prices tending higher. In linen handkerchiefs, both power and hand-loom, demand is still slow; but in the latter there is perhaps a little more doing. Cambric cloth and handkerchiefs have very much improved, compared with their previous condition, and prices are stronger. The damask branch also appears to have come in for more inquiry, and orders for both power and hand-loom goods are somewhat larger.

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—Since the first of the year there has been a better tone in this branch of trade, and a few more orders are now coming to hand. At the same time there is room for considerable improvement, as the dulness has been of long duration.

United States.—Reports continue of a gratifying nature regarding season’s business, and the outlook for the new year is encouraging in many respects. According to the Board of Trade returns, the shipments of linen piece goods from the United Kingdom were upwards of 16 per cent, over the corresponding month of 1891.

Other Markets.—The year’s trade with the Foreign West Indies was quite equal to previous year, and this market shows an improving tendency of late. With the Argentine Republic a very large import is officially reported. British North America was also a larger customer; but with Brazil, Mexico, the Philippine Islands, and Australasia there is more or less of a falling off in the shipments.

For the year ended 31st December, 1892, the total quantity of linen piece goods exported from the United Kingdom shows an increase of 7½ per cent, and values of 47, compared with 1891, which, having regard to the great depression that affected the general export trade of the kingdom, must be regarded as a very satisfactory result of the year’s trading.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH AND IRISH PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Twelve Months Ended 31st December, 1891, 1892.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz.</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals, living</td>
<td>206,340</td>
<td>218,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles of food and drink</td>
<td>10,472,966</td>
<td>10,472,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw Materials</td>
<td>19,382,935</td>
<td>19,382,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz.</td>
<td>105,966,484</td>
<td>100,065,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Yarns and Textile Fabrics</td>
<td>105,966,484</td>
<td>100,065,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Metals and Articles Manufactured</td>
<td>30,075,739</td>
<td>30,075,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Machinery and Mill Work</td>
<td>14,708,216</td>
<td>14,708,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Chemicals and Chemical Preparations</td>
<td>10,419,142</td>
<td>10,419,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Chemicals and Chemical and Medical Preparations</td>
<td>10,419,142</td>
<td>10,419,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. All other Articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured</td>
<td>22,975,968</td>
<td>25,266,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Parcel Post</td>
<td>1,001,890</td>
<td>1,001,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value</td>
<td>227,535,610</td>
<td>227,060,224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Belgian Linen and Cotton Industries.

From exchanges to hand we find it stated, at a meeting of the Ghent Town Council on the 29th ult., that the trade of the town had come to a standstill of late, as these two principal industries had made little or no progress. It is also mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce of Courtrai had petitioned the Government against Article 4 of their bill of 13th December, which would reduce the hours of labour for women and children, and such a course the Chamber considered would be most injurious to the linen trade, as well as depriving the workers of part of their living.
### Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 31st December, 1892; and in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1892, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1890 and 1891.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>1890</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1890</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linen Yarn</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>225,200</td>
<td>211,200</td>
<td>250,500</td>
<td>19,476</td>
<td>16,669</td>
<td>22,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Holland</td>
<td>148,000</td>
<td>168,000</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>5,415</td>
<td>6,613</td>
<td>7,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Belgium</td>
<td>144,200</td>
<td>169,400</td>
<td>160,800</td>
<td>11,298</td>
<td>7,781</td>
<td>8,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To France</td>
<td>93,200</td>
<td>158,900</td>
<td>121,800</td>
<td>10,656</td>
<td>16,295</td>
<td>12,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Spain and Canary Islands</td>
<td>202,400</td>
<td>238,000</td>
<td>220,600</td>
<td>10,529</td>
<td>8,384</td>
<td>10,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Italy</td>
<td>45,600</td>
<td>42,200</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>2,105</td>
<td>1,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To United States</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>40,900</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td>148,700</td>
<td>58,200</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>7,668</td>
<td>7,966</td>
<td>11,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,129,900</td>
<td>1,152,800</td>
<td>1,293,200</td>
<td>68,577</td>
<td>68,335</td>
<td>78,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Linen Manufactures** |     |      |      |     |      |      |
| To Germany | 231,700 | 295,500 | 324,900 | 11,277 | 13,163 | 16,282 |
| To France | 249,000 | 209,600 | 166,100 | 8,719 | 8,874 | 4,656 |
| To Spain and Canary Islands | 86,400 | 82,600 | 22,400 | 2,896 | 2,214 | 890 |
| To United States | 69,800 | 61,900 | 74,500 | 3,323 | 3,622 | 2,920 |
| To Foreign West Indies | 1,609,600 | 7,065,100 | 8,572,600 | 163,265 | 120,300 | 188,477 |
| To Mexican States | 156,600 | 174,000 | 102,100 | 425,503 | 121,000 | 174,750 |
| To United States of Colombia | 109,300 | 258,800 | 256,900 | 6,778 | 4,244 | 3,405 |
| To Brazil | 349,200 | 132,000 | 220,100 | 10,406 | 8,476 | 7,144 |
| To Argentine Republic | 47,800 | 14,600 | 142,700 | 1,083 | 640 | 5,803 |
| To British North America | 146,500 | 96,000 | 34,100 | 2,892 | 1,242 | 419 |
| To Philippine Islands | 627,700 | 839,900 | 1,041,800 | 18,580 | 16,203 | 22,785 |
| To British West Indies | 375,400 | 210,400 | 167,200 | 1,049 | 8,208 | 2,964 |
| To Other Countries | 31,950,200 | 2,764,600 | 997,200 | 26,257 | 47,744 | 24,317 |
| **Total of Linen Manufactures** | 1,285,200 | 1,285,500 | 1,351,500 | 31,453 | 27,632 | 28,148 |

| **Piece Goods of all Kinds** |     |      |      |     |      |      |
| To Germany | 12,475,000 | 13,571,000 | 13,545,100 | 288,682 | 301,643 | 301,569 |
| To France | 1,204,500 | 960,300 | 1,305,400 | 55,713 | 24,297 | 29,956 |
| To Belgium | 234,300 | 204,300 | 284,100 | 11,107 | 9,414 | 10,821 |
| To France | 3,984,000 | 3,35,354 | 343,436 | 335,905 | 335,354 | 343,436 |
| To United States | 257,400 | 215,100 | 215,500 | 31,513 | 26,758 | 26,111 |
| To United States | 35,450,200 | 3,816,500 | 5,563,400 | 3,818,300 | 3,283,400 | 2,916,800 |
| **Total of Piece Goods** | 13,944,000 | 14,715,300 | 15,084,000 | 334,905 | 335,354 | 343,436 |

| **Total Value of Linen Manufactures** |     |      |      |     |      |      |
| To Germany | 1,333,138 | 1,140,888 | 1,194,988 | 3,000,968 | 3,000,968 | 3,000,968 |
| To France | 17,209,854 | 1,499,803 | 1,589,725 | 1,499,803 | 1,589,725 | 1,499,803 |
| To Germany | 3,492 | 2,185 | 3,765 | 9,477 | 1,840 | 6,643 |
| To Holland | 7,696 | 9,318 | 10,694 | 50,135 | 20,200 | 25,483 |
| To Belgium | 28,947 | 42,014 | 46,537 | 74,672 | 114,848 | 114,825 |
| To Other Countries | 3,450 | 8,018 | 3,561 | 6,668 | 5,599 | 5,612 |
| **Total** | 167,028 | 158,268 | 139,868 | 277,725 | 281,478 | 295,948 |

| **Imports of Flax—Dressed, Undressed, and Tow or Codilla of** |     |      |      |     |      |      |
| To Russia | 132,503 | 105,013 | 74,298 | 172,650 | 138,847 | 105,090 |
| To Germany | 8,192 | 1,208 | 3,765 | 9,477 | 1,840 | 6,643 |
| To Holland | 7,696 | 9,318 | 10,694 | 50,135 | 20,200 | 25,483 |
| To Belgium | 28,947 | 42,014 | 46,537 | 74,672 | 114,848 | 114,825 |
| To Other Countries | 3,450 | 8,018 | 3,561 | 6,668 | 5,599 | 5,612 |
| **Total** | 167,028 | 158,268 | 139,868 | 277,725 | 281,478 | 295,948 |
IRISH FLAX AND YARN PRICES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average under Flax in statute Measure.</th>
<th>Irish Flax, per stone.</th>
<th>100's Line Welt.</th>
<th>25's Twr Welt. per bundle.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>373,088 6/8</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>22,076 6/8</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>22,076 6/8</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>4/3</td>
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EXPORT TRADE IN LINEN YARNS AND LINENS.

The following statistics show the Export Trade of the United Kingdom since 1875.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantity.</th>
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Some months ago a very fine specimen of Irish carving and joinery was erected in the historic church of Carrickfergus, in the shape of the new pulpit, which was designed and executed in the workshops of Messrs. Cox & Beckley, in Youghal. The style of this pulpit is of the best period of the "Renaissance," and is executed in the well-known cabinet-maker's shop of the Chichester family. It is all made of Irish oak, walnut, and yew, and is now in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire.
January 15th, 1853.

THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL.

9

THE IRISH COTTON TRADE.

Cotton Yarns.

Turb sales of cotton wares during the past month show a considerable falling off as compared with those effected in the months of October and November. This, however, was to be expected, not only on account of the higher prices, but also owing to the extension made in lately preceding the strike, as well as to the holidays and general stocktaking operations at the end of the year. Besides, the demand for most classes of union fabrics lately has not been such as to induce manufacturers to go on producing, and it is likely increasing their present existing stocks, more especially at the enhanced rates demanded for yarns. Some makes of cheap union crasses for export find a ready sale, but the low prices ruling leave an extremely small margin of profit to the manufacturer, so that he would gladly curtail the production of this article if better paying goods were in request. Union roughs and chaines have been only selling sparingly of late, so that the turnover in these goods has been considerably restricted, and the same may be also said of the heavier household makes. Shifting unions have been better at the beginning of the year, but the general opinion is that the worst is not yet got over, and that a brisker trade is in the near future. The demand for union handkerchiefs is practically nil, dealers continuing their purchases only when compelled to do so by the pressure of cotton fabrics. In fact, of the above facts, it is not surprising that the sale of cotton wares has fallen short of the average. Raw cotton, which now stands about bjd. per lb., in the best foreign firms, is still further fortified by recent reports of the cotton crop, which is estimated not to exceed six million bales—a great diminution as compared with that of last year. In Manchester, all classes of yarn are getting scarcer day by day and there is a growing feeling amongst spinners that it is about time that the strike should end, and that masters and men should again resume work.

Cotton Goods.

There has not been much doing in cotton cambries since last report. Cotton handkerchief printers and makers-up have only been moderately busy, and stocks on their hands are not moving off as quickly as could be desired. Buying in consequence has been limited to a few sets required for assorting, and to keep the hands employed. For these small lots the principal part of the advance has had to be paid, holders refusing to part with the goods at ordinary rates. Besides, there are increased demands from the great Eastern markets for Manchester goods as well as from some of the smaller European markets, and these have tended to stiffen prices all round. The outlook for Irish printed cotton handkerchiefs is gradually brightening. A better demand for this article is springing up both in the English and American markets, and it is expected that in a couple of months or so things will have assumed a more animated tone.

Monthly Reports.

(From our own Correspondents.)

WHILE 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.—The usual Christmas and New Year slackness pervades all the markets. Stocktaking and the balancing of accounts have occupied everyone of late, and no business of any importance is to be reported from any direction. Linens, woolens, silk, and poplin all show the same result on inquiry; and though the anticipations are hopeful, for the moment the actual state of all the markets is stagnant. For the staple article in woolens I can give approximate quotations only, as on inquiry the report received was—Transactions of a merely hand-to-mouth character, and in only a few instances, had nothing but the following figures been given as probable values, but with some reserves:—Down, 9d.—10d.; hoggets, 9d.—9½d.; ewe or wether, 8d.—8½d.; saddle, 8d.—8½d.; mountain, 7d.—8d.; Scotch, 6d.—6½d. Though not actually in my province, I may perhaps be permitted to call attention to a letter written by Mr. Archdale, of Co. Fermanagh, and published locally. He warns wool-growers against falling in this price. He sold three quartans of unworked wool (Shrewsbury) to a individual purporting to be the buyer for a large firm at Galashiels. The conditions were that a cheque should be forwarded as soon as the weight ticket was made out, but though the wool was weighed, no money has been forthcoming. "I may add," concludes the writer, "I sold the remainder of my wool through Messrs. Gandy & Co. for 2¼d. s-lb. more than I had agreed upon, until now, for the lot he got. Mr. Archdale gives the name in his letter. With regard to silks and poplins, as said already, the market shows no change. The new material, "Etrangina," is an English silk of a soft and rich character, introduced by Messrs. Philips & Co. of Manchester, and I understand it is sold retail for about 3s. per yard.

The Industries Association.

The financial results for the month of November have been made out since last issue, and show a result amounting only to £81 8s. 6d., as against £290 for October. This amount, however, does not cover all the expenses in paying for the month, as the London committee has had to advance the usual £54 2s. 6d., and the Dublin Committee had also paid away for work "in hand" a further sum of £106 10s.; making a total of £422 paid from all sources for work done and work in hand. Mr. Browne, who presided at the meeting at which the financial statement was made, also announced that, in addition to the vestments ordered by Dr. Gibbons and Archbishop Ryan and Fagan, and seen through Mr. Peter White on an order for a complete set for Archbishop Ireland, this would seem as though a market for hand-embroidered vestments had been established in America; and no doubt, when the consignment at present being prepared reaches its destination, it will lead to further orders from other sources.

The Metropolitan School of Art.

As usual, an exhibition of the prizes drawings by students at this school was opened to the public on St. Stephen's Day. In the designing class Miss Crowe has exhibits of a quilt, and also designs for Carrickmacross lace; while Miss Jacob shows designs in Celtic embroidery for window screens or blinds. These by no means exhaust the designs in reference to textile fabrics which are to be seen upon the walls, but are only mentioned as instances. Nor should it be forgotten that many designs drawn in the Metropolitan School never go in for competition for the South Kensington prizes, but are executed to order of some of our lace schools, or to order, by such as our own. On many occasions the enormous advantage may be taken by the Metropolitan School of Art, and under Mr. J. Benson's direction, and it must be added that the never-failing efforts of the head master are worthily seconded by the assiduity of his pupils.

The Mayo Hand-Weavers.

Mention was made last month of the hand-weaving industry started at Foxford, Co. Mayo. Further particulars have come to hand and prove interesting. The industry was started, under the auspices of the Sisters of Charity, by the Mother Superiors (Mrs. Morgh Bernard), and has prospered rapidly. At present there are thirty-four permanent hands at work, and in addition there are some half-timers, these latter being taken from the National Schools in connection with the Convent, and also from the Male National School. They begin work at half-past six in the morning; at nine there is an interval of three-quarters of an hour for breakfast; work then goes on until two, when there is a similar interval for dinner, and at six p.m. work ceases. The factory includes six power-looms—the power used being water—and several knitting machines. The factory is complete in every detail, and from the small beginning a big industry has been built up. Among the specially good hands in the factory are the Export and Manufacturing Company, Messrs. Arnot & Co., McBurney & Co., Ferrier Pollock, Pinn's, and Clery's, besides a special printer in hands from the Victoria. There is a fair trade for the factory,—due to the congested Districts Board for a loan—and thus the sisters are endeavouring to pay off; but the interest and sinking fund costs amount to £700 per annum, and the factory is a big sum. Fathers generally, one anonymous donor giving £400, and Lord Zetland supplementing that with £200. Others will no doubt follow, and Mother Bernard, I fancy, need have no fear for the future of her energetic labours.

LARBAN.—Demand for handloom cambries goods for hernstitching has increased considerably; stocks of fine numbers are scarce in these goods, but demand for woven bordered cambries is still in want of anima

English.

BARNBURY.—The linen trade of this district, taking into account that it was the last month in the year, has been fairly good. The demand for table linens has been about on an average with the preceding months of the year, but taking the twelve months as a whole, this branch has been anything but satisfactory. Early in the year, makers of these goods turned their attention to the production of a lighter-weight fabric than they had usually produced, in order to compete with the Scotch makers; but though more orders were received than usual, they have not come up to the wishes of those interested, but hopes are enter-
The home trade warehouses generally have been greatly handicapped during the past few weeks, owing to the inability of many of their customers to meet their liabilities. In this district a number of retailers have been able to withstand the effects of the cotton stoppage, but the wholesale houses have had to grant extensions. With the prospect of an early settlement of the cotton trade dispute, a better feeling prevails in the trade.

There appears to be a wide-spread belief in linen circles that the preferential duties with which Spanish Linen manufacturers trading with this country are present favoured with results, but there is nothing which could be regarded as confirming such a view. The South American houses have received largely increased orders of late. The improvement has been mainly in the demand for grey cloth, prints, and other descriptions of cotton goods, although there has also been a change for the better in the inquiry for drills for Buenos Ayres and Rio. Rio orders, however, have been for a longer duration, and are on a heavier scale, and operating more freely than for some considerable period.

There is room, however, for a further alteration in the same direction. As far as the linen trade of the North of England is concerned, it is not an easy matter to find adequate employment for machinery, although Belfast linen men stationed here, who have just returned from spending a good season at home, have a much more pleasant tale to tell of the Irish trade.

The linenworld trade is in a healthy state locally, the consumption of linen goods continues both amongst members and Lancashire drapers, and increasing considerably. On the other hand, the consumption of linen and jute carpet yarns has been rather poor for some months, owing to the change of a large number of houses to the new carpeting.

The late Mr. Robert Pickles, of Burnley, was as well known in connection with his business of Shuttle manufacturer as with anything else. He had a large connection in this department, his representatives having made or placed orders with all the principal manufacturers, and a good share of the orders placed were from his own house. As many of your readers will know, Mr. Pickles was engaged in the linen trade, and had a mill at Belfast.

LONDON—The new year, still in its infancy, has not yet given us an opportunity of foreshadowing what lies in store for the future. Urbanized, misty, dense and choking fog, we spent the first week working by gas-light. It was hoped that at the beginning of the year the fog that has already occurred might be confined to the city. For electric light we would have had the current switched on, but our city companies move slowly in such matters, and so we are obliged to make the best of the old light. In the streets, however, the fog is in evidence. There are many houses without the electric light, and has the fog, as in the outer suburbs, damped down. Buyers were not present. The effect of this is to increase the sales of goods, and we cannot expect to see the remaining fog until the season of mists has departed. The distributing houses, most of whom have now completed stock-taking with very far from satisfactory results, are replenishing their departments, and, with that thoroughly optimistic spirit which is characteristic of the dry goods man, buying in anticipation of a good season.

Two of the drapery companies—viz., Deva's, Bronte & Co., Limited, and the Fore Street Warehouse Co., Limited—have given an intimation of what dividend they intend paying. The former states that the year's profit for the year ending May 31st, 1889, amounted to £11,133 2s. 5d., which, with the amount brought forward, £135,017 16s. 6d., makes the total available for dividend £24,702 16s. 11d. After making deductions of about £19 a ton, the result is about £11,133 2s. 5d., the dividend at 75 per cent is 13s. 1d. per annum, and carry forward, in addition to the reserve fund of £30,000, a balance of £4,642. The announcement of the Fore Street Warehouse Co.'s information, was, at the time of writing, news, but they have intimated that subject to dividend, they will propose the payment of a dividend at 75 per cent on the current year's dividend and carry forward, in addition to the reserve fund of £30,000, a balance of £4,642. The announcement of the Fore Street Warehouse Co. has a favourable effect on the trade, and this company is rapidly regaining ground; its losses by bad debts, in comparison to the immense business which the company controls, have been remarkably small for the year, pointing to the fact that which the creditors have been in a forced sale, at a very depressed period.
January 15th, 1893.

The Irish Textile Journal.

In the Milk Street trade, the replenishing of wholesale stocks has given a genial spurt to business, but the trade done can hardly be boasted of. The large reduction in price of goods is beginning to get general, and by the end of the year, there will be a steady improvement as the year advances, but what the opinion is based upon I have not been able to get behind my own satisfaction, for it is useless to try to judge long after the fact that 1893 has brought to us certain conditions which, before business brightens up generally, must be worked off. The Lancashire strike, for instance, is being keenly felt all over the country. The uncertainty under which manufacturers have laboured is certain to have a long-lasting effect, and when the strike happily comes to an end, will require a great deal of overtime to keep pace with the demand. But I must not encroach further on your patience.

A great number of changes have taken place in city firms since the 1st January, but as none of those are of importance to the Ulster manufacturers, I must close with the hope that the linen trade will greatly improve during the new year.

Continental.

LEIPZIG, Jan. 7. — The Yarn Exchange was better attended than on previous days. The Spinners and Weavers do not care for new contracts, even at full prices. At a meeting held at Berlin the end of last month, the German spinners concluded to increase the price of flax and tow yarns by 10 per cent, all round, beginning from 1st inst. Linen goods of every description were in good demand before the end of the year, as an increase of prices for all articles after New Year was indispensable and discounted as much as possible.

STATE OF TRADE IN GERMANY.

Although the general state of business in this country is deplorable, the textile industries are in a position to issue better reports than many others. They have been able, ever since June or July, to do a good business, and this has led to the fact that the number of barmen, Elsterfeld, and Crefeld, where ribbons and holl cotton and half silk articles are manufactured. We have consequently very few reports from these places, as well as from parts of Saxony, where a large export trade to the United States is carried on. It is illustrative of the high importance attached by this country to the United States, that very great efforts are made to have the Germany well represented at the World's Fair at Chicago. The German textile trades, in any case, will do their utmost to be represented there in a manner becoming to their own interests.

The ideas seem to be that the discussions with France the supervision of the India currency committee. Reports from Bulgaria and Venice, speak of the sale of German-made goods, irrespective of the pending treaty questions. In Roumania, German textile goods are also gaining. The effects of the Austro-German treaty are still felt, and in fact, the world is in much the position of the trade in both countries. Austrian manufacturers to a large extent enjoy a certain superiority of workmanship, whereas the German article is often superior. Austria's trade would benefit still if her Government had known how to secure the Roumanian and Servian markets, which have, to a large extent, fallen a prey to Germany. With regard to Hungary, it must be pointed out that the textile industries are still comparatively little developed there, and that English or other foreign traders willing to study the chances for extending textile manufacturing in Hungary would find it worth while to collect information on that subject.

Exports to Italy are not particularly large, yet the amount seems to satisfy the moderate expectations of our exporters. The home trade is dull, and for many of the business has not afforded so little satisfaction. Retailers ask constantly for price concessions. — Kuhl's German Trade Review.

United States Market.

NEW YORK, December 30th, 1892.

In great contrast to this period of last year is the genuine winter weather, real American winter weather, that has prevailed. The snowstorm of December 24th was an utter failure for the mighty shopkeeping contingent that depends so much upon it for a grand round-up to the year's trading. Holiday was in the air for days, and on the day before the holiday rain fell in torrents and kept shoppers within doors.

This time we had a splendid series of days preceding Christmas. The temperature kept well below zero, and the air was crisp and clear; snow fell lightly, just enough to give a finish to the picture, and shopkeepers and shoppers alike made the most of the opportunity. So we had a white, cold Christmas, and the real holiday feeling that should go with it—that which opens hearts and pocket-books, and gives the merchant the right occasion for clearing out stock and making room for the opening of the new year. It will be a year when we will have a bearing upon the Irish linen interests, and they will be in progress early next week. One will be the annual display and sale of homespun linens, usually held to in the olden, but always worth mentioning for the reason that a charm about damask displays something like a showing of pictures.

From private ceaseless pace at the damask stocks, I have of flower patterns will be broken into somewhat by set patterns and mixtures of flowers and mathematical designs. The prettiest that I have seen is a centre of small flowers enclosed by a scroll arrangement having larger fleur-de-lis at each of the four corners. This has an outer border of leaf work, then another border similar to the scroll arrangement just mentioned, then a completo border of large leaf work—four borders in all, making a most beautiful ensemble.

The other event will be the great white shirt sale, participated in every January by the great dry goods manufacturers. We are to have thousands of dozens at prices that will bring them more glory than profit. The garments will be in the unaltered state, which saves about four shillings per dozen on manufacturing cost. There will be for the wear of the great body known as “the masses.” Gentle widows purchase made-to-measure shirts only, and look upon the cheap unaltered garments as trash, and they are not far mistaken. Many of the advertised “all-linen bosoms” are composed of union, and a very large percentage is simply linen-finished cotton cambric.

The question of shirts, an advance of ten to fifteen per cent, has gone upon all shirting and other muslins. This was anticipated by all the great shirt-makers, and contracts were placed that will supply quantities well into next season. Shirts and trousers, as well as from parts of Saxony, Havanah, and other foreign countries are improving. In this respect it would be a great boon if some invention would enable us to raise the value of silver. Very little in the quarter is expected from the monetary conference in Brussels. Greater attention is bestowed on the suspended proceedings of the Indian currency committee. Reports from Bulgaria and Venice, speak of the sale of German-made goods, irrespective of the pending treaty questions. In Roumania, German textile goods are also gaining. The effects of the Austro-German treaty are still felt, and in fact, the world is in much the position of the trade in both countries. Austrian manufacturers to a large extent enjoy a certain superiority of workmanship, whereas the German article is often superior. Austria's trade would benefit still if her Government had known how to secure the Roumanian and Servian markets, which have, to a large extent, fallen a prey to Germany. With regard to Hungary, it must be pointed out that the textile industries are still comparatively little developed there, and that English or other foreign traders willing to study the chances for extending textile manufacturing in Hungary would find it worth while to collect information on that subject.

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+++Book Notice+++ Book Notice.


The book is devoted to no misunderstood technical details, but the author aims at giving a description of the practice of electric lighting for public and private purposes, handling the matter in an able and popular way, which attracts and sustains the reader's interest right through to the close. Chapter I deals with the generation of electricity, and this is followed by others descriptive of the arc and incandescent lamps, their uses and mode of management, etc. The cost of electric lighting is dealt with, and estimations are given for houses and factories, with the latter description wherever the local authorities have undertaken to supply the requisite current. A chapter is devoted to sundry devices for electric cooking and heating, and another to the various applications of electricity to agriculture and commerce. The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is thus well adapted to the general public. It is a useful and interesting work for all who are interested in the subject, and it is highly recommended for use in schools as well as for self-education.

The book is well printed and bound, and the illustrations are clear and well-executed. The author has had many years of experience in the electric lighting industry, and his knowledge of the subject is thoroughly sound. The book is a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject, and it is highly recommended for use in schools as well as for self-education.

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The Ventilation of Mills and Factories.

We are pleased to notice that the Blackman Ventilating Co., Limited, whose head offices are in London, have commenced a system of mechanical ventilation, warming, and drying, and have opened a branch office and show-room at 5, Donegall Street, Belfast. In this show-room, which will be of interest to all who are specially engaged in the various departments of the textile trade, there are a number of models which they have met with success by supplying a list of their customers, which embraces almost all the best firms in the flax and jute trade, as well as a number of mercers and worsted manufacturers. Among these are the following:

- Blackman Ventilating Co., Limited
- 5, Donegall Street, Belfast
- Show-room open to the public

The system of ventilation is based on the principle of removing steam. Before this system was adopted, the usual custom was to have hoppers over each set of cylinders, the truck leading out through the roof. While this arrangement acted fairly well in good weather, it was always objectionable during bad weather. The new system of ventilation is much more successful.

Drying Drab Recipe:

Fast dry, 50 pieces of linens, prepare a bath of 2 lbs. cutch, 24 oz. copper sulphate, and 6 oz. of soda ash, and immerse them in the bath. After one hour, then to the same bath add 6 ozs. of sulphate of iron, work all up thoroughly, and pass into a fresh bath at 90°C of 1 lb. bicarbonate of potash. Or yams may be treated at 40°C with 44 lbs. cutch, 1 lb. copper sulphate, 3 lbs. dry quercetin extract, 3 lbs. dry sumac extract, and 1 1/2 lbs. logwood extract. After working, add to this bath 1 1/2 ozs. sulphate of iron and 3 lbs. bicarbonate of potash at 40°C.

Chemicals and Dyes.

(Special Report by Messrs. SADLER & CO. Ltd., Middlesex.)

Business generally in the chemical trade is unquestionably bad and there are few features of interest. Cautic Soda goes from bad to worse, and the competition between it and Ammonia is very serious for the former. It is reported that several Alkali works will be laid off for a considerable period until stocks of Cautic are reduced. Soda Ash is moving off freely enough, but at a very low price; whilst Sulphate of Soda is difficult of sale at 25c to 30c, and even lower. Sulphate of Ammonia is doing well, but it is difficult to get it at 40c. There are more businesses being done in Dyes, but prices are miserable low. Dyes and chemicals are also suffering greatly from severe competition. The trade is generally quoted higher, but business cannot be said to be brisk. Fin combination of the large makers to control selling appears to be working successfully, as all the products have been kept in hand and are being delivered, but prices are not uniformly high, even if quantities delivered are not quite up to the mark. Carbolic Acid is much better, and the possibility of a recurrence of cholera in the spring will double business. There is a large demand for effective disinfectants, and the demand for disinfectants is larger than before. There is an unusual demand for spirits of twisting and spinning machinery.”

Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.


- 12th December, 1899
- J. F. Goodwin, Doncaster, N. F., “Improvements in the finishing of cotton or linen fabrics.”
- 7th December, 1899
- 9th December, 1899
- J. H. Hough, Liverpool, N. W. 12th December, 1899
- J. C. Muirhead, N. W., “Improvements in the bottom pressing rollers of wet-spinning machines for spinning flax and other analogous fibers.”
- 12th December, 1899
- J. C. Muirhead, N. W., “Improvements in the bottom pressing rollers of wet-spinning machines for spinning flax and other analogous fibers.”
- 13th December, 1899
- J. C. Muirhead, N. W., “Improvements in the bottom pressing rollers of wet-spinning machines for spinning flax and other analogous fibers.”
- 17th December, 1899

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 5d., which includes postage.

1891.
- J. Wootton, Allerton, near Bradford, Yorks, N. W., No. 21,311.
- “Improvements for regulating the drag on the bobbins or spools in spinning machines.”
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