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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 are requested to write briefly and on one side of each 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, 12s. half-yearly subscription is payable in advance. free sample copies are sent on request. advertisers will find the journal an excellent medium for announcements suitable to the purpose. terms may be known on application.

to be sold at the proprietors, f. w. smith, 7, donegall square west, belfast.

the linen market, published every saturday, at the above address, deals exclusively with the irish linen trade in all its branches. annual subscription, 5s. 6d. the irish textile journal and the linen market, if ordered at the same time, will be supplied by post for 2l 5s. 4d. per annum.

the home and foreign linen trades directory. published at 2l 6d. price reduced to 1l 6d. for the few remaining copies.

a source of the irish linen trade, being a series of 12 views, illustrating the cultivation of flax, the spinning, dyeing, weaving, and finishing (by hand and power), and preparation of it for market. the printing of two by hand on the full complimentary sheet, the tailing, winding, and warping of the thread. the process of making up by the printer, the engraver, and the subseuent examination, taping, and making up of the goods in the warehouse, together with a view of the old irish linen hall or mart at belfast, with the ball of thread. from original engravings in the possession of messrs. j. n. richardson, sons & co., ltd., belfast.

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the revival of industry

the advance which has been made during the last few years in reviving irish industries goes far towards showing two things—first, the capacity of the people for work, and, secondly, the success which inevitably follows effort. nothing can be more gratifying to those who have identified themselves with the industrial movement than the success which now greets irish products single out for rewards and prizes wherever exhibited. the days are not very far distant when home-made fabrics—we are not speaking of the products of belfast or other power-looms—used indeed to take prizes, but only at local and subsidised exhibitions, and when in competition with other articles produced under similar circumstances. this is not now the case. examples of irish home-made fabrics, whether linen or woolen, can to-day be placed in competition with similar products coming from any part of the world, and they will not have to take second rank. in this category we have not included lace, for from time immemorial irish looms have been sui generis, and apart from others. but even here we see the results of intelligent effort, increased activity, and greater industry, in the enhanced marketable value of the article, and in the increased and increasing popular demand. thus, from what has been done, it is perfectly legitimate and safe to argue what may be done. there is no valid reason why irish hands in

village, hamlet, or town should be idle; there is no acceptable excuse for colliers of the north or west or south to continue trusting solely to the produce of their stires and small plot of land, or to the various harvest of the sea. there is work for all, and, better still, so widely have the larger centres of industry and instruction become diffused, that consultation and intercourse with them is no longer an impossibility. this is an all-important factor in the revival and extension of the industries. to those who are showing these centres of private or associate enterprise as they exist to-day, would reveal a state of things which, ten years ago, would have seemed impossible to the most sanguine. round these centres of industry reign peace and contentment, born of honest toil and its rewards; in the villages and cottages to which their influence has spread will be found the same happy state of affairs. where once was poverty, squalor, perhaps vice, certainly discontent, we find now the other and brighter side of the shield; and, knowing what has been done, we can only hope and trust that year by year other portions of our country may come under the same happy influence.

technical schools.

the committee of the kevin street schools, dublin, have just issued some important circulars on the subject of exhibitions and of loans and the grants of apparatus. of these circulars the first, announcing the terms on which exhibitions will be competed for and the value of those to be granted, is most worthy of note; the others refer to purely local matters, and on reading these articles for the expression of opinion will be held in the dublin technical schools, lower kevin street, on the 1st and 2nd of december next. the candidates must have attended some elementary school in the city for two years, and have passed the fifth standard, and be between the ages of 13 and 16 on the 1st day of december. on the result of the examination there will be awarded ten exhibitions for boys and five for girls of the annual value of £5 each, payable quarterly, and tenable for two years at such evening or day technical school "as shall be approved by the committee of national education commissioners." we note one very practical and highly commendable proviso in the regulations, and that is the effect that "when the fees payable at any school selected by a candidate shall exceed the amount of the exhibition in the first year, the committee may apply such portion of the second year's exhibition as may be necessary to cover the amount, if they think it expedient to do so." this regulation is one which considerably increases the working value of the exhibitions, as without it even those who, by hard work, had gained the coveted honour and reward, would in many cases still be compelled to find out the course of their studies to the best advantage. it is hardly necessary to add that, though the examination for these exhibitions is competitive, yet unless a sufficiently high standard of proficiency is reached, they will not be awarded to the first ten or five boys or girls on the examiners' lists. the only point to note about the grants or loans of apparatus to the schools is that they depend upon the good answering of candidates from such schools at these examinations—a healthy and useful regulation.

a satisfactory report.

the thirty-fifth report of the inspector of reformatory and industrial schools in ireland has just been laid upon the table of the house of commons, and we are glad to note that sir rowland bennett hasset is able to again speak highly of these institutions. to the armature establishment, at once the "largest and most remarkable," he devotes the greatest notice, and in the report officially confirms all that we had the pleasure of publishing in these columns last night of that school. during the past year the average number in the school daily was 806, and the annual cost for each boy was £217 8s. 9d. a total of £13 is receivable in grants from the government and the dublin corporation. it would further seem that since july, 1870, to the present time, over £80,000 has been expended on this institution by the christian brothers and their friends, "without any grant in aid from the government, or by borrowing any assistance from the state." the sanitary condition of the school buildings, the care taken of the boys, and the competent and efficient supervision, are all proved by the abnormally low death-rate which has prevailed for years, and is still sustained. sir rowland pays a high tribute to the "unsatisfactory labour for the good of forsaken and unfortunate children" which is being done. in this work, "protestants and catholics, christian brothers and others, professional men, busy merchants, and ladies of rank and position are all equally zealous, and equally anxious to promote these institutions." that these are the conditions under which industrial and reformatory schools can work to
IX.

Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving.

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

The Power-Loom.

In the preceding papers a few of the many difficulties in connection with power-loom machinery have been pointed out. It is obvious that many loom managers and tenant farmers who have only one type of loom do deal with may not be conversant with the number of problems to be met with when possible changes take place. This paper is therefore specially written for the purpose of drawing their attention to these changes when they occur. Success must depend entirely on overcoming obstacles by the co-operation of employers with their managers, not only in an endeavour to improve the production, but also in devising better methods of competition for such work, with fancy goods, &c.

Taking the ordinary loom, whatever rate of speed it may be running at, we who have anything to do with it all know that a great amount of power is useless expended; that is to say, it has no value for whatever form of picking motion is used; the shuttle is driven with a force sufficient to journey far beyond the reed space or shuttle boxes. This is a waste of force to commence with, but it is further increased by the fact that the force to send the shuttle through a forty inch space is one unit, and the power actually expended is six times as much, then five units are needlessly expended; the shuttle must be stopped after travelling through the forty inch space, and has to be applied, for this purpose, in the shape of a spell in the box it runs into, so that to overcome the five units wasted five more must be expended in making ten of a loom. This, however, is not the case, the shuttle has to be sent back again, the usual six units of force being used, of which only one is required for the pick; the other five are required to overcome resistance. Thus five units of a power of a total loss, leaving only one for actual work. The greater the speed of the loom, the greater is the force for the propulsion of the shuttle. Is this necessary? It does not exist in hand-loom weaving, whatever speed is used or however great the reed space. We have far too much power, and by increasing the speed of looms we do not want an increase of force, but an increase of picks, and, of course, production. Taking this view of the subject, and bearing in mind the action of the hand-loom weaver in setting the shuttle across the web with no more force than actually needed, it is possible to understand that a distinct specified and never varying motion, regulated by the speed of the loom, is required to produce the regularity, or not sufficiently appreciated or encouraged; nevertheless, the invention was developed in the production of heavy canvas cloths, carpeting, &c. It was at the same time a merchant's motion, every pick was made, and the loom had to be set merely to pick each other, including the shuttle. If the loom stopped when the shuttle was in the shed, it remained there till the loom started again, and proceeded if no interruption had taken place, the loom had to be set over again, each including, the shuttle. No picker, no noise, going across the breadth of the web in the precise time required; no possibility of flying out, and the power exact; never too much, never too little, as is combined in the case with every picking motion we have, and thereby becoming uncertain in its action.

To a large extent the prosperity of a factory depends upon the perfection of its weaving machinery, and not merely on the improvements which are due to the device of the weavers or the employer, but upon the efforts of the persons who have control of the looms or superintend the preparing of them for the reception of warps. Considerable ability is required to do this well, or a great deal of trouble is sure to result. Good management will always secure a higher rate of production and good weavers; this object attained, many evils will disappear.

The remarks which I intend to make on the various motions of a power-loom may not be altogether correct; this is inevitable, as in the great number of cases in which I have found the working expenses at a minimum, requires the most attentive activity upon the part of all engaged in the various operations. We may have the best make of loom, but an element that enters into the working, the business is the first start which it gets. A loom invariably keeps, to a greater or less extent, the character given to it at the commencement of its movements. If all the parts are not properly adjusted, and it is allowed to run in a slovenly condition for a considerable time, it will be found a very difficult task afterwards to make a really good working loom of it. The loom may be made in strict accordance with scientific rules, of the best material and workmanship, with every improvement that experience can suggest, but placed in the hands of an unskilled tenter all its best qualities will be destroyed. The driving of such a loom is great waste of great importance for proper working; the most expert tenter is often baffled in trying to keep his looms in good working condition through improper walking power in place of steam. It is a great mistake to try to get the best results in small weaving sheds this is a difficulty not easy to surmount, because the loom, unlike any other class of textile machinery, requires to be frequently stopped to change shuttles and repair broken threads, &c., and this may possibly cause nearly all of them to be off at one time. The engine will then run off at a higher speed, because the weight is removed for this purpose of the looms will dash away until they hang off with a strong concussion of force sufficient to dispose every bolt in their construction. Of course, this effect may be checked by the action of the engine valves or by a different form of driving; but even so, we are all started again the speed is below what it ought to be, and the hanging off continues owing to the weakness of the picking motion not proper quantity of power, of course, &c. The engine drives the work, and if the picker is not in good condition or work, the consequence is a smash, or, as commonly known, a "clap." The driving shafts also require consideration; they ought to be strong
enough to prevent vibration caused by the twisting or torsional strain thrown on them, which is sure to be transmitted to the loom. The tie is too flexible, and the looms placed near the end of it will be short of power occasionally, and are certain to knock off, thus poor work and uneven cloth will be produced. The beating is another important point. There is a proper medium in the length, which is not sufficiently secured for in many instances; when too short, the belt requires to be so tight that the crank shaft and other parts of a loom are overstrained; when the belt is too long, a springing motion which transmitted itself through the loom in the shape of an irregular movement, so that it is difficult to make perfect goods in fine light fabrics. I will, in, another communication, enter into the details of the case and its effect on the looms.

Having noticed what affects the working conditions of a loom in the first instance through shafting, &c., I may say, before entering into the details of the case, that we have been looking for some degree of invention that would be useful and economical to employers, and indeed beneficial all round.

The movement of the back of a power-loom may be considered a very simple subject to dilate upon, nearly one and all being of opinion that its movement is merely for the purpose of moving the loo back and forth, and that it is examined minutely. It will be found the dominant factor that really governs all the motions in the loom—in fact, it is the vital principle which ought to be thoroughly studied by those who take the threads of weaving and the looms in order, to answer the question, "what is the best arrangement of movement and the lay? We come in contact with intricacies not to be found on the surface. The space in which a power-loom lay moves is a curved line, with the crankshaft at a uniform speed. The lay moves in one direction and the shuttle back, so that the shuttle has time to pass through the shed. This is the eccentric movement of the crank, and it is obtained by placing it in a lower plane than those in the usual system. The movement of the loom is on a level with the connecting-pins which secure the arms of the crank to the lay.s.

Clearly comprehended, it is obvious that this eccentricity will become varied in proportion to the length of the connecting-rod, and the diameter of the circle formed by the revolution of the crank. This is a point; well worth the study of technical teachers, and their students; as well as practical weavers. If the weaving sheds, if the working of the shafts, if the thought out, it will be found this eccentricity can be increased by shortening the connecting-rod and increasing the throw of the crank; the reverse, by increasing the length, the crank, or the lay. We find that the broader a loom is, the greater the necessity for this eccentricity in the movement of the lay. Why? Because the shuttle is thrown farther. In dairying it had always prospered. In Holland, when they left the dairying to women, they had no improvement; but in this country, and in Northern Europe, great progress had been made in the sequence of the interest taken in it by men."

The Committee of the Cork Dairy Farm consists of ladies and gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood who have been formed. At a meeting of the butter industry, the Committee have organised the teaching of both requirements. The success attending their efforts may be gathered from the fact that at the Manchester Show in 1887, all the best prizes, including the Society's gold and the champion medal, were won by the pupils of this school, while several of them now occupy in England the position of County Council lecturers, junior demonstrators, dairy managers, and dairy-maids.

The scheme proposed by Professor Carroll at the Cork Dairy Farm, in reference to the industries solely managed by women, is very interesting. He said—"In those districts where the men had always prospered. In Holland, when they left the dairying to women, they had no improvement; but in this country, and in Northern Europe, great progress had been made in the sequence of the interest taken in it by men."

I would add, however, that where women have worked hand-in-hand with men the result has been perfectly satisfactory. Winter dairying of course has not been so successful at the Mead Farm, owing to causes for which the Committee cannot be held responsible. Cheese-making has not been quite a success either; indeed, in the production of cheese the chemical constituents of the soil with their influence on the quality of the milk, and the cheese is not of the same excellence as that from foreign countries. Bee-keeping is another subject that will receive attention. A suggestion that I would offer is that Cork and at Glasson, where the only girls to be trained for bee-keeping are County Council lecturers, junior demonstrators, dairy managers, and dairy-maids, they should be trained to become farmers. If there be no objection in principle to the circle of women who manage farms, as was supposed at the meeting at the Northern Infirmary, Cork, if they have been gradually educated to fill positions from which they have formerly excluded, the most successful results would be. They should not receive the technical training indispensable for the successful cultivation of the soil and the management of live stock.
These and the dairy industry form three separate lucrative businesses, to which cookery should be added. I would like to call attention to the growing interest at present fostered by the St. Vincent's Tourist Institute in Ireland; this is open, and I was informed by the manager of a leading hotel in Dublin that a well-known firm of tourist agents was starting to advertise for rooms, and start Irish literary and artistic parties. The idea is not new, having a number of English girls trained to fill the position of cooks. Why should not Irish ones be trained for such work? The Irish girl is as picturesque a picture as the Gallic sister, and there is every reason to believe that in a few years we shall have deft manipulation, and quite as much aptitude in acquiring knowledge as her sister. It may not form part of the function of the Munster Dairy School to train cooks of this class, but it would be most desirable to make a beginning in this direction, and the school might take up this important subject. Perhaps Mrs. Priestley, whose article on the Irish dairy was so interesting, could, on the lines of the old Venetian, among the thinkers of the age, might be induced by the Ladies' Committee to deliver a few lectures at the school. The Committee have certainly gone a long way in gaining for Ireland the highest honour of the learned world, and, as it were, certain defined links of thought and action, which eventuate in that most deplorable evil, prejudice. The Russian peasant is an exemplification of this truth. The Northern Whig, commenting favourably on the success of the Munster Dairy School, recently published a letter from the County Down, rural district of Northern Ireland, in which nothing of dairy-farming, was able, after a session or two, to take and successfully manage a farm stocked with 30 cows. This being a very large dairy, it is observable, on looking through the list of subscribers, that Ulster names were in this instance conspicuous by their absence. Doubtless this has occurred through oversight, and because the matter has not been placed before them in a proper light. We have not forgotten the generous subscriptions that came from Belfast when our citizens here proposed to start an exhibition in 1883, nor their practical sympathy with our people at other times. I would take the liberty in this connection of soliciting attention to the following words of the report read by the hon. secretary, Mr. Richard Barter. "Though the account close with a somewhat increased balance in hands, mainly due to new subscriptions received through Mr. George French from the Kerry Grand Jury, and the reduction in several items of expenditure, the Committee have not regarded the Committee's position as satisfactory; their efforts are very much hampered for want of means. With a greater number of subscribers, be the subscriptions large or small, they would feel justified in extending the scope of the institution in many ways, and be, therefore, in a much better position not alone to claim, but to demand an increased annual Government grant. They, therefore, appeal to all who are interested in the propagation of technical education to give practical help by becoming subscribers."

The Antiquarian Society.

The learned strangers have visited us, and we are pleased to hear that they enjoyed themselves, but I fail to see how their scientific wanderings have progressed. The subject of the subject is Greek and Roman antiquities, but, alas! doubt was thrown upon the whereabouts of this relic of the MacCraiths or of Cronwell—it all depends upon your standpoint which it is. The self-assertive Yankee "guessed" he had the stone at the World's Fair; others maintain that its existence is apocryphal; but as "expedience is the mother of invention," it was considered that one stone was as good as another, so the time-honoured ceremony was accomplished to the general satisfaction. There was at least one learned Irishman there well versed in antiquarian lore. He tells us that their department of curios is very extensive, being from the Ogham stone in the eastern gable end of the historical ruin at Ardmore, in the Co. Waterford, which they visited, reminded him of the series of the gentle ladies of the world's highest fashion—some who have been raised to the highest society because of the geological relic immortalized by Dickens. It is, however, gratifying to know that we inhabit a country with traditions and ruins, a loss that brother Jonathan keenly feels, but he is creating both, for antiquity adds respectability, even if the antecedents be questionable. We do not, of course, object to learned societies, nor are we oblivious to the hallow of sentiment that surrounds antiquity. Our national foible is to err in this respect; but tastes such as these must always belong to the few, whilst the larger questions affecting everyday life command the attention of the many. In connection it might be said that the advent of a commission to inquire into the administration of the Poor Laws or the coming of a Social Science Congress would be received with pleasure, and the present of the Ogham stone to the Antiquarian Society could make important disclosures at such a meeting. Here is a melancholy fact of more importance than the discovery of an Ogham stone—some of these tools are in a totally neglected state though beautiful as a form of decoration. We have in this city 600 public-houses paying license duty varying from £4 10s. to £28 a year. We have 1,200 families, representing between two and three thousand persons, receiving over £4,000 a year in outdoor relief, to say nothing of the amount spent in the poor law unions for the relief of the 4,000 poor people during the last year. We are considered in Ireland to reverse proceedings, and to put what is vulgarly termed the cart before the horse. The Antiquarian and Literary Association is a magnificent and grand institution, and the Antiquarian and Archaeological Societies at the wrong time. The utterances of two distinguished Irishmen—a Northerner and a Southerner—should be given some weight in such matters. Sir Henry Somers did the reference to the prowess of his friend, Thomas Davis, to favour Antiquarian Societies—"he sets, in my opinion, an undue value on the Social and Literary, and more social sympathy, and the distant nation which grew enthusiastic over the Coss of Cong, or a Jacobite song of the latter bards, was but indifferent to the present suffering or hobo people." And the latter fear that even in the distant parts of the world, Belfast citizens—Protestant and Catholic alike—thus expressed himself on the same subject:—"And if the life of a country be thus hallowed of a prosperous issue; if it be denied the means of wholesome and fruitful activity; if its children remain from year to year vegetating at one low level of squalid want, without hope of change, or ability to improve their hereditary state, it sounds like mockery to boast of their literature, or to blazon their art, or to glory in their poetry and eloquence. In the misery of their condition, these things seem only as the wrath upon the grave, the sculptured gone of the sepulchre, which hides no nation."

A Model Tailoring Establishment.

Recent contributions to some of the leading London monthlies on the subject of strikes led me, casually, to ask a question of the leading tailors and military contractors in the South, the two established firm of Messrs. Keane & Turner, Cork. They kindly offered to allow me to look at the book of their expenditures, which was, in a way, a revelation to me. Every detail was calculated, down to the cost of comfort of their workpeople, and all work is done on the premises. The wage bill of the firm was close on £5,000 a year. The piecework system is adopted, and I found that one man, without working overtime, earned in a week as much as £5 15s., his income being, in fact, equal to that of some bank managers or district inspectors of constabulary; and, if he worked overtime, he could earn more than many a professor at the Government colleges. At random I culled figures representing the weekly wages of others to be, according to the work done, £3 7s. 11d., £3 8s. 6d., £3 2s. 2d., £3 6s. 4d., £2 14s. 9d., £2 13s. 9d. After this proof that the work is well done and well paid for, no one will be surprised to learn that the firm receives a large number of orders from customers in foreign parts of the world.

The New Technical School at Blackburn.

The new Technical School in Blackburn is now approaching completion. It was originally instituted as a memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and a subscription fund of £16,000 was raised. Building operations commenced in 1889, and with one short interval have continued up to the present time. The middle of the building was completed first, and one floor of the north wing, and two floors of the south wing temporarily roofed. This portion is occupied by 193 students enrolled, and the interior arrangements were being proceeded with as required. At this time the committee of management approached the Corporation, which body had made all the grants in their power under the Technical Instruction and Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Acts, with a view to the municipalisation of the school. An agreement was arrived at and a special Act of Parliament obtained in 1892, which abolished the trust deed, and transferred the school to the Town Council. Special clauses preserved the rights of life members to a place on the school committee, and also maintained with some few exceptions the representation of trades. On the 9th November, 1892, the school became a municipal institution. In addition to the subscription fund and the annual grants made by the Corporation, a sum of £12,000 has been raised with the permission of the Local Government Board. This sum is secured on the rates under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889. The school is a four floor building with an enclosure in front. At the rear is a large piece of land upon which stands the teaching shed and the dynamic house. There is plenty of land still vacant, which will be available for future extensions. The basement floor contains rooms devoted to cookery, physics, chemistry, and commercial subjects. There is also a large lecture theatre for textile classes. The ground floor contains the committee room, the master's offices, science class room, a library, and a well-equipped laboratory. The building is now in this year, and when the present building operations are completed there will be available a masters' common room and an extensive suite of dressing rooms, library, and magistrates' court, which will be used up to the present for art classes, but in the completed school will be devoted entirely to chemistry. There is a large lecture theatre with a large room and preparation and work, and two incidental rooms attached, where a room for L-shaped room, and the bench accommodation will be for 27 students working at one time. In addition to the masters' room there are rooms for
The Irish Woollen Trade.

A CONSIDERABLE activity prevails in almost every branch of the Irish woollen manufacture. The trade of the new season—that relating to the spring of 1894—may be said to have fairly opened early in the month. The smaller warehouses in the various centres of trade, have purchased already on a scale more than equal to that of any past year, so far as cheviot and Saxony tweeds and indigo saries are concerned. The ranges of patterns produced by the leading manufacturers are very extensive, and the designs are on all hands acknowledged to be unusually good. The styles are very varied, but the chief demand is for small, neat checks; larger checks are also being shown in considerable variety, but they are not taking well in any branch of the trade. Striped designs are still selling in moderate quantities, but the demand of a few seasons ago for these seems to have passed away. Both across the channel and on this side there is a gratifying improvement in the demand for the better qualities of tweeds; while cheviot qualities are still selling as largely as ever, the demand for Saxony tweeds in good qualities, up to 3s. 6d. and 4s. 10d. per yard for narrow widths, is substantially increasing. For the English trade, also, there has been for some seasons past a growing demand, that has now settled into a steady and permanent trade, for very fine qualities of six-quarter, thoroughly-skruined Irish tweeds and sartings. Some of the leading makers are giving considerable attention to the prosecution and development of this better class trade, which undoubtedly is of a more profitable nature than that of the coarser end.

In the local trade there has been almost an unprecedented keenness of competition this season for the coming spring orders. Within the past week all the leading Irish and South of Scotland manufacturers have met together in Belfast, and have had to submit their ranges on the same basis. It is seldom, indeed, that the qualities, finishes, and designs of Scotch and Irish woollens have been brought into the same closeness of compari-

The Making-up Trades.

BUSINESS in the shirt and collar branches of the making-up industry has quieted down somewhat during the past month. In the making-up houses of large wholesale drapery houses, and some of their most reliable English customers are buying with a moderation that betokens little hopefulness of good trade in the immediate future. The manufacturers of these houses here and across the channel have done fairly well with the earlier buyers, but retail buying for winter does not become general for some weeks to come yet.

The collar and cuff houses are on the whole fairly well employed, though some branches of the trade seem to have fallen into a condition of permanent dullness. Although the demand for men's collars and cuffs is well sustained, and in Belfast may well be described as a steadily growing industry, the very large trade formerly done in ladies' collars and sets—extensive enough to form at one time the chief feature in the business of some of our largest houses—has become so toned down that another sudden turn of fashion's wheel may make the demand set in full force again at any time. Meantime, the loss of business here has been very considerable. Of course, in order to maintain the demand and the business, the shirts and blouses have been very fully compensated for the time being for the falling away in the demand just mentioned. The trade in ladies' shirts and blouses has been other than ever this season, and the demand has continued almost up to date. It is feared by some that we have seen the last of this vogue, so beneficial to Belfast while it lasts; but the same fear was expressed by the manufacturers at the close of last season, happily without fulfilment. There is no reason why a trade in these or similar garments should not be continued for almost an indefinite period, if the manufacturers only give sufficient attention to the turning out of novelties in make and style. One could not but be struck with the sameness which prevailed in the styles turned out by the different factories, and in which each manufacturer clung to his own peculiar design of its fellows. Another practice indulged in, which, however, stimulating to the demand for the moment, has a tendency permanently to depress that of products of the same quality, is the copying of the design in any quality required, from the lowest to the cheapest to the most expensive made. Ladies are not slow to discern any fashion, if they find the garments they are wearing themselves copied with great faithfulness in those worn, say, by their servants. Some branches of trade have felt the injury that follows the practice referred to, and if the trade in ladies' blouses, &c., is to have any chance of permanence, manufacturers will not only require to give earnest heed to the necessity for the production of novelties, but to take care that the better qualities of the goods they produce shall have confined to them their own styles of make-up, and their own designs of material.

A steady trade is passing in front of all kinds, though here, as in the collar and cuff end, the trade of Belfast is mainly confined to the lower and moderate qualities. The higher priced goods, upon which it is natural to imagine that the chief profit is obtained, are principally bought from the London factories. It is said that the reason of this is, that the Lon-

don factories are so much more convenient for special orders for instant delivery, that these are always for the better qualities, and that the stock orders for fine goods naturally follow the specials. The extension of the telephone system may obviate the difficulty under which Belfast manu-

The Apron and Pinafore Trade.

Orders for the coming season are said to have been freely placed by Holland goods of various kinds, and for some fancy pinafores, of which linen or holland forms the basis. All-linen pale holland have sold in very moderate quantities, but a very fair trade indeed has been done in union pales, and in goods made from union doublas and fancy union roughs. The
THE IRISH TEXTILE JOURNAL. August 15th, 1893.

The Belfast Linen Trade Report.

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

THE condition of the market since last review has been one of continued quietness, the financial excitement in the United States of late having contributed largely to the temporary depression which has affected business at this side as well as there.

FLAX.

Pending the opening of the Irish flax markets this season, there has been little or nothing doing of late in the raw material, stocks being practically exhausted. Our crop is being harvested under fairly favourable conditions, notwithstanding the recent heavy rains and high winds, and it is believed the quality will turn out much superior to the past year or two. This being so, it is much to be regretted that the acreage is so small. The markets generally will not open till next week, but small consignments have been hurried forward within the past ten days. At Cookstown, on the 5th inst., a small lot sold at 10/– per stone, and at Omagh on same day about 2 tons, which brought 8/– to 9/3. At Belfast, on the 11th inst., 14 tons of very strong flax, though with not much quality, sold from 8/3 to 10/– per stone.

The market for Russian flax has been very quiet, buyers holding off making purchases at present quotations, and the turn of late has been towards easier rates.

YARNS.

Spinners up to the present having old contracts to work upon have had no difficulty in disposing of any stocks over and above forward orders. In consequence, they have not been pressing for business, and hold very firmly for current rates. What stocks there are on the market show no increase on previous month, and lately for towns and some classes of lines an improved inquiry has appeared. The range of line wefts from 55a to 85a, though quoted three-halfpence under last month’s tariff, does not really indicate a decline in prices, as the extreme point was hardly tested, owing to the unwillingness of spinners to extend their contracts.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

Continued quietness, so far as new business is concerned, has been the experience of manufacturers for the past month, though, at the same time, a good deal of old contract work is still incomplete, so that looms have been to the present well employed. For the near future, manufacturers would like a much better inquiry than at present prevalent, but there has been no disposition to give way in price to induce orders, the continued high rates of yarns precluding this. Power-loom bleaching cloth is still in very light supply, as most of the production is on order, and prices keep quite firm. Hand-loom makes

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—This branch has been very flat of late, and buyers have not done more than almost a retail business, pending the present disturbing elements of strikes at home and financial disquietude in foreign markets.

Continental.—Only a limited demand from the principal markets. With Germany, however, there has been somewhat more doing, but other countries show a falling-off in trade for months past.

United States.—Advices which have come to hand of late indicate a very much quieter condition of the market at the other side, with little disposition during the present unsettled state of affairs to do more than a very limited business. However, compared with other textiles, linens have fared better, and the shipments from this side to the end of last month have been much lower than average for 1892.

Other Markets.—The Foreign West Indian trade has improved, the shipments for last month being much in excess of same month of 1892, and for so far the year’s trade is quite equal to last year’s. Mexico, Brazil, and Argentine Republic continue to demand an increase. British North America, though better than in 1891, has not come up in volume to last year. With smaller markets grouped under the head of “other countries” there is a continued increase.

On the whole, the export trade of the United Kingdom in linen manufactures shows a satisfactory improvement compared with last year, the total value for the seven months ended 31st ult. being £3,080,888, against £3,015,319 last year, and £2,946,160 for 1891.

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

| LEA NO. | 14 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90 | 100 | 120 | 140 | 150 | 160 |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Line Wefs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

These prices are per bundle of 600 yards of grey Yarn, subject to usual discount for cash.

The Irish Cotton Trade.

HIS branch of the Irish trade is in a rather sluggish condition just now, the market for most classes of union and cotton goods having been paralysed by the financial troubles in both Australia and America. The United States, which is the great outlet for these classes of goods, is at the moment practically, or at least comparatively closed, importers of dry goods having had their confidence shaken in the stability of many of their customers, and not knowing what house may be the next to succumb in the wide-spread and general breakdown. Many on this side are of opinion that the worst has been already seen, while others holding less optimistic views fear that more crashes are inevitable. The President’s recent message to Congress will, it is hoped, help materially to allay the general panic, and restore that commercial confidence without which trade is simply an impossibility. Under these circumstances it cannot be wondered at that fewer yarns have been imported into this country during the past three or four weeks than usual, while the greatest difficulty is encountered in effecting fresh sales. Manufacturers here

amount of trade done is fully up to that of last year. From a Belfast point of view, the report is to the effect that there is much demand for all-cotton holland aprons; these are now being produced in very substantial quantities by some of the leading houses. The manufacturers generally have been busy engaged during the past month in getting up their ranges of fancy pinatare samples. Some of the principal makers of these are at present in London and Manchester, and are reported to be meeting with very fair success, but the result of their journeys will not be fully known in time for the present issue. So far, however, the prospect of trade is promising enough. The factories are all fully employed, and most of them, as well as the shirt and collar factories above referred to, being still engaged to some extent on ladies’ blouses and similar garments.

The manufacturers generally complain—the do also the collar and cuff makers, and those with more reason—that while they have to pay an advance in some cases in the price of material, no corresponding advance can be obtained in the price of the made-up goods. The advance, however, only affects a small portion of the material employed, and with steady trade there would not be much ground for grumbling.
### Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 31st July, 1893; and in the Seven Months ended 31st July, 1893, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1892 and 1891.

#### COUNTRIES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
<td>Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linen Yarn.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>224,800</td>
<td>241,100</td>
<td>359,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>216,100</td>
<td>101,140</td>
<td>142,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>315,500</td>
<td>72,100</td>
<td>91,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>285,700</td>
<td>714,700</td>
<td>354,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain and Canaries</td>
<td>26,100</td>
<td>55,440</td>
<td>54,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>130,600</td>
<td>266,800</td>
<td>152,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,170,600</td>
<td>1,532,400</td>
<td>1,333,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Linen Manufactures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Yards.</th>
<th>Yards.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>234,700</td>
<td>275,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>210,800</td>
<td>334,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>135,500</td>
<td>71,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain and Canaries</td>
<td>65,900</td>
<td>95,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>7,816,500</td>
<td>9,198,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1,747,700</td>
<td>548,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign West Indies</td>
<td>158,200</td>
<td>92,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>492,200</td>
<td>344,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of all Goods</strong></td>
<td>235,800</td>
<td>232,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Piece Goods of all Kinds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Yards.</th>
<th>Yards.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Germany</td>
<td>201,900</td>
<td>147,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>100,800</td>
<td>174,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines Islands</td>
<td>755,900</td>
<td>1,081,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British North America</td>
<td>173,800</td>
<td>83,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British West Indies</td>
<td>265,400</td>
<td>227,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Indies</td>
<td>1,672,200</td>
<td>1,258,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td>1,932,200</td>
<td>1,202,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Plain, Un-</strong></td>
<td>14,086,900</td>
<td>14,312,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>bleached, or Bleached</em></td>
<td>311,035</td>
<td>308,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Checks</strong></td>
<td>1,216,500</td>
<td>1,115,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Printed, or Dyed, and Discounted</em></td>
<td>29,501</td>
<td>31,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of Piece Goods</strong></td>
<td>15,511,600</td>
<td>15,658,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Value of Linen Manufactures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Russia</td>
<td>6,641</td>
<td>5,651</td>
<td>5,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holland</strong></td>
<td>214</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Belgium</strong></td>
<td>295</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Countries</strong></td>
<td>105</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8,993</td>
<td>7,006</td>
<td>6,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note.

For Data in previous Flax, Table for this year read Totals.
show no inclination whatever to buy more than they absolutely require to keep their looms going, and as most of them have fairly large contracts not yet executed, they are unwilling to enter into further engagements at the present remunerated by the manufacturers. Besides there is no great demand for union goods of any description at present, unless perhaps for cheap crash at about $2.00 per yard. There is extremely little doing in union roughs and creams, which were hitherto sold in large quantities both for export and local cutting up. A moderately steady business has been done up till the present in union glass-cloths and tows, and a fair balance of unexecuted orders remains on the books, but there were very few fresh orders being received now for these goods. Shirting unions are fairly well sold up, but it is probable that there will be a slackness in the demand for the next couple of months. There is little or nothing doing in union handkerchiefs, unless in some of the finest sets of hand-loom makers for hemstitching purposes, and even in these the sales are very limited. As regards cotton cloth, the present is almost a blank. Those who have made the printing and bleaching and hemming of cotton handkerchiefs a specialty find it extremely difficult to place their goods, and unless for assorting purposes, or to keep their hands employed, very little cotton cambrics are being bought at present. The sales of cotton interlinings, although as a rule fairly well maintained, has been lately only limited, and buyers are hard to induce into new engagements unless tempted by some advantages in price.

**Irish.**

**DUBLIN.**—The reports from the various markets are not as satisfactory as they might be. Especially is this the case with linens. A dulness has settled down in this direction which is far from pleasant, and, in the face of a small inquiry, the prices have been with difficulty main- tained. Perhaps the thing which receives the most attention is the fact that this state of affairs will not last, and that the depression is only temporary. In woolens no change of any importance has occurred. For raw material prices remain nominally unaltered, but the demand has been rather below the usual and the same applies to piece goods. For woollens the latest quotations are:—Supply still limited; trade quiet but steady; Down, 10 sh. to 10s.; hogget, 9s. to 9½d.; stock to 10s. per yard, 7½d. to 8½d.; mountains, 7½d. to 8½d.; Scottie, 5½d. to 7½d. There can be no doubt that, as I foresaw in my notes last month, the dis- turbance of the silver and consequent other monetary markets has reacted unfavourably on our produce markets. Everything is unsettled, and all that can be hoped for is that the depression which affects linens will be but temporary. Opinions tend to this favourable view, and I trust that the general idea will be the correct one.

**The Skibbereen Convention.**

I have referred before to the National Workmen's Exhibition which has been held in the Agricultural Hall, London, and at which many of the Irish exhibitors attracted a good deal of attention. I am now able to announce that three prizes were awarded to the products of the linen looms of the Skibbereen Convention. The prizes were for pure linen tea-cloths—one on red linen ground, and one on white ground with grey-green embroidery, the work of a girl named Margaret Donovan; another was for the same work upon white ground with white embroidery, made by Nora Duggan. These were similar to articles of the same kind which are being regularly produced in the art-work schools of the Convention, which, besides, turn out pure linen handkerchiefs, embroidered or plain; lawn dresses of various colours, sheets, pillow-cases, towelling, and many other articles, which can always be had on application, and all made of the finest linen on the spot. The linen weaving industry at Skibbereen is of a late growth, and the proficiency to which this re-introduction of hand-loom weaving has been brought reflects the greatest credit upon the energy and intelligently directed efforts of the men. Embroidery has, of course, been long one of the chief occupations of the girls at the Convention, but they now produce their own material to form the foundation of this embellishing art. The advantage of this process is shown by the attention which they have carried off in open competition in London. Speaking from a personal knowledge of these products, I can fully appreciate the advantages which would be secured if all interested in the linen trade took the example of home industries in the South and West of Ireland as, no doubt, they were to the unions of the Skibbereen Convention and their young and industrious charges.

**Lady Aberdeen.**

Lady Aberdeen's latest tour—and what will, I fancy, be her last tour for some time to come—through Ireland has come to an end. She and her husband will be starting in a very short time for their gubernatorial duties in Canada, and for a space of five years Irish industries will have to be content with what assistance Lady Aberdeen will be able to give them from Government House in that country. She was able to stimulate and help the workers by words of advice and suggestions dictated by experience and a full knowledge of the subject. At Limerick she announced that the Linen Council of Ireland is determined to grant £100 in aid of the lace schools at Limerick, to assist in putting on the trade and generally extending the advantages of the trade of lace making which can be afforded. As a centre of lace manufacture it ranks high both from an artistic and technical point of view. Limerick lace has always commanded attention and obtained favorable notice in the market. Intrinsically they have ever deserved it, and latterly the increasing artistic value of the designs used has advanced their material value. The £100 now about to be granted will be put to a good use, as nowhere has greater intelligence been shown than by those who direct and control the Limerick schools. Here there has been no hesitancy in adopting new designs, or in making use of the artistic training which has of late been available for lace makers. In fact, Limerick lace has a greater advance been shown year by year than in those of Limerick, and the action of the Central Executive of the Home Industries Association in awarding a grant must be further improved. The only pity is that Linen Lace making is not more supported from the grants given to other centres of industry almost, if not quite, as deserving as Limerick.

**The Foxford Mills.**

I think I may say that the difficulty with respect to the supply of water-power to these mills is now at an end, so far as human arrangements and engineering skill can overcome it. The Fishery Conservators have accepted a plan submitted to them by the mill-owners, the fishery owners, and the Congested Districts Board. The only alteration suggested is one to provide for the freeer passing of the fish, and this in no way affects the efficiency of the water-supply. There is an obvious advantage in the manner in which this dispute has now been settled—that when adopted and finally passed, as it no doubt will be, the plan will be in black and white, will be signed by all parties concerned, and all will be bound by its terms. There is no doubt that considerable difficulties surrounded the solution of the problem involved in giving to the mills erected by the those at Foxford a sufficient of water-power without interfering with other and prior existing rights; but it now appears, and on seemingly indisputable authority, that if the mills have been stopped, that was not due to the deficiency of water-power caused by the long drought than to the so-called “mischievous wrangle” over the water-rights. As a matter of fact, it is believed that, should a similar long continued drought again occur, the same unfortunate results will ensue irrespective of any “wrangle,” which will not be possible in the future. All’s well that ends well; and the wheels of the Foxford Mills will be running merrily, I hope, before these words are in print; and if good come of it, though regrettable in itself, the incident which has drawn so much public attention to the Foxford factory need not have been entirely without advantage. The nurses have large orders for their wares on hand, and I hope that, as fast as these are worked off, others will be received, and that during the coming months, when in the nature of things no failure of the water-supply is to be expected, the mill wheels will continue to constantly revolve—in fact, some of the places are going on about half-time. House makers are pretty busy, also embroiderers of shams, sheet, tea-cloths, &c. There is some dulness in fine hand-loom damasks and pipers, also in the corner goods made in power-looms.

**Lurgan.**—We are experiencing in the linen cambric trade considerable dulness now, but hope it is only temporary; all the handloom goods in linen cambric for hemstitched handkerchiefs are being fully used up, but the quantity turned out from looms is small. Woven bordered handkerchiefs are also a slow sale. Power-loom manufacturers keep well employed, and with better reports of the flax crop, and the financial condition in the United States, there is great hope of a return to the old times, if not soon, at least by spring. The unsettled state of affairs in America, and with firms having some of their orders cancelled for that market, the machine hemstitching factories are very badly off for work in order to keep machinery in a fair way, and some of the pieces are going only about half-time. House makers are pretty busy, also embroiderers of shams, sheet, tea-cloths, &c. There is some dulness in fine hand-loom damasks and pipers, also in the corner goods made in power-looms.

**Barnsley.**—In this district business, on the whole, keeps fairly good, and in the month just passed a satisfactory demand has been experienced for most classes of linens. A further improvement has taken place in the request for drills, nearly all classes having partaken in it; the demand for fancy and coloured makes has been large. In table there is nothing new to note; the same quiet feeling has per-
LEEDS.—A general feeling of depression has pervaded this district during the greater part of the month, the chief cause having been the crisis in the coal dispute. The last strike in the coal industry had a very injurious effect upon this district, chiefly amongst those engaged in the making of the lower classes of goods, but the strike was also in a minor degree upon those who produce the better makes of clothes. In the present crisis it is feared that the strike will have far-reaching consequences, and already there is an uneasy feeling amongst buyers and sellers alike. In the worsted branches things have, during the month, assumed a quieter aspect than for a long time past, and new orders have come in slowly. Some firms are very busy on old orders, while others are very quiet. In tweeds and cheviots, also, less has been done, and the outlook in these branches is rather depressing. In serges there is still a large business being done, and makers generally are busy, with the exception of those engaged in the lower qualities, who, recently, have found a difficulty in getting new orders. The ready-made clothing branches are in a very depressed state, and, during the last week in the month, business was at a standstill. As regards calicoes, the trade is almost an early settlement of the strike. Prices of most goods show no change.

BRADFORD.—There has been a steady business done during the month in the raw material. Looe woollen mills have kept in good demand at slightly higher prices, and whilst other English woollen mills have sold fairly well, Botany wools have only been quiet. In the yarn branches orders have not been very numerous, but, notwithstanding this, spinners are at present well engaged on old orders, and especially is this the case in bright hairled and mohair yarns, which will last for some weeks to come. There is, therefore, no eagerness to book new orders, unless at slightly higher rates than hitherto. At the Continental Exchanges there has been a good demand, as merchants are careful in placing orders, unless on old terms. In botany descriptions business has been much quieter, and spinners of these, as a rule, are short of work, owing to the stagnation in the American coasting trade, and a rather despondent feeling is apparent, as it is not expected that much improvement will take place in the demand from America for some months to come. The piece trade is in a fairly steady state, although manufacturers could get through more work if orders were more numerous and of larger bulk; but the tendency seems to be to give out small orders, with a variety of designs and styles of goods in fancy makes, whilst for plain fabrics orders also are for small lots. Prices are unchanged.

MANCHESTER.—Just when linen buyers were confidently preparing for a successful active business campaign, destined to bring up to something like normal figures the turnover which had shrunk so greatly during the stoppage of the spinning mills, the hands of the clock have again been put back to the condition of coal workers in this district. The tidelands have been sold, but many hands have paralysed business for the time being, and travellers can hope for very few results in this district while the struggle continues. As a temporary alternative to connection with the dispute, the appearance it bears of a struggle for mastery between employers and employed. This, as much as bad trade, is accountable for the stoppage of so many thousands of men in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire.

Much dissatisfaction has been caused in this district at the attitude of the Postmaster-General in relation to the Queensdown Mail Service. The decision of the department to stop the special arrangement for expediting the despatch of the English mails via Queensdown, is looked upon as another instance of the favouritism which has recently been extended on every possible occasion to the Southampton route. It cannot too often be pointed out to the officials in St. Martin’s-le-Grand, that the centre of gravity of our great American trade is not in London, but in Liverpool, and that the primary consideration in dealing with American mails should not be the interests of London, but the interests of Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool, Belfast, and Glasgow.

United States Market. (From our Special Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, July 28th, 1893.

INCE last writing a decided and very palpable change has overtaken matters commercial, and what was thought to be only a temporary ruffling of banking affairs has extended its sweep to nearly all our great manufacturing interests. You have heard of the closing of our great cotton mills at the East, the shutting down of the iron industries, and the suspension of operations in most of our great manufacturing enterprises as well as many of long-established fame—Clark’s thread mills, etc., etc.

To the optimistic mind this means a shortening of sail rather than disaster—a desire to confine production to a safe limitation that will meet wants only, now that all speculative buying has ceased and will be an unknown quantity for, perhaps, months to come; for the “boom” quality that carried all businesses along on a sweeping tide for the past few years has subsided, and left us facing the hard side of concrete facts. Much is hoped for in the way of relief from the extra session of Congress that will have organized before this letter appears in print; but those who know the dragging code of procedure that characterizes the assembling of our legislative bodies are aware that Congress will waste weeks in getting to work, and that the new Congress (Mr. G. W. G. & Co.) was elected to do a kind of work that will not be deliberative. There will be a bitter and prolonged fight of a sectional nature over silver, the West and South against the East—the great mercantile community waiting meanwhile for the policy of the great political parties are wavering just at this moment, undecided as to whether, after all, the silver imbroglio is of as much consequence as the matter of the tariff, and not a few are arguing that, if the policy of the

played. The demand all round is poor, as far as our market is concerned; and with raw material at its present price, and fuel tending in an upward direction, prudent men do not care to make for stock. The handkerchief business is rather quiet, the American demand leaving room for improvement. The lines of fancy handkerchiefs had a good demand, but narrow goods were met with most favour; those upon which monograms, crests, and other devices are put seem to have met with increased interest. Towellings of different kinds have been well paid for, and the chief demand having been for the most coloured makes. In hand-made linens there has been very little doing; in fact, there is seldom much passing in this branch, and less seems to be done than it was a year ago. Prices of most classes of goods are about as last month.
dominant power were defined once and for all, business would again assume a tone that would eventually lead matters to their normal vigour.

How are linen trade matters affected? Well, in several ways, and, of course, affecting consumption materially. The far-away jobbers, who start the fall season with their July purchases and pave a way to be followed by the autumn purchases later on, have eagerly appeared at all, and the few who came on bought lightly—and disappeared. Very many orders given in spring for fall delivery have been cancelled outright. This has affected the damaged trade, and, more particularly, the handkerchief trade,—handkerchief men have more complaints in this respect than any other branch of the linen business. Towy collar manufacturers have suffered in this way with all others, and, per consequence, there is a curtailment of requirements for cutting up, last summer the collar men were unable to fill their orders, this summer some of them have but few orders. The summer, summer shutdown of two weeks will begin next Monday, August 14th. Then, if a mooted proposition to continue the recess during the entire month does not prevail, labour will be resumed. S. L. Munson, the big collar and shirt manufacturer at Albany, has ordered half-time at his factory until further notice. It is only fair to say that, of all industries affected, the collar and shirt trades have preserved the most buoyant tone, and they will spring into activity again with the first dawn of confidence; indeed, the more sanguine spirits argue that demand in all lines will come with a surprising rush when matters have once settled themselves. The vexing question of the duty upon embroidered handkerchiefs and upon hemstitched handkerchiefs has not reached its final settlement, and importers are still paying the 60 per cent. under protest. Attention will be given to the linen goods exhibits at Chicago in a later letter. Mr. Thomas Hanna, of the firm of Robert Watson & Son, Lurgan, appointed to be judge, or one of the judges, of the linen goods exhibits, arrived a few weeks ago and is now at Chicago. Edward M'Connell, jun., has severed business connections with his father, and is now giving his entire attention to the affairs of the National Butter Company, in which he is largely interested.

PEMBROKE TECHNICAL SCHOOL,
DUBLIN.

In the Record for last month, a Journal published by the National Association for Promoting Technical Education, we find the following account of the New Technical and Fishery School at Ringsend, Dublin:

"About two years ago Lord Pembroke offered to grant a free site and to erect a Technical School upon the condition that the Pembroke Township Commissioners agreed to maintain it. This offer was promptly accepted, and a school built, which will be opened in September next. A scheme for the future government of the school has been framed by the Educational Endowment Commissioners, and provides for representation on the Board of Governors of the following officers—The Pembroke Township Commissioners, the subscribers, the boat owners, the fishermen, the fishery commissioners, the founders. The subjects of instruction will include—Technical Classes: fishing, the natural history of fish, navigation and seamanship, the laws of weather, currents, tides, &c., tailoring and mending, boat-building, netmaking and mending, manual instruction, smiths' work, cookery, domestic economy, laundry work, dressmaking, knitting, ambulance, swimming. Science and Art Classes: theory, arithmetic, algebra, mechanics, chemistry, flute drawing. The school will have an assured income of about £500, and owing to its proximity to Dublin it has been possible to secure an efficient body of teachers in each department. The Governors look forward to adding a library, a technical museum, and a marine laboratory, and they trust to extend their operations to other parts of Ireland. This school will be one of the first bond fish schools established in the kingdom, and the success of the venture will be looked forward to with much interest. The architect of the building is Mr. W. Kaye Parry, M.A., B.E., Dublin."

We have to thank Mr. Oldman, Secretary of the National Association, for the use of the illustration which accompanies this description.

GROWTH OF FLAX IN INDIA.

Flax is largely grown in India at the present day, but only for its seed. It has been a matter of surprise to some that the cultivation of the flax-plant, though successful in India, has never been availed of in producing the fibre. During the late Indian Colonial Exhibition, in 1886, attention was drawn to this fact by those interested in the flax industry, and it was suggested that, considering the samples of the seed exhibited, the plant must thrive well in this country; and the only thing necessary would be the cultivation of the crop to suit the extraction of the fibre. However, it has to be borne in mind that in India the conditions under which crops are raised differ much from what they have in Europe and America. Here the land is for the most part owned by the ryot, and only in small acreages. No regular plantation could be opened, and as great care is necessary in the raising of the crop and the preparation of fibre, cultivators do not like to run the risks, even at the prospect of getting better profits, so long as they could produce other crops, which do not require so much attention, and which pay them well for their trouble. As with many other products, the Indian authorities organised experiments in flax culture, and it was at one time thought that the plant for fibre could be successfully grown in Behar, North-Western and Central Provinces, but the Government of the day discontinued further investigations.

We have no more flax plantations to-day than we had years ago; more than one venture in its extended cultivation having failed, and resulted in losses to those who embarked in it. — Indian Textile Journal.

CHICAGO EXHIBITION, 1893.

Among English machinists in the complimentary list, the firm of Galloway, Limited, appear as having contributed a horizontal compound engine, which drives one of the three lines of shafting running through the British section of the machinery building. It is suitable for indicating 300 h.p. at 70 revolutions per minute, with 100 lbs. boiler pressure, fitted with all the latest improvements. In the Agricultural Section, Group IX., Combe, Barbour & Combe, Limited, Belfast, show samples of various vegetable fibres, illustrating their condition during the various processes of preparing, spinning, and twisting, the samples being accompanied by a series of photographs of the several machines used in each process. In mineral waters the following Irish firms have exhibits:—The Artesian Company, Limited, Dublin; Belfast Mineral Water Company; Limited; Cantrall & Cochran, William Cory & Company, and W. A. Ross & Sons, Limited. In stronger drinks, Malcolm Brown & Company, J. McCarthy & Sons, Old Bushmills Company, Limited, and Sir J. Power & Son have contributed samples. The Drogheda Chemical Manure Company have a case of their goods, and Brunner, Mond & Company, of Northwich, show a collection of their alkali and other products used in the bleaching trade. In the sea fishing and angling group, the Baltimore School of Fishery exhibits a model of their school as well as a model of one of the school fishing smacks, together with samples of their cured mackerel. In building materials, the Irish Portland Cement and Brick Company, Limited, Dublin, contribute specimens of their manufactures. Photographs of Irish scenery have been supplied by the Northern Counties Railway Company, the Great Northern Railway Company, Great Southern and Western Railway Company, the Midland, and other lines. In the stationery department, Marcus Ward & Company, Limited, show Royal
FOREIGN LINENS AT THE CHICAGO FAIR.

The French exhibit is the largest, most varied, and most attractive of any in the entire Exposition. It is partly on the ground floor and partly in the upper floor of a large case filled with garments for women and children from the Bon Marché, Paris. They are all made from hand-woven lawn and hand-made lace, the flax being grown in France. Among the articles greatly admired are a child's dress, made of needlepoint Venetian linen lace, valued at $2,700; a set of ladies' underwear, trimmed with Medicea lace—four pieces—marked $2,000. It is claimed that these are the finest linen garments ever made. In other cases, Renne Monseur shows white, embroidered, and coloured handkerchiefs; Frank, ladies’ underwear, embroidered, and in fancy colors; Simonnot, Godard, et Flis, coloured and printed lawns especially adapted for underwear.

In the gallery are a large number of cases filled with linen goods of various kinds, which are deserving of the attention of all students and manufacturers of flax in this country. One exhibitor, D. Dobruch, Lille, shows heavy, coarse, bleached and unbleached linen cloth for garments, percale and labourers. They are thick, soft, and serviceable. For the small sum of 10 cents, enough of this linen cloth can be obtained to make a pair of pantaloons. Several large cases are devoted to the display of heavy flax cloth, carpet, mats, clothes linen, small and heavy cordage, bagging, inner Soles for shoes, carriage rugs, and traces for harness. All these articles show what can be produced from the flax fibre, which now goes to waste, being produced solely for the seed it produces.

The displays of Russia and Belgium are similar. They both show large quantities of linen yarn designed for exportation, heavy flax cloth for garments for men, and all kinds of linens for dress and household purposes. In the Russian section is a large display of linen cloths woven with from two to five bright colors. There is also a large collection of the flax cloths as supplied to the Ministry of War. Obviously, uniforms are made from these for use in summer or for wearing in hot countries. The making and manufacturing of flax are well illustrated in the Russian department. In a small case that may escape the notice of most visitors are most beautiful linen garments.

The displays of Austria and Germany are also similar, and show to what extent linen is used for outer garments and other purposes for which cotton and wool are employed in English-speaking portions of the world. Many of the displays of linen lines are very excellent, and raise the inquiry whether the best lines are produced in Ireland. In the Austrian section, Carl Siegl, Mahr, Schonberg, shows handsome sheeting, 90 inches wide, combined with linen selvage; pillow linens, table cloths, wide, hemstitched sheetings, damask towels, napkins, and table covers; also fine linen for shirts, cuffs, and collars. Several exhibitors from the city of Leipzic, which is the nucleus of all the linen of Germany, show most beautiful bed-spreads, furnishing covers, napkins, and other linen goods. Some of the table clothes are bordered with designs in gold thread. There are many novelties in the Austrian linen exhibit.

In the German section, G. Langeheirich, Schlitz, Hesse, has a fine booth fitted up as a dining-room for showing table linens and towels. The table is in the middle of the room, and is covered with a fine cloth, while napkins are in their appropriate places. In the centre of the table stands a beautiful vase filled with blooming flax. In one corner of the room is a spinning-wheel, while the walls are ornamented with beautiful napkins framed in royal purple velvet. Large cases contain specimens of table linen.

Christian Diehr, Oberlungenfeld, Silesia, makes a large display of dress goods for women and children. They are of linen, mixed with cotton or wool. Cloth of this kind appears to be generally worn by country people. The colours are excellent, and the patterns varied. This manufacturer claims to have turned out 30,000 different patterns and styles of these goods. In this display are many kinds of linen feather-tight bed ticks and pillow cases. None of them are striped like those used in this country, but are very ornamental, the colours being very bright.

G. Schumacher and Rasecker, Berlin, manufacturers and purveyors to the Court, display treasuries for brides, outfits for gentlemen, and children, table cloths, white, coloured, and hemstitched, and many other goods. In the exhibit is the duplicate of the bridal outfit for Her Royal Highness the Princess Marguerite of Prussia, and the table linen ordered by the Empress Frederic for the Royal Palace. The entire display of the firm is fit to set before princes.—New York Journal of Commerce.

WASTE OIL FILTERS.

In these days, when small economies are carefully considered in the management of still property, or where machinery of any kind is used, any fresh means whereby a saving can be effected is sure to command notice. We have pleasure in drawing attention to a very useful filter designed by Messrs. A. C. Wells & Co., St. Pancras, London, to save waste oil. Up to the present, small users of oil have been in the habit of throwing this waste away after it has been used on their gas or steam engines and other machinery. This filter will clean the oil thoroughly, so that it can be used over and over again. There has been a great want for a small and inexpensive filter, and we are not surprised to learn that large quantities have been sold. They are nicely enamelled, so that they are quite an ornament to an engine-room. The oil is placed in the top receptacle, where the worst dirt naturally settles. The top and chaser portion of the oil is then drawn off by the tap into the second chamber, where it passes through a filtering bed, and then proceeds by a pipe to another filtering pan arranged in the bottom chamber. The oil can be readily drawn off by the tap at the bottom. Messrs. A. C. Wells & Co. are also the makers of the well-known unbreakable lamps and oil feeders, which have had such a large sale.

Book Notices.

Kelly’s Directory of the Manufacturers of Textile Fabrics. London: Kelly & Co., Limited, High Holborn. 1,556 pages, price 30s. All the works published by this firm are compiled with great care, and for business purposes are indispensable in the counting house. This new issue is the fourth edition of one of their directories, and is of special interest to all connected with the textile industries, embracing, as it does, a very extensive range of districts in England, Scotland, and Ireland. It contains the names and addresses of all textile manufacturers, but of all other trades in any way connected therewith. The cost of collecting and compiling such a vast number of names must indeed be very heavy indeed. Besides an extensive London directory, there are upwards of 6,000 towns included in the work, whilst the number of manufacturers and trades is over 500. A very useful peace gives statistical information respecting the woollen, cotton, linen, silk, and other industries of the United Kingdom, compiled to the latest date.

Commercial Gambling. By Charles W. Smith, Liverpool. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited, Fetter Lane. Price 3s. 6d. The author, who has had 31 years’ experience in the commercial world, deals with a subject which he holds is most seriously affecting the commercial and trading interests of the country at the present time, and to its influence the depression of late years, and the fall in prices of the products of the soil, are largely traceable. In the Preface he wishes the landlords, farmers, and working classes, as well as commercial men, “... to realize the curses which the Option, Future, and Settlement systems have brought upon the world. The evil has its origin in America, but within the past 13 years it has crept into and has now firmly established itself in British commerce. In short, it is a total perversion of legitimate trading, by which one buys and takes delivery of what another has to sell. Under this spurious system no goods whatever pass, the dealings represented by paper contracts being settled from day to day, or week to week, by a clearing (or sponging) house arrangement, created to liquidate these transactions. Whatever proceeds is dealt in on the speculation of its price at a future date, when that date comes round, the margin or difference is only adjusted between the contracting parties; if the price has gone up or down, the margin is a profit or loss accordingly, but no goods representing the dealing are moved. The outcome of this gambling system is that the actual world’s total of any crop dealt in becomes doubled or trebled or quadrupled on paper, so that the ordinary factors of supply
and demand can no longer be depended upon for regulating the price of those commodities. It is necessary that the produce dealt in should be one of prime importance and quickly turned over. The author gives the following list of Commodities which are included under the Option and Futures Systems, based on Settlement. In America—Provisions affected—maize, oats, coffee, hard, pork, petroleum, sugar, cotton. In England—Wheat, rice, cotton, coffee, tobacco, silk; these, with the cotton of India, are used as the medium of gambling in iron, coal, and tin. He also states that there are large speculations carried on at home which are executed primarily in America, as there are no organized institutions in this country for gambling in these commodities. A case in point, which occurred last year in Liverpool, will illustrate this. A notorious firm of foreign trading and, show what a disturbing influence it has on the actual bond and disc market values and prices.

A broker held about £2,000,000 worth of produce in the shape of Future Contracts—not a penniless man did he ever intend to demand delivery of actual produce in gold or silver till the end of the contract, when there would be no more available at that price. He also states that large speculators are holding both Columns 3 and 4, the price of cotton, coffee, tobacco, silk, besides these, warrants in England are used as the medium of gambling in iron, coal, and tin.

The Season. Journal of Fashion. London. 1st monthly. The August number of this first-class journal well sustains the reputation it has as a leader of fashion. Its numerous plates and designs for dresses and costumes make it valuable, not only to the trade, but for home work, the flat patterns given being of the greatest assistance to both. The gymnastic dresses for ladies and children are particularly effective. To linen manufacturers the very elegant model of a dress in white linen will be of interest, and as this season there has been a large demand for Irish linen for dress purposes, we are glad to find the fashion journals are supplying designs for costumes in this material. The hollands, drills, and white linens, plain and embroidered, now made in the North of Ireland for ladies' and children's dresses, are all excellent, and are sure to be in much greater demand next year for home consumption, as well as for shipment.

Chemicals and Dyes.

(Special Report by Messrs. Samuel & Co., Ltd., Middleborough.)

The Ammonia market continues extended, and Sulphate of Ammonia is difficult to obtain at the advanced market quotations of £10 10s. Carbonate and Muratic Acid have been advanced, and Sulphate of Ammonia has also a corresponding advance. Castile Soap was not in large demand, but a strong cold strike has given a capital lift to ordinary chemicals, the "Great Unia," having decided to close their works when their stock of fuel runs out. This action decidedly has no influence on the market. Castile Soap and Soda Ash for the rest of this year, as the cessation of production will afford an opportunity to clear accumulated stocks, which for some time have depressed values. Tar Products continue low and in demand, and Soda Ash will carry on at the existing prices, with no assurance that prices will drop. The market in castile soap is unsteady and demand. This is due to the high price of the raw materials.

By this system, the author contends, "the value of actual and bond and disc stocks of produce are reduced down to the panic value of the gambling paper or Future Contracts, which value, therefore, regulates the retail value of all such produce in every part of the world, and affects not only the producer, but also the agricultural labourer, as well as the value of the land that grows the produce." The book is deeply interesting, and I recommend it to readers who demand for such investigations. The conclusions of the author, as the result of long experience, are that it means commercial ruin to the country, if measures be not adopted to make this gigantic gambling in food a steadily growing and illegal. A Parliamentary Commission should make a thorough and exhaustive inquiry into this system—which is a potent factor in the present agricultural depression. He adds that if a general anti-Option Bill which puts a tax on such transactions to make them prohibitive, but the House of Representatives has unfortunately sheathed the measure for the present. At all events, so far as the House is affected by this gambling system, a strong case is made out by Mr. Smith calling for Parliamentary notice, and we trust that very soon steps will be taken to introduce a bill in which Commons to an inquiry may be seriously considered and searched, and embracing not alone this system, but the modern invention of Trusts, Combinations, and Syndicates, which has spread so much power into the hands of a few. The book in one which can be extensively studied, for it discloses a condition of things that more or less affects everyone. The author is not a "crank," nor the subject a "crisis" but the work is a sober relation of facts which should be faced, and of an evil that ought to be denounced.

Visit Ireland. By E. W. Crossley, Gresham Hotel, Dublin. Price 6d. This is the title of the new descriptive and illustrated guide, compiled and arranged by the author with a view to draw special attention to Irish scenery, and to promote a larger tourist traffic throughout the country. The leading railway companies have of late years issued very attractive guides to their respective lines, but this being more extensive and embracing a far wider range of country, both coast and inland, undoubtedly meets an acknowledged want, combining, as it does, descriptive matter of the most charming scenery in Ireland, side by side with the necessary commercial and travelling information required by tourists. The work, which must have entailed great labour and extensive travel, is published in an attractive style and is most creditable to the compiler, the interleps being accompanied with excellent photographic views. The result will come as a revelation to many tourists, who have never given a thought to Ireland as a country where a delightful holiday may be spent. The Irish railway companies are waking up to the importance of providing the best hotel accommodation in the most attractive centres, and when these are added to what already exist, we may hope for a very large increase in tourist traffic. The steamer and railway companies ought this year to combine and make a free distribution of 50,000 copies of the work throughout the United Kingdom and abroad to tap some of the traffic, although it may be rather late to hope for any material increase this year.

J. Bagshaw & Sons, Limited, Engineers, Balby. We have received the illustrated catalogue of this firm, which is got up in excellent style, and gives full particulars of the many specialties for which the firm is noted, especially in reference to pulleys, shafting, and friction couplings. In addition to the details of the various manufacturers, a number of useful rules and tables are given in the book in regard to the transmission of power by shafts, wheels, ropes, and belts, also for safe loads for steel and iron gearing.

Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.


A. Birkbeck, A. Conner, and J. Ford, Hallowell, No. 11,818.—Drawing and gill spinning, binder twist, rope, etc.

G. Birkbeck, Belton, No. 11,827.—Drawing, Gill bars.


J. Tompson, London, No. 12,145.—Flyers for spinning.


J. Dawson, Bradford, No. 13,746.—Travelling carriers or aprons employed in machinery for washing and drying wool.


J. C. Walker and J. E. Stephenson, No. 13,953.—Decorticating fibrous plants.

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED.

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


X. FRIEDRICH WEISS, Berlin, No. 7,876.—"Improved circular pliers for the flier's combing machine." 1st September, 1892.

MANN & SOENKE, Barham, No. 7,869.—"Improved jacquard machine." 19th March, 1892.

W. Theobald, Berlin, No. 7,922.—"Improved carding engine." 11th April, 1892.

GEBR. STEINER, Gruben i. Sch., No. 7,850.—"Improved tension device, applicable for keeping the threads of warping machines in place." 24th April, 1892.