March 16th, 1883.

THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL.

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

February 15th, 1883.


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Technical Instruction for Hand-Loom Weavers.

The Germans deserve credit for a further step which they have taken to promote technical education by inquiring into the position of the hand-loom weavers in the mountainous districts of Silisesta, with a view to improve their condition. In a paragraph which appeared in a recent number of Kuhl's German Trade Review, it is stated that—in July last, the Director of the Royal School for Weaving and Dyeing at Creflo, and an inspector from Gottingen, visited, by order of the Minister for Trade and Industry, the weaving districts of the Glatt and other mountains. They called upon the manufacturers as well as upon the hand-loom weavers in their homes, so that they were enabled to lay before the Minister a very exhaustive report on the results of their travels, which have now also elicited attention in non-textile circles. From this report it appears that hand-loom weavers in the Silenese mountains is full of vitality, but that the great drawback to unqualified success is the employment of exceedingly old, worm-ridden, and shaky weaving looms, and the circumstance that these looms are very often not worked up to full advantage by the very best weavers, and that new improvements in weaving and of diversifying their produc-
tion, it would serve the linen trade and greatly benefit the weavers. Notwithstanding the improvements effected in the power-loom, and that the white cloud can now be made in this way, the hand-loom classes of goods—cambies and fancy lines—is likely to survive for a longer time, and as a cottage industry is well deserving of support.

Technical Education in Ireland.

The most important meeting on this subject was held in Dublin on the 27th ult., presided over by His Grace the Duke of Abercorn. The report, which we give in another column, will be read with much interest. The meeting was a most representative one, and the utmost unanimity prevailed. Mr. James Musgrave, Chairman of the Belfast Technical School, was particularly happy in the remarks he made on this occasion, and drew a pointed contrast between Ireland and Switzerland, showing what industry and self-reliance, backed up by a splendid system of technical instruction, have done for the latter country, and which Ireland, with far greater natural resources, if aided by similar advantages, might easily accomplish. The Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Mountgental, Rev. Dr. Molloy, the Hon. H. Plunkett, Mr. Arnold Graves, and others, spoke effectively on the occasion, and many friends of the cause, who could not be present, sent letters of sympathy with the object of the meeting. A resolution was adopted to the effect that this is desirable to found an association for the promotion of technical education in Ireland. A powerful committee was then elected, to carry out its provisions. In the course of the discussion, it was asserted that, whereas in England upwards of 123 large towns had taxed themselves in aid of technical education, in Ireland the whole expenditure was confined to £700 in Dublin and Belfast, and £290 in Cork. Further, that while in Ireland there were not more than 2,000 persons, outside of the National Schools, receiving technical instruction, there were in England some 300,000 to 400,000. These figures speak for themselves, and speak eloquently as to the backwardness of Ireland in this matter. Mr. Musgrave pointed out that already in Belfast their technical school had increased the skill of those engaged or about to be engaged in important manufactures, and it had been the direct cause, in one instance at least, of introducing a new industry, that of woollen cloth. Looking at the names on the committee elected at this meeting, we fully expect that the association will do real practical work. The need for such an association is apparent to all in this country, and there is every indication of technical education in this country. What now lies before the association is to organise public opinion and stimulate public men; to rouse into activity public bodies, corporations, and town commis-
sioners; to watch the national system of education, and to impress upon all men the absolute necessity of a proper system of technical education, if Ireland is to hold her own in the commercial world. Marvelous as it may seem, yet there are many who do not recognise the value of this instruction either to the individual or the nation. Only those who have been closely associated with the movement know how numerous those wilfully blind ones are, or can form any idea of the pertinacity with which they cling to their erroneous opinions. Talk about educating a political party! It is child's play to try to educate public opinion upon a practical matter such as the necessity for, and benefits accruing from, technical, industrial, and manual instruction.

Belfast Health Society.

We are glad to learn that the formation of a Health Society— which we advocated in 1890—is now an accomplished fact. To the ability and uniting zeal of Dr. Henry O'Neill, of Belfast, the credit is due of founding this Society, and for the past few months the amount of work which he has done to popularise the movement is amazing. Not only has he given a series of lectures, but he has launched a most creditable monthly magazine, devoted to the objects of the Society—namely, the promotion of the laws of health, temperance, fragility, and cleanliness. The means to be used for this purpose are stated as follows:—

1. The delivery of popular lectures. 2. The publishing and distribution of health literature. 3. Providing subjects of interest for the mind, and encouraging proper amusement and physical exercises. 4. Giving assistance to the sanitary authorities in the promotion of sanitary laws. 5. The giving of medical assistance, as far as necessary, of any other society willing to co-operate in the work of this Society.

Mr. James H. Haslett, Dr. O'Neill acting as Hon. Secretary. The Society is eminently deserving of support.
Conciliation, not Reconciliation.

Here is a passage from Dr. Aikin’s History of Manufactory which has for mercantile men all the interest of an old photograph. The public take pleasure, naturally enough, in following the personality of distinguished people through childhood, youth, and maturity, and in this graphic sketch of bygone days we have the textile manufacturer in his infancy, before steam and many inventions had brought such marvellous changes into his life. In Cottonopolis, according to Dr. Aikin, few, if any, fortunes of £3,000 or £4,000, acquired in trade, had been made before 1630. It was a mean and dingy scene, and in the last century the traders began to heap up riches, and as their improved circumstances was soon seen in the brick houses which took the place of the old wood and plaster dwellings. The business of old-established “clothiers” was then, and for long after, conducted in small houses or wholesale dealers in London and a few other trade centres, and with those who frequented great fairs—the three-ply system, as we may call it, of manufacturer, warehouseman, and retailer, having already been set up. But the profits of the old employers are said to have been much smaller than is generally supposed, the betterment in their condition being mainly due, in spite of the braver show made in their houses, to keeping up habits of steady industry and frugal living, although the business barometer might have reached 750 or 800. Apprentices at that time were by the account of this industrious old author, “were now and then taken from families which could pay a moderate fee.” By an indenture dated 1610, the fee paid appears to have been sixty pounds, the young man serving seven years. But all apprentices were obliged to undergo a vast deal of laborious work, such as turning warping mills, carrying goods on their shoulders through the streets, and the like. An eminent manufacturer in that age used to be in his warehouse before six in the morning, accompanied by his children and apprentices. At seven they all came in to breakfast, which consisted of one large dish of water-porridge, made of oatmeal, water, and a little salt, boiled thick, and poured into a dish. At the side was a pan or basin of milk, and the master and apprentices, each with a wooden spoon in his hand, without loss of time, dipped into the same dish, and thence into the milk pan, and as soon as it was finished they all returned to their work.”

Imagination may busy itself for a moment with contemplation of the changes which time has wrought in commercial society, or make merry with the idea of industrial life, as it now is, being subject to these old-time conditions. In all Mr. Gilber’s topsy-turvy plays, no such mirth-provoking notion can be found as that of a modern manufacturer sitting down with all his men around one big bowl of water-porridge, open to indiscriminate poodles and other unsavory guests. The old masters and men could be restored. Besides periodical meetings between masters and men, there have already advocated, for free and candid discussion of matters in which both are interested, it would be well for other means to be taken by employers for making acquaintance with their workmen. For the effective action of Conciliation Committees in separate industries, there would have to be limitation of numbers—the manufacturer could only meet representatives of the men. If all together met in council the result would probably be babel, or something as near like it as the unwashed and unteachable could, and the net benefit would be nil. But the regular meeting of such a committee would still leave the greater portion of those upon whose services the employer depends out of his knowledge, and, to all intents and purposes, strangers to him. Their indigence or hostility might neutralize, and would certainly impair to a good degree the Conciliation committees might secure. What is wanted is personal contact and common sympathy between an employer and his hands. That they are called hands is oftentimes regarded as a grievance, as though the term implied that workmen had no heads or hearts, and were only human pixels of a machine, but in the truest sense the hands directed by a head, both parts of one body corporate. It is between these, in this relation, that we desire to see fuller accord and more friendliness of feeling. That they should be in antagonism, or should ever fight with each other with overweening zeal, is fundamentally absurd and suicidal, as though head and hand in one man were determined to do each other a mischief. The illustration is an old one, as old as Christianity itself, but it is none the less, nay, rather so much the more, a true one.

There is no need to give advice as to how the gulf between masters and men should be bridged over, and counsel, under such circumstances, would be more than usually superficidous. Unless inclination and goodwill prompt any attempts to get on good terms with operatives, masters might as well remain as they are. It is not a duty to be performed by deputy, nor can esteem and trust be won by occasional entertainments at so much per head. Where there is a real desire to be more closely identified with the men, a will to recognise their worth and to obtain their regard, there will soon be results forthcoming. A hint or promise of this sort is often sufficient to induce men, not only to do their work better, but to turn against all who seek to take advantage of them. The principle of association and brotherhood of mankind, as represented in trade unionism, is a principle of universal beneficence, and no artifice can possibly be more profitable to the public interest than the scheme of professional schools and training of trade teachers in the course of their ordinary duties. The result of the conciliatory work of the employers’ societies of the country is a fact of which they cannot but be proud.
Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving.

III.

Shrinkage or Contraction.

N calculations for warp and weft quantities it is almost impossible to arrive at positive results. Allowances or percentages may be made after carefully noting from time and labor required for the work itself, but these are, and always will be, variations in the twist of warp and weft yarns, and this perhaps obtains more in linen than in other warp material. The standard twist in warp yarns is, or ought to be, the square root of the load count multiplied by 2. This would give the twist per inch for the counts required. Yarns, however, of inferior quality can be made to look better and stronger by being thick-twisted. The factor 1.5 is constantly used, and at times 2.5 is employed to increase the twist of the yarn. The resistance of the warp in bending is as the square of the number of picks per inch, divided by the warp count.

A great number of picks per inch will cause the most of the contraction to take place in the warp; a few number of picks causes the warp to shrink less and the warp more. If a stripe in a sample contained very coarse yarns, alternated by fine yarns, the best method to obtain the original lengths would be to measure 12 inches of each class of yarn in the sample, and stretch them to the proper tension; then, if found to be 15 and 14 inches respectively, the percentage on each 12 inches would be 9 and 17. This would give a very correct calculation for quantities of each warp, so that if 50 yards of a fabric with equal stripes of coarse and fine yarns were required, then the fabric would be equal to 54 yards and 58 yards each, according to the proportions of coarse and fine yarns from the sample, always supposing the proper tension is kept in the loom during the weaving process. The real length of a weft pick taken from a sample cloth may be determined in the same way as the warp picks, by stretching. In coarse linen and jute yarne, the counts are determined by the spindle weight; if 14,000 yards weigh 4 lb, it is generally known as a 4 lb. count.

General Rules for calculating Weights in Weaving.

To find the weight of a piece of cloth, multiply the weight of yarn per yard by the number of yards in it, and divide the product by 300, the quotient will give the number of pounds. To find the weight of a piece of cloth, multiply the weight of yarn per yard by the number of yards in it, and divide the product by 300, the quotient will give the number of pounds. To find the number of hanks in a hank, multiply the length of hank by the number of yards in the hank, and divide the product by 300, the quotient will give the number of hanks. To find the weight of a piece of cloth, multiply the weight of yarn per yard by the number of yards in it, and divide the product by 300, the quotient will give the number of pounds. To find the weight of a piece of cloth, multiply the weight of yarn per yard by the number of yards in it, and divide the product by 300, the quotient will give the number of pounds.
The sample must be cut so that a certain number of square inches is allotted to the bale in proportion to another square inch or more; suppose we have 6 square inches, 2 by 3, then this piece is weighed in a grain scale, the number of threads warp and weft per inch multiplied by the weight of one square inch in grains multiplied by 36 and divided by 12:15 will give the weight of one yard in ounces in the above 6 square inches; then its weight multiplied by 30 and divided by 12:15 will give the weight of one yard in ounces; the division will be 12:15; accordingly the sample is one pound; and the dimensions; the 12:15 is got by dividing grains in one ounce by 36 inches, thus 457 3 = 36 12.15.

The weights are obtained by comparison with well-known counts, or else by weighing certain lengths of each in grains. In giving fancy-ware patterns, other calculations bearing upon quantities, &c., will be given as they occur.

Factory Books.

For reference, comparison, and classification in all well-regulated factories, the warp and weft patterns, number, pattern number, date of entry, and when delivery is required, are noted in a book. I am giving my system when a manager. Now both weaving and weaving overseers should have similar books; paper is always cheaper than fibre waste. The difference in the weaving entries from the warping department would be—warp pattern, picks, weight out of the loom, beam number, or name of weaver. Where there is a designer, he will enter all these particulars in the books for each department; the warp wider would then make out his tickets according to the dates of delivery, not of the entry, because others, though received on early dates, may not require the delivery for weeks or months after others; after warping and beating the ticket is, or ought to be, attached to the beam; and the drawing-in, with a twister, with particulars of draft, &c., given from weaving overseer when the beam is Pdf. When the cut is woven the ticket accompanies the piece to be examined, and all the particulars entered in the cut-taker's book; by this system no mistake can possibly occur, even when the piece is at the end where the bobbin points in towards the picker. The shuttle will be caught easier when it comes from the other side. Some degree of power may then be taken off the springing of the sheaf and the head of the bobbin points in towards the picker—in fact, allowing just sufficient spring to keep the shuttle from rebounding. This method allows the shuttle to go into the box fast on this end, thus doing the weft off, and the picker. The looms at the picker should be solid, and at the same time elastic enough to form a good cushion for the picker, and large enough to keep the pickers from striking back against the picking stick, this being another evil causing the flash-off of weft. Whatever may be the form or construction by which a shuttle is propelled, the motion is sudden, and to a great extent violent, more liable to breakage than new.

The overpick in general use is not free from breakages, which are expensive, annoying, and vexatious. The picking tappet, consisting of a glass bead and a piece of brass, has been found useful in preventing its circumference, strength and durability would be obtained; the nose-bit could be firmly secured in its place by having small teeth on that part of its surface fitting to the shell, and similar teeth on the latter; these two fitting exactly into each other, it would be impossible for the nose-bit to move from its position. This is an arrangement which would save time and repairing work, and the result is likely to prove advantageous on another occasion. In the meantime, my next communication will deal with fancy weaves and patterns; nor that plain colour arrangements should be overlooked, as is, like other things, limited, and we must give place to the inevitable.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The Making-up Trades.

The Apron and Pinfaire Factories.

The use and pinfaire factories are at present, and have been since the beginning of the year, employed up to the full extent of their producing power, notwithstanding that this season seen a very large supply of pinfaire for the market. The Union ranges, which form now by far the largest part of the turnover, were produced and priced before any upward movement in the cotton market had taken place, or had even been regarded as probable; and now orders are coming in for them and not to be advanced rates, while the union cloths from which they are made have gone up, on an average, fully 4d. per yard. Some of the large union manufacturers are, however, acting with the greatest consideration, and, in cases where their goods have been sampled and sold from figures already made any advances whatever. They have been the better able to do this, in having contracted for large supplies of cotton warps at old rates. One well-known firm indeed is and to have laid in not less than one million pounds of warps at the very lowest price of last year. The policy of backing up their customers as above is both a considerate and a wise one, as their action has the result not of saving the local makers from exposure as to orders offered and loss on those accepted, but has tended to bring permanently increased business to the Boblast makers-up, and, of course, to themselves; while a different course of action would have driven business away that might not have been easily recovered. White lawn aprons and pinfaires are in steadily increasing demand; the orders for these are now coming in from freely from London and the larger towns, and here there is a considerable advance in the cost of material, though not proportionately very large in relation to the cost of the manufactured article. In fancy aprons and pinfaires, as they are known in the trade, the effect is being brought forward for the coming season, though a fair amount of business has resulted from those earlier shown. Floral and scroll designs in print goods are those chiefly in demand. For all-cotton Holland aprons the demand has almost completely died out; their places have been taken, apparently permanently, by union holland goods.
February 15th, 1883.

THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL.

Stamming of Irish Woollens.

Since date of last issue, I have had an opportunity of hearing the opinions of several leading Irish manufacturer and their representatives as to the wisdom of making the stamping of Irish woollens with some name or trade mark of the makers a rule not to be departed from. The general opinion is that it would assuredly be for the good and well-being of the Irish trade if such a practice were universally adopted and strictly adhered to, but there seems to be an equally strong opinion that it would be next to impossible to have such a rule carried out. Every maker is quite sure that it would be a wholesome practice for the Irish to do, but each firm certainly that, if generally adopted, he could carry it out with the utmost integrity; but each seems to fear that some one else would break through it, and counteract the action of the rest. Of course, if mutual distrust to prevent the adoption of a plan that has worked so well in past days, and is considered a sure safeguard of the trade in the future, there is nothing more to be said. There are about eight leading makers at present who, if they made up their minds to carry out the practice to the letter, could ensure its general adoption. For, if travellers carrying Irish samples have those of all the known makers stamped, the less known makers will require to stamp in self-defence, or their goods would lie under a strong suspicion of not being Irish at all. If the makers cannot agree to put the strict practice in force now, they will not find it easy to do so in the course of a few more years; and I venture to say that if they do not do so now, they will have grave cause to regret their inaction by-and-by.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Irish Textile Journal.

Sir,—As you take an important position in advocating Irish industrial progress, and prominently put forward the woollen manufacture as a growing and valuable addition to the other industries of Ireland, you will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that we have received another large order from Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. We enclose you patterns of “The Imperial Cloth,” as made for the Queen, which we bring out in a great variety of shades, and it is suitable for ladies' tailor-made gowns, or the new coats now much worn. The special feature of this cloth is that it is warm and light, and can be had thoroughly waterproof. We may add that this material is patronised by the Duchess of Abercorn, who so earnestly engaged in promoting Irish industries, the Countess of Caledon, the Marchioness of Ormonde, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Lady Rosamond, Lady Constance Leslie, Lady Jane Van Koughnet, and a large number of the leading members of the aristocracy. —Yours, &c.,

Sheeard, Smith & Co.

Caledon, 8th February, 1883.

(The pattern sent us embrace a number of excellent cloths in a variety of shades. We take this opportunity of saying we shall gladly notice the productions of other Irish woollen manufacturers, if they will only take the trouble of writing to us—Ed. I.T.J.)

Current Textile Items.

MESSRS. Philip Johnston & Sons (Limited) have just completed a very extensive addition to their spinning mills at Jenynymount. The new building is a handsome erection of brick, 150 feet by 150 feet, and 50 feet high. The addition has been made to the Jenynymount Mill one of the oldest and most successful in the province, as it is confessedly one of the most efficiently managed. Part of the ground floor of the new wing is occupied as a cooking and dining room, fitted up for the benefit of the workers, and in connection with which a very complete and easily-worked system of payment by tokens for meals and cooking has been arranged. The new preparing machinery is of the modern type, containing every improvement up to date, and which a very complete and easily-worked system of payment by tokens for meals and cooking has been arranged. The new preparing machinery is of the most modern type, containing every improvement up to date, and which a very complete and easily-worked system of payment by tokens for meals and cooking has been arranged. The new preparing machinery is of the most modern type, containing every improvement up to date, and which a very complete and easily-worked system of payment by tokens for meals and cooking has been arranged. The new preparing machinery is of the most modern type, containing every improvement up to date, and which a very complete and easily-worked system of payment by tokens for meals and cooking has been arranged.

P. N. Martin & Co., Sproy and pinatore manufacturers, Linenhall street, Belfast, have taken into partnership Mr. Quillie, formerly of John Arnott & Co., of Belfast (limited). Mr. Quillie is renowned in business circles on both sides of the channel, and his popularity and lengthened business experience will no doubt be of much benefit to the rising firm he has recently joined.
THE improvement referred to last month has considerably developed, so that the turnover in cloth as well as yarns has reached a more satisfactory point, and during the past week or two a rather buoyant feeling pervaded the market.

FLAX.

Except at the monthly fairs, the flax season is virtually over, supplies at the ordinary markets being now very small. Any lots offering are quickly disposed of at top rates, values having shown a steady advance. A good oz store demand is reported for both home and foreign flax, and prices have been steadily moving upwards.

February 2d.—Ballymoney—20 tons of milled, prices from 5/- to 7/-; 2nd.—Ballymoney—50 tons of milled, prices ranging from 50/- to 70/-; a large quantity of superior quality; large attendance of buyers; sales good, holding firm for advanced prices. Newry—25 tons of milled, which sold from 6/- 2/4 to 8/6 per stone. Derry—Ballymoney—3 tons of milled, prices from 5/6 to 8/6 per ton, and 4 tons of hand-swatched, which sold from 5/- to 7/-.

Ballymena—20 tons of milled, prices from 6/- to 7/6 per stone; usual quality; fair attendance; prices steady. Cookstown—20 tons of milled, prices ranging from 6/- to 8/9 per stone. Carrickfergus—11 tons of milled, prices from 5/6 to 8/6 per stone; bulk of medium quality; very few buyers; demand quiet. Newtown—3 tons of milled, which sold from 6/- to 7/6. 20th.—Belfast—About 40 stones of milled, which sold at 7/- per stone.

YARNS.

Continued animation has marked the course of the spinning trade, the turnover for several weeks past being above usual averages. Prices have not only been maintained, but a further advance has been established in a considerable range of both lines and qualities. Stocks on the market are now reduced to an exceptionally low point, whilst spinners as a rule are heavily forestalled. The advance in foreign yarns has been even much greater than in this market.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

The demand for light makes of power-loom bleaching cloth, which showed some improvement last month, has been further stimulated. Orders for green yarn cloth have been freely placed with manufacturers, who have advanced their prices 4d. per yard. Boiled yarn goods are also more freely disposed of, of hardening rates. Medium and heavy makes are in very good request, and prices very firm. Hand-loom goods of this make share in the improved turn, Ballymena cloth in particular being from 3d. to 4d. per yard dearer, and the coarse sets are now scarce. Cloth for printing and dyeing has been in much better demand, prices showing an upward tendency. In roughs a considerable amount of business has been done; stocks are now very small, and prices advanced. Union makes are particularly brisk, and so also are union makes of glass-cloth, dowles, and crash. For drills there has been a much improved demand, so that stocks are reduced and prices advanced. A fair quantity of linen handkerchiefs has been bought, but there is still room for much improvement; stocks are somewhat reduced, but prices are low, though firm. Cambric cloth and handkerchiefs continue to improve, and manufacturers by power and hand loom are better supplied with work, but it is very difficult to get higher rates to meet the advance in yarns. More doing in damasks, and production is easily disposed of; stocks small, and prices advancing. Altogether, the manufacturing branch is much improved.

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—This branch of trade, after a prolonged dulness, has begun to assume a much better tone, and since last report buyers have placed orders more freely, the advancing tendency of prices having no doubt, stimulated business.

Continental.—Though business is still limited with most of these markets, there is some improvement compared with previous months. The Board of Trade returns for January, however, show a considerable falling off in the volume of trade with France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, as compared with the corresponding month last year.

United States.—A very good trade kept up with this market, and advances from the other side are satisfactory, the season’s business opening up fairly well. Shipment of piece goods from the United Kingdom mark an increase of one-third more than those of January, 1892.

Other Markets.—The Foreign West Indian trade is steadily improving, and official figures show that the volume is upwards of 19 per cent. over January of last year. British North American trade, according to the usual returns, is 24 per cent. larger, Brazil 46, and Mexico 14 per cent. above the figures for 1891. The Australian market has been dull of late, the January trade of the United Kingdom being upwards of 23 per cent. less than in January, 1892.

For the expired month the total quantity of linen piece goods exported from the United Kingdom is 19/ per cent. and values 11 per cent. over the figures of the same month last year.

LINEN YARN IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Flax Supply Association state that, through the courtesy of the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trade, they have obtained the following statistics regarding yarn imports for the past year:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892 Increase or decrease.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lbs.</td>
<td>lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>14,068,735</td>
<td>14,882,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,230,983</td>
<td>2,902,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,863,936</td>
<td>2,619,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>44,068</td>
<td>7,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>25,696</td>
<td>25,696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19,130,076 | 19,447,591 | 317,515 | 6.88

Mr. Anthony Cowdy, bleacher and finisher, Greenhall, Co. Armagh, has lately entered into occupation of the Millown bleachers, near Banbridge, formerly occupied by Mr. Hayes, but now for a considerable time past lying idle. In the Banbridge works, Mr. Cowdy intends carrying on an extensive scale the bleaching of towels, which at present constitutes an important part of his business, and in which he expects to meet with more than ordinary success. It is his intention also to develop the bleaching of damasks at Millown: the damask bleaching he has hitherto done on a smaller scale having been much appreciated by the trade. It is to be hoped that Mr. Cowdy’s ideas in this respect may be extensively and successfully carried out; it is regretful to see so large a proportion of the damask manufacture in the North of Ireland being sent to Scotland to be bleached.

Messrs. John S. Brown & Sons, Bedford Street, Belfast, have made a further extension of their damask manufacturing works. This is the second considerable extension of the building for the factory that has occurred within recent years. About six years ago an extension took place by which two hundred damask power-looms were added to the original number. In the building which has now been added to the works a further two hundred looms have just been erected. The looms have been all constructed by the machine-makers in the firm’s own employment, from castings supplied by Mr. George Horner, Falls Foundry. A new compound tandem engine has just been put up by Messrs. Combe, Barbour & Combe (Limited).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lea No.</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>26</th>
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<th>60</th>
<th>65</th>
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These prices are per bundle of 60,000 yards of grey Yarn, subject to the usual discount for cash.
ABSTRACT OF BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS, for the United Kingdom, for the month of January, and for the corresponding months of the years 1892 and 1893.

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<td>1892</td>
<td>1893</td>
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<td>IMPORTED—</td>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
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<td>Flax</td>
<td>Total Ton. 6,750</td>
<td>11,657</td>
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<td>104,542</td>
<td>253,860</td>
<td>199,904</td>
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<td>EXPORTED—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linen Yarn</td>
<td>Total Lbs. 1,069,800</td>
<td>1,407,400</td>
<td>1,583,500</td>
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<td></td>
<td>64,852</td>
<td>87,556</td>
<td>74,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIECE GOODS</td>
<td>Yards 17,005,500</td>
<td>16,804,800</td>
<td>19,355,500</td>
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<td>Thread for Sewing Lbs. 187,500</td>
<td>216,700</td>
<td>186,500</td>
<td>22,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Articles</td>
<td></td>
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<td>72,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Value of Linen</td>
<td></td>
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<td>568,250</td>
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LICENS.

- Chemicals and Chemical Medications 707,184 728,274
- All Other Articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured, 2,921,500 2,182,905
- Parcel Post, 72,500 67,741

Total value, £19,140,704 £18,026,019

The Irish Textile Journal

February 15th, 1893.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH AND IRELAND PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Our Month ended 31st January 1892.

- Animals, 25,200, 
- Animals, 213,641
- Articles of food and drink, 795,669 715,358
- Raw Materials, 1,385,066 1,328,986
- Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz:-
  - Yarns and Fabrics, 9,331,970 8,611,666
  - Metals and Articles Manufactured
  - Therefrom (except Machinery), 2,501,406 2,622,763
  - Machinery and Mill Work, 1,093,453 952,254
  - Apparel and Articles of Personal Use, 1,907,698 870,703
  - Chemicals, and Chemical Medications, 707,184 728,274

- All Other Articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured, 2,921,500 2,182,905
- Parcel Post, 72,500 67,741

Total value, £19,140,704 £18,026,019

The Linen Merchants’ Association.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of The Linen Merchants’ Association was held on the 31st ult. in the Linen Hall Library. Rev. W. H. Eyre, President, opened the meeting, which was well attended. Mr. W. H. Ward, Secretary, dealt with a great number of topics of interest to the trade, but for want of space we can only refer to a few. The World’s Columbian Exhibition will open in Chicago on the 2nd of May. The Irish linen companies are not exhibiting. The Belfast Technical School continues to show signs of life and progress by the number of those attending who have gained prizes, and the Institute thus enjoy the advantages of its working out its destruction in the West’s most extended and permanent established institution. The classes, however, for bleaching and dyeing have been discontinued, owing to the want of suitable apparatus. Our neighbours across channel and on the Continent have in all large centres made considerable progress in late years, whilst the Technical School in Belfast, which has been in work for many years, has only been kept afoot owing to the efforts of some of our well-known citizens who have taken a great interest in its welfare. Now the main object of these schools being to give valuable instruction in many branches to the community at large, it is only fair to expect that the City Council will take prompt action in this matter, and by imposing the authorised rate of one penny in the £ thus place this institution on a sound basis for the public benefit. A meeting of the citizens was held in Belfast some time ago, and resolutions were adopted approving of a vigorous effort being made to promote the technical education question in this city, but the outcome to the present has been almost nil. Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, and all large manufacturing towns such as Belfast, make provision for the proper education of the labouring classes; and in these days it is well known that those communities which decline to avail themselves of this instruction are increasingly inferior in the world, and we have no means of predicting how far the position of Ireland will be under flux in Ireland in 1892 fall to the unprecedented low figure of 70,442 acres. A portion of the crop was of good length and quality, but in many districts the plant was very short, and the crop very poor. On the Continent also there was this year a small crop, with a considerable proportion of short flax. The price of flax varied from £1 10s. to £2 10s. the ton, the prices advanced towards the end of the season. Yarns were in steady demand during the autumn and winter months, with slightly drooping prices, during the autumn; and in brick demand, at advancing rates, towards the end of the season, when prices prevailing twelve months previously were easily obtained. Spinners hold a small stock, and are pressing to book orders for long forward delivery. In power-loom makers of brown linens manufacturers have been well supplied with orders; even the coarse end, which had been dull during the previous year, experienced a considerable improvement. Stocks are in moderate compass, and prices firm, with an upward tendency. In hand-loom makers demand has been very quiet for all qualities; for linen and cambric handkerchiefs it has been decidedly dull and at reduced rates. The total turnover of bleached and finished goods for the year has been good, but profits have remained very low. It is interesting to note that the United States, having apparently used up the large shipments sent them in 1890, prior to the increased duties, have in 1892 taken more than their average quantity. From Canada, Cuba, and the Argentine Republic demand has been active, with increased turnover. The home and Continental markets have been quiet. Trade with France in linen goods shows a considerable falling-off during 1892, but does not show the extent in this country. The turnover with Spain was about the same as in 1891, but this is chiefly due to the fall in the purchase price of the new tariff of 1st July coming into operation; since then, trade with Spain has been almost nil. Brazil, the Spanish Main, the markets on the West Coast of South America, the Argentine, Australia, have, from our point of political view, been free from the depressions, troubles, taken smaller quantities of our goods than usual. At the late Presidential elections, the United States have pronounced in favor of the McKinley Tariff Act. It is therefore to be expected, when Congress assembles in the year that the provisions of that Act will be taken into consideration. The Chairman, in the course of the able and most interesting address, dealt with the several matters referred to in the report, as well as of local and imperial importance. Regarding technical education, he said:—The value of technical education has been brought before you regularly of late years in the annual reports, and has been pressed upon you by the representatives of the textile industries on several occasions from this chair. The present report deals with it so fully as to leave little for me to add. I believe we are able to maintain the pre-eminence of the North of Ireland as a linen manufacturing country against Continental competition for the Continent. In our late position of Continental neighbours are far ahead of us, and that is in this question of technical education. If this deficiency be not promptly supplied, we may expect to find lines on which we have lost ground in the industrial race. We can observe that Ireland is awakening to the importance and necessity of this subject, representative and influential meetings having been held in a few days ago to take steps to promote technical education throughout the country. The committee of our Technical School are at present engaged in formulating a scheme to place technical education on a permanent basis. It should be the duty of every young man who shall be equipped to take creditable positions in the various industries, and be enabled to hold their own successfully against their competitors, whether home or foreign. Speaking on the McKinley tariff, he said:—The McKinley tariff has not affected our industry in the least, with the exception of the handkerchief end, which has suffered somewhat from the increase of 5½ per cent. We are glad to see that the Tariff Bill the United States has failed to make any progress in the manufacturing of linen, even in the lower grades. Any advanced duty on these goods has consequently fallen as an additional tax upon the consumers, without advancing in the least the contemplated establishment of a linen industry. It seems more probable this Act will have but a short existence. President Harrison in his last manifesto, though still standing to his gun of protection, admitted that McKinleyism was discredited by the vote of the nation. This is undoubtedly true, understanding by McKinleyism that extreme amount of protection as developed in the Act that bears the name of its promoter. Though this is the case, it would be unwise yet to jump at the conclusion that we shall soon be free from protection. On the contrary, it is the opinion of many experts that this is the beginning of that great country. The past year has been a fairly satisfactory one for our linen industry. The spinning, bleaching, and finishing industries have been busy, and improvement on the depressed and unremunerative condition that existed previously for several years. In the manufacturing end the looms have been fully employed. The turnover has been maintained, and the prices have been maintained. Prices of goods have not responded to an extent at all equivalent to the advanced cost of yarns, and consequently the margins of profit in the manufacturing and shipping departments has been exceedingly close. The total exports of linen piece goods from the United Kingdom during last year show an increase of 7½ per cent. in quantity and 4½ in value over those of 1891. This is a gratifying return, considering that all the other principal articles of export exhibited a decline, with the exception of woolen and worsted yarns and jute manufactures. I am glad, however, to state that in the closing months of the year signs have appeared that lead to the belief that the end of the depression has been reached. I trust, therefore, that as this year advances an improvement may become apparent. It is a matter of much thankfulness that business here compares most favourably with that in the sister country; there are fewer towns, if any, in the United Kingdom where at present employment is so constant and trade depression so less felt. Considering that the various industries are all members of great body corporate of trade, so that if one trade suffers other trades are affected more or less, it is almost a matter of course that the trade promotes it the interest of business across the channel. No doubt our shipbuilding yards have been well employed during the past year, owing to their world-wide reputation for first-rate work; our textile industry has not suffered from the effect of the McKinley tariff, and we have a varied and increasing number of industries in our city, which prevents our suffering dependent on any particular one. But over all these and other reasons which might be brought forward, it appears to me that there is another, apt to be overlooked, and which I mention for the consideration of all connected, and that there have been of time to time strikes in various branches of detail, longer or shorter duration; since our last annual meeting there was unfortunately a prolonged strike in the building trade. But, taking all these into consideration, I think we can look this year to a prosperous trade, with fair and friendly relations favorably with other commercial centres in the United Kingdom, and that continual improvement in the condition of the city trade may soon be the case, and the adverse conditions experienced in the past year appear to have been entirely removed. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded by Mr. W. H. Young, and passed.
The Irish Cotton Trade.

Cotton Yarns.

URING the past few weeks the market has been fairly strong, and sales show a considerable improvement. Old contracts are being gradually worked off, and manufacturers are again obliged to lay in further supplies, not only for the execution of some fresh lines of goods, but also for further requirements. The raw material fluctuates somewhat during that period, but not to any great extent, as the short crop has fortified rates and prevented any material decline. As there is now every prospect of an early settlement of the strike, and of a resumption of work by the mills, spot lots of raw cotton will command still further rates; and although "futures" will be probably thrown on the market, it is not expected that there will be any sensible decline in values.

At the present time yarns are at a premium, owing to the highest rates touched, but whether the increased production on the termination of the strike will cause a release it is difficult to say, as it is feared there will be then a "boom" in raw cotton which will fortify and serve to support existing rates. In Manchester, yarns are becoming scarcer every day, while the demand for Irish consumption is gradually growing, so that there is little disposition on the part of holders to operate for quantity even at strike prices; and as to the acceptance of old prices, it is quite out of the question. The bouses in Ireland going on to unions are increasing every month, to the detriment of the fine pure linen fabric; and all this is tending to stiffen rates enormously.

Cotton Goods.

This market continues very firm indeed, but as the demand for Irish-made cotton handkerchiefs has been on the increase, there has been no important buying during the month of the cloth necessary to their making up. Some respectable lines have, however, been booked, and there is a likelihood that larger quantities will be soon again required as the demand brightens up. It is quite different, however, with Irish union goods, which seem to be taking so well with the public that the demand goes on steadily increasing. Manufacturers say that although they can offer many makes of pure linen fabrics as cheap as union goods, buyers insist on having the latter article as being cleaner and more sightly, and that they are therefore obliged to fall in with public taste. This applies particularly to creams and roughs in the piece as well as to some classes of heavy household fabrics. Besides this, however, there is an extensive demand for glass-chemist, crashes, and other light makes of union fabrics.

Monthly Reports.

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.—All the markets remain more or less inactive, and show but little alteration from last reports. Linens are in a very satisfactory condition, and the demand, though quiet, is well maintained. The general state of the trade has not materially altered, but a further improvement in the future is confidently looked for. In silks and poplins there is nothing to report, both being steady at the usual demand and output, with all the bouses busy, but no signs of any generally increased demand. In woollens, prices are dull, although the American demand has been good. Over Channel a strong tone has prevailed in the markets for the raw material, retail sales have not been greatly improved, and, owing to the latest report gives it that very little is coming to hand, and the demand is equally disappointing, with the values nominally as follows:—Douglas, 10/-6d.; Hamburg or wicker, 9d.; crape or wicker, 8d.; seaside, 8d.—6d.; mountain, 7d.—8d.; Scotch, 6d.—6d. Retail houses dealing in textiles and clothing appear to be doing very well, the first dividend announced being that of the Henry Warehouse Company, Limited, at the rate of 5 per cent. paid in specie.

Prizes for Lace and Embroidery.

The Royal Dublin Society has issued its list of prizes offered for lace and embroidery, wood carving, artistic metal work, and lace and embroidery designs, to be competed for at the Show in August. Copies and all particulars can be had on application to the Registrar of the Society, Mr. R. J. Moseley, Leinster House, Dublin. I mention this here in the shape of a reference to readers who are interested in either the lace or art industries of the country.

Laces for Chicago.

An exhibition of some, if not all, the Irish exhibits of lace and embroidery for the Chicago Exhibition will be held during the month in Dublin. Of this I shall, I hope, be able to treat fully in next month's notes. Meanwhile, I may refer to some of the work which is being prepared. The Convent of Poor Clares, Enniskerry, has produced a large volume of about four yards, and fourteen inches deep, to the order of Lady Aberdeen's Committee. It is in what the workers call their "second texture"—i.e., not the finest work which is done, but none the less artistic and admirable. Except for the difference in actual texture, the artistic merit of the article is the same, as is also the genuine quality of the labour given to it. The price, I understand, of this piece is £100, which, looking at its size, is anything but an exorbitant one. The same Convent also hopes to have finished in time a sideboard cloth in linen, with squares of lace, the designs for the latter embossed in the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle, together with the Irish harp and American eagle. From the same centre of industry will also come a chasuble and accidents, executed to the order of the Archbishop of Dublin, in the new Celtic embroidery so closely associated with the Remsen Convent School. This is the first time a vestment of this character has been executed in this style of work, though the application of it to smaller vestments has already been made, and referred to in these columns. The Gilmour's order reached the Convent through the Irish Industries Association, and was, I presume, one of the orders obtained by Mr. Peter Wetheran last in the States. The latter, together with the pieces on the whole, bids fair to be of exceptional interest and artistic merit.

The Industrial League.

The Association is pursuing its course and extending its operations. So far as its officers have gone on the right lines, it has nothing to show but signs of being of real utility. But there are not wanting symptoms that it is going a little astray. There are some things quite outside the legitimate functions of the League with which it has begun to meddle, and the sooner it gets back into its proper sphere of action the better for all concerned. Those who have been constant readers of these notes know that the Industrial League has always been very careful not to meddle when on the right road, but that I have never hesitated to condemn false moves. These latter have, of late, been few and far between; but there appear to be some busy bodies connected with the Association who either do not know, or choose to ignore, the proper duties of the League. I should very much regret to see the Association again in troubous waters, and sincerely hope that the better counsels of the majority will prevail, and prevent the League being made a stumbling-horse for individual interests.

The foregoing remarks do not refer to a correspondence the League has had with Father M'Cadden, of Greewoode, with Father M'Cadden's scheme I am in thorough harmony. The reverend gentleman writes:—"I have been for some time hating an idea of further industrial develop- ment here in Greewoode by way of a fair or market, not only or even for the purchase of home-spun stuffs, such as hose and half-hose, and different classes and qualities of frizzles. The want of such a market is a tremendous check to the development of this industry here. Cottage embroidery, which is what I am most anxious for; the marking of the webs and the yarns and the knitting would supply that, and a certain market for sales would ensure a wonderful improvement and activity in this direction. I fear that Father M'Cadden may be able to work out the details of a practical scheme, and any assistance which the Industrial League can give him in doing so ought to be generously and unstintingly given. Here is a legitimate outlet for any spare energy the organisation may possess, without going out of its way to interfere in matters which do not in the least concern it. The Technical Schools.

From the report read at the annual meeting of the friends and governors of these schools, it appears that the average attendance for the year was 120 per night. Of the 155 pupils, 160 presented themselves for examination, and one bronze medal and a fifth prize were obtained from the City and Guilds of London Institute, besides many certificates and passes. Mr. Arnold Graves, the hon. secretary, draws attention to the fact that since the report had been prepared the Corporation has made its grants in aid of technical education absolute—a big step in advance—and has instituted a committee to frame a scheme of technical education for the whole of Dublin. The details of this scheme have not yet been published, but Mr. Graves said that he thought it might fairly say that the scheme would have a technical school in the north end of the city, and a technical school in the south end, while the other technical schools in the city would be made available for the east end of the city. The scheme, as proposed by Mr. Graves, is an extensive one, but there is nothing Utopian about it, and a very good time may, and I hope will, see it carried out, and the schools in active working order.
LURGAN.—The linen cambric trade continues to improve; orders are more regular and plentiful, and the outlook pretty good. The only thing likely to clog future business is, just at the time (after such a long period of dullness), the rise in prices of some orders paying prices, spinners advance their prices for line yarns. This, if persisted in, will necessitate advanced prices for goods, which will be exceedingly difficult to get, if ever at all. This uneasiness in prices of line yarns is greatly against profitable trade. Work for hand-loom weavers is now plentiful, and both hemstitched and woven-bordered cambric handling particularly well. The output of boiled yarns, although below other years at this period, is at its best before hands go out to the spring labour. Makers of linen handkerchiefs (boiled yarns) are now well supplied. Power-loom manufacturers are also busy, and are said to have entered orders at better prices. This was much required in this end, as their dividends lately were very small. Handloom sheet cambrics keep in good request; also bird-eye diapers, damask, fancy linen pillow shams, ten-cloth, sideboard covers, quilts, &c.

LEEDS.—There were hopes, at the close of last year, of a much improved trade in the textile branches, and, with some slight exceptions, trade cannot be said to have shown any rapid strides during the first month of the new year. In worsteds, especially those in fancy styles, rather more has been on the market than has found buyers. Mills have been rather less active in the purchase of raw materials. Mantlings have shown a slight improvement, but in the Yeadon district, where the lower qualities are being made, manufacturers are running short in their stocks and the prospects for the market are not encouraging. Woolen goods have been rather less active. In the tweed and shovet branches a fair business has been done, and looms are fairly well employed on nearly all kinds. In the worsted field, the general line of trade a better state of things has been experienced recently. As regards prices, the tendency is firmer, in sympathy with the London sales.

BRADFORD.—The wool trade in this district has been good, the quantity sold having been large, although the sales have been mostly for actual requirements by the spinner. The prices generally have had a higher tendency, and on the month an advance of from 4d. to 6d. per lb. has been established, according to description, quality, &c. Bonnet wools have been slow of sale, the lead having been taken by English wools of longer staple. In the yarn branches, spinners have been well employed on old contracts, but new orders have not come in very freely, owing in a great measure to the fact that they have been disinclined to enter upon new work unless at advanced rates; and the manufacturer and merchant have, in consequence, only placed such orders as were absolutely necessary. The piece branches have shown no new feature, unless in respect to worsted coatings, which have had a larger demand for the United States than during the corresponding month of last year. This demand has been chiefly for high-class and medium quality softenings; still, a fair proportion has been in low descriptions. In the dress goods branches there is little note.

BARNLEY.—There has been a decided improvement in the linen trade of this district during the month, and orders have come more freely to hand. The demand for plain, fancy, and other drilits has increased to a fairly good extent; the going rate for the better qualities is 2½d. per yard, of fabric than for some time past. Table damasks show the least improvement, and makers of these find it a difficult matter securing orders with any margin of profit. Linen blinds have met with many inquiries, with the result that more looms are being put to work on these goods. Bed linens have been a shade quieter, as have drabsets and bluestones. Floor and stair coverings have had an average demand, as have backshadows and such-like fabrics. More business has been done in towelling, in bordered, fancy, twilled, and other descriptions; and domestic cloths generally have met with rather more favour. Prices for most classes of goods, although low, are fairly satisfactory, taking into account the keenness of competition. Business generally is considered very cheery, taking the various departments as a whole, and that it is still early in the year. Business is particularly good in the woollen branch, and the opinion seems to prevail that an improved trade will be done during 1893.

MANCHESTER.—Since the publication of my last report there has been much transaction in the amount of business transferred in the local linen trade. Prices have advanced, as, of course, you and Belfast know better than we do, and the result has been much running to and fro on many of the lines. Business in the indigo-dyed and blue finished goods has been exceptionally lively, and prices are higher than they have been during similar periods during the last few years. Spinners as their bleu note, should offer linen yarn quotations actually in excess of those current on this side of the North Sea. It may also be added, in this respect, that certain of the important houses in British and Irish towns have recently increased their prices 4d. per bundle in excess of Irish quotations. The linen market is, in fact, unmistakably excited—that is to say, excited in a mild way. We know, of course, that the linen market is not like the jute market, where speculation pure and simple is almost as much in vogue as it is in Liverpool in connection with cotton.

Local home trade buyers have operated very much more freely during the past few weeks, and wore it not for the depressed condition of the important Lancashire ground, travellers' returns would have shown much better results.

The change to-day a most depressed spirit seemed to prevail, even amongst agents representing what are generally considered substantial prices. The reason thereof is easy to imagine. The strikes in the coal trade are generally understood, and the result is depressing the industrial history of the county palantine since the period of the cotton famine, and the extraordinary thing is that the average Manchester man has no idea of such being the case, because his experience does not extend beyond the confines of what the outside world is in the habit of terming "Cottonopolis." I was in Oldham one day last week, and there witnessed many items included of forty for excess in intensity anything that G. R. Sims ever described in his "Life of the London Poor." I do not think that Clare Market, or Ratcliffe Highway, or Soho as it existed before Workhouse Street was last Saturday and Sunday's meals, and these were the gift of an enterprising soap firm.

The shipping trade has considerably improved during the past few weeks. On the 1st inst., Sir Henry Mitchell, speaking at a meeting of the shareholders of a firm with which he is very prominently identified, said that the McKean tariff is probably soon be levied; an increase in the share of the British ships to the United States would most likely result. It may not be of place to suggest in this connection that Sir Henry Mitchell is one of many other out-of-town free traders in this country, who are men of the wish which is father to the thought, and that on this occasion, as on many others, the "wish" might have been a little too previous. We do not suppose that many firms in the North of Ireland will agree with this submission.

With reference to the failure of a linen firm, I understand that the liabilities are about £17,000, and that the news of the collapse has not been widely disturbed in local circles, nor, for the matter of that, in Belfast or in Dundee. The failure is, in fact, a trivial consequence resulting from the more serious collapses of Messrs. Lymour and Partners, amounting to a capital of a million, have been followed by another disaster—viz., that of Hildebrand & Co., which figures to £127,000. It is considered as a peculiar circumstance that amongst the creditors there should be such a big sum in respect of liabilities to bankers, who, on the surface, appear to have been severely hit. It is understood, however, that certain liens claimed by various creditors cannot be enforced; in any case, we cannot give any correct idea of the real position affairs from a mere examination of the Official Receiver's statement of liabilities and assets. "Estimated" assets have a wonderful habit of shrinking, and the chaotic shambles after being washed. This, of course, is not the fault either of the Official Receiver or of the debtor, any more than it is the fault of the engineer whose estimate for the construction of a large undertaking is found to be below the actual cost thereafter incurred.

LONDON.—A slight improvement has been manifest in the state of the trade of the city since the beginning of the year, but the last half of January was particularly weak in almost every department. This was in a measure due to the fact that the retail houses had been forced to buy, reducing their stocks, and the clearance sales prior to their annual balance. Very many of the retail houses close their books between the 7th and 15th of February, and from this date their operations commence for spring, and should the weather continue as mild as we have had it for the last fortnight or so, spring will soon be in upon us, although it is dangerous to be prophetic in so variable a climate as ours. I have just taken a run through several of the leading warehouses to glean some idea of the outlook, and I have not met with many gloomy anticipations. The general impression is that we shall have a favourable season; everything is shipped in that direction; weather is all that is wanted, and so supplies are the dry goods men, that they tell me they shall have that too. What has largely contributed to the volume of business done during the current month is the presence of a great number of Canadian retail buyers in the London market, and their season's outlook is so good that they have been purchasing very freely. Although somewhat early, the buyers of the Canadian wholesale houses are also on the market, and already I have advanced many of these being operated in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and will probably drop over to Ulster, notwithstanding the impression that Irish linens cannot be obtained cheaper than in Manchester or London. These buyers, however, are careful buyers, such as the Canadian are, will not be satisfied with anything short of headquarters. I may remark here, in passing, that some of the leading London drapery companies have on their books as orders in the Dominion, while a few of the older ones are contemplating retirement after many years of successful enterprises.

Messrs. Rylands & Sons (Limited) have had a successful half-year, showing a surplus of £96,062 12s. 6d., which is an increase of £9,440 6s. 6d.
United States Market.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, January 31st, 1893.

The opening month of the year was rather slow in bringing in cotton to the market in those sections of the country where the cotton is grown, and the market consequently was not buoyant as it might have been. The reason for this was that the Southern cotton was not in such condition as to command a high price, and the demand was not strong enough to absorb the entire crop. The cotton that was brought to the market was of poor quality, and the prices were not attractive. The market was quiet and the prices were generally low.

The Liverpool market was in a similar condition. The demand for cotton was not strong, and the prices were not high. The Liverpool market was quiet and the prices were generally low.

The New York market was in a similar condition. The demand for cotton was not strong, and the prices were not high. The New York market was quiet and the prices were generally low.

Technical Education in Ireland.

IMPORTANT MEETING IN DUBLIN.

PUBLIC meeting, under the auspices of the Technical Education Association, was held in the Assembly Rooms, Dublin, on the 27th ult., for the purpose of furthering technical education in Ireland. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn presided. Mr. Arnold Graves (ben. secretary) read a number of letters of apology for non-attendance from eminent persons unable to attend.

Archbishop Walsh, in his address, urged the obtaining of an expression of public opinion in favour of technical education. He thought, however, that little progress could be made in technical education until a substantial sum of money had been exerted in the elementary education in Ireland in the direction of manual and industrial training.

The Chairman, in the course of his excellent address, said it was absolutely necessary to have perfection in all the arts and industries connected with this country. Therefore this Technical Association was formed. In 1892 a Bill was passed with the effect of which was, that when local authorities desire them to advance a certain sum for the purpose of technical education, the Government will give an equal sum in the shape of endowment. The same Bill applied to Ireland, but, regretted to say, it had become perfect, it had remained now a dead letter. He imagined Ireland was too poor a country to be able, of its own accord, to raise anything from the local rates for advancing technical education. In 1890 English Local Councils were able, by means of a grant of £10,000, to establish for the purpose of technical education the beer and spirit duties. Advantage was taken of this power, and, as a result, at the present day an annual sum of £47,000 was available for the purpose of technical education in England. If they had this power, and, as a result, at the present day an annual sum of £47,000 was available for the purpose of technical education in England. If they had this power, and, as a result, at the present day an annual sum of £47,000 was available for the purpose of technical education in England. If they had this power, and, as a result, at the present day an annual sum of £47,000 was available for the purpose of technical education in England. If they had this power, and, as a result, at the present day an annual sum of £47,000 was available for the purpose of technical education in England.
technical teachers all over England doing their best to improve the young people of that country in that respect. That was part of the object for which their work was extended. Efforts were being made to improve the art of butter-making in places where it was of importance to teach the science of the dairy. It was only a matter of time before the interest in the baking of bread and the cooking of the poor to economise in the cooking of food. He should here point to the great waste amongst the humbler classes in England in the matter of cooking. In Germany butter was not used, and the value of one meal was sufficient for two, and the diet was a far better one in proportion to the cost of living. It was only a matter of time before the people of this country would get the same advantages. But the whole of this was a matter of time, and the whole of this would be the more readily accomplished if measures were taken to reduce the cost of living and the cost of educating the people. That was the object with which the people of this country were engaged. They were in this country where the object was to reduce the cost of living and the cost of educating the people, and the object was to bring education within the reach of all classes.

If they asked him the reason why, he would say this: So much had been done in Scotch Universities and Colleges in Scotland, and in the Universities of Ireland, for Scotland and Ireland, for Scotland and Ireland. That was the object of a Technical Education Association, started in the year 1888, under the presidency of the Duke of Devonshire, with Mr. Arthur Acland as secretary.

But they had met here now to form a similar association, and he would meet with the same success as attended the same effort in England. They must cooperate and form a committee for the purpose of diffusing knowledge connected with this matter, of technical education, and they would see that there was no pressure on the Government in order to obtain grants. They did not wish to interfere with any existing institution in Ireland, such as the Royal Dublin Society, that had done so much good work to develop the science and art of this country; but they only wanted to make a start on behalf of the youth who were quite as capable to receive instructions from technical education as the youth of any other country, and with equally beneficial results. It had always struck him that an Irishman, whether young or old, had a more tender touch in his fingers with the matter of the matter than a Scotchman. When these fingers were applied to certain work in youth they would develop in later life to be of great benefit to the Scotchman as well as to the Irishman.

The subjects which would arise in the schools were:

- Primary schools—handicraft, drawing, agriculture, cookery, dressmaking, and laundry;
- Intermediate schools—drawing, instrument construction, and electricity;
- Commercial schools—modern languages, bookkeeping, shorthand, commercial geography, and business studies;
- Industrial schools—textile, metal, and leather, as applied to particular industries;
- Evening schools for women, for domestic science, where science and art as applied to particular industries would be taught; technical instruction for women, with a view to training in the dissecting-room, practical chemistry, and cotton industries, instruction in rural districts—dairying, agriculture, fishery, net-making, hedges carpentry, higher technical training for employers and managers of works, medical and engineering, applied chemistry, veterinary college, and the science of manufacturing thus attached to existing colleges or colleges, and training science and art technical teachers.

Charitable societies and others in Ireland were already doing much in this direction. They had come to the conclusion that the object was to bring under their notice, the result might be to improve the whole system of trade and commercial enterprise in this country. Then those who were in that room that night would reflect back in twenty years and see what some of those who attended that meeting which has had now such successful and beneficial results to Ireland.

The Lord Archbishop of Dublin moved the following resolution—"That this meeting of opinion that better provision should be made by Parliament for technical education in Ireland, be referred to a enquiries, that a copy of this resolution be referred to the Government." He said when he was asked to take part in their meeting he gladly accepted the invitation, not merely because the request from his friend the Chairman was a very commending motive in itself, and not only because he had always taken a very deep interest in the cause of technical education himself, but also because, loving his country, as he hoped he did, he felt that he was bound to come and give his sympathy, even if it were merely by his presence, in an effort which had for its object the welfare of their dear native land. And another additional circumspection, the knowledge that being interested in the cause of technical education, he was, in a measure, acting on behalf of an effort in respect to which all classes and all creeds in the country had been able to agree. He could only wish that such a happy consummation more frequently presented itself. He was unable to prove to the world by the words of the meeting that the Irish Association was the voice of the people, that the Irish Association was the voice of the people. The Irish Association was in a position to say, "We have no purpose to entertain in that Association, we could guard their existing industries against increasing competition, and he (Mr. Mung avrae) was sure they would welcome the help of that Association. Turning now to the difficult but most important question of provincial and rural schools, would they permit him to say that he believed that Association might become a powerful instrument in adding to their resources, in that Association, no matter what its motto of whose people is "We may be poor, but we shall not be ignorant," has absolutely no resources but her roots, her agricultural and pastoral lands, and Yet there were not, and the people were not, the farmers of Switzerland, in proportion to her population, exceeds that of any Continental country. That would be considered to be a new era in the development of the Irish country. It came from her improved breeds of cattle; her butter and cheese of superior manufacture; from her extensive manufacture of silk stuffs, cottons, linens, hosiery, lace, embroidery, paper, leather, watchmaking, jewellery, chemicals, and artificial dyes, and all the products of the industry of her people, trained by the most perfect technical training in Europe. He had been anything in this list of productions that Ireland could not equal if her people were equally well educated. Ireland has had for ages what Switzerland has not, a poor but not a less beautiful one, on account of the existence of her cities, and the existence of her cities, which technical training would soon enable them to realise. The soil of Ireland is peculiarly adapted for the growth of flax, but because it is said to exhaust the soil, and is difficult for men to prepare for market, it is little grown, while a very large sum is every year sent out of Ireland to purchase foreign flax. Technical education will help the people how, at least, by the expenditure of more in the chemical qualities it had lost, and teach them the proper method of preparing the flax fibre so as to realise the highest price at market. Irish soil is also well capable of producing beetroot, which is largely imported into the United Kingdom every year. This only required accurate technical knowledge to become one of the resources of Ireland, thus bringing to both these industries a measure of the revenue for Ireland. In the Highland districts of the country he knew from experience that technical knowledge would enable the present cattle to be largely increased by the application of modern processes. The woolly flocks, embroidery, knitting, and lace, which hitherto had brought comparative wealth to rural homes, were now being taken from them by the competition of superior work from Switzerland. But if technical training could enable their people to recover these trades, and would probably result in local factories being established where workers were plenty and water-power available. His great teachers and teachers, and who might exist, were not less important than the technical work provided in the rural districts of Ireland was a most difficult problem, but he believed it could be solved. The Congested Districts Board had already made a
valuable beginning with a portion of the work, and if that Association could succeed in securing for the whole of Ireland the great advantages of technical education, he was certain they would receive the thanks of every lover of our country. (Applause.)

Mr. Richard Bagwell, D.L., supported the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Arthur Graves moved—"That it is desirable to found an association of technical education in Ireland." He (Mr. Graves) had been spending the summer months in a town that was engaged in what he might call educational stamp. He had visited Galway, and addressed the Town Commissioners and the Board of Guardians; Cork, where he had addressed the Corporation, and had been at Mungret College; and he had also spoken in Newry and to Belfast. He had come back with several important impressions, and one was that there was a very general belief all over Ireland in the advantages of technical education. They did not see it so much in Dublin, because Dublin was perhaps the intellectual headquarters of Ireland, and not so much the industrial headquarters. They would find in the towns in the country a very general belief in the advantages of technical education. But at the same time there was a good deal of ignorance. The people read and saw that the trades of other countries had been benefited by technical education, and therefore they believed that their interests could be benefited by the same thing; but as to what technical education was, they had not such definite ideas. In the South of Ireland there was a very strong disinclination to levy any additional rates. There were a few places where it might be so said, but, generally speaking, the North of Ireland, they carried on a very largely industrial system, and therefore it was almost as possible as it would be very difficult to make the Northerners provide a fund out of the rates for this purpose. In the South of Ireland he found that the taxes were so high already that it would be an act of folly on the part of the local authorities to spend any more money; some of them were almost beggared. In the West there was the congested districts, the very fact that a grant was given was giving £40,000 a year to develop these localities was proof that the Government themselves admitted that the country was not rich enough to develop itself. In the congested districts there would be no money forthcoming. In this matter they were making no extravagant demand, but asked only to be on an equality with England. When they got adequate education in that way, they might see that there was an opening to seeing that their agricultural interest would be saved from the ruin that was threatening it, and they would be able to ward that ruin, and to reviving many of their lagging industries. (Applause.)

The Hon. Horace Plunkett, M.P., seconded the motion.

Rev. Dr. Stoermer thought so many of the different views could meet on a common platform and show united action in the interests of their common country. During the middle ages there was a very good system of technical education throughout Europe, whatever they might think of the past, there was no doubt about the future, and they were certain to be left behind if they alone of all countries of Europe were left without a system of technical education. (Applause.)

Alderman Maguire supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Lord Melbourne proposed that a committee be formed to carry the foregoing resolution into effect. This was seconded by Professor Fitzgerald, and adopted.

The second chair having been taken by the Earl of Ferrall, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman.

Condensed from "Northern Whig" report.

THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL.

February 16th, 1893.

Brunner, Mond & Co.—This most successful Company has just announced the magnificent dividend of 50 per cent. per annum, and carrying forward £17,000.00.

Chemicals and Dyes.

[Special Report by Messrs. Bacon & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.]

The chemical trade continues dull and disappointing, notwithstanding the long stoppages during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Stocks are extremely large, and buyers generally expect lowering prices. Suspicious Soda, Soda Ash, and all Soda products are weaker and in buyers' favour. The prices of barytes have fallen in London, and buyers are ready obtaining the small advance at which it is quoted. There is a distinct improvement in Ammonia products all round. Sulphate having advanced 5½ to 7½ per ton, and is still rising. Nitrate of Soda is strong, due, doubtless, to the shorter shipments and less quantities exported. The new year has brought a distinct improvement in Hydrates, which are being sold more freely than at the convention values. Dextrin Acid enjoys a good market at 5s. less 2½. Tartaric Acid, Citric Acid, and Cream of Tartar are moderately firm, and the same remark applies to Alum. Dyers' Chemicals and Sulphate of Copper are dull, with varying prices. Aniline Oil is out of parity with Benzole, but there is a fair business being done, makers refusing to book forward orders at 9s.6d. per cwt. Alizarin and other Tar Colours are brisk, but prices continue absolutely uncomparative. Tar products are in capital request, especially Carbolic Acid, which is daily increasing in value, stocks in buyers' hands being low, and in makers' hands only. The immediate future is to be looked at with hopeful expectation.

Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.


Dr. O. G. Greenwood and J. Marshalls, Glasgow, No. 23,677. "Shuttle web pin holders." December 27th, 1892.

Dr. O. G. Greenwood, Manchester, No. 23,566. "Improvements in spindles and flyers used in preparing, spinning, doubling, and twisting cotton, wool, flax, silk, and other fibre substances." December 29th, 1892.

T. Wilson, Belfast, No. 24,007. "Improvements in the construction of bobbins and tubes used for the spinning and doubling of flax, cotton, and other fibres." December 30th, 1892.


H. E. Spence, Manchester, No. 407. "Improvements in or connected with machines for winding yarn on to pins, bobbins, or quills." January 16th, 1893.

G. J. Ruxley and A. Mewes, Manchester, No. 598. "Improvements in thread guides for spooling or winding machines." January 18th, 1893.

A. G. Prooker, London, No. 653. "Improvements in the doubling, twisting, or winding of hemp and other vegetable fibres, and of yarns or apparatus employed therein." (J. F. Bruingsgum, Italy.) January 21st, 1893.


SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED.

The specifications of the following patents have been printed and published during the month, and copies thereof may now be obtained at the uniform price of 6d., which includes postage.

W. Bottomley, Glasgow, No. 20,625. "Improvements in apparatus and processes for treating flax fibres for the purpose of obtaining fibres therefrom, applicable also for treating flax fibres and fabrics." November 27th, 1901.

J. E. Ors, Cowdall, No. 1,970. "Improvements in spinning and twisting machinery." February 2nd, 1892.

R. Broadeney, Stalybridge, No. 2,317. "Improvements in or applicable to machines for winding yarn or thread." February 5th, 1892.

J. N. and D. Smale, Huddersfield, No. 1,877. "Improvements in certain improvements in the course of cop winding machinery." February 8th, 1892.


J. Hasbem and F. Naff, Switzerland, No. 2,034. "Machines for knotting flax threads." December 16th, 1892.


GERMAN APPLICATIONS.

Wolfgang Umhacker, Goe, Recin, No. 6,257. "Improved shuttle roller." September 12th, 1892.

Maschalnaback Betz, vermas, Cowes Hassegar in Rieti, Schweiz, No. 5,359. "Improved shuttle-changing mechanism for automatic looms." December 14th, 1892.

Prof. Dr. R. Busch, Stuttgart, No. 13,934. "Improved process suitable for making dry and wetting cord and various materials such as flax, hemp, grass, &c." November 19th, 1892.

Georgische Tief Telefs, Paris, No. 5,556. "Feeding apparatus for the feeding and driving of combing machines." November 26th, 1892.