The limit of two miles to be further reduced in the case of a child under seven years.

2.—Except for planting potatoes, hay-making, or harvesting, no one shall employ a child under fourteen years of age who has not obtained a fourth class certificate. Penalty 40/-.

3.—A School Attendance Committee to consist of six, eight, or ten persons, as the local authority—one half to be appointed locally, and the other half by the Commissioners.

4.—The Committee to see that the children attend school, and to warn parents, who may be brought before a court of summary jurisdiction, and fined not over five shillings, for neglecting the provisions of the Act.

These are the main features of the Act. Under section 18 a parliamentary grant of £210,000 a-year is contemplated to provide free education where the average school fees in 1891 did not exceed six shillings a-year for each child; and where the fees exceed six shillings, the fees to be charged in future shall be reduced by the school grant.

Electricity.

The application of electrical power is making steady progress, and in the near future there seems every prospect that as an illuminant the electric light will successfully compete with gas, at the rate which the latter costs in Belfast, viz., 2/9 per 1,000 feet. It is stated that at Bradford the average cost of supplying the current is 9/7 per annum for public lamps, and at Newcastle as low as 6/3. In a short time Belfast will have a limited area supplied with the electric light, but our authorities do not anticipate that it will be at all as cheap as gas of equal candle power. The results of the experiment will be watched with great interest. A patent has been recently granted for an electric loom, which, if it is perfected, will be a great improvement on the steam loom, and will be capable of weaving from the coarsest to the finest fabrics, running with comparatively little noise, and at a speed of from 250 to 300 picks per minute.

Defective Sewing.

All who knew the late Mr. Ben. Lindsey, of Dublin, are aware of what a pertinacious stickler he was as to the necessity of inculcating the use of the needle as the first step towards the proper education of girls. In this direction it is interesting to note what Miss Prendergast, the Directress of Needlework under the Board of National Education, has to say on the subject of defective sewing, in her last report. "I should be glad to think," she writes, "that the industrial education of mistresses was advancing as steadily as that of ordinary school pupils, but I fear that this is by no means the case. I have not yet had time to complete the examination of the needlework specimens; but, so far, I have noted few districts as surpassing their record of merit for previous years, and, unfortunately, have some reason to chronicle in a good number a decided deterioration. This retrogression is chiefly noticeable in sewing; in cutting out, on the contrary, some improvement is visible." No one will quarrel with Miss Prendergast’s description of this condition of things as being “defective.” Girls who can cut out garments, but cannot put them together properly, are certainly in a state of deficiency; and if, as Miss Prendergast thinks, the mistresses of the schools throughout the country are more backward in making any advance than the pupils, we are afraid that no general or rapid change for the better can be expected.

Inspector of Factories’ Report.

In the report for last year, which has just been issued, Mr. Woodgate, Inspector for the Southern District, states that, notwithstanding the general depression in trade, the industries throughout his district have not suffered in any material way. This district comprises all Ireland, except the County Derry, and parts of Antrim, Down, and Down. He mentions that there has been a considerable falling off in the number of accidents in the various factories, as machinery is now so much better protected. Referring to that portion of the North of Ireland comprised in his district, he mentions a rather curious circumstance which throws light on the difference in the habits and tastes of the people of the South of Ireland as compared with those of the North. "In the north part of this district (he says) I find a great scarcity of workers exists. It would seem as if the large amount of emigration from Ireland each year is making itself felt in the diminished number of able workers. In the South and South-West of Ireland, the industries are comparatively small and isolated, as compared with those in Ulster. I find that the exception to see any families who have migrated from the South or West to the North. One of the directors of a large textile factory in the North informs me he recently brought up at his own expense a number of families from the South; but after the trouble, and

The Irish Textile Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

The Belfast Linen Trade Circular.

[Registered.]

ESTABLISHED 1869. NEW SERIES, 1880.


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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, 11s. Subscriptions payable in advance. Free sample copy sent to any address. Advertisers will find the Journal an excellent medium for announcements suitable to their trades may be inserted on application.

All remittances to be made payable to the Proprietor, T. N. MARSH, 7 Donegall Square East, Belfast.

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

The Home and Foreign Linen Trade Directory. Price, Linen cloth, 2s. 6d.; bound, 5s.

A Source of the Irish Linen Trade, being a series of 12 Views, illustrating the Cultivation of Flax, the steeping, drying, stretching (by hand and power), and preparation of it for market, The Spinning of Flax by hand on the old spinning-wheel, the reeling, winding, and warping of the Yarn, Weaving of Linen by hand, the blotting and finishing of the Cloth, and the subsequent contraction, pressing, and squeezing of the goods in the Warehouse, together with a view of the old Irish Linen Hall or Market in Dublin for the sale of the Linens. From original engravings in the possession of Messrs. J. N. Richardson, Sons & Gwens, Ltd., Belfast. Dated 1878.

Carefully printed Bronzine Photographs (4 x 6), on India-tinted card mounts 10 x 14, £1 5s. per set, or unmounted, £1 for the set of 12. Published at the office of this Journal.

Primary Education in Ireland.

In the last session of Parliament an Act was passed "to improve National Education in Ireland." Under its provisions education will, in the main, be free and compulsory, and will be operative from the 1st January next. In the meantime the Commissioners of Education have power to make preliminary arrangements in regard to forming local committees, which will co-operate with the central body in Dublin in administering the Act.

The first section states:

In every place to which this section applies, the parent of every child not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age shall cause the child to attend school during such number of days in the year, and for such time on each day of attendance, as are prescribed in the first Schedule to this Act (150 times in the year) unless there is a reasonable excuse for non-attendance. A child over eleven years of age, holding a fourth class certificate, will be exempt from compulsory attendance. The reasonable excuse for non-attendance are:—That the school is more than two miles distant; or that the parent objects on religious grounds to a particular school; or in the event of sickness, domestic necessity; or being engaged in the field, at fisheries, or other work requiring to be done at a particular time; or other unavoidable or reasonable cause.
expense of teaching them the work, and although in the receipt of good wages, I am informed in a letter I have from the director only one family has remained, and this one largely lives on charity. I can only account for this, owing to the people outside of Ulster, with few exceptions, being raw recruits, unused to the regularity, punctuality, and discipline required in factories, without which industries could not exist."

Decline of Flax Cultivation in Ireland.

Speaking in reference to the falling off of flax cultivation in Ireland, Mr. Woodgate says:—"There is little doubt if the flax crop once successfully started in the South and West of Ireland, and grown in sufficient quantities to justify the establishment of flax markets in the cotton towns in the South, it would form a valuable industry as it has proved to the province of Ulster. It would seem to be beyond dispute that the climate and soil of Ireland are peculiarly adapted for the growth of this crop." In reference to this paragraph in the report, we have only to say that many have been the attempts, during the past fifty years, to promote the cultivation of flax in the South, but they have always been of a spasmodic character, and have never been followed up in a regular and persevering manner to ensure success, so as to make the industry of permanent benefit to the country. In a letter which we have just turned up from an "old flax grower," dated Traltee, 20th August, 1846, we find it stated that "Muller, as regards soil, is particularly suited to the growth of flax, as the common and blighted limes are not found in quantity there," and referring to the right man, the Right Hon. The Knight of Kerry, Valentina, Wm. Talbot Crosse, Ardfert Abbey; and a gentleman from Fermor, gained the three prizes." In an official report for 1847, we find that some 5,800 acres of flax were grown in the South and West that year, whereas the total for Leinster, Munster, and Connaught last year was only 325 acres. The old Royal Society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax in Ireland had a great deal of good at this time in fostering the industry in the South—so much so, that in 1850 they were able to report that "out of the twenty-three counties in Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, flax operations had been extended to twenty-one, and that in some of these—Cork, Mayo, Limerick, Tipperary, Queen's County, Wexford, and Louth—flax culture may be said to have firmly taken root." What a change since that period.

The industry is now almost extinct, and we would need to begin again on the old lines of the Royal Society, and push the matter year after year with unfailing energy. The only society capable of doing the work effectively is, as we said before, the Royal Dublin Society, and if sufficient pressure were brought to bear upon its council to take the matter up—for it is as much an agricultural as a manufacturing question—a new era of prosperity in regard to flax culture in Ireland might soon be brought about.

"When business is brisk, push all the harder."

We admit, with pleasure, that business is brisk and fairly satisfactory. The flowing tide, to use a well-worn phrase, is with the linen industry, and activity is the order of the day. In the affairs of trade, as of men, the tide, when taken at the flood, leads on to fortune, and this is the light in which the present opportunity should be regarded and utilised to the utmost. It is beyond doubt that there are fresh openings to be found for linen goods to suit modern requirements, as well as possibilities for further development in branches already established. Light wraps for carriages and summer curtains of artistic merit can best be furnished by linen manufacturers, and in many ways flax has a fair field, not yet fully cultivated, in home decoration. Linen sheeting also are not pressed on public attention as they deserve. Fashion, too, is just now on the side of linens. A philosophic professor once maintained that a feminine garment identical in purpose with the masculine shirt was in existence; but a matter-of-fact opponent said that it was only necessary to visit a modern ball-room to find out that the professor was wholly mistaken. To some extent a change has taken place. However morbid or obscure dress parties desires dressing-shirt-fronts and cuffs and collars and ties in close imitation of that of men. They still fall short of that degree of finery which led Sir Roger de Coverley to address some person who spoke to him as "Sir," until he happened to cast his eyes down upon the qualifying peticoats and corrected himself by saying "Madam," but so far women's rights are reposed in fronts and collars, she has secured them, to the manifest advantage of trade. There is to be this year also, as those who are well informed agree, an outburst of emphatic colour. Subdued shades are no longer in vogue, the garish and the garish have become the popular styles.
profitable use of the knowledge if he chooses to do so. Rather than a
graduated income tax, of which—although it appears to have been
successfully and remuneratively established in Germany—there seems
but little hope over here, and before even a preferential rate for industrial
or professional incomes, would traders desire to see the income tax officially dealt with from one end of it to the other.

Flax Cultivation in Ireland.

In another column will be found an abstract of the
annual report of the Flax Supply Association submitted
last month. It is a material for congratulation, whilst so
many trades and industries have been suffering from
depression, that the Irish linen trade not only holds its
own, but has been making a steady progress for some
time past; the statistics for last year showing great
improvements over the results. Of the exports of the textile trade of
the United Kingdom, for the four months of this year, bear out a similar
healthy condition, so far as concerns the staple trade of Ulster.
The apprehension of a falling off in the shipping branch, in consequence of
the increased tariff in the United States, has happily not been
realised; but, on the contrary, trade with that important country shows
continuous growth, whilst the various efforts made from time to time
to establish a rival industry, under the heavy protective duties, have
sighs almost failed; the climatic and labour conditions being so essentially
different, it is scarcely possible that any linen manufacture worth
mentioning can ever be successfully established there. As regards the
raw material for our mills, it is a matter of great regret that year after
year the acreage in Ireland has been a diminishing quantity, and not
only that, but the yield for the past two years has been so much
below an average. No doubt the weather is an important factor, for
no crop is so dependent as flax on favourable atmospheric conditions;
and the last two seasons were very disappointing. With a fair
average season, good seed, suitable soil, and careful treatment, no crop
pays so well as flax; but failure in some one of these conditions results
more or less in disappointment: one thing seems clear, and that is,
that as flax-growers we are retrograding, and the question should be
earnestly considered, not only by manufacturers but by farmers, that
the causes of this continuous decline in flax cultivation may be
traced, and the industry placed on a much better footing than it is
at present. The average yield per acre for the past 20 years to 1891
was 27½ stones, but last year the average was only 22½. In 1890 it
was upwards of 33 stones. Taken by provinces, last year Ulster
shows an average of 22½, but much better results were obtained
elsewhere; Munster showed an average of 34½, whilst Leinster and
Connacht went as high as 40½-67 stones to the statute acre. These
latter figures show what splendid results may be looked for, even in an
unfavourable season, if the growth of flax were stimulated in the South
and West of Ireland. A mine of wealth is still unworked in our own
country, if only the means were taken to encourage the industry. Statistics show that in Austria, 283
Holland 30, Belgium 314, Germany 37, and France 43 stones to the
acre; but in point of value the Belgian flax ranks first, Dutch
next, and French and German next on an average of years.
The great care exercised by the Belgian and Dutch farmers in the
selection of the seed, as well as in every stage of the cultivation,
followed up by the greatest care in the subsequent processes of retting
and preparation for market, all contribute to the production of that
high-class fibre which is so much sought after by our spinners of fine
yarns. The misfortune in this country is, notwithstanding all
that has been done to educate the Ulster farmer, he has made
but little progress for many years, and adheres to old-fashioned and
thriftless habits as much as ever. Turning to the report of the
Flax Supply Association for 1883, the late Sir Wm. Ewart made a
suggestion that, in view of the alarming falling off of the flax-growing
industry in Ireland, a conference of farmers, manufacturers, flax

scutchers, and flax merchants should be held to consider the situation.
Accordingly, on the 13th February, 1885, a meeting of this kind did
take place, at which a great deal of valuable information was elicited
Sir Wm. Ewart submitting a number of practical suggestions, while
several speakers dealt with different branches of the subject. One
practical flax-grower, Mr. Joseph Beatty, of Waringstown, detailed the
results of his careful management of the crop, and gave the market
prices he obtained each year from 1851 to 1870, which were as
follows:—16/-, 13/-, 18/-, 14/-, 16/-, 12/6, 14/-, 11/-, 12/-,
12/3, 12/6, 13/-, 11/-, 13/-, 15/-, 12/3, 13/-, 9/-, 6/-, and 10/- per stone.
It would be a most useful thing if a conference of the kind were
held every year, with a view of following up any experiments made
in market prices; as well as for mutual counsel between farmers and
manufacturers. The late Mr. Wm. Charley, of Seymour Hill, was a zealous advocate of flax-growing, and was highly successful himself, having
the technical skill and experience which contributed to his success.
His example and advice were of great value, and his loss was a serious one
to this Association, as well as to the North-East Agricultural Society.
Mr. Wm. McAslan, at the meeting last month, urged the example
of Mr. Charley and those like him, who have been successful flax
growers; and as an illustration of what he (Mr. McAslan) had
done in the same way, he produced a sample of flax grown in his
neighbourhood the year before last, and which he stated had been
once reseed, first in 1881, and again in 1882, the second time along
with new flax, both being the offspring of the same patch of
the ground. For this flax he had received £10 10s. a ton, but he considered its present
marketable value to be £12. He urged that a little practical work done
by members of the Association themselves would do much good, and
more effectually influence the farmers. With examples such as these
there is surely great encouragement in pursuing the subject; and
though there may be nothing new to be said, it is only by example
and reiterated argument we can hope to bring about a better condition
of things, and benefit not only trade but agriculture.

May 16th, 1893.

A Mayo Industry.

EFFECTIVE has more than once been made in these
columns to the Foxford Woollen Factory. Started
by the energy, perseverance, and pluck of Mr.
Morogh Bernard, Lady Superintendress of the Convent,
it has owed its success to the same causes. Mrs.
Bernard, never losing heart, was able to call another
her from far and near a band of willing helpers. Those
who could not give advice or personal assistance gave what was equally, or even more needfully, wanted—money.
Lord Zetland, Lord Londonderry before him, Mr. Dalfour, the Baron
Burdett-Coutts, all were interested, and by their aid the Foxford
Woollen Mills have become an accomplished fact, and honest remunerative
work has been afforded to the people of one of our poorest and most
congested districts. This being so, it is with the deepest concern
that we learn the whole industry is in danger; and from all accounts
in very serious danger. In fact, its very existence is threatened.
To point out how this is occurring, we shall not go further than a letter
which appeared in the papers from Mr. J. C. Smith, of the Castle
Woollen Mills, Co. Tyrone. Mr. Smith, it should be said, is among the
first and foremost friends of the Foxford venture. He has been
consulted and has advised, and, as a practical and successful woollen
manufacturer, his advice, it may be imagined, was not without
value. He writes as follows:—"There is room for 10,000 salmon to pass
without ever coming near the boulder- weir which has been constructed
in order to supply Mrs. Bernard's factory with water-power. We
would imagine, says Mr. Smith, that the course of the river had been
seriously changed, and that there was some just cause of complaint on
the owner's part that his vested interests in the fishing had been
affected. Had such been the case, no business man could make any
protest against his claims and his actions. What, however, are the
facts? It is a question to which Mr. Smith replies—"There is room for
10,000 salmon to pass without ever coming near the boulder- weir.
How, he continues, do fish pass up and down a weir where only less
or Parliamentary fish gates or steps are provided with only water
enough to cover them? While at Foxford there is a "deep gap
even several yards wide, and many feet in depth, with hundreds of thousand
cubic feet of water passing per minute." It would seem as though
the fish-damage argument will hardly prove sufficient to condemn

factory weir. Other arguments are to the fore, but we must pass them over rapidly. They consist of an objection to the present weir because it is said to be likely in wet weather to swamp certain alluvial lands by raising the water-level; and, on the other hand, an alternative plan of cutting a channel through the rock above the weir is objected to as likely to reduce the water-level, and turn the same alluvial lands into deserts. The present article is not the place to enter into any argument on points such as these. They can be easily settled either by a judicial tribunal or by arbitration. We need only mention that, as a matter of fact, the Lady Superores has offered to demolish the present weir, and in its place to use a rock-cut channel, giving guarantees against any damage to the lands which may be caused. Two schemes are submitted at the exhibit, and the solution of the difficulty depends on the existence of any one of the most successful attempts to revive and establish industries in rural Ireland. The Foxford Factory has cost over £13,000 to erect and equip; it gives employment to many hundred persons; and it has already changed the whole economic aspect of the district. As Mr. Smith says:—“At my first visit to Foxford, I saw a large gang of men employed within twenty yards of the present mill. On asking the Lady Superior what they were doing, I was informed—‘These poor men are a lot of those whom the kind charity of Mr. Balfour has employed in road-repairing.’ Close by, Mrs. Bernard had some half-dozen men and boys employed in clearing the ground for a mansion and a lane, which had been neglected for years. At my last visit to Foxford about the 17th of March last, there were 200 or more, all told, on the premises, learning in various ways to begin life and become self-supporting.” Here was a transformation scene. From poverty and charity to industry and honestly-earned livelihood. From dependence to independence. And is it not said, this scene, so creditable to all concerned, to be blotted out of the face of poor Ireland? Are the people of Foxford to be driven back to road-mending and out-door relief? Must the busy hum of machinery, the click-clack of the shuttle, and the whirr of the turbine wheel, which sets all in motion, cease? Must the factory become a ruin, and the looms rot in the empty buildings? Must the £13,000 rank and file invested—neither advantageously nor as regards a more commercial return in interest calculated by £ a. d., but invested to the full and wide advantage of a starving people supplied with food, and idle, perhaps mischievous hands to be longer supplied with honest work—be lost? It surely is not asking those concerned in this threatened calamity too much to ask them to reconsider their position. Against every claim of damage caused by the working of the factory, an answer, seemingly complete, has been filed. If damage is caused, or has been caused, the amount can easily be ascertained, and some means can surely be found by which the mill-wheel may still go round, and no one be a penny worse, while hundreds of needy ones be pounds the better.

The Movement of the Loom.

In making linen or mixed goods, the motion of the loom has a great influence in making good cloth or the reverse. Let us consider how this may be. The faster the swords and lay are moving when the reed is moving to the cloth, then the force of the stroke given by the protectors when the loom bangs off will be proportionally greater. The real amount of eccentricity of the lay is always in direct ratio to the connecting rods (which couple the crank and lay together), and the diameter of the circle described by the crank. Suppose the length of the lay to be six inches, then the centre of the crank should be three inches below the centre of the connecting pin in the sword of the lay. It will be obvious that the shorter this connecting rod, the greater the sweep of the crank with more eccentricity. But there is a limit beyond which the motion of the lay will become angular; and this tendency to angular motion of the lay will increase as the span of the rocking shaft of the lay is properly centred, the reed will drive in the weft at right angles with a firm blow, and with less vibration throughout the stroke.
The Stroke of the Lay.

The leverage given by the point of connection of the crank arm with the cloth or otherwise has an effect on the stroke of the lay. To get this stroke of the lay correctly, the rocking shaft and swords must be in a perpendicular position; then from the centre of the rocking shaft (a shaft connecting the lay swords) to the centre of connecting pin is one foot; from the centre of the rocking shaft to point of contact with the cloth is another factor; and diameter of the circle described by the sweep of the crank is the third factor; and from these the rule is obtained. As the distance from the centre of rocking shaft to centre of connecting-pin is to the distance from centre of rocking shaft to point of contact with cloth, so is the diameter of crank circle to the stroke of the lay. The best length of stroke for a lay in a medium width of reed space may be taken at three times the width of the shuttle; the medium width we may take as six quarters, if broader, a little more, and narrower, a trifle less; the length of the lay swords causes the lay to vary in depth the closer the lay swords are placed to the lay in the reed. When the rocking shaft is placed in the centre of motion—and it is the common practice—the forward and backward motion of the lay will, and does, cause too much vibration in the lay swords, and this is transmitted from the lay and crank back to the shaft, causing more lubrication than is at all necessary.

The Protector

requires just sufficient spring to keep it in position, so that the shuttle can be taken out of the box without being bound up. The shuttle ought to enter the box with ease, and not, as is usually the case, with a bang. This spring, however, is not merely to aid in putting the shuttle and crank back, but further, the shuttle has a tendency to fly out, particularly if it is in any way worn on the back. The binders should have more care bestowed upon them than is usually the case; in my practice I always considered this point as one of importance—keeping them clean and well oiled, where the shuttle comes in contact with the binder. There is a rule that has been demonstrated—no doubt useful information; but there is the life, the concentration of the forces working in harmony for one single object, that is, the whole united to drive the pick into the cloth—this is information that can only be gained by constant practice and study combined. Moreover, the pick is a good pick if it is good in the sense of being equal and everything being in order, and also of working loose of bolts, springs, or screws, and if these will continue to work they ought not to be tolerated, but good articles obtained in their place. The loom is a combination of independent and interdependent actions, and it is in these relations that each other that the successful working of the machine depends. It is constructed on fixed mechanical principles. It may be the case that looms can be made to run after a go-as-you-please style; but they are always at the mercy of speed variations. The later the pick, and less time for the stop-rod to be in position, a slackening of the speed and the slower the shuttle, so that the thrown back with the crank on the back of the shuttle, the bevel of the shuttle will be found in a well-constructed loom to suit the reed; and the back and back of the box are perpendicular to the plane. If the front of the box is thrown in a little at the head, the shuttle gains a solid, steady movement from the bottom and does not cause the reed to flutter. The pick is the foundation of the entire mechanism, when the rocking shaft is placed in the centre of motion—and it is the common practice—the forward and backward motion of the lay will, and does, cause too much vibration in the lay swords, and this is transmitted from the lay and crank back to the shaft, causing more lubrication than is at all necessary.

The Irish Woollen Trade.

Present Condition of Business.

A very marked improvement in the condition of business in the local wholesale warehouses has undoubtedly taken place since date of last issue of the Journal, to such an extent that as sales are now reported, the business is practically over. At the moment of writing, a very good business is being in progress in repeats of various kinds for present season's trade, though these are not yet sufficient to induce the warehouses to place repeats in corresponding measure with the manufacturers. In point of fact, a general opinion is that, so far as sales for the present spring and summer are concerned, the business of the Irish woollen manufacturers is practically over. It must not be forgotten, however, that repeats were placed by the warehouses from six weeks to two months ago on a scale far too large to be taken in quantity, considerably exceeding even the repeat trade of the same period of last year; so that, notwithstanding the dulness that marked the trade during the months of April and the greater part of March, the turnover of the entire season must be fairly satisfactory. The warehouses have, however, still on hand a considerable quantity of Scotch stock, which was referred to above, and there is little doubt that they will content themselves with running off stocks of summer goods, so far as may be, during the remainder of the season.

Prospect of Trade.

The trade for the coming winter, which is that with which the leading wholesale houses principally concern themselves just now, is progressing more favourably than was hoped for a few weeks since. The buyers have confirmed their orders to the manufacturers, and if these are not quite so large in point of quantity as could be desired, the range of selections has been very extensive, and the demand is not far enough to secure to the Irish manufacturers a substantial share of whatever business may be done during the season, and this is a very great deal to have secured. There will be in the hands of the woolen travellers a larger proportion than ever of Irish samples; and should the trade prove to be better than has been feared in some quarters, a larger share in England and the whole of the trade produced by the mode of doing business which has been generally adopted this year, viz., making a liberal selection of qualities and designs, and placing for these only moderate opening orders, would, in the opinion of many, be the very best that the trade could follow in all and every season, under existing circumstances. The wool market presented a good and sufficient reason for departing from it. Some of the manufacturers, however, do not, for obvious reasons, at all like the system recommended. The leading makers approve of it thoroughly; indeed, to disapprove of it would argue want of confidence in their own productions, and in the value they were offering. A few of the leading retail houses on this side, and many across the channel, have already begun to make their selections for the coming autumn and winter; to these, 6½ tweeds for suits, Saxoons of the medium and better qualities, and overcoats have been sold in considerable quantities. A good and sufficient reason for departing from it.

Changes in the Course of Trade.

Although the prospect is so far cheerful enough, there are several indications which should make against the Irish woolen trade, and are worthy of careful consideration by all Irish manufacturers. One of the chief of these is the very evident disfavour into which worsted tweeds have fallen of late.

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Present Condition of Business.

A very marked improvement in the condition of business in the local wholesale warehouses has undoubtedly taken place since date of last issue of the Journal, to such an extent that as sales are now reported, the business is practically over. At the moment of writing, a very good business is being in progress in repeats of various kinds for present season's trade, though these are not yet sufficient to induce the warehouses to place repeats in corresponding measure with the manufacturers. In point of fact, a general opinion is that, so far as sales for the present spring and summer are concerned, the business of the Irish woollen manufacturers is practically over. It must not be forgotten, however, that repeats were placed by the warehouses from six weeks to two months ago on a scale far too large to be taken in quantity, considerably exceeding even the repeat trade of the same period of last year; so that, notwithstanding the dulness that marked the trade during the months of April and the greater part of March, the turnover of the entire season must be fairly satisfactory. The warehouses have, however, still on hand a considerable quantity of Scotch stock, which was referred to above, and there is little doubt that they will content themselves with running off stocks of summer goods, so far as may be, during the remainder of the season.

Prospect of Trade.

The trade for the coming winter, which is that with which the leading wholesale houses principally concern themselves just now, is progressing more favourably than was hoped for a few weeks since. The buyers have confirmed their orders to the manufacturers, and if these are not quite so large in point of quantity as could be desired, the range of selections has been very extensive, and the demand is not far enough to secure to the Irish manufacturers a substantial share of whatever business may be done during the season, and this is a very great deal to have secured. There will be in the hands of the woolen travellers a larger proportion than ever of Irish samples; and should the trade prove to be better than has been feared in some quarters, a larger share in England and the whole of the trade produced by the mode of doing business which has been generally adopted this year, viz., making a liberal selection of qualities and designs, and placing for these only moderate opening orders, would, in the opinion of many, be the very best that the trade could follow in all and every season, under existing circumstances. The wool market presented a good and sufficient reason for departing from it. Some of the manufacturers, however, do not, for obvious reasons, at all like the system recommended. The leading makers approve of it thoroughly; indeed, to disapprove of it would argue want of confidence in their own productions, and in the value they were offering. A few of the leading retail houses on this side, and many across the channel, have already begun to make their selections for the coming autumn and winter; to these, 6½ tweeds for suits, Saxoons of the medium and better qualities, and overcoats have been sold in considerable quantities. A good and sufficient reason for departing from it.

Changes in the Course of Trade.

Although the prospect is so far cheerful enough, there are several indications which should make against the Irish woolen trade, and are worthy of careful consideration by all Irish manufacturers. One of the chief of these is the very evident disfavour into which worsted tweeds have fallen of late.
STEADY tone characterised the market up to the middle of last week, but towards the close buying became animated, in consequence of the reports from the Continent regarding the flax crop.

**FLAX.**

The market last week, which had been gradually hardening in price, became quite excited as successive reports of a more and more unfavourable character came to hand respecting the growing flax, which is most seriously threatened by blight, from the long-continuing wet light. The Irish crop, for so far, is reported to be looking remarkably well, but, up to Friday last, was in need of rain. We subjoin a few reports received from our correspondents last week:

**ANTHOROUGH.**—Flax crop in this district continues to look very promising, but would benefit by a little rain. **AUCHINLEACH.**—It is a considerable length of time since the brains in the United Kingdom have been moulded in flax.

**BALLIDEBUTCH.**—Brains looking remarkably well here, and every prospect of a good crop. **BALLYMONEY.**—Flax all around this locality looks very hopeful, but rain will soon be needed, as the ground is getting greatly dried up. **BAKERSFIELD.**—Flax looks well here, but will soon require rain. **DUNAGHAN.**—Brains looking healthy, and promise a good crop. **LEAINE.**—Flax around this district is looking remarkably well. **LIMAVADY.**—Brains present a very healthy appearance.

**MARKERVILLE.**—Crops continue to look hopeful. **MONAGHAN.**—Flax in this locality has brained splendidly; every appearance of a good crop; a little rain would do much good. **NEWTOWNS.**—Soiling not quite over on 10th. **FARRELL.**—Flax has brained well; weather has been long and strong, and a heavy appearance. **SPRINCE.**—Flax crop presents a very healthy appearance.

The following is a report from a local firm of flax seed merchants:

The season has wound up satisfactorily for the importers, practically all the seed brought forward having been cleared out at good prices. The imports of Irish grain to Cork are 1,274,610, and Derry with 1,456,992. Last year the falling off being principally in the quantity taken by Derry. Of Dutch, the imports via Belfast were equal to 11,146,894, against 11,784 in the previous season. In addition to these figures there is a small quantity of Eiga seed into Newry via Leith and Glasgow, and considerable quantities of Dutch to Dundalk, Coleraine, and Derry via England and Scotland. The reference drawn from the sales of seed is that the sowing is slightly less than last year, but it may turn out that the difference is insignificant, as the spring of '93 and the quantities of seed (difficult to estimate) were left over, but this spring scarcely any.

**YARNS.**

A steady demand was maintained for yarns up to the early part of last week, but since then much excitement took possession of the market, as alarming reports came to hand respecting the Continental flax crop, in consequence of which prices were sharply advanced. On Friday last, spinners practically withdrew their lists, and refused to enter into any fresh contracts at present. The quotations given must therefore be regarded as only nominal.

**Prices Current for ordinary Line and Tow Wefts. May 13th, 1893.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Wefts</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>45</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>65</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>75</th>
<th>80</th>
<th>85</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>95</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>110</th>
<th>120</th>
<th>130</th>
<th>140</th>
<th>150</th>
<th>160</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/-</td>
<td>8/-</td>
<td>7/-</td>
<td>6/-</td>
<td>6/-</td>
<td>5/-</td>
<td>5/-</td>
<td>5/-</td>
<td>5/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>3/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
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<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>4/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These have hitherto been made in substantial quantities by the leading Irish makers, and in 6/4 goods for suits and narrow widths for trowsers have met with a ready sale for a good many seasons past. Worsted tweeds have not only formed a far from unimportant part of the Irish production, but they have been amongst the most remunerative of the wooden goods made in Ireland, but chiefly by vicamas and cloths something like smooth-faced meltons, none of which, so far as I have seen, are moulded in the flax.

On the other hand, there are certainly some elements of strong encouragement in the future prospect. Some of the overcouings which have been offered by the Irish manufacturers this season have been purchased pretty freely, and a highly spoken of in the trade. I have been shown some soft-finished cloths, having the appearance of having been moulded in the flax.

**BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.**

For light power-loom bleaching cloth, demand, which had been limited of late, became brisk last week, green goods having most attention, higher prices being secured. Medium and heavy makes continue to move off as produced, and prices are very firm. Ballymena cloth has been stationary for the past few weeks without change in value. The same may be reported of Co. Down linens in the several grades; the output has been small and easily disposed of at firm rates.

Roughs and several makes of tow goods have been in good request, the bleaching tendency of yarns stimulating business. Union goods have continued in favour, and contract orders were easily secured at late rates. A slight improvement has appeared in the handkerchief trade, linen making being in better request, whilst cambric cloth has been largely bought of late for hemstitching, at higher rates. Damasks rather quiet at present, but fancy linens have been in good request, prices showing a hardening tendency. In fact, prices for all goods are still, and the certainty of flax not only keeping at its present high level, but the prospect of its being much dearer, is obliging manufacturers to hold for better prices.

**BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.**

**Home Trade.**—It cannot be said that this branch of trade is at all as satisfactory as it was a year ago, and, in fact, as compared with previous months, the opinion is by no means less being does all round. A check in the shipping trade with some markets contributes to the want of animation across channel, and affects London and Manchester centres.

**Continental.**—Continued quietness is the feature of this trade, the prospect of dearer goods not stimulating business. Although France and Germany, according to the returns of last month, were larger buyers, Italy and Spain were much smaller consumers. The volume of business with these countries for the four months of this year shows a falling off of over 22 per cent.

**United States.**—The largely increased shipments recorded in previous month were not maintained in April; the Board of Trade returns, in fact, show a decrease of 81 per cent. However, the total for the four months ending April 30th this year is very satisfactory, being equivalent to nearly 15 per cent. over same period last year. Advice is given of trade at the other side as quiet of late.

**Other Markets.**—The Foreign West Indian trade was not so large last month, but the season's business was considerably over last spring. The British East Indies, United States of Columbia, Brazil, and the Argentine Republic, all figure as larger buyers this season. Smaller countries have also been consuming more, but business with British North America and Australia has fallen off, the latter considerably, owing to the numerous Bank suspensions in Melbourne of late.

For the four months ending April 30th, the total quantity of linen piece goods exported from the United Kingdom shows an increase of 8½ per cent. and values 5½ per cent. over corresponding period last year.

**The Dress Tweed.**

The change of fashion making the make of ladies' costumes is seriously affecting the Irish dress tweed trade. The full bell-shaped skirts that are now so fashionable do not permit of the making up, so as to show to advantage, of goods so heavy in handle as Irish tweeds; and for ordinary walking and outdoor costumes, tweeds may be said to have gone out completely. There is still, however, a very considerable demand for ladies' suits, with straight, narrow skirts, for golf, tennis, and seaside wear, and for tourist and sporting suits, &c., and for these tweeds are almost solely bought. A large quantity of tweeds are also being sold for skirts, to be worn as tennis costumes in combination with printed French cambre.
## Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 30th April, 1893; and in the Four Months ended 30th April, 1893, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1891 and 1892.

### COUNTRIES

#### MONTH ENDED 30th APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</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>328,700</td>
<td>296,300</td>
<td>688,460</td>
<td>25,325</td>
<td>24,600</td>
<td>50,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland.</td>
<td>200,800</td>
<td>152,400</td>
<td>155,500</td>
<td>6,669</td>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>6,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium.</td>
<td>118,880</td>
<td>194,200</td>
<td>194,800</td>
<td>9,088</td>
<td>7,529</td>
<td>14,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France.</td>
<td>187,900</td>
<td>326,300</td>
<td>248,400</td>
<td>11,806</td>
<td>12,168</td>
<td>12,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain and Canaries.</td>
<td>37,800</td>
<td>27,900</td>
<td>26,700</td>
<td>1,754</td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>1,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy.</td>
<td>40,300</td>
<td>31,100</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>1,752</td>
<td>1,236</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States.</td>
<td>167,400</td>
<td>192,600</td>
<td>191,700</td>
<td>7,030</td>
<td>7,560</td>
<td>7,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total.</td>
<td>1,226,400</td>
<td>1,230,600</td>
<td>1,616,500</td>
<td>76,415</td>
<td>72,474</td>
<td>103,290</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linen Manufactures.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Germany.</td>
<td>541,300</td>
<td>355,800</td>
<td>563,800</td>
<td>17,199</td>
<td>16,556</td>
<td>17,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France.</td>
<td>173,300</td>
<td>125,900</td>
<td>122,100</td>
<td>7,473</td>
<td>5,165</td>
<td>5,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain and Canaries.</td>
<td>113,200</td>
<td>119,000</td>
<td>57,200</td>
<td>4,807</td>
<td>4,861</td>
<td>2,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States.</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>51,100</td>
<td>50,100</td>
<td>5,186</td>
<td>4,583</td>
<td>2,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign West Indies</td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
<td>1,276,200</td>
<td>1,601,800</td>
<td>26,930</td>
<td>23,144</td>
<td>31,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico.</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>127,100</td>
<td>124,500</td>
<td>4,393</td>
<td>9,044</td>
<td>9,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of</td>
<td>145,500</td>
<td>307,800</td>
<td>350,300</td>
<td>2,826</td>
<td>5,099</td>
<td>5,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia.</td>
<td>289,160</td>
<td>177,900</td>
<td>272,600</td>
<td>9,069</td>
<td>4,907</td>
<td>7,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil.</td>
<td>39,800</td>
<td>45,200</td>
<td>59,200</td>
<td>2,441</td>
<td>2,239</td>
<td>1,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentine Republic</td>
<td>36,400</td>
<td>61,100</td>
<td>63,200</td>
<td>3,744</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillipine Islands</td>
<td>426,300</td>
<td>462,900</td>
<td>402,800</td>
<td>4,967</td>
<td>10,415</td>
<td>7,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British North America.</td>
<td>158,300</td>
<td>136,000</td>
<td>138,000</td>
<td>3,961</td>
<td>2,537</td>
<td>2,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British West Indies</td>
<td>240,800</td>
<td>196,000</td>
<td>381,200</td>
<td>7,370</td>
<td>6,272</td>
<td>9,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands &amp; Guiana.</td>
<td>763,800</td>
<td>481,000</td>
<td>391,700</td>
<td>21,015</td>
<td>13,386</td>
<td>11,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries.</td>
<td>1,548,300</td>
<td>1,440,400</td>
<td>1,490,200</td>
<td>35,580</td>
<td>33,037</td>
<td>34,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Plain, Un-</td>
<td>9,301,300</td>
<td>12,142,400</td>
<td>11,407,500</td>
<td>218,814</td>
<td>269,714</td>
<td>291,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bleached, or Bleached</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50,314,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Checked,</td>
<td>840,100</td>
<td>791,900</td>
<td>1,100,300</td>
<td>20,857</td>
<td>17,329</td>
<td>22,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed, or Dyed,</td>
<td>50,300</td>
<td>50,300</td>
<td>50,300</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Damasks or</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers.</td>
<td>200,300</td>
<td>200,300</td>
<td>200,300</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
<td>23,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Piece Goods.</td>
<td>10,474,700</td>
<td>13,194,200</td>
<td>12,741,300</td>
<td>254,457</td>
<td>299,322</td>
<td>295,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thread for Sewing.</td>
<td>218,300</td>
<td>200,300</td>
<td>196,380</td>
<td>27,101</td>
<td>25,454</td>
<td>26,136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Articles.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>69,196</td>
<td>61,762</td>
<td>61,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Linen Manufactures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>350,094</td>
<td>386,533</td>
<td>383,823</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

#### COUNTRIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Russia.</td>
<td>5,177</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>3,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany.</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland.</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium.</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td>1,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries.</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,010</td>
<td>10,528</td>
<td>5,822</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Export Declared Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Germany.</td>
<td>1,116,000</td>
<td>945,800</td>
<td>1,000,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland.</td>
<td>742,100</td>
<td>853,100</td>
<td>577,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium.</td>
<td>430,500</td>
<td>510,300</td>
<td>443,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France.</td>
<td>1,365,700</td>
<td>1,262,300</td>
<td>1,005,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain and Canaries.</td>
<td>146,700</td>
<td>116,300</td>
<td>102,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States.</td>
<td>132,700</td>
<td>110,400</td>
<td>166,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries.</td>
<td>347,500</td>
<td>268,800</td>
<td>38,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>292,978</td>
<td>284,161</td>
<td>357,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Import Declared Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Russia.</td>
<td>395,554</td>
<td>622,291</td>
<td>173,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany.</td>
<td>34,304</td>
<td>31,677</td>
<td>39,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland.</td>
<td>86,313</td>
<td>193,365</td>
<td>124,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium.</td>
<td>344,498</td>
<td>253,804</td>
<td>203,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries.</td>
<td>40,193</td>
<td>15,350</td>
<td>4,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>597,274</td>
<td>1,047,407</td>
<td>1,443,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
wraps for ladies. Indeed, this end of the trade is said to be likely to increase considerably this season. Narrow towels of Donegal and Mayo make are still being purchased in moderate quantities, chiefly in checks of various shades of grey and blue, but there is little likelihood that these will be larger orders. Mayfair should show that the width of the skirt show any diminution, or even if it do not increase.

The Making-up Trades.

The Apron and Pinafina Factories.

Of a considerable time past has it been possible to report so general and satisfactorily the condition of trade in the apron and pinafina factories as prevails at present. Orders have been placed by the English and Scotch warehousemen on a liberal scale; and the wide range of goods—outside of pinafinas—now produced in the factories, by withdrawing a number of machines from the ordinary production, and employing them to accommodate Individuals. Holland goods, both in all linen and union, and chiefly in union, are selling freely; white toweling aprons are in very constant and apparently growing demand. In the fancy end of the trade, prints are in but moderate demand, the principal sale being for fancy cotton costume goods.

A branch of trade that is now being pushed with some success by most of the pinafina factories is that of juvenile clothing. Sailor suits, in striped and white designs, are being made up in large quantities for the English markets; and a fair business is being done in print “overalls” for children. The apron factories, like the other makers-up, are also busy on ladies’ blouses.

The Shirt and Collar Trade.

The leading shirt factories are well employed on repeat orders for colored cotton, printed, and white shirts, though the majority of them are now beginning to desist from the employment of wool goods for the coming autumn. They have, last month, completed their arrangements for the supply of material, and have their sample shirts, etc., made up; but, though some of the earlier buyers have already placed orders for delivery later on, weight of the trade can hardly be said to have yet begun. Present sales, for the most part, consist of French and Manchester print shirts—for the former there seems to be a steadily increasing demand—and of grandfards and the lighter make of Havards. Flannel-shantys, for the present, to have almost gone out of demand. In the collar factories there is not so much activity as could be desired. The world is not in favour of new collar designs, and there is not much existing business being done in the better qualities as was being done at this period last season. There is a large and regular demand for lower-priced prints, but this trade is said to be far from remunerative.

A brisk and growing demand. For these, fancy muslins and fine French cambrics are chiefly wanted.

A branch of the making-up trade that has not yet secured the footing in this country which it ought, is that of made-up pillow and bolster cases. These, in both linen and cotton, with figured or cheap embroidered frillings, are being sold in enormous quantities by the cross-channel houses. They have to a limited extent been made here, but only "on hire" for the English houses.

The Irish Cotton Trade.

Cotton Yarns.

HE business transacted during the past month has been to a great extent a very pleasing description. The opinion that has been prevalent regarding the probability of the maintenance of the advanced prices to which yarns are now advanced is confirmed by the development of the time, as a shrinking of about 1d. per lb. has taken place since our last issue. As mentioned in a previous report, it was anticipated that the thousands of looms that were waiting to be started as soon as the strike had terminated, would absorb the increased production of yarns, and prevent any material decline in the prices of raw cotton; but owing to some unforeseen cause the very opposite has happened, and the present rates of both cotton and cotton yarns stand lower than they did four weeks ago. Reports say that the prices of cotton will be still lower, and the speculation that there has been in the Liverpool level, so that cotton is coming in at a greater volume than at any time for some years, remains high. Besides, it appears that the acreage there has increased, and that the planting season has been good. The Ulster manufacturers, believing that prices of yarns will still continue a decline, have been promoting their purchase of raw cotton, in the same manner of the moment, so that only a hand-to-mouth business has been done. There is a total absence of speculation and of life characteristics the market. Besides, the demand for union goods has been recently rather unsatisfactory, or at least not quite up to the expectations entertained, and manufacturers are finding it necessary to keep their machinery in movement. There has been less doing in coarse goods of the cream description for cutting up, the bank failures in Australia, and the depression of the home trade, having adversely affected the manufacturing department. The same remarks apply equally to the worsted trade, although business has not been so good as usual.
arranged for the inauguration of classes in cookery and laundry work. It is intended to open these classes some time this month if possible. The classes will be divided into two sections—A, for those who wish only to have a very moderate knowledge of the subject, and B, for those who wish to be made perfect in cooking and laundry work. The classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, from 10 to 12 o'clock, and from 2 to 4 o'clock, respectively. The fees will be moderate, so as to suit those who will be likely to join the classes, which will be found to be of considerable benefit to women about to become cooks or laundresses. Section B will consist of classes held only for the purpose of training those who wish to become teachers in either or both of these subjects, and it will be a special course of instruction which will be laid down, similar in every respect to that carried on in the principal technical schools in England; after examination, diplomas will be granted to successful candidates, enabling them to hold appointments as teachers in these subjects. The results are a great scarcity of competent teachers of cooking and laundry work in this country at the present moment, and it is to be hoped that the opportunity now held out by this Association will be largely utilised by those for whom it is intended. All particulars can be obtained from Miss Croker, Secretary to the Royal Irish Association for Promoting the Training and Employment of Women, 21, Kildare Street, Dublin.

School Industries.

Amongst the successful attempts made to revive Irish home industries is that which the Sisters of St. John of God have made in the Convent Schools, Kilkenny. Here, under the patronage of the Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Brownrigg, an industrial department has been opened, which is intended solely for the benefit of the girls of the neighbourhood, and all profits derived from the work are expended in their interests. In 1801, nine young hand-looms were obtained and set up; a competent instructor was obtained from Messrs. Ewart, of Belfast, and the girls set to work. Since then, other looms have been added, and the skill and nature of the work now produced have rendered it a valuable contribution to the school industry. The patronage hitherto extended by the public to the products of the Schools has been such as to give promise that the industry may be further extended, and it is hoped that such an extension will be achieved. The principal product to which attention is paid is linen stamping, and it is for this purpose only that the Sisters of the Convent find that already there is a good demand for the product. That the industry has been of considerable benefit to the district there can be no doubt, and the plucky enterprise shown deserves the success which I have no doubt will attend it.

LURGAN.—The linen cambric trade has been fairly satisfactory since my last report; orders have not been coming in as fast as late, but they are coming in, and the employers are paying the full wages. Plain linen cambric for hemstitched handkerchiefs is largely in demand, and the supply limited. The output from hand-looms is very small, as is generally the case at this time of the year. Woven-bordered linen handkerchiefs are being imported, and are now low in stock, and prices are now about 5s. 6d. per dozen. These handkerchiefs are mostly engaged in at sheen linen cambric for embroidered goods. These were to be only produced in hand-looms, and, of course, still have to be in medium and fine sets. Cost in these has advanced considerably; the quantity of hand-looms engaged at them is small, and, in order to get the goods made, the employers are paying the full wages, and paying for embroidered goods. There has been a steady business doing in the various kinds of damask bordered fringed towels; in the higher qualities, especially, more orders have come to hand. Narrow goods generally have sold fairly well, the demand having been about equal to the production. Goods of the ordinary quality are not being used in better demand, as, since the close of the Lancashire strike, cotton goods have been more sought after, and Trade is up to the average of last year, and manufacturers are hopeful of a fair business being done during the next few months.

LEEDS.—Business in this district has varied considerably; whilst some branches are extremely busy, others are running short time, this depending in a great measure upon the good of goods they are engaged in producing. The brilliant weather of the past month has had a great effect upon business generally, and much stock has been sold, with a consequent that orders have come in rather freely, both for repeat and new fabrics. Sorges especially have felt the full effects of it, and large orders are now on hand which will keep manufacturers very busy all the summer, and the same may be said of worsteds in the various qualities, in fancy styles and good colourings; whilst cloths of the tweed, cheviot, and such-like characters have recently sold very freely, and seem likely to have a good run should the genial weather continue. The more plain kinds, of goods, unless in some special clutches, have not shown much improvement, the tendency being mostly for fancy fabrics rather than for plain goods, and the demands being rather for dragging down prices. Demand prices of most kinds of cloths keep moderately firm.

BRADFORD.—The spirited competition by both home and foreign buyers at the London sales has further strengthened the tone of the worsted market of this district, and although the interest of the speculators towards cottons has been rather reduced, still, the trade done during the past month has been much above the average, and stocks being at present light and users extremely busy, prices are very firm, with a higher tendency. Wool of a lustrous character have been in strong demand, and seem likely to continue so for some little time, consequently what they are held quite firm. Orders for home and export trades, and new orders have been fairly good and, where quick delivery has been required, spindles have demanded full rates. Two-fold yarns have been in better demand. Other descriptions are as about last month, prices being fixed, and little change found to occur. In the last age, prices find it rather difficult to procure prices proportionate to those they are paying for wool and yarns. The coasting trade with United States keeps up well, and seems to be gradually enlarging. The home trade is rather quiet.

MANCHESTER.—The linen trade since our last report has been, on the whole, considerably more active than during the same period last year, and the demand for goods for export and home trade has been fairly good, and, where quick delivery has been required, spindles have demanded full rates. Towner yarns have been in better demand. Other descriptions are as about last month, prices being fixed, and little change found to occur. In the last age, prices find it rather difficult to procure prices proportionate to those they are paying for wool and yarns. The coasting trade with United States keeps up well, and seems to be gradually enlarging. The home trade is rather quiet.

English.

BARNBURY.—In the linen trade of this district business has varied in the different branches. There has been no improvement in the demand for damask table and such-like fabrics; in fact, there have recently been fewer inquiries and less business done. Carpet, stair, and other coverings have been a shade quieter. The production and sales of fancy, print, and other draperies of good quality have increased, the exportations to tropical countries having been larger than for some time past. A rather quieter feeling has prevailed as regards sheetings, mattress, and such-like goods, and in shades and blinds also the business done has been less than during May of last year.

Orders have been received for furnishing goods, table-cloths, pillow-shams, quilts, sheets, sideboard covers, &c., also bird's-eye diapers, are in good request. Machine hennetschers very busy; steam-power yarn winders not well employed.
accompanying threat that unless the full amount is paid the accounts will be closed. As to the firm of Lanyon and Cheshire, reference to traders is—Do not pay one penny of the excess. If the companies threaten to go into court, let them go. They will lose.

LONDON.—Since I wrote you last the home trade of the city has continued brisk, and there is little indication of its falling off at the time of writing. The warehouse houses are still full of goods, and the quantities purchased are larger than usual. The announcement of the engagement of Prince George to the Princess May has given a spurt to trade, particularly in the retail branches, which will last for a few months. If the lot had been specially arranged to come in at a time when the outlook was gloomy, it could not have happened better than just now; for so soon as the spring trade was over, there was the feeling that, with the heavy financial gloom which is hanging over the city, and indeed the provinces, the prospects for the remainder of the year were poor; while the losses which are being looked forward to as the result of the Australian crisis cannot fail to be heavy. These losses are of two classes. First, the fittings will be made on terms from orders being cancelled, which to many houses is already a serious matter, and there is no means of telling to what extent this may go on. Talking to the principal of a city house a few days ago, with very extensive connections in the Australian colonies, he told me that every day for the last fortnight they have received cables countermanding the shipments, while for the last three weeks contained very little else but cancels or indefinite postponements; these, as a rule, coming from people whom they looked upon as their best customers. What arrangement the distributing houses will be able to make with the manufacturers is very doubtful, for the latter, as a rule, require their money promptly after the officers of the various districts where the labour troubles of some months past have had a very weakening effect. The second class of loss is, however, what is being more seriously looked forward to—viz., losses from insolvency—for with the pressure which must be put upon the storekeepers by the banks, either under a scheme of reorganisation or the event of liquidation, there seems nothing for these traders, if they are not able to meet the demands, but to consult their creditors; and then the question of the creditors being able to stand this, with their financial support very largely cut off or curtailed by the crisis, brings us face to face with a state of affairs in which commercial liquidations are likely to set in, and the indebtedness of the colonies for merchandise to the British markets is at the present time small as compared to a period when everything is in a healthy state; but be this as it may, most of the London houses with Australian connections have a liability hanging over them which even the most serious looking at it quietly will admit, and in the case of the Australian merchants have been looking for temporary help from their creditors, which in every case so far been granted. Another mercantile failure in the Queensland market is announced, but I have reason to believe that Belfast or Ulster houses are not interested.

The silk trade business continues much the same as when I wrote you last. One of the handkerchief agents informs me that there is nothing very brilliant to report in his goods. The returns from the spring orders delivered in February and March are rather disappointing. Much larger orders were expected than those which have been placed during the last two months; but taking everything into account, there is no reason for complaint in the handkerchief trade; the run is on the fancy end. Agents in tailors' lines are quite satisfied; business is easily done, and the demand is likely to continue for the next few months, possibly improving with the advent of the holidays, which, generally speaking, commence in July.

The handkerchief are doing considerable growing. The ocean of change, for few stuffs, there are wading through has upset the old-time fitness of things. A Franklin Street man, who came to this lovely country with tow in his hair and Lurgan mud upon his boots, remarked this morning that "them cotton things and them country glasses just makes life a task, so they do!" Certain it is that the changopening process has gone on, and now there is no handwork from Lurgan. The invoice cost was once shilling per dozen, and I understand that they might be "done" at elevenpence. The retailer will dispose of these at about twopenny-halfpenny each, and give the best value that ever went on this market. Handkerchief men should realise, and Belfast should note the fact, that there is no handwork left and not a spring business. Their best time begins when vacation days are over; and, although handkerchiefs are always a selling property, the spring season is the one of the short grass.

There is a good pull on 4/4 linens from Troy, as the making up for fall will soon be in full swing. In fact, there has been no let up in Troy's work. Collar and cuff makers are all back in filling their orders, and the question with them now is the diplomatic one of how to courteously refuse contracts which they know they cannot fill. Aside from men's goods, there is a pronounced revival in ladies' collars for summer wear; but 4/4 lines obtained in Lurgan and old-time lines of the percale, Madras, and chambrey wares are the favourites. Faultley shapes and chemisettes are the fashionable forms, and the collars upon the latter are of the deep-branded turnoid variety.

Lady Aberdeen arrived this week and she has gone to Chicago in the interest of the "Belfast and County Antrim Village" exhibition. We have not heard much about this matter of late; but the coming of Lady Aberdeen reminds us of the death of Mr. Peter White, who was to have had charge of the village. Although not generally known to the linen trade, he was popular with the few who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was a steady man and the first of the old-time linen buyers of woolen goods. The Chicago Fair is the absorbing topic of the times. Henry Matier & Co., not previously mentioned, are to make a fine showing there. Their line is a large one, and is devoted almost exclusively to handkerchiefs, all their well-known lines being in the line. A new line is also on exhibit. A special case contains an interesting exhibit of "flax, from the seed to the white cambie"—the seed, the plant, the stalk, the root, the flax, the hessian, and the brown and white cloth. A spinning-wheel and reel made of bog-oak complete the exhibit. In the letter last week the editor said of the Journal. Representatives from four of our linen houses are at Chicago this week putting the finishing touches upon their Irish exhibits.

The Flax Supply Association.

New York, April 26th, 1893.

The acreage for Ireland last year was 70,642 against 74,666 acres in 1891, showing a falling off of 4,023 acres, or 5.4 per cent., and the yield per acre 1040 pounds. The home supply of raw material, however, is considerably smaller in 1892 by 2,600 tons, or 29.91 per cent. Compared with other crops, flax was 4.41 per cent. in 1891, and 4.15 per cent. in 1892.

The result of the imports and exports is a flax supply from outside sources of almost 500 tons more than in the previous year. Combining these with the home supply we have a total for 1892 of 2,652 tons, or 2.165 tons, or 5.7 per cent. This is not of much consequence.

During the three years since the last enumeration there has been an increase in both spindles and power-looms in Ireland. Spindles have risen from 6,451 to 8,496, leaving for increase 19,191 spindles. During the same time, spindles have increased from 26,443 to 29,252; and power-looms, put at 26,562 formerly, are now 28,223 (+ increase, -617 per cent.)

Linen yarn exports from Belfast have decreased 1,430,840 lbs. (7.23 per cent.), but the imports have risen by 770,300 lbs. (9.27 per cent.)

The imports of flax and tow for 1892 were 85,507 tons,—1,496 more than previous year. Tow or codilla compose about 13 per cent. of these imports. Total supply for United Kingdom in 1892, 87,845 tons,—1,021 tons under 1891, or 1.22 per cent.

Linen yarn exports show a small increase of 617,900 lbs., or 41 per cent.

1891—14,859,900 lbs., 1892—15,477,800 lbs. Increase, 617,900 lbs.

The imports of linen yarn for 1892 have exceeded any previous years. They are given at 20,404,801 lbs. This is larger than the imports of 1890, which were 19,204,801 lbs.; the total value for 1890 was £758,749; that for 1892 has not yet been procured.
The Irish cotton trade has received a very decided check. In 1891 only 13,332 lbs. were exported. The previous year the quantity sent off again was 272,816 lbs., or twenty times as much. As regards the linen exports— In pieces goods, the quantity shipped in 1892 was 171,330,100 yards, 11,862,400 in excess of previous year was 74.7 per cent. The value rose from £3,708,969 to £3,883,533; increase, £174,584 or 4.7 per cent.

The exports of other articles of linen manufacture unenumerated fell in great numbers in 1893. The total exports of linen manufactures (exclusive of yarns) are as follows:

1891 £5,032,156; 1892 £5,167,295. Increase, £135,099, or 2.7 per cent.

About 54 per cent. of this large amount is declared at the port of Liverpool, the destination being as follows:

United States, 47.7 per cent.; Foreign Countries, 35.7 per cent.; British Possessions, 16.6 per cent.

The imports of foreign linen manufactures continue to range at about £430,000 per annum.

The following reference to flax culture in the South and West is necessarily mentioned. The area in Munster, Connacht, and Leinster in 1891 amounted to 1,230,000 acres, which fell to 1,150,000 acres in 1892, but course put an end to the custom of sending out buyers for the present.

The increasing dislike to flax-growing is hard to account for, but the methods of rural life in the South may account for much of it, and perhaps agitation may have interfered with the cultivation of a plant requiring special skill.

No apathy in this direction can be laid at the door of the spinning trade of the North of Ireland, as every possible opportunity has been taken advantage of to foster the growth of flax in the South. The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said that all the trade that could be found in Ireland, the linen trade was, by far, the one which showed an increase during the past year. Very probably the large diminution in the cotton trade as shown in the report arose from the decrease of values, but whether that or the diminution of quality was the reason, the fact remained that there had been a large decrease in the returns of flax, there being about 10 per cent. less flax out of Ireland for her exports of linen was greater than in 1891. Upon the question of the real business of this Society—the promotion of the growth of flax in Ireland—the provision of raw material for the linen trade—there was little to be said. Indeed, in the home cultivation of flax they seemed to have done well, and with a diminishing quantity, the amount grown in 1892 was smaller than that in 1891, and in the latter year the quantity again was smaller than that grown in 1890. There had been a constant diminution for years past, and, as far as they could gather at present, this year did not promise any increase. Last season was a very bad one for yew, and the weather was being considered as much above the average. There was ground for hoping that with the favourable weather which had prevailed for the past month, and the admirable condition consequent on the field for the reception of the seed, not only would farmers be encouraged to sow a larger acreage than they originally had intended, but that, even if the season turned out not to be unusually good, the crop would be better than last year. Why it was that farmers in Ireland had always been so shy in planting flax was a mystery to him. With the present price of oats, flax was a far more profitable crop, and those who were versed in the science of farming and the rotation of crops were agreed that on properly cultivated land flax gave a double profit, because other crops could not grow the exact kind of flax suitable for some departments of the trade. But still it could not be concealed that there was a deficiency in the supply of raw material for the Irish mills and factories. That deficiency was supplied from foreign countries, the supply being calculated to about 13,000 acl., too much for the demand, so that it was merely after all a matter for the farmers themselves whether they grew flax or not. Perhaps the very existence of that Association, consisting as it did of those interested in the linen trade, induced the belief referred to on the part of the farmers. However, the statistics they gave were so large that it was not surprising to find such small returns. It was believed, equally for the benefit of the farmer and the spinner that the farmer should include flax in the ordinary rotation of his crops, because, when properly cultivated and in average season, flax was undoubtedly a remunerative crop. There was nothing he need add in respect to the general condition of the country, as it has been calculated that on the fact that the statistics showed that the linen industry was progressing, and they hoped the progress would continue. Notwithstanding hostile tariffs in the United States and other countries, this progress as yet not been stopped. Perhaps they might not consider that he was trespassing on grounds forbidden in that Association in saying that they were all interested in one great question which they thought possessed a vast importance for their trade and for other trades in Ireland. The session had in the recent months been occupied with the agitation as against any increase in the growth of flax. They might congratulate themselves that at this stage their trade had not suffered from this political agitation. However fearful they might be of the result, and they ran the risk of this ill beset. But they still felt confidence in their own resources. They believed that Bill would never pass, and even if it did, they felt sure that they would. The fear that they might have been too late, and their delay had cost them a part of their market, and that they were not competitors, would be that in spite of every difficulty they would go on and prosper. (Applause.)

Mr. Lanyon seconded the resolution, which was passed.

Mr. R. H. Reade was appointed president for this year, and Mr. J. D. Barbour, vice-president. The Council for the year has been appointed, and the thanks of the Society having been given to the press, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the retiring president.

Factory Inspector's Report.

The Report just published, there are several matters of interest that have been referred to in the report, and the result is obtained at the expenditure of a great number of questions of steam, which being the very best and the most immediately forms of vapour, to speak is not by any means likely to be found. Precisely what will be the result of this, which fail in diffusion, because they gravitate naturally as the introduction is being exhausted.

Dust in factories from spinning. — I am glad to notice that there is very much less dust now in these sheds, owing to the more skilful management of the spinning, which is still very large, where the size is heavy, informed me he had made alterations in his mixing which gave better results in the cloth, less disengaged dust, and the result is to be saved £250 on the year.

Prevention of scale in boilers, and freedom from influence. — An occupier of two sheds where some 400 persons are employed told me, as an interesting fact from a medical point of view, that a preparation of eucalyptus is constantly used in the boilers to prevent scale, and out of the large number of workers employed there has been no cases of influenza (then prevalent) and it is attributed to the inhalation by the workers of the eucalyptus vapourised in the steam, vocable "quantum."

Improvement in the health of workers from better ventilation. — It is gratifying to receive continual expressions of satisfaction at the evident amelioration in the health of the workmen, and from both two sawmills, and this is from those who strongly opposed our plans in the beginning. At one large shed, containing over 2,000 rooms and some 1,500 persons, the manager specially requested me to wait while he brought all the over-takers to tell me what they had already told him, viz., that the workmen had never seen such small numbers of persons who had been " off sick" during the two last summers since the new ventilation had been in use, and they also stated that everyone was much brisker at work, and far less tired at the day's end. At this place, where built, some £900 had been expended on "self-acting" ventilation, where the current of air passed through a water supply and was then passed down draughts, and so had to be stopped entirely. It is now ventilated by 19 18-inch fans, with the above result. In some factories, as many as 25, 16, 18, 20, and 25 of these small fans are running the year round; and as an example of what had been achieved generally, it may be said that I have learned that alone there are already quite 1,200 fans to (approximately) 36,000 operatives. From which ratio it may be calculated that in the most favourable weather, when outside currents are not interfering with the outflow, probably each worker is getting the benefit of about 1,000 cubic feet of fresh air per hour, a strong current of air, for instance, during the day when the air was probably not changed in these sheds once in the day.

Drying the wet clothes of workers. — In the report of our inquiry in 1883, Dr. Bridge and I pointed out the desirability of the outer clothing

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of the weavers being hung outside the weaving shed, so as to be free from dust and moisture during the hours of work: and from my long acquaintance with the climate of Lancashire, and study of the people, I am more satisfied than ever that the absence of drying closets or cloakrooms is a serious defect of mills and schools, as frequently workers and children get chilled on their way to work for its return, until their clothes are frozen, and clothing to return home—a most fertile source of neuralgia, rheumatism, and chronic colds, and provocative of phthisis and other lung affections.

For several years Messrs. Greenwood, of Infirmary Mills, Blackburn, have had a cloakroom fitted with steam-pipes to meet this want, and it has been used and valued by their people, and I am glad to say Mr. Millis has induced Mr. Fred Baynes, of Forthergate Mill, Blackburn, and Messrs. J. Dugdale & Sons, of Higher Audley Mills, Blackburn, to contrive and fit up similar cloakrooms for their weavers, who now find the shawls they weave are too dry and warm to put on when they leave work—a pleasant and healthy change, which I sincerely hope to see extended. These cloakrooms will no doubt be a great boon to the mill operatives, and it is to be hoped this example will spread: some employers have imagined, from the failure of mill-drying rooms, such places would not be required, but have there been social distinctions and feelings of pride among the various classes of workpeople which have discriminated them to take their meals together, but which do not come into play in this case. Elaborate arrangements are not necessary, and the experience of large-drying rooms shows that a steam coil at one end and a fan to draw the hot air through will dry clothes far more rapidly than a range of steam pipes. The weavers have always been conscious of the advantages of working in the same room. Or, in some circumstances, the heat over the boilers might be drawn through a filtering screen of cotton wool and be made available for the purpose.

Improved shuttle-guard.—In the course of my visits I have met with a very great improvement in the shuttle-guard, and it is the invention of Mr. Timothy Yates, 33, Victoria Street, London Road, Preston, who is in the employ of Messrs. Menzies Mill, Preston, where it is used, as well as at other factories in the town.

Lancashire and Scotch weavers compared.—Mr. Henderson, speaking about trade in Scotland and the North of England, refers to the difference in the wage-earning capacity of the female weavers of Lancashire and Scotland as follows:—In Scotland, the weaver may purchase her clothes and lodging, and use two-thirds of her wages for food; in Lancashire, however, her wages are not sufficient for the purchase of all these, and correspondingly small, being about one-half of the amount earned in England. The attempt to force the Glasgow weavers to take more than two looms proved a failure. There was a long strike against the employer who made it, and ultimately the weavers returned to their work on the old conditions. The same failure has occurred in attempts to get factories to make a big saving is difficult to explain. As I mentioned in my report last year, although the Glasgow manufacturers actually pay more for their weaving than those of Lancashire, yet the operatives do not earn more than half the wages. The same experience is found in cotton furnishing, the cost of a Scotch fustian or flax cloth is less than the same goods in Glasgow which is managed by a gentleman from Oldham. He tells me that a Scotch factory hand is content when she makes about half the wages that would satisfy an Oldham lass. As both are paid by the piece, this practically means that only about one-half of the amount of work is done by the Scotch, compared with the English. In the case of the close of the year, some improvement took place in the weaving trade in the West of Scotland, which is to be hoped may continue. This has been more conspicuous in the manufacture of mixed goods, and particularly with silk yarns, largely used in Scotch flax and jute industries. In the flax and jute industries in Scotland, business has been fairly well maintained during the past year. In Dundee the jute factories have been well employed, although business has fluctuated a good deal. Last year a reduction of five per cent. was made in the wages in Dundee when trade was depressed, and although there has been some agitation against the reduction, it is now suspended. At the close of the year, some improvement took place in the weaving trade in the West of Scotland, which is to be hoped may continue. This has been more conspicuous in the manufacture of mixed goods, and particularly with silk yarns, largely used in Scotch flax and jute industries. In the flax and jute industries in Scotland, business has been fairly well maintained during the past year. In Dundee the jute factories have been well employed, although business has

stock at their several provincial depots over a million lamps. No doubt many of our readers who visited the Electric Light Exhibition, held at the Crystal Palace in 1892, will remember the grand display made by the Edison & Swan Company, over 10,000 incandescent lamps being used by them for one illumination of the huge screen which covered the centre table. The numerous wax and electric lamps, and a number of small electric lighting, of which they claim to be the largest manufacturers in the British Empire. Our contemporary, Money and Trade, in a lengthy article on March 15th, referring to the Company’s works, says:—“All the lamps, and the appliances necessary to bring them into perfect action, are produced in this one Company; and the raw material employed in the manufacture of the candles there there are offices, lamp stores, glass works, foundry, fitting shops, experimental laboratories, engine-houses, and the Company’s own gas-works, with water and railway communication, which makes every part of the United Kingdom easily accessible to the premises. The company has large timber sheds and warehouses, and the timber is always in excess of the demands of the trade, and the wood is in plentiful supply, and the company has a large stock of timber.” Eleven years ago this business had not been begun, and the site of the Ponder’s End works was a waste of land going out of cultivation. Within the same period the Edison-Swan business has been created. Employment has been found for 1,000 to 2,000 workpeople. Other improvements in the management of the raw material have benefited. Important improvements in the development of the business have been opened in Dundee, Newcastle, Liverpool, Leeds, Hull, Birminham, Cardiff, Dublin, and Belfast, each adding to the army of wage-earners employed. Since opening these depots, the increase of business has been steady, and there is not the slightest doubt that the work will be continued as usual. From the old works at South Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they are now employing a large number of workpeople in the endeavour to cope with the tremendously increasing business. With all these additions in premises and plant it is still found practically impossible for the company to execute all the special orders with its usual dispatch, so that this whole of the plant of both lamp and fitting departments at Ponder’s End is being increased threefold. Orders are received daily from all parts of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the provinces. The company’s chief London warehouse and showrooms are at 110, Cannon Street, which have lately been expanded, and were stocked, ranging from one to 500-candle power. There is also a large stock of coloured and fancy lamps for decorative and special purposes.

CHICAGO EXHIBITION—BRITISH SECTION CATALOGUE.

We have to thank the Royal Commission for the British Section of the Chicago Exhibition for sending us a copy of their catalogue, which is a bulky volume, beautifully printed in good style, and conveniently arranged. Printed by William Clowes & Sons, 25 Stamford Street, London. Price 25 cents. We purpose in a future number giving a description of the contents and cases of British textile exhibitors; but in the meantime note from the catalogue that the following firms are representative:—Messrs. Joseph Fairbairn, Sons & Co., Ltd.; Smith & Sons, Limited; Brookfield Linen Co., Ltd.; John S. Brown & Sons; Forster & Co.; Wm. Liddell & Co.; Henry Matier & Co.; Old Bleach Linen Co.; J. N. Richards, Sons & Owen, Ltd.; Robertson, Leslie, Ferguson & Co., Ltd. The woollen trade is represented by the Athlone Woollen Mills Co., Limited; and the woollen manufacturing by the Irish Industries Association, Smyth & Co., Balbriggan. Lace and art needlework are also largely in evidence. Introductory chapters are contributed by writers of ability in the several sections, that in textiles being written by Mr. Swire Smith, of Keighley.

Chemicals and Dyes.

(Special Report by A. W. T. Messrs. Sadler & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.)

A striking feature in the chemical trade at the moment is the remarkable demand for disinfectants of every description. It has been many years since Bleaching Powder realised such high prices as are now obtaining, but manufacturers declare that they are fully able to cope with the exceptional demand. Perchloride of Iron, Bichloride of Mercury, and last, but not least, Carbolic Acid products are largely going into consumption, and are realising important values far beyond the anticipation of the most sanguine maker. What will happen if there is not a recurrence of cholera is easy to forecast, but the report from the States of the United States is that the country is a return of the dire disease, over a more extended area than during the past year, and sanitary authorities are providing against this contingency. Caustic Soda and Soda Ash are dull, and prices are receding. There is a better demand for Nitrate of Soda, which are at a dull, but caustic soda, and Aniline Dyes are as dull as they well can be. Sulphate of Ammonia, on the other hand, has been in capital request. Manufacturers have not been able to cope with the requirements of consumers. The same favourable aspect has marked the Nitrate market owing to short supplies of this article, and it has been scarce and dear. Both Nitrate and Sulphate, however, are easier, and do not look like maintaining their high values. In sympathy with dyes, dyers’ chemists are receiving the usual slow demand, and the trade is chiefly marked for the exceptional cutting out by sellers. The only important changes in chemicals have been in Oxalic Acid, which is quoted at 4½d. per lb. better, Aniline Oil, which is quoted at 6½d., and in Sulphate of Ammonia, which has fallen quite 20s. per ton.