

The Irish Textile Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

The Belfast Linen Trade Circular.

[REGISTERED.]

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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, 11/6. Subscriptions payable in advance. Free sample copy sent to any address. Advertisers will find the Journal an excellent medium for announcements suitable to its pages. Terms may be known on application.

All remittances to be made payable to the Proprietor, F. W. SMITH, 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 if within the City delivery for £1 2s. 6d., per annum.

The *Home and Foreign Linen Trade Directory*. Published at 2s. 6d. Price reduced to 1s. for the few remaining copies.

A *Souvenir of the Irish Linen Trade*, being a series of 12 Views, illustrating the Cultivation of Flax, the steeping, drying, scutching (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 bleaching and finishing of the Cloth, and the subsequent examination, lapping, and making up 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 & Owden, Ltd., Belfast—dated 1791.

Carefully printed Bromide Photographs (7½ x 6), on India-tinted card mounts 10½ x 14 £1 5s. per set, or unmounted, £1 for the set of 12. Published at the office of this Journal.



Cultivation of Flax in the South.

HERE has not been during the last half-century a more favourable opportunity than the present for urging the question of flax cultivation in the South. It is true the acreage for many years past has been very small; at the same time, we believe it only needs a little effort on the part of the provincial Agricultural Associations, and others interested in the prosperity of the country, to give the industry a fresh start; and under new conditions it could not fail to be satisfactory. We show by further extracts this month from the records of the past, that the Continental system was tried for a short period in Ireland, and with gratifying results. Unfortunately it was not followed up and directed by some controlling body until it became established, consequently we have to begin afresh. Cereal crops have paid so badly of late years that farmers will now more readily adopt any change that offers reasonable prospects of success. Flax this year has paid the farmer well, and even on an average of seasons, and under our

and the straw held over and more carefully treated, would be a new departure from the present one, and this, as we have shown, could best be started in the South. We trust our friends there will move in the matter, and not let the approaching season pass over without making an effort to extend the flax area next spring.

The Langdale Linen Industry.

We have received the following interesting communication from Mr. Albert Fleming, of Ambleside, in regard to this industry:—"When I started this little industrial experiment in 1883, I was frankly warned that it could only be the craze of the moment. People did not want material that would last a generation, although it might be all that Mr. Ruskin described, when he called it 'the soundest and fairest linen fabric that care could weave and field-dew bleach.' The trade itself viewed it from another standpoint, and ventured an opinion 'that five shillings and sixpence a-yard might fairly be described as a tall quotation for 40-inch unbleached cloth.' Well, the craze continues, and so does the industry. Ten years have gone by, and not only is the original Langdale industry still flourishing, but it has two offshoots in the Lake district, and several in Ireland. We have now more than a hundred workers on our books, and the sales this year in Langdale have been larger than in any past year. The goods exhibited at Chicago, at Leeds, and in London, have beaten all previous exhibits in pure hand-spun and hand-woven linens. Silk-spinning has been added to the original flax, and we now produce a cream-coloured silk fabric soft in texture and wonderfully glossy, also a composite material of which the warp is flax and the weft silk. The coarser linens are in good demand for bookbinding. We now have our flax dyed by Austin in all the old colours, and we produce linens in various permanent tints ranging from the old indigos down to the more modern rust colours and amethysts. The recent introduction of the Swedish looms has enabled us to have the narrower linens woven by women."

The Industries of St. Etienne.

From a recent report by the United States Consul at St. Etienne, we learn that the ribbon manufacture is the most important industry of the town, and gives employment to about 70,000 persons, and that "in spite of foreign competition its production is at present four times greater than when it held undisputed possession of the markets of the world, but the manufacturers are obliged to content themselves with much smaller profits. The total production for the year 1892 exceeded 92,000,000 francs. The number of looms in St. Etienne and vicinity is 22,000, of which 18,000 belong to the weavers themselves and are worked in their own homes, the remainder being owned by the large manufacturers. The total value of the weaving plant exceeds 39,000,000 francs, of which two-thirds represent the savings and investments of the weavers."

The Industrial Condition of Germany.

The United States Consul at Cologne, in his official report on industrial progress in Germany, states that "In 1880 the excess of the exports over the imports of manufactures was 867,000,000 marks, and in 1891 the excess was 1,150,000,000 marks. These figures (he says) show plainly how rapidly the industrial development in Germany has progressed, and how important it is for a country to hold fast to its foreign trade in order to maintain its stand. The Germans are keen in observing this condition of affairs, and they are leaving nothing undone to impress the Government with the great importance of rendering the manufacturing interests all possible help."

Russian Customs Regulations.

H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg draws attention to some recent regulations with reference to foreign goods sent to Russia. It is not sufficient to say that the goods are of British origin, but the firm must declare that they are the manufacturers of them, or, if not, a local authority must certify as to the origin of the goods. The Russian Customs Department have issued several circulars lately in reference to importations which it is well that shippers should conform to, to avoid trouble and expense. In the Board of Trade Journal for October these circulars are referred to.

United States Customs Decisions.

The following decisions (the Board of Trade Journal states) have recently been given by the Customs authorities:—

Merchandise commonly known as "canvas" or "canvas padding" some

and warp, and not as coarse in texture as burlaps, and not commercially known as burlaps among importers and traders, is dutiable at 50 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 371 as a manufacture of flax.

"Cream padding," containing to the square inch, counting weft and warp, about 60 threads, and made of jute and flax, the value of the jute being in the ratio of about 54 per cent. to about 46 per cent. as compared with that of the flax, jute being the component material of chief value, is dutiable at 40 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 374 as a manufacture of which jute is the component material of chief value.

"Flax scrim" made of flax, about 29 inches wide, and chiefly used for upholstering purposes in the carriage business, are dutiable under paragraph 371 at 50 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Linen Weaving at Skibbereen.

Referring to the note in last month's Journal respecting the hand-loom linen industry established at Skibbereen, we give an illustration of the loom-room at the Convent, taken from a photograph by W. Lawrence, of Dublin. What has been accomplished at Skibbereen, and also at Langdale, might be repeated elsewhere; for though by far the greater part of all our linen goods is now made by power, there will always be a demand for high-class hand-work, and in this connection a good deal of employment may be found for willing hands in many parts of Ireland.



Continuation Schools.

BRIEF mention has already been made of the Association and movement in connection with Continuation or Recreative Evening Schools; but the subject is one of such far-reaching consequences, and fraught with such vital import on the educational advancement of the country, that it well deserves a fuller and larger treatment. The opportunity for this movement was given by the issue by the Committee of Council for National Education of a Code of Regulations for Evening Continuation Schools, which, as has been well said, affords a great opening for uplifting the moral, social, and industrial life of vast numbers in our towns and villages. Unfortunately, this Code does not apply to Ireland; nor, as we are officially informed, could the Committee of Council extend by Minute the Code to Ireland, as National Education in this country is not under the administration of the Committee. So far, then, as the provisions of this new Code are concerned Ireland is not affected, but we believe that there are means at hand in Ireland by which many of the benefits obtainable under such provisions can be made available through other sources. But of this anon. Our present purpose is to demonstrate how, intelligently applied, great results are already springing from schools formed under the Code across the Channel. For our information we are indebted to the publications of the Recreative Evening Schools Association; its Secretary, Mr. J. E. Flower; and the Rev. Dr. Paton, of Nottingham. The position of these schools has been further defined in a circular issued from the Educational Department to H.M.'s Inspectors. "While," says this circular, "recognising the necessity of making evening schools more attractive, my Lords consider it of the first importance that in all schools receiving grants from the State real educational work should be done, and that recreative subjects should not be allowed to occupy time and attention to the detriment of subjects of a solidly educational character. The first object to be kept in view is the promotion of true education."

Elementary Schools. They should be so constituted as to offer facilities to scholars leaving the Day Elementary Schools of their respective localities for continuing their education, and should not, either as regards the age or social class of the scholars or the subject of instruction, be divided from these day schools by any palpable barrier or interval. They should not consist of mere isolated classes, nor should the instruction given in them be of too advanced or too highly specialised a character." Following strictly on these lines, it will be seen that classes can now be formed of both a recreative and practical character, earning a substantial grant from the State, and open to all persons over the age of 14; for it must be noted that the Code, while giving perfect liberty of choice as to subjects, within certain limits, proceeds on the old maxim that it is never too late to learn, and recognises as scholars full-grown men and women up to any age, as well as boys and girls just emancipated from the schoolroom proper.

The vista which is thus opened out to the contemplation of those interested in the educational advancement of their fellow-countrymen and women is so wide, so extensive, and so far-reaching, that at first it seems impossible to take in and recognise all the possibilities. Here we have a State-aided scheme—the aid amounts to from 1d. per hour per scholar to 2d. or 2½d., under varying circumstances—under which a sterling and practical educational side may be added to institutes, clubs, associations, etc., now too often given over to pleasure, and recreation, and amusement only. Educational classes which at present exist, but are from the nature of things restricted to the few, may be made popular and thrown open to the many. The enormous waste, due to the forgetfulness of early education, which is continually going on may be prevented; and last, but not least, these Recreative Evening Continuation Schools will afford the very best and most successful means of rescuing our young people from the perils of the streets at night; will give them a wise and pleasant occupation for their leisure hours; will prepare them for the responsibilities of home life; and introduce them to many of the nobler pleasures of existence.

Managers of the Evening Continuation Schools of Nottingham. "It will," says these working men, "interest the working men of England to know that since the Board accepted the co-operation of the working men of the town as managers, the attendance of the schools has been raised from 244 in average attendance to 4,086—a marvellous increase, which has been specially marked since the Evening Schools were made free; and further, that whilst at first the scholars took principally the "three R's," with some recreation, there are now hundreds of them taking commercial and other high subjects." A jump in average attendance of from 244 to over 4,000 speaks for itself; and who can gauge the benefits accruing through such an instrumentality to the town of Nottingham? But this is not the only hopeful sign. The fact that the study of the "three R's" at the Evening Schools is giving place to that of more advanced subjects, shows that these schools are being now used in every sense of the word as Continuation Schools—supplementing and finishing the work begun in the day schools. What has been done in Nottingham can be done elsewhere; it only requires that the facilities afforded under the new Code should be energetically and intelligently applied. The duties of the managers divide themselves into what has to be done before a school session begins, and what has to be done after one has been started. In the first place, general interest in the movement has to be aroused; and in the second, absentees must be looked up, and influence brought to bear upon the young people and their parents—this not in an officious way, but by kindly persuasion to induce them not to lose the opportunity which is offered.

We have already said that the Code of Regulations issued by the Committee of Council for National Education, under which these Evening Recreative Continuation Schools are started and worked, does not apply, and cannot be made to apply, to Ireland. It therefore behoves those in this country who would see the youth and manhood of Ireland placed upon equally advantageous educational terms as their British brethren, to look around for any means that may be at hand by which the desired object can be accomplished. These means are, we believe, to be found in the Technical Education Acts, which do apply to Ireland. Under these Acts we see no reason why almost everything which is to be done under the Evening School Code cannot be attempted and carried out. There is, indeed, one main difference, which might become a difficulty and a stumbling-block, but which we firmly believe can be easily circumvented and overcome. This difference consists in the fact that while under the Code the "three R's" are permissible subjects of instruction, they are, *as such*, inadmissible under the Technical Education Acts. But it is obvious there are other methods of teaching these necessary preliminaries to general education. To quote from an article, "The New Code and How to Use it," by the editor of the *Evening School Chronicle*:—"The 'three R's' should be taught (as the foundation of all education) to those that need them; but this may often be done best *indirectly*, except for very backward scholars—*e.g.*, *Writing*, by taking notes of lessons, or preparing short letters or essays; *Arithmetic*, in connection with mechanics, or, indeed, any subject treated arithmetically; and *Reading*, in the same style." Further, the same high authority writes:—"Instead of a Reading Class, try the delights of a Reading Circle under the National Home Reading Union;" and, he adds, "it has been ascertained on the highest authority, that a Reading Circle connected with the N.H.R.U. would not be regarded by the Science and Art Department as disqualifying a scholar for aid under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, unless such instruction in Reading be given (*which ought never to be the case*) as would infringe what is required under the Standards of the Education Department." So much for the indirect teaching of the prohibited "three R's"; but, as a matter of fact, in what minute percentage of cases would it become necessary to resort to tactics of circumvention? These Evening Schools are, and should be, essentially Continuation Schools. Though open to, and available by, all, it is quite safe to assume that the proportion of scholars, adult or young, making use of them, either under the Code in England, or, if started, under the Technical Instruction Acts in Ireland, is and would be so small as hardly to count. We fear it must be admitted that, granted the formation of such schools as proposed, the number of scholars requiring instruction in the "three R's" would be proportionately far larger in Ireland than in England. But this of itself proves equally the greater necessity which exists in this country for educational facilities. The subject is a very large one. We have only here, so to speak, touched the fringe of it; but enough has been said to show the drift of educational tenden-



Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving.

XII.

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

Successful Running.



THE loom must be perfectly level, and on a good foundation, well secured to the floor; a loom that is set or not properly fastened down, cannot be relied upon for linen weaving. Always have a good *bunter* behind the driver, so that it will not catch behind the shuttle-gate; this, if neglected, will throw a shuttle with a great degree of destructive force than any other known cause. The picking straps must not be too long, but sufficient to allow the driver to work freely in connection with the picking stick. If too long, the drivers are liable to catch either over or under the point of the shuttle when the boxes are rising and falling, so that the shuttle is thrown or the picker stick smashed.

The Reed.

Carefully notice the reed when gaiting a warp; in fact, this ought to be seen to before the warp is put into the loom; dents or wires must stand out, or it may not be true. This is one of the economical points in connection with a weaving department. All healds and reeds should be thoroughly examined, and, if necessary, repaired, before putting a warp through them. If reeds are old and much worn, the rough side ought to be placed next to the healds before the reeding of the warp is commenced; the smooth side will then be next to the shuttle. To avoid trouble, loss of time, and an exhibition of temper, see that the reed in the loom stands at a proper right angle. In many cases the reed or lay bar may have shrunk or become warped, the drawing of the reed it back, or throwing it out, may alter the angle by undue packing. When the true line is found, be sure to fasten the packing at the ends of the lay bar or reed cap, so that there will be no necessity, when fresh warp is put in, to be looking up and down for the packing. Keep the shelves of the shuttle-boxes level with the shuttle-board. I have always found it good practice, in setting and fixing the bearings of the lay swivel, to have the race-board of the lay lower than the bearing of the linen fabrics, to have the race-board of the lay lower than the bearing of this has a great deal to do with getting a good pick, and many other points in the easy running of a loom; the race-board, being nearly six-eighths of an inch below the level, will make the lay more solid, and it is better to have the shuttle on account of the angle of the shed; the lay is also less heavy.

The crank straps and bearings require more than passing notice. The crank arm should fit so that it can be drawn up tight without binding. At times we find the arm thinner than the diameter of the bearing of the crank; so that in this condition, if it is tightened as it ought to be, the crank will become bound, and the loom movement hard and jerky. The bearing must be made to fit the round of the crank, and the crank can then be drawn up without binding.

It is an easy matter to make the mistake of confining one's eyes to the picking motion itself in trying to obtain a good pick. It is well known to tenters that certain remedies will give satisfactory results at times, but on other occasions they are unavailing. Making a lay true, and true, is simply getting this portion of a loom into a proper position to be successfully operated upon by the power. The work of a loom becomes doubled if the routine of the business is performed in a perfunctory manner.

The rod which supports the boxes of a check-loom is a means, and a means, which the position of the shuttle-box is kept on a level with the level of the board of the lay. If it is found desirable to tip the box up a little, it must be understood that there is no necessity for banging the box down with a heavy piece of iron; the bending must be done in a proper manner to gain the object sought for. Generally, the back of a box ought to be nearly one-eighth of an inch higher than the front, the reason being that it has a tendency to point the shuttle slightly downwards in leaving the box, and it secures this result the more, that in raising the end of the shuttle the point or tip of the shuttle is in the driver a little higher up than would be on the level plane. The picking motion really ducks the shuttle down, and consequently raises the other entering point up, so that the least obstruction would cause the shuttle to fly out; therefore, to prevent the box a little is a good preventive against such mishaps. The position of the shuttles should strike and wear in the centre of the driver; if the shuttle does not at the first strike in the right place, the driver will be worn lower than it ought to be, and this is a fruitful cause of shuttle throwing. Something is radically wrong when the shuttle will not pick itself accurately to the driver; if the driver is not warped or twisted, and of shape, gouging a hole in it is not a very safe practice if the shuttle is not found out. Whenever the position of the shuttle-boxes is changed for full drop or rise patterns, the

of the boxes will change the position or the relation of the shuttle-tip to the worn hole in the driver, and the same with a new set of shuttles, thus turning them over, or causing them to fly out. All back lash, by belts being too slack, should be remedied at once. In speaking of shuttles, there is really more in their selection than the average loom-tenter would imagine. They should be fine grained, tough, and hard; those possessing such qualities are the best for linen weaving. All should be of the same weight, size, and length, because these very points affect the running conditions of the looms. If they are not equal, the loom cannot make them so. In a great number of shuttles some will wear out sooner than others; a dark wood and a light wood are not from the same portion of a tree, and they will not wear nor run alike at all times. In certain conditions, either of steam in the weaving shed or other air changes, one will sweat, whilst the other is dry; so that, not comprehending the reason of the peculiar change in running, the search commences far away from the real cause—tinkering at the picking motion, putting more spring on the shuttle-binders, anything, everything but the right one, until it dawns upon the mind that the shuttles are somehow the cause. The one that is damp or sweaty is then chalked or roughened up with a file; but on starting the loom in the morning, after a night's sweating, the same game occurs, until the shuttle is discarded as useless.

General Remarks.

The same story, though often written, is always new to some; and should it seem an old story to many of the readers of this Journal, I beg of them to read it the same as they would have done when they were aspirants for loom-tenting. In by-gone days when no such thing as a textile journal was in existence, every known or unknown trouble had to be worked by "rule of thumb," and yet with imperfect machinery and tools, perfect goods were produced. Hard laborious work for fifteen hours a-day, or more, made us as loom-tenters either particularly sharp in economising our efforts, or else the result was that we broke down and took to weaving, or some other means of living. Improvements are continuous; there is no standing still; we must keep moving. In a weaving department now-a-days it is impossible for a difficulty to arise that has not been encountered and mastered by some one; the difficulty, however, is never clearly stated, or the removal of the troubles alluded to, for future guidance. No doubt many would feel timid in revealing them. From long experience as a loom manager and tenter, I know that it takes some years of practice and very keen observation before one feels in any way sure of being original and proficient in the cure of loom deficiencies. Among the general body of the past and present tenters, it is customary to regard a certain rule and a certain manner of doing work as evidence of capability. If a practice is shown in gaiting warp, etc., different from the traditional usage, comments are both numerous and uttered in very emphatic terms. These are men who magnify trifles, and air their superiority to such an extent, by overawing young aspirants with mysterious technicalities of their own imagination, that a beginner becomes frightened to put into practice any little sound information he may possess. He is an exception that has not had to pass through such an ordeal. I have, therefore, endeavoured to make "Practical Instructions in Linen Weaving" a kind of support, and an addition to the knowledge a young beginner may already possess; while, at the same time, there are many old hands who may take a note in time for their special behoof. If a loom is in bad condition, warp weaving a misery, shuttles cutting out the threads, weft also cutting, loom banging off, heald shafts making every kind of a shed, big and little; let the tenter coolly and calmly overhaul things, and get a good, firm, easy picking motion; this gives the starting point; this often is the greatest evil, disorganising every other movement; every portion of a loom is affected, because it is jammed and jarred everywhere, and the power necessary for the gentle, smooth sweep of the lay in beating up the weft is absorbed by the friction and great labour of an unsteady picking motion. The lay is another consideration; if it is shaky, race-board sprung, etc., it is of no use tampering and spending time in needless exertions; repairs ought to be executed without further delay. In regard to the tension of warps—a matter often considered of little importance—many loom-tenters believe that the taking-up motion draws the warp from the beam. This is not the case, nor is there the slightest reason for entertaining such an idea. The warp yarns are drawn off by the combined action of the lay and shedding movements. Tension may be too great; yarns may break; reeds may be unduly worn; healds may be cut by the severe strain, and worn out whilst new; every part of the loom may be overloaded, the wheel-gearing ruptured, and so on all through. The requisite drag on a yarn beam may be by ropes or chains bound two or three times round the collars on the ends of the beam, the inner end of the rope or chain next to the flange of the beam, this end being made fast to the rail below, and the outer end to a weighted lever beneath the warp beam, and parallel to it. This arrangement has numerous modifications, the drag being applied sometimes at one end and sometimes at both ends of the beam; in other cases the lever has its pivot or fulcrum beneath the centre of the beam, the rope fastened to the further end, and the weight hanging between the two. It is well known to practical tenters that a full beam requires the greatest drag, this being gradually reduced as the yarn is woven off by shifting the lever weights. Let us then suppose the possibility without any undue complication of the parts, a short lever with the fulcrum at the outside of the weighted end, pointing

The position then, instead of being nearly parallel with the beam, ought to have the end raised that is weighted, so that a slanting, smooth, inclined plane might be formed. When a full beam is in the loom, the weight necessary for the drag would hang at the end of the lever, and be kept in position by a light chain governed by a guide or feeler about six inches long, arranged to rest upon the yarn of the beam below the threads in the act of unwinding. The diameter of the beam decreases with the weft shots forming cloth, the guide or feeler would also have its position altered upon the yarn's circumference, letting the chain slide down the incline of the lever a small increment, and carrying the weight with it until in time the base circumference of the beam would be reached; this would give a simple constant tension, without tightening like a drum, or allowing the shifting of the weights to be in any way neglected. There is one essential condition in connection with all I have said, or can say: however good the machinery and materials, with efficient tenters and weavers the prime element of success will be found in turning out proper productions.

Importance of Good Management.

The defects for which weavers are in the main responsible would silently passed over, bring any manufacturing firm into disrepute; broken out warp threads, floats, mispicks, dirty ragged selvages causing narrow widths, slack and tight tension, cloudiness, cracks, improper changes of wheels, changing the counts of the weft, etc., are all only too prominent if due supervision is not used all through. Men who are capable of making good cloth examiners are not very numerous, and, when found, ought to receive the necessary encouragement and confidence from employers. It does not follow that efficient men are arrogant or overbearing, though they must be possessed of a strong determination, with coolness of temper, tact, and the power of inducing weavers to refrain from carelessness and malpractices without creating undue friction. A good cloth examiner can in a short time have all working in harmony, and assisting to build up a prosperous and substantial trade. No person can know too much about textile manufacturing; and because a weaver sometimes by mere force of circumstances, gets the position of tenter manager, he ought not to think all is over when he has reached the top rung of the ladder; the more he knows, not only of his own but of other departments in a mill, the better able he will be to cope with other difficulties which may arise from time to time.



MONTHLY REPORTS.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Irish.

DUBLIN.—The markets are all distinctly dull and featureless. Linens show no change from late reports, and there seems but little expectation of activity in the near future. Woollens are much in the same condition. The almost entire absence of any demand from America and the unsettled condition of the coal-trade affecting manufactures at home, and the home demand continues more or less satisfactory, though here and there the depression is felt. The latest quotations I can give for the principal material are:—With limited supplies on offer from farmers, there is little open test in value of wool. Tone, however, is reported stiff in private transactions concluded, and on the part of holders. Quotation for Down, 10½d.-10¾d.; hogget, 9¾d.-10d.; ewe or wether, 9d.-9¾d.; side, 8¾d.-9¼d.; mountain, 7½d.-8½d.; Scotch, 5d.-7d. The uncertain repeal of the Sherman Silver Act in America may have a beneficial effect upon our markets, but naturally will not affect them anything like the same extent as a repeal of the M'Kinley Tariff would do. Nevertheless there are those who look to America as likely to do again in the near future a good customer for Irish woollens, which at present have to seek other outlets to replace the trans-Atlantic demand which has practically ceased under the operations of the tariff. The extension of the trade in Scotland and England, which I reported some months ago, continues, and is a very healthy sign; but the loss of a market, especially a large and increasing one, as was the American, must be largely felt, and is not a matter easily replaced nor rapidly counteracted. Though not as bright as they might be, things after all are not so dismal, and a firm trust in the future shows that the trade is by no means despondent. In silks and poplins I have nothing new to enlarge upon.

Irish Laces.

The announcement that Lady Aberdeen has acquired the business carried on by the late Mr. Ben. Lindsey, as the "Irish Lace Depot" in Gra'ton Street, will be good news to our lace producers and schools. The Depot will be worked in future by a Committee of Management under the Irish Industries Association, the Committee consisting of the Rev. T. A. Finlay, Mr. J. Brennan, R.H.A., and Mr. R. A. Atkinson of Cork, names which speak at once for the efficiency of the control which will be exercised. Considerable structural alterations have been made

departments—the outer, as hitherto, devoted solely to laces, and the inner will be given over to a new branch in hand-sewn *lingerie* and *embroideries*, all, needless to say, of Irish workmanship. Had the late lamented death of Mr. Lindsey resulted in the closing of the lace department, a severe loss would have been sustained by Irish lace-workers. From one lace-school it is well known Mr. Lindsey used to buy practically everything it could produce, and what the closing of such an outlet would have meant can easily be imagined. Under the new arrangements, far from any such disastrous consequences ensuing, the trade will be extended, and ever-increasing quantities of laces will be required to supply the demands. The energy and intelligence which has from the first been displayed in the conduct of the affairs of the Irish Industries Association will now find a new outlet, and I feel sure that the *Depôt* under the new management will continue as prosperous as ever—probably even become more prosperous.

The Irish Industries Association aim at maintaining a high standard of excellence in design and workmanship by the circulation of good designs, by encouraging the production of thoroughly good work, and by that untiring supervision without which the workers cannot keep pace with the fashionable requirements of the day. They take a very special interest in the improvement of Irish *crochet*, which they hope to render as popular in England as it already is in France and Belgium, and even distant America bids fair to become a good customer, notwithstanding the *M'Kinley Tariff*.

In this connection it may not be out of place to refer to some ridiculous remarks which appeared the other day in a Manchester paper, and which display a crass ignorance of everything concerning the Irish Industries Association. Says this self-constituted authority on Irish Industries:—"The Irish Industries Association, I understand, is making strenuous efforts to revive an old industry. This is lace-making, which was formerly practised to a large extent by the country-women of the South and West. Old Limerick lace is now worth fabulous sums, and as many of the historic patterns have been preserved the art should have a good chance, especially as the present taste distinctly favours hand-made materials." If it were possible for anything to dishearten those who for years have laboured, and laboured successfully, to re-establish the lace industry, it would be such idiotic and ignorant comments disseminated through the medium of an influential provincial newspaper. Where ignorance is bliss wisdom consists in silence. The writer evidently knows as little about the history of the Industries Association as he does about Irish laces. "Historic patterns" are, forsooth, still extant, and will give "a good chance" to the "revival" of the industry. Did the writer hear of our schools of design, established after such labour and trouble? Did he ever see a piece of lace made from an "historic pattern"—vitiated, blurred, with every original fault exaggerated by the process of continual re-copying—and one made from an original design side by side? It is preposterous that such ridiculous and detrimental ideas should be allowed to be disseminated. I give the conclusion of this writer's remarks. "At present," he tells his innocent and beguiled readers, "a start is being made at Cork, where the local branch of the Association, with Lady Arnott as its president, has established classes for poor women, a grant of £100 having been forwarded from Dublin. The attempt is avowedly experimental, but if it succeeds, the handicraft will be extended from the city into the villages. At least it has this in its favour, that the manufacture of Honiton lace has been revived from an equally moribund condition!" Comment would only spoil the deliciousness of this quotation.

Irish Home-Spuns.

Feeling certain that there is great popularity in store for Irish home-spuns, the Irish Industries Association have lately devoted much attention to the improvement of the texture and width of the webs, and one result of their efforts has been the production of some webs of 36 inches—a much more convenient width than that of 28 inches, which at present prevails, and more suitable for costumes. On her voyage to Canada the Countess of Aberdeen wore a dress of this material, presented to her by Mr. Neil M'Nelis, of Ar dara. It was of the "herring-bone" pattern, dyed with heather and "crottle," and suggested great possibilities in the application of these materials for ladies' costumes.

Awards at the World's Fair.

The "Donegal Industrial Fund," of Donegal House, Wigmore Street, London, W., wish to set right sundry announcements of awards at the Chicago Exhibition to Irish exhibits. The same error has, it is stated, appeared in the publication of previous awards of medals, now six in all, awarded to Mrs. Ernest Hart for the exhibits at the Donegal Irish Village, World's Fair. In each case the award has been announced as being to Mrs. Ernest Hart, Bantry, this being probably a misprint for Bunbeg, where the home-spun and woollen factories are. The medals awarded have been for dyeing, wood-carving, jewellery, silversmith's work, altar furnishing, and ironwork. I note the correction, as requested, on behalf of the Wigmore Street Donegal Industrial Fund.

The Foxford Mills.

An appeal, issued by the manager of the "Technical Woollen Mills, Foxford, Co. Mayo," places the necessities of this industry before the public. "Between," it says, "damming the river and blasting the celebrated Foxford rock, we feel as if we had reached the eleventh hour of the struggle, and that another month will complete the heavy undertaking, and have every machine in full swing." Some £14,000 have been

sunk in the undertaking from first to last; and now that the difficulty has been overcome, I look to a prosperous career for Foxford Mills. The goods turned out are really excellent in quality and their manufacture gives employment to a population which otherwise be idle, and without this means of earning money very many would be destitute. The Foxford Mills are in the centre of one of the congested districts in Ireland, and since their initiation have done an immense amount of good. Firmly established, as I hope they now their beneficial effects should increase yearly; for as the goods manufactured become more widely known, the demand for them, it is but reasonable to expect, will increase. I had a good deal to say about these while the late dispute as to water-power was proceeding, and it gave me considerable gratification to know that that matter has been amicably settled, and in the manner at the time pointed out.

Dairy Instruction.

The winter session for dairy instruction to young women opened at the Albert Farm, Glasnevin, on the 6th instant, and I understand the entries are numerous. There can be no doubt about the value of the instruction afforded at the Glasnevin farm. It is practical, comprehensive, and based upon the very best and most modern scientific methods obtainable at the Albert Farm, the knowledge to be had will compare favourably with that given in any of the oft-quoted Continental schools. It is not the teaching which is at fault, nor indeed the scholars, so they go; but it is the fact that the facilities offered are not utilised as they might be. There is still a very large amount of apathy and unbelief to be overcome. Numbers still believe that the old methods of dairying are as economical and as profitable as the new; that Irish laces need no improvement; and there are many who have even yet failed to see that foreign competition is driving the home-made article hard in the markets—in places even ousting it. A lot of education is still required outside the dairy schools in order that these institutions may be filled with pupils, and made use of to the full extent of their capabilities. That much of this ignorant optimism is giving place to intelligent doubt and a wish to learn, is a healthy sign; and for those who have realised that with the progress of the age, and the closing in, by steamer railways, of distances—by the nearing to ourselves and our markets of foreign competitors—new methods must be adopted; to these the Albert Farm in Dublin and the Munster Dairy School in the South open the means of placing themselves on equal terms of competition with the public favour with those who would otherwise leave them far behind.

LURGAN.—Trade in this centre still keeps inactive; in some branches of goods business has not been so bad for a number of years. There are a number of workers out of employment in the important hand-damask branch. Woven bordered and hemstitched linen cambric kerchiefs are being made in fair quantity, but the number of workers to be had to make these goods are not plentiful. The turnout of looms, which is not so large as other busy seasons at this time of the year, is about accounted for, and if any spurt comes for this make of goods stocks would be found very small, and orders would be difficult to fill. Linen handkerchiefs (boiled yarns) are still in slow demand. Piece-loom manufacturers are being kept fairly employed, but must soon be running into stock. The coal strike is affecting our home trade but it may soon be got settled. If this was so, business is expected to brighten up all round. It is rather soon to expect big orders from American friends, but these should soon begin also, when the strike is quite away of the defeated Sherman Law in that country. The market for hemstitchers are feeling the slackness most of all. The greater number of factories are only running half-time, and some of them not so. Embroideries on linen, cambric, &c., only wanted in small quantities.

LONDONDERRY.—We are glad to be able to record some improvement since our last report upon the state of our local industry. Textile manufacturers are busy getting out their samples for next season's home trade, and we expect that considerable orders will be booked when they are before the retailers. Meantime a fair number are coming to the market, although the size of them is still somewhat restricted. The colonies are showing more disposition to buy, but till financial affairs are in a more stable condition shippers are not keen to enter into large or long engagements.

English.

BARNESLEY.—The linen industry of this district has improved slightly during the month, still a large number of looms are out of time, but mostly due to the coal strike. In damask table fabrics a quiet feeling has been experienced, and there seems no sign of improvement in this branch. In drills of various kinds there has been a falling off in demand, business being affected by the unsettled state of affairs in South America, and especially is this the case with Brazil. A large quantity of this class of goods is generally exported to that country. In sheetings and bed linens a decided improvement has taken place, and the production and sales have been fully up to the average. In carpet and stair coverings only a moderate business has been done. In both the common and better kinds of towels, bordered, fringed, a fair business is still being done, the higher qualities having been in favour, and in domestic cloths generally trade is fairly satisfied. In hand-made linens there is no improvement to note. Prices show a variation in any class of goods.

The Belfast Linen Trade Report.

DRAWN UP BY THE LINEN TRADE BOARD, APPOINTED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE BELFAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THERE is no improvement in trade since last report. The prolonged coal war, with no immediate appearance of a termination, has tended to increase the depression in the linen market, affecting as it does every industry in the kingdom. The United States trade, though slightly better since the repeal of the Silver Act, is still very disappointing, the financial disturbance being more far-reaching than anticipated.

FLAX.

There has been a steady demand for Irish flax at all the markets, the tendency of prices being slowly upwards all the month. Demand *ex store* has been better during the past fortnight. The following are market reports since the 28th ult. :-

October 28th.—COLERAINE—15 tons; prices from 60/- to 86/- per cwt.; quality chiefly medium; demand steady at firm rates. COOKSTOWN—40 tons; prices from 7/9 to 11/3 per stone. OMAGH—30 tons; prices from 6/9 to 10/- 31st.—ARMAGH—3 tons; prices from 8/- to 10/6. November 1st.—RANDALSTOWN—20 tons; prices from 7/3 to 11/- LISNASKEA—6 tons; prices from 5/6 to 9/6; medium to coarse quality; fair attendance of buyers; demand active, and all bought up. RATHFRILAND—30 tons; prices from 7/- to 9/3. BALLYMONEY—72 tons; prices from 70/- to 90/- per cwt.; quality generally good, with some very superior lots; good attendance, and all flax bought up quickly. NEWRY—24 tons; prices from 7/- to 10/-; usual buyers; quality principally medium, with a few good lots. 3rd.—BELFAST—8 tons; prices from 7/6 to 10/6. 4th.—BALLIBAY—30 tons of milled, prices from 7/6 to 11/1, and 4 tons of hand-scoured, prices from 5/6 to 7/9; good quality; market well attended, and demand active. BALLYMENA—15 tons; prices from 6/6 to 10/-; mixed quality, some very good; average attendance; demand dull. COLERAINE—20 tons; prices from 60/- to 84/-; chiefly medium quality; demand steady at hardening rates. COOKSTOWN—35 tons; prices from 7/9 to 11/6. 7th.—ARMAGH—3 tons; prices from 8/- to 9/6. STRABANE—15 tons; 56/- to 87/6. 8th.—LISNASKEA—7 tons; prices from 8/- to 10/3; a few good loads, remainder medium to coarse; market well attended; demand active, and all flax bought up. RATHFRILAND—50 tons; prices from 7/3 to 9/3. 9th.—CLONES—15 tons; 7/6 to 10/-. MAGHERAFELT—55 tons; prices from 8/- to 11/6; medium to good quality. NEWRY—27 tons; prices from 7/- to 9/6; mostly medium quality; usual buyers; fair demand. 10th.—BELFAST—5 tons; prices from 7/6 to 10/6. 11th.—COLERAINE—20 tons; prices from 60/- to 80/-; chiefly medium quality.

YARNS.

General demand for line yarns on home account has been confined very much to such small lots as manufacturers needed for present use, but on shipping account the business done was fairly good and in excess of previous month. Tow yarns have lately sold more freely and at firm rates. Quotations may be said to be unchanged since last report, though some transactions within the past few days in the finer counts of lines were at 1½d. less. Looking, however, to the enhanced cost of flax, and the comparative lowness of stocks, spinners are very unwilling to contract at the lowest point.

BROWN POWER AND HAND-LOOM LINENS.

Though the number of new orders for light power-loom bleaching cloth has been small, manufacturers are very stiff to deal with, and will hardly accept the same price now which they sold at two or three weeks ago. Medium and heavy grades are in quiet demand, prices ruling firm. Ballymena makes move off regularly in the low sets at late rates, which are very unremunerative to manufacturer, fine sets neglected, but supplies are in small compass. For light mediums and heavy makes of Co. Down linens demand is very quiet, but prices are firm. In cloth for printing and dyeing a moderate business is doing at prices ruling of late. For roughs there has been a considerable demand for narrow widths, stocks of which are in small supply; prices very steady. For linen handkerchiefs, both power and hand-loom, a very limited demand exists, but cambric makes an exception, cloth for hemstitching are in moderate request, and prices without change. Damasks are still very slow in moving, power-loom making being now more plentiful, but rates are maintained. Glass-cloth, towelling, and similar goods are all more or less in very dull demand. Union goods are probably a little brisker of late, but trade is far from active. Drills, tailors' linens, and other descriptions of coarse goods have had a little more attention lately, but the turnover is still considerably smaller than some months ago.

BLEACHED AND FINISHED LINENS.

Home Trade.—Throughout this branch the dulness previously reported has been intensified, owing to the continuance of the coal war, so that all classes of goods are bought in the most limited way, and solely for immediate wants.

Continental.—With Spain, France, and Germany the shipments for October were considerably larger than in same month last year, but the ten months' trade with France, Spain, and Italy is much less than in 1892, Germany alone being larger.

United States.—The shrinkage in shipments for October is very marked, the quantity being upwards of 41 per cent. less than for October 1892. The settlement of the Silver question may stimulate business somewhat, and a little more is now doing, but until the tariff question is settled the uncertain situation will more or less affect trade with this market.

Other Markets.—With the Foreign West Indian market there is a fair business doing, and a few more orders are coming in on Australian account, but with most of the other countries the shipping demand shows a falling off compared with same month last year.

On the whole the decrease in quantity of linen piece goods shipped from the United Kingdom for the ten months ended October 31st is equal to 3½ per cent. and values to 4 per cent.

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

LEA NOS.	14	16	18	20	22	25	28	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	100	110.	120	130	140	150	160
Line Wefts	—	—	—	8/-	7/3	6/6	6/-	5/7½	5/3	4/10½	4/9	4/6	4/3	4/1½	4/-	4/-	4/-	4/-	4/-	4/-	4/1½	4/3	4/4½	4/6	4/7½	4/10½	5/0
Tow Wefts	6/3	5/10½	5/9	5/6	5/3	5/1½	5/-	4/10½	4/9	4/6	4/4½	4/3	These prices are per bundle of 60,000 yards of grey Yarn, subject to the usual discount for cash.										120 threads 2½ yds.—1 lea 12 leas—1 hank 16 hanks 8 cuts—1 bundle				

BRADFORD.—On the whole, business in the wool markets during the month has been fairly cheerful, although the demand has only been of a consumptive character. English wools have kept very firm, especially in crossbreds, both 40's and fine qualities. Colonial wools have been in slightly better demand, merinos having shown an upward tendency in price. Mohair and alpaca have been rather quieter at unchanged prices. In the yarn branches, spinners are moderately well off as regards orders, but new ones are mostly in small and miscellaneous lots. Braid and genappe yarns are in demand at very firm rates. Super-lustres have been quieter at rather weaker rates. In mohair yarns there has been a falling off, and prices in consequence are somewhat irregular. Spinners of all classes of yarns are very firm in their quotations, and are confident that, with a settlement of the coal dispute, a much improved state of trade would result. In the piece branches there is little new; orders for the spring come in slowly, being later than usual. The coating department is very quiet. As regards prices there is no

LEEDS.—A very quiet feeling has pervaded the various branches of the woollen industry of this district, and the prospect of any satisfactory improvement before next year seems out of the question. The continuance of the coal strike has curtailed business, both as regards new orders and the getting out of old, to an alarming degree, and especially has affected the manufacturers of the lower classes of goods. Much shop time is being run, in numbers of cases through lack of fuel, and in other cases from its dearness, as those who are not bound to deliver goods to time prefer to have their looms standing, to using dear coal. In worsted those engaged in fancy makes in good qualities have most orders on hand, and makers of serges would be working full time but for the reason stated. In mantlings an improvement has taken place, new patterns making very firm prices. In tweeds and chevots only the better classes meet with any encouragement, and even in these, orders come in very slowly. The ready-made clothing branch has been very quiet, and large numbers of hands are in consequence out of employment. Prices

Exports of Linen Yarns and Linens from the United Kingdom for the Month ended 31st October, 1893; and in the Ten Months ended 31st October, 1893, compared with the corresponding periods of the Years 1891 and 1892.

COUNTRIES.	MONTH ENDED 31st OCTOBER.						TEN MONTHS ENDED 31st OCTOBER.					
	Quantities.			Declared Value.			Quantities.			Declared Value.		
	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893
LINEN YARN.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
To Germany,	301,200	193,100	265,500	23,798	17,419	23,471	2,799,600	2,345,100	3,710,700	226,471	198,410	288,271
Holland,	220,200	154,100	165,300	8,107	5,631	6,149	1,845,700	1,506,500	1,716,000	64,863	55,364	62,988
Belgium,	168,500	116,800	197,000	14,688	10,933	16,313	1,436,400	1,204,000	1,842,100	122,063	96,630	133,894
France,	143,200	109,900	220,900	15,303	12,834	19,234	1,246,400	1,103,900	1,167,900	138,796	123,641	129,626
Spain and Canaries, ...	243,300	194,500	219,000	8,636	9,380	9,124	3,120,400	4,452,900	2,860,300	113,586	162,239	132,398
Italy,	31,700	22,000	26,700	1,643	1,131	1,507	343,800	318,800	224,100	16,429	14,480	10,705
United States,	19,800	42,600	14,900	730	1,432	584	305,800	490,800	453,800	11,514	15,453	16,236
Other Countries,	189,200	222,800	194,300	8,741	11,629	10,983	1,423,600	1,704,500	1,975,000	64,495	77,473	88,809
Total,	1,317,100	1,055,800	1,303,600	81,696	70,389	87,356	12,521,700	13,096,500	13,949,900	758,217	743,690	862,927
LINEN MANUFACTURES.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	£	£	£	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	£	£	£
To Germany,	343,400	281,200	316,700	16,449	14,258	14,718	3,070,200	3,016,900	3,135,100	147,611	147,167	153,129
France,	169,800	137,400	159,300	7,861	6,419	7,275	1,749,900	1,593,600	1,211,900	78,376	72,664	54,769
Spain and Canaries, ...	91,900	19,100	43,600	3,385	598	1,695	1,326,400	1,310,400	584,000	48,049	52,784	18,993
Italy,	59,700	54,800	30,700	2,648	2,768	1,624	726,200	781,700	619,600	31,799	34,742	26,250
Philippine Islands, ...	70,000	20,800	23,100	909	398	932	845,600	277,900	273,500	15,246	5,327	7,691
United States,	5,836,200	6,455,900	3,784,300	132,388	140,167	83,286	68,766,000	82,107,100	76,509,000	1,457,220	1,705,653	1,604,841
Foreign West Indies, ...	2,176,000	1,321,100	1,476,500	38,654	25,292	29,357	15,513,700	15,243,300	15,642,600	296,392	292,794	314,560
Mexico,	353,100	259,300	163,800	7,778	6,398	3,394	1,804,300	1,418,900	1,233,300	43,522	35,390	32,161
Republic of Colombia,	314,000	201,200	195,100	5,306	3,545	3,516	2,986,000	2,893,600	2,814,100	51,811	48,564	47,099
Brazil,	259,800	378,900	165,300	8,055	11,248	5,540	3,137,700	2,306,600	2,664,700	102,746	65,744	82,535
Argentine Republic, ...	15,000	122,400	43,900	644	4,582	1,926	493,600	930,100	1,177,700	11,548	27,525	40,477
British East Indies, ...	280,800	134,900	257,800	7,574	5,468	9,469	2,569,600	2,453,800	2,776,600	71,567	68,878	78,067
Australasia,	1,035,600	487,200	610,700	27,789	13,789	17,748	10,638,000	8,925,200	7,259,100	295,725	239,731	197,935
British North America	356,400	410,500	282,800	7,859	8,728	5,369	6,142,600	7,420,600	6,746,600	121,133	148,852	123,029
Do. West India Islands & Guiana	149,100	197,400	113,500	3,389	4,097	2,660	1,600,000	1,452,800	1,211,100	32,037	29,590	24,949
Other Countries,	1,674,200	1,078,200	1,256,100	41,408	28,451	29,192	13,497,300	12,360,800	14,969,900	327,920	296,714	328,193
Total Plain, Unbleached, or Bleached	11,996,300	10,352,500	7,447,100	276,751	241,015	179,671	121889200	132097200	123211300	2,747,027	2,908,042	2,727,391
Total Checked, Printed, or Dyed, and Damasks or Diapers,	809,300	1,051,200	1,136,200	19,600	25,320	24,620	10,172,200	9,949,400	12,911,100	261,283	251,865	285,556
Sail Cloth,	379,400	206,600	295,700	15,745	9,871	13,410	2,805,700	2,446,700	2,756,400	124,397	112,012	121,781
Total of Piece Goods,	13,185,000	11,610,300	8,929,000	312,096	276,206	217,701	134867100	144493300	138878300	3,132,707	3,271,919	3,131,728
Thread for Sewing, ...	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
Other Articles,	212,800	176,100	159,900	28,397	22,984	18,409	2,069,900	2,004,300	2,010,700	261,158	251,659	242,594
Total Value of Linen Manufactures,	98,564	85,615	66,151	867,701	819,199	765,563
Total Value of Linen Manufactures,	439,057	384,805	302,261	4,261,566	4,342,777	4,142,885

Importations of Flax—Dressed, Undressed, and Tow or Codilla of:

COUNTRIES.	MONTH ENDED 31st OCTOBER.						TEN MONTHS ENDED 31st OCTOBER.					
	Quantities.			Value of Imports.			Quantities.			Value of Imports.		
	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893	1891	1892	1893
From Russia,	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£
From Russia,	2,068	3,099	2,392	48,547	81,272	72,350	49,137	55,539	42,554	1,286,066	1,447,170	1,330,601
Germany,	224	55	37	4,919	1,142	956	2,212	2,300	3,358	58,972	51,181	92,115
Holland,	111	49	382	4,883	2,073	5,954	3,444	4,159	4,811	179,484	178,183	170,556
Belgium,	904	908	643	47,752	44,804	31,678	12,324	11,752	10,233	676,603	603,053	506,213
Other Countries, ...	195	234	41	5,822	4,677	1,280	3,881	1,962	763	94,113	45,960	17,354
Total,	3,502	4,345	3,495	111,923	133,968	112,218	70,998	75,712	61,719	2,295,238	2,325,547	2,116,839

MANCHESTER.—There has been no marked change in the position this month. Business everywhere has been difficult, the shrinkage having extended to every department. There is, in fact, little that is interesting to report of the four weeks' business. The trade generally has been assured by Ship Canal officials that the Canal will be filled with water in a fortnight, and that the first steamer will be able to "pick its way"—a peculiar phrase—to Manchester by the 1st of December. This brings the termination of the great undertaking very near; and when it is in working order the boats of the Belfast Steam Ship Company, and other lines carrying Manchester cargo largely between Liverpool and Belfast, will, no doubt, proceed right up to this city. The freight at present quoted between Liverpool and Belfast is 2s. 6d. per ton, which is much less than the charges from Liverpool to Manchester by rail. There are three powerful lines running between the two cities whose combined opposition to the Canal may bring about remarkable results for facilitating trade between the North of England and the North of Ireland. It is, in fact, widely assumed that the carriage between this port and Liverpool will be reduced to the lowest workable point before long; and that will be shillings per ton less than is now charged.

The Australian orders coming to hand of late have not been large, but as far as linens are concerned there has not been much cause for complaint, considering the helplessness of Australian buyers for a considerable portion of the year. Canadian buyers who have been over here in strong numbers, and to whose visits I have frequently referred, have not, strangely enough, been at all eager buyers of linens lately.

The news of Mr. M'Kinley's sweeping victory came here as a great surprise. It would be idle to deny that the messages received on the subject have been received with dismay by those sorely-trying firms dependent largely upon the American trade, such as local shippers of velveteens, and, more still, Bradford houses. It is too early as yet to gauge the full significance of the news; but the fact as it stands is looked upon as another proof of the extraordinary tenacity of purpose which has characterised the actions of the high tariff party for twenty years or more.

The woollen trade is in a positively depressed condition. A good deal has been said during the past few months regarding the condition of the carpet trade; and without attempting to repeat what has already been published, I may say that American carpets, the surplus from a glutted home market, are now being sold by Messrs. Mack, Hamilton & Co., and Kendal, Milne & Co., of Manchester, Frisby, Dyke & Co., of Liverpool, and other large firms. The goods are a kind of Axminster, somewhat soft and spongy of surface, and, therefore, probably highly dust-absorbent, but lower in price than the ordinary English Axminster. They are retailed at 3s. 3d. a-yard. The English manufacturers have been prompt to meet this competition by offering new makes, one of which, to compete with the American, is being retailed at 3s. 9d. Moquette, velvet, and Wilton carpets have been reduced from 6d. to 1s. a-yard, and the quotation now for Royal Axminsters (which represent the highest grade of English carpets, the chain being of linen yarn) is 4s. 11d. per yard, the wholesale price being 4s. 3d. The backing of the American goods is, we believe, cotton instead of linen yarn.

The inquiry for linen, jute, and hemp carpet yarns, in which a few agents transact a fair business, has naturally suffered from the effects of the depression in the carpet trade itself. Travellers calling upon the shipping houses have had a most unsatisfactory time, for, with the exception of the Canadian, no market has equalled last year's purchases thus far in 1893.

I have just returned from a visit to the woollen manufacturing districts of the West of England, where trade just now is in a very depressed condition, many mills running on short time, while some are actually closed. The trade is now principally confined to the four counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, and Devon, and although the quality of the goods produced is still up to the high standard for which the West of England is famous, the industry itself is retrograding. Its principal makes are fancy trouserings (including silk mixtures), "West of England fancies," coatings, tweeds, Bedford cords, serges (largely made in Buckfastleigh and elsewhere in Devon), linens, cloths, doeskins, and flannels. The large number of the mills contain less than 100 looms, and the size of the industry may be measured by the fact that the total number of operatives is about 11,000. This is a number which, I believe, exceeds that of Ireland, but it is much smaller than that of Scotland, and is, moreover, below that of 1871 in the West itself. Without burdening this report with too many figures, it may be stated that in Wiltshire the decline in the twenty years from 1871 to 1891 in the number of woollen and worsted operatives was about 1,200, the number now not exceeding 1,800. Wiltshire has 3,500 against 5,700, and Devonshire 1,200 against 1,370. The principal centres are Stroud, Wellington, and Trowbridge.

Throughout the districts named I found many small mills devoted to the flax industry, or the allied jute and hemp trades. Bristol has some, and so has Ilminster, Crewkerne, and Greenham. Coarse counts of linen carpet yarns are spun by one firm; another with some 50 looms produces sailcloth, and has in addition about 1,000 spindles; and there is a sacking and coarse yarn trade at Bristol. When the Vale of Evesham was a flax-raising district, there was a lot of hand-spinning by the women in the winter months, but all that of course has disappeared. It is in the coarser branches, such as rope, twine, net, and mat manufacturing, that

counties named does not probably employ over 4,000 hands. Gloucestershire is, I see by the 1891 census, credited with having about 100 hands in the flax and linen branches; Devonshire with about 280; and Somerset with some 247. These are figures which in Belfast will be regarded as very insignificant, and they are only given here to complete this hastily sketched picture of the textile decadence of the West. It will be interesting to see whether Yorkshire or Ireland will seize the woollen connections which that district now finds gradually slipping from its grasp.

LONDON.—There is practically no change to chronicle since last I wrote you. Business all round is in a most depressed state, with little likelihood of altering much for the better this year. All the city houses are complaining that customers are few compared to what they ought to be at this season of the year, and stocks, as a matter of course, are not moving out, while a difficulty is felt in getting in provincial accounts as well as city accounts. One house, which caters largely for the better class West End trade, assures me that month after month they send out their statements, but the response is very feeble, customers writing that they find it utterly impossible to collect money, and they cannot push their customers. How long this state of things is going to last no one can pretend to say, but it is certain that until some arrangement is arrived at with regard to the coal war we cannot hope for any improvement. In the export trade matters are looking a little brighter so far as the Australian market is concerned, and the orders which are reaching the London market, while small, are more numerous than they have been for months past. There is evidence, too, in Australian financial circles of a better state of things, and the announcement that the Colonial Treasurer has provided for all engagements with London up till the end of April, 1894, is reassuring. From Melbourne I learn that the firm of Messrs. Miller & Co. has dispatched one of its partners into the agricultural districts to instruct the farmers in the cultivation of flax, and it is intimated that, if the matter is taken up heartily, it is intended to form a company for the purpose of erecting scutch mills at suitable centres. From Western Australia favourable reports have reached London. Outside of the Australian colonies, and notably from Canada and South Africa, very favourable reports are received. We have at the present time a number of Canadian buyers in the city who have purchased freely. Messrs. R. H. & S. Rogers, of Adde Street, who two years ago commenced to work their business upon the co-operative principle, have stated, in reply to certain questions asked by the representative of the *City Press*, that they are quite satisfied with the results so far. Mr. R. H. Rogers says that the scheme has promoted emulation among all their people, and he finds that in every department there is greater zeal and energy displayed, with the result that both employers and men are proportionately better off, while the proprietors are relieved of much of the personal supervision. Another point referred to is that the men are not easily tempted away, only one having left since the system came into operation. The Messrs. Rogers are extensively engaged in shirt and collar manufacturing, and I believe that in addition to two factories in London they have also a place near Bushmills. In the general linen trade of the city there is little of importance to report; tailors' linens are moving out fairly, but nothing to boast of, while the replenishing orders received are small. In white goods there is a moderate demand, and some big lines of damasks are reported to have changed hands. In cotton handkerchiefs business is fair, but in regular goods there is a great dullness. It is hoped, however, that as Christmas approaches the demand will increase, but no one is too sanguine this year of the Christmas trade.

Scotch.

DUNDEE.—No improvement can be noted in the textile trades of this district, and notwithstanding the reduced production stocks of linen goods have materially increased, and prices leaving any margin of profit are exceedingly difficult to secure. Russian flax, which is largely used by the trade, has been slightly easier to buy, but spinners only purchase in the most retail way, as yarns are in such slow demand. All round, trade is much depressed. Jute is high in price and still hardening, though both yarns and goods are extremely dull.

Continental.

LEIPSIC, Nov. 11.—There is no particular change in the yarn market since last report. Stocks of all kinds are insignificant, so that there is no turnover of importance. Prices are maintained. Financial and political influences greatly affect trade, and relief from the situation is much desired.

LANDESHUT, 11th November.—The Exchange market on the 8th was well attended, and showed a good demand for yarn, but owing to the high prices asked for flax of this year's crop only a few small contracts were made. Spinners keep firm to prices paid so far, and are asking higher prices for line as well as tow-yarns for later contracts. There is no doubt but that yarns will have to rise considerably in price yet if flax maintains the present high price. The flax market will hardly clear up before the flax market in Breslau, which takes place on December 12th, and Trautenau, which will come off on December 14th. For sample trucks of 20 tons weight, very high prices have to be paid. Linens—Power-loom in this district are fully employed, also hand-loom are in full work-

The Ulster Cotton Trade.

ALTHOUGH the textile manufacture has been depressed throughout the past few months, and fresh orders are both few and small, there is a perceptible growth in the manufacture of all classes of union goods in this locality. This of course is speaking comparatively, for altogether there is a complete absence of activity throughout the entire trade. However, owing probably to the lowness of rates as well as to the slightly appearance of the goods, there is an increasing demand for most descriptions of union goods, and this in spite of the well-known fact that unions are far less durable and in the end less advantageous than the pure linen article. But the present time is the age of cheapness, and the wishes of the public must be met, even though it be against their interests; so that a much larger proportion of union goods are now turned off than was the case some time past. Since last report cotton yarns have not only remained firm, but have gained slightly, the price now standing 8d. per lb. higher than last month, and the run is chiefly on the coarser numbers suitable for the heavy makes of goods. There is still a fair demand for cheap union crashes for export, but the shipments, which have fallen off considerably, are only absorbing a small proportion of the production, so large quantities remain in stock awaiting instructions. Union roughs and creams are receiving a good deal of attention, and a fair proportion of the machinery is working on these goods. The demand for union interlinings although not brisk, has been moderate, and the stocks on manufacturers' hands are keeping within reasonable limits. Union tea and glass-cloths and towellings are very quiet, but their manufacture continues, as an increased demand is expected to set in in the near future. Although no great activity has been apparent in scribing unions, a quiet and steady trade has been done, and prices have kept firm for all sets; but as stocks are moderately large, fractional concessions in the case of important lots might be counted on. Hand-loom mulls are being only produced in very small quantities, as the good weavers required for this article are becoming more and more difficult to secure.

The imports of cotton cambrics have been small during the past month, as the printing and hemming business has been quiet and inactive for some time past. Any purchases therefore that have been made are more to keep the workers employed, or better to assort stocks, than to satisfy the demand. The heavier make of cotton cloth for interlining purposes is selling in moderate quantities, but even of this article the turnover continues limited. Once the United States business opens up there is likely to be a big trade done in printed cotton handkerchiefs, as the stocks are now large and well assorted with new designs.

The Making-up Trades.

The Apron and Pinafore Trade.

DURING the past few weeks there has been a slightly better tone in this branch of industry, with rather more doing. The improvement, however, is by no means pronounced, as merchants, finding the sales small and sluggish, are not disposed to purchase more than is absolutely necessary to satisfy the present demand. The coal strike has affected the sale of these goods more seriously than that of most other articles, as the consumers are largely made up of operatives, who, owing to the scarcity of money among them for the necessities of life, have little left to spare to expend on articles of dress. Besides, some orders which were placed here could not be executed, as the Lancashire factories which manufacture the cloth were closed for want of coals. At the present time the pinafore makers are busy preparing their samples for the spring trade, and this, together with the few orders forthcoming, enables them to keep their workers employed. Only a few local firms make the fancy goods, which, being composed of light cotton fabrics, are better suited for the Manchester makers-up, and the present time of the year is the brisk season for this description. The goods produced here consist principally, if not entirely, of the more substantial makes of linen and union holland articles, for which the demand at present is dull and weak. The demand from the Colonies has not yet revived, so that shipments to these quarters have been keeping within the narrowest limits. It is to be hoped that ere long business will assume a more active tone, and that general trade will so far improve that a stimulus will be given to this gradually increasing industry.

The Collar and Cuff Trade.

Like most other branches of the linen trade this one is feeling acutely the effects of the general stagnation of business. The demand fell off suddenly and unexpectedly some six or eight weeks ago, and has, unfortunately for the makers, continued depressed. The few orders forthcoming are not sufficient to keep the usual hands employed, so that employers have no alternative left but to either reduce the number of workers or curtail the hours of labour. The demand for these goods would appear to be least affected by any decline in the general trade, and the fact that it is so to such a degree speaks eloquently of the state of business throughout the British Isles. Any demand at present existing is chiefly for gentlemen's wear, there being but little inquiry for those for ladies. The demand for shirts is extremely weak, as is usual at this season of the year, when the white article is laid aside in favour of light woollen goods.



United States Market.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, October 28th, 1893.



THE mountain that was so long in labour has brought forth a mouse, like the old fable. Which is to say, that the Commissioners of Awards at the Chicago World's Fair, on Thursday of last week, the 19th instant, announced the result of their labours in regard to the Irish linen goods exhibits; and, with a manly regard for sensitive natures, patted each exhibiting party on the head, and bestowed upon all a bronze medal and a diploma! With a fine definition of their own for the ethics of competition they agreed—in all departments of the show—to not consider manufacturers as being in rivalry for ranking honours; so they lumped the thing, and put nobody at the top of the tree. The phrase "highest award" was telegraphed to several New York linen houses. Just what that means will not be known until the diplomas are received, which will be about the middle of November. They will meet with due consideration in next letter to the *Journal*. From a newspaper report just at hand we have the following meagre information as to the awards:—"John S. Brown & Sons, linen goods, table linen; Brookfield Linen Co., linens, table linens; Fenton, Connor & Co., bleached and unbleached linens; J. N. Richardson, Sons & Owden, linens, table linens; William Liddell & Co., linen goods, table linens; Henry Matier & Co., cambric and linen handkerchiefs; Robertson, Ledlie, Ferguson & Co., table damask, linen, cambric; Old Bleach Linen Co., linen; William Barbour & Sons, linen thread, lace nets." There are no gold medals, as far as heard from, and the bronze affairs will come to hand with the diplomas. These latter may show some crumbs of distinction, which remains to be demonstrated.

Of the two Irish Villages, which were located on the famed Midway Plaisance, Mrs. Ernest Hart's "Donegal Castle and Irish Village" is the only one mentioned for award in the newspaper reports. But it is hardly likely that Lady Aberdeen's Village will get the go-by. She was unfortunate in not being able to give to her entertaining collection her personal attention, and she was still more unfortunate in having a spurious "Blarney Stone" imposed upon her. This affair—only a cubic foot or two in size—was kissed by thousands, at fivepence each, who are now undergoing the mortification of knowing that they were humbugged. Neither the genuine stone, nor any part of it, ever reached Chicago. Turf was sold at four shillings per brick! Patsey Brannigan (with a Lurgan accent) sang Irish songs and danced jigs to perfection. There were lovely showings of lace work, bog-oak fancies, jewelry; there were looms in operation, and dairy processes; there were Irish historical relics galore, the similitude of a fair, likewise of Blarney Castle, and a typical country cross-roads shop—all well enough and good enough, but needing a masterful hand in the management. Several good guides would have accomplished a perfect success for Lady Aberdeen. Her young ladies representing peasant girls were saucy and indifferent, and her two catalogues were wanting in conciseness and perspicuity.

Mrs. Hart was in attendance at her Village until well on in September, and then went to Washington to appear before the Committee of Ways and Means in the interest of duties upon Irish laces, etc. A representation of St. Lawrence Gate at Drogheda was the entrance-way to her enterprise. The banqueting hall of Donegal Castle was reproduced. In it were to be seen numerous paintings of Irish scenery, Irish manuscripts, ancient relics etc. There was a village street, a lace cottage, and a cottage devoted to the home-spun industries of Donegal; there was a wood-carving shop, a fac-simile of a round tower, a concert and lecture hall, and MacSweeney, the piper! Mrs. Hart had good assistants, and a good and persuasive presence of her own. Her heart and soul seemed to be devoted to the development of Irish home industries, and these are her own words:—"We have sought to acquaint the people of the United States with the development of Ireland from earliest times, as shown by relics, reproductions, and specimens of handiwork. The great object, however, has been to show what industries are actually being carried on in Ireland to-day, and what the people there can do in the way of embroideries, dyestuffs, weaving, pattern-making, laces, wood-carving, sanitary underwear, etc. I believe that the best way to help people is to help them to help themselves. The best way to help the poor people of Ireland is to teach them to work well, and to bring the products of their labour to the attention of those who are able to furnish a market for them."

Going back to the Chicago awards, the Troy collar-makers have been relieved of the odium of invidious comparisons as well as our linen men. There were four exhibitors—all well-known at Belfast—Earl & Wilson, H. C. Curtis & Co., The United Shirt and Collar Co., and Cluett, Coo & Co. The first-mentioned, acknowledging no competitors, were not in competition, and so announced themselves. The remaining three have each been informed that they have received "the highest award"—that is, a bronze medal and a diploma, ambiguous honours that please nobody, and excite smiles from those who stayed away.

Trade matters are about in the same state of muddle reported four weeks ago. Demand comes in fitful periods, and conservative purchasing prevails. There has been some placing of orders for spring in the way of housekeeping linens and ladies' cheap and medium cotton handkerchiefs. The "revivals" reported from time to time in some of our newspapers looking after linen goods interests are chiefly reportorial "blethers." In linen piece-goods prices remain firm, comparatively speaking; there is no demand strong enough to arouse the spirit of competition. The Silver Repeal matter will have been settled before this writing reaches Belfast.

Then will come the Tariff Bill, and it will drag its slow length along into the spring months, with a leeway of six months, no doubt, for the date under which it will become operative. In the matter of the failure of the James H. Walker Co., Chicago, the following is the last statement at hand:—Assets, \$3,011,358; liabilities, \$2,485,164; surplus, \$526,194.

Advertising in the United States.

(By our New York Correspondent.)

Advertising is a fine art in any country it has attained that prominence in the United States, where men distinguished for their ability to attract the public eye are paid as high as £1,000 per year for doing nothing else than the preparing, daily, weekly, and monthly, of fetching advertisements for the newspaper press, and the numerous trade journals that have become institutions in the land. In certain exceptional cases men have been paid more than the sum mentioned—they were worth it all, for they brought to their firms more than ten times the amounts expended for their salaries. Robert Bonner, a North of Ireland man, and a printer by trade, who established his famous weekly story paper, *The New York Ledger*, in 1854, was the first to commence what is known as stupendous advertising. "Keep before the public" was his motto, and, from taking an entire column of a daily newspaper in which to tell of his leading articles and those who wrote them, he engaged entire first pages, and paid £100 per issue—thinking nothing of the expenditure, for the money came back one-hundred fold. And the sums he paid to his writers were enormous, Henry Ward Beecher receiving as high as £20 for a single column. His writers made his paper, and his advertising sold it to the people.

About the same period Smith Brothers, retail clothing men of what is now the New York "down-town" district, followed Bonner's lead in column displays, and issued as well a monthly circular that was looked for as eagerly by young and old as one might look for a favourite magazine to-day. It was distributed gratuitously, of course; but what gave general interest to it was interpolations of humorous anecdotes cleverly worked in among price lists and descriptions of clothing goods. They were *originators*, and that was what brought them attention. Imitators sprang up, and the novelty wore off, but Smith Brothers' successors, A. Raymond & Co., continue the circular to this day, and have a regular mailing list of patrons, among them many provincial so-called custom tailors, who keep samples of Raymond's cloth and patterns, and send their orders to New York for execution.

Passing by manufacturers and wholesalers for the moment—all manufacturers and wholesalers in the United States advertise, be they ever so long "established"—and going to the retail dry-goods trade, which has its story to tell every day and Sunday, it is to be remarked that John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, who held the position of Postmaster-General under President Harrison, was the first to establish the something-of-everything "bazaar" system in the United States. In this he was an imitator, for the Bon Marché of Paris, and Whiteley's of London, were examples before him; but in newspaper advertising he was the father of originality, both in the broad sense of space occupied, and in the matter of original wording. This writing he began with his own pen, but he soon delegated the task to a gentleman of high educational attainments—and was original even there, for he was the first to organise an advertising bureau, and pay its chief £1,000 per year. And this man had his assistants as well. He followed the lines laid down by his master; but the master was quickly eclipsed by his subordinate, and people read the emanations from his pen as regularly every morning in the Philadelphia newspapers, as they did the news from at home and abroad. A strong feature was their *truthfulness*, and aside from this, they were couched in a quaint phraseology that interested the *curiosity* of reading people, and made them *talked about* in every household.

Advertising made John Wanamaker a dry-goods prince, and he became so without the halo of being "established." To be established and to depend upon the "name" is inviting dry-rot. The retail dry-goods trade of the country soon recognised this American axiom, and began to follow his example years ago. An advertising solicitor no longer thinks of looking up "the head of the house." If he did, he would be turned over to the advertising manager, whom he would find to be a little lord in his kingdom. Advertising has become a "department" business, just as has the buying of linens, silks, or other textiles. And these advertising managers are men, it might be said, who are born to their profession. They know the value and place for every word they use, or, just what to say and where to say it. Brevity is the soul of their work. Revision is an every-day task, for what attracts to-day will be a platitude to-morrow. They have to keep watchful eyes upon what their competitors tell the public, and then revamp upon the same lines of goods in new and

fetching sentences and phrases, putting the public "on" to the fact that *their wares* are better goods at lower prices. As well as the public who do the buying, they have to please the buyers of their establishments, and not exploit one department at the expense of another. They have to give audiences to advertising solicitors without number, through personal interviews and through correspondence; and the man who seeks their patronage must tell a short story, know what "place" he can give and the price thereof, and be as "effective" in his way as the managers are in theirs. Verily, these advertising managers shoot folly as it flies, and dish it up for public delectation.

One of these—he served his time in a warehouse at Belfast, by the way—was asked how he managed to think out his wonderful productions. "I can't just tell you," he replied, "but I am reminded whenever I sit down at my desk of an old tailor, who in my father's days worked for the country people about the Ha'penny Gate, near the Maze. He never began to cut a piece of cloth without first spitting on his hands, and saying—'Here's that I may hit it, it's seldom I miss it, an' may th' Laird guide th' shears!' I perform no such invocation, but the old line *will* run through my mind—and I just *hit it*." Speaking of established concerns, every linen goods house in Belfast knows James M'Cutcheon. His New York business consists almost solely of retailing all sorts of linen piece goods and manufactures of linen, and he has but one rival in this speciality; yet his famous spinning-wheel and accompanying announcements appear in the leading daily newspapers and the best monthly magazines. And his has been a successful business for over thirty years! In another article what the Americans consider "good advertising" will receive attention, and the formulas applied thereto. And the reader will understand that these present remarks, devoted to retail interests, are merely leaders to the methods employed by the great wholesaling and manufacturing American houses, who, with scarcely any exceptions, have an abiding faith in advertising as an ever-present stimulus.



Notes from the South.

(Communicated.)

Lace.



HE revived interest in lace-making, which at one time held such prominence in Limerick, has had the effect of giving an impetus to the industry, which leaves hope for much future development. Practical instruction in the art is now given in Limerick, the classes being numerously attended by young workers, many of whom have attained proficiency to turn out pretty specimens of lace-work. Gratifying as this revival is, it is perhaps right to acknowledge our indebtedness for it to the Irish Industries Association, started by Lady Aberdeen, and through which the work of the Limerick lace-makers is being brought in contact with commercial circles. As a result of the advances so far achieved, those interested in the instruction of the workers have arranged to open a new school, where classes will be taught the intricacies of the delicate manufacture for the nominal sum of half-a-crown per week, a very small outlay for the instruction which enables competent workers to realise much remuneration for their industry. Much has been done in Limerick to effect a revival of lace-making, which, though it dwindled very low, never became an extinct industry, private effort, despite overburdening circumstances, contriving amongst many women workers to keep alive the knowledge of the technique, if even the embroidery showed little richness of design. Just now steps are also being taken to develop the industry in Cork. Not many days ago a very practical meeting of citizens was held to devise means to put lace-making on a proper basis in the Southern capital. The meeting was held at the Municipal School of Art, under the presidency of Lady Arnott, and had for its object the initiation of some system to teach the manufacture of lace and crochet-work. Lady Arnott, in the course of an address containing much that was suggestive, urged that a class should be formed where the workers would receive the best instruction in lace-making. Her Ladyship was pleased to be able to say that the Committee were in a position to launch the scheme, having secured premises from the Crawford School of Art, and a grant of £100 from the Central Committee in Dublin. That was a small beginning, but small beginnings with enthusiasm led to great results. The meeting had the co-operation of Mr. R. A. Atkins, a member of the Central Committee, who enlarged usefully on the advantage of home employment to the large number of unemployed young people in their midst, and whose industry could be profitably devoted to lace-making and crochet-work, for which there is an extensive demand in America, and on the Continent. To assist the proposed school, they would get many subscribers; and that they might succeed best in the market, they would have the best instruction and improved designs. The Association has depôts in Dublin, London, and Chicago, so that workers could know where they would get an encouraging price for their work. Mr. Mulligan, with regard to the pupils attending the School of Art, informed the meeting how they had during the past few years designed lace which was made in Limerick and Carrickma-

cross, and, of course, they would supply designs for the proposed new school. Ultimately, a committee with Lady Arnott was formed to arrange the details.

Technical School for Limerick.

It is remarkable that up to this Limerick has been the last centre of importance in Ireland to avail itself of the advantages of the Technical Instruction Act. Thanks to a recent visit of that great pioneer of technical education, Mr. Arnold Graves, steps have been taken to put the Act in operation in the city. A commodious, but hitherto little-used building, the Athenæum, will be utilised for the classes, towards the organisation of which a very practical scheme has been submitted to the City Corporation by Mr. Graves. It is proposed to levy a special rate of one penny in the £1 for the purposes of technical instruction, which would yield £260. This, with the grant in aid from the Science and Art Department, would be sufficient to support one Technical School, which would include an art school, evening art classes, science classes, laboratories, and workshops. The evening classes, which would be for the benefit of artisans and apprentices, would include lessons in Geometrical Drawing, Freehand and Model Drawing, and, if possible, Modelling. With regard to science instruction, particular attention will be given to those branches which underlie the industries at present developed in Limerick; and with reference to workshop instruction, it is intended only to start with two workshops—one devoted to wood-work, and the other to metal-work—in which it would not be part of the programme to teach any particular trade, but give instruction in wood-work tools and metal-working tools. The cost is apportioned as follows:—Expense of the art classes to the Corporation, £50 a year; science teaching, £200; workshops, £60; and women's classes (cookery, laundry-work, and dressmaking), £60; to which are to be added maintenance, £100; and Secretary, who would be one of the teaching staff, £50; or in all, £530. The premises are to include a lecture-hall, with preparation room, three drawing rooms, two science class-rooms, a laboratory, two workshops, a store-room, board-room and office, and women's class-room—the fitting-up of which would entail an initial outlay of £700, towards which the Science and Art Department might contribute £200. A good beginning is here outlined, and the development of the scheme is awaited eagerly by the mechanic classes of the city.



Flax Cultivation in the South of Ireland.—III.

IN the Linen Trade Board reports for 1824 a letter, dated 1st September of that year, from Robert Hea, of Abbeymahon, states that in 1823 he cultivated 12 acres of flax in ground about the value of £1 per acre, and though the ground was poor he had a remarkably good crop, which he attributed to early sowing. He sowed the seed on the Dutch plan with great success, and without the smallest injury to the flax. In the steeping he followed the Dutch plan also, and the difference he found in covering the flax with mud was that it received a darker colour than when covered with weeds and sods; but the flax of the former was in general finer and softer than that covered by the latter; but for the market the brighter colour was preferred. In 1824 he cultivated 14 acres of flax from the seed of previous year's crop, the result being a very superior quality to that grown from foreign seed in his neighbourhood.

In the reports of the County Inspectors for 1825 it will be seen that in many parts of Ireland the Dutch system was tried at this time, and with satisfactory results. The following extracts will show that both in the Northern as well as the other counties the system had been adopted by a considerable number of growers. *Co. Antrim*—"Many persons who have treated their crops after the manner practised in the Netherlands say they approve highly of the method." *Monaghan*—"Many of the farmers have treated their crops in that way, and the crops from the home-saved seed produced well." *Meath*—"Several farmers have treated their flax in that way, and have stacked it, intending to ripple it in the spring." *Louth*—"Numbers have treated their flax with great success, and the system is becoming more general." *Wexford*—"Several gentlemen have practised the Dutch system, which has in every instance been successful. The farmers are still prejudiced to their old system." *Westmeath*—"Several farmers have treated their crops on the Dutch plan, and find the advantage both in quality and quantity." *Waterford*—"A considerable part of the crops treated in this way, which answered the expectations of such as strictly followed the instructions." *Clare*—"Most of the farmers treated their crops by this plan." *Kerry*—"About 18 acres have been treated with good success." *Limerick*—"Several persons treated their flax in this way, and the seed saved was very good." *Co. Mayo*—"Some few persons treated their flax by the Dutch method, and are well satisfied with the result." *Leitrim*—"Several farmers have treated their crops in that way, which turned out very well." *Roscommon*—"The flax crops were uncommonly fine, and well got in. Many were treated after the manner practised in the Netherlands, and highly approved of."

After this period we find no further reference to the subject in the records of the Board, whose functions ceased in 1828, after an existence extending over 117 years.

We have to thank Mr. E. J. Charley, of Seymour Hill, Dunmurry, for very kindly lending us 12 volumes of the Proceedings of the Linen Trade Board from 1815 to 1827, books which are now very scarce, and from which we have been enabled to present to our readers some very interesting information respecting the trade in the early part of the present century.

The Irish Lace Trade.

(Communicated.)

IT had been thought by some that the American orders for Irish lace would cease towards the close of the Chicago Exhibition; however, such has not been the case, and at present the demand is in advance of the supply, so that stocks in the hands of the manufacturers are low, and they find it rather a difficult matter to be able to submit on approval to their regular customers a suitable assortment of the different laces. It is to be regretted that this system of sending out goods on consignment was ever introduced. Under it the wholesale merchant must keep a stock for the world, getting it tossed about from one retail house to another, and too often with very little advantage. However, it is almost an impossibility to do business at present without conforming to the established rules. It would be more advantageous to the retail merchant if he would send his orders direct to the manufacturer, who could supply him with anything in the class of lace required, or get his orders executed more promptly than through any intermediate source. A few of the leading manufacturers of Irish lace had thought of opening a central office in Dublin for the disposal of their goods, and so extend the industry. However, they have been anticipated. Two lace establishments have been fitted up during the last month in the same street. We wish them every success, and trust there will be sufficient retail trade for both. Lady Aberdeen may have been able to secure the American demand, also the American dollar, which has prompted her to purchase the interest in the old-established house belonging to the late Mr. B. Lindsay. Her committee have undertaken to alter the whole shop and warerooms in the most unique manner, and no doubt it will prove one of the best laid out emporiums of its size in Dublin. The other lace warehouse in Grafton Street is small and unpretentious; however, as the stock is select and the management is in experienced hands, we do not fear but it will prove prosperous. The Irish Lace Society is doing its own work (altogether wholesale). Mrs. Donaldson, the secretary, sends two point lace handkerchiefs, which we have illustrated. The Youghal handkerchief is remarkable for the beauty and variety of its stitches, and it is to be hoped that Mr. A. Cole will not object to the "profusion of ornamental filling" in this specimen. The other handkerchief in the same class was made at the Convent of the Poor Clares, Kenmare. The lack of filling shows off the artistic merits of this design, and though the labour spent on each is nearly equal, yet we understand the public generally take to the Youghal point in preference.

THE LINEN TRADE IN SPAIN.

THE following remarks on the linen trade in Spain occur in a recent report to the Foreign Office by Mr. W. Macpherson, Her Majesty's Consul at Barcelona:—

The importation of British linens into Spain has been slowly but steadily decreasing for the past 20 years, owing partly to the competition of similar articles manufactured in Belgium, but chiefly to the gradually improving quality of Spanish cloth.

In the first six months of the year 1885, 1,099,500 yards of British linen were imported into Spain; and in the first six months of the present year only 277,400 yards have been sent from Great Britain to this country.

This extraordinary decrease of importation is, however, more apparent than real, and is owing, in the first place, to the excessive purchases made in 1891 and in the beginning of 1892, in anticipation of the then impending rise in the duties on such articles on their importation into Spain, as all the purchasers ordered their linen goods far in excess of their requirements for the season, and naturally had larger stocks than usual on hand at the commencement of the present year; and, in the second place, to the fact that the importers of linen are at present ordering forward only what they absolutely require for the moment, in hopes of a speedy reduction of the present duties, or of an important fall in the rate of exchange, which alone is a sufficient consideration to curtail business, as it now enhances the cost price of foreign merchandise by 20 per cent at least.

Though the importation of British linens into Spain in the six months ending June 30th of the present year shows so heavy a falling-off, it must be borne in mind that, as stated, the importation of similar articles was in the first six months of the years 1891 and 1892 far in excess of the requirements of the country.

The importation in the first six months of the last three years was as follows:—

In 1891, 879,600 yards; 1892, 1,173,300; 1893, 277,400; total, 2,330,300 or an average of 776,766 yards, and only 91,250 yards less than the average amount of British linens imported in the first six months of the six previous years as shown by the following:—1885, 1,099,500; 1886, 1,102,800; 1887, 829,400; 1888, 767,900; 1889, 707,500; 1890, 701,000; total, 5,208,100, or an average of 868,016 yards per year.

The present duties on most linen goods are, nevertheless, simply prohibitive. This is admitted by everyone, and the manufacturers themselves frankly assert that they required no such extraordinary protection, and protest that the

never asked for it, being well satisfied with the protection granted to them under the more rational duties fixed in the old tariff. The steady decrease of the importation of British linens to which I have referred is still more evident if the different classes of linen are compared and not the total quantity. Formerly, heavy and medium linens were largely imported, but for some years past these have been supplied by Spanish looms. White, grey, and printed drills, and grey and dyed linings formed at one time a considerable item in the import trade of linen textiles; but nearly all these stuffs are manufactured in this country, chiefly in Catalonia. Printed linens for shirts, and lawns for ladies' dresses were, also, articles largely imported formerly, but they have been gradually superseded by cotton stuffs. Every circumstance appears to point to a decrease of British linen imports into Spain; and even if the present duties were reduced to those leviable by the old tariff, it is very doubtful if the importation would increase. Of course, if the duties of the present tariff are to continue much longer, a complete cessation of the trade in a very short space of time is almost a necessary consequence.—*Board of Trade Journal.*

NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT BATLEY.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.



ON the 28th ult., the new Technical School at Batley, built and furnished at a cost of about £6,000, was formally opened. The ceremony was performed by Mr. James Stubbley, who at the inception of the scheme subscribed £500 to the building fund. The proceedings were presided over by Mr. Walter Bagshaw, president of the Technical School, and among those who attended by invitation were Mr. Hutton, M.P., Principal Bodington (Yorkshire College), Mr. Swire Smith, Mr. S. J. Chadwick (president of the Dewsbury Technical School), and Mr. Inspector Cooke. A procession, which was formed at the Town Hall, comprised the Mayor (Councillor Auty), the Town Clerk (Mr. Craik), the Governors of the School, and representatives of the various public bodies in the town. The accommodation is already fully taken up by a general attendance of 500 class students, and in the near future enlargement of the premises will probably be necessary. The President, in introducing Mr. Stubbley, stated that of the £6,000 which the institution had cost only about £600 remained to be raised.

Mr. Stubbley, in declaring the School open, spoke of the need there was for technical instruction in our great manufacturing centres, and hoped the young men and women of Batley would become students, and do all they could to better themselves and the community generally.

Mr. Hutton, M.P., denied that loss of trade in this country was due to foreign competition. That was a bugbear and a poor excuse on the part of those who made such a contention. It was due to other causes which must be studied and combated. It was a mistake, he said, to think that we possessed a genius in the matter of trade which no other country possessed, or could hope to possess. In technical education this country had been behindhand for many years. We had got fairly efficient in primary education, and now it was a pleasing fact that great progress was being made in education of a higher character. Short addresses were also given by Professor Bodington, Mr. Swire Smith, and others.

In the evening a well-attended public meeting was held in the Town Hall, when Mr. Walter Bagshaw again took the chair.

Mr. Mark Oldroyd, M.P., congratulated the people of Batley on the possession of an institution calculated to do an immense amount of good to the community. The start was a very propitious one, numerically and educationally, and it spoke well for the tact and perseverance which had been brought to bear on the establishment of such a school, and under such difficulties as had been indicated by the chairman. The hon. member having given a few words of practical advice to students, of whom there were many present, remarked that now technical education had become popular, and was universally recognised as a necessity of our times. Those old, empirical methods by which our fathers obtained their livelihood and pursued their work were acknowledged to-day totally inadequate to the requirements of the times. Following with a general review of our position in regard to textile industries, he asserted that with respect to the woollen industry this nation had made a distinct advance in taste and thorough understanding of the trade by those engaged in it. In the woollen industry London took the lead in fashion, and what London wore to-day the world wore to-morrow.

Mr. Swire Smith said that the watchword now-a-days was education, but people had not to be judged so much by the education they possessed as the use they made of it. We had now to contend with that competition which ever made cheap things cheaper, and which was ever putting more strain and effort, and more difficulty, in the way of operative and master in this country. Technical instruction, however, was no substitute for hard work. Still it was being determined to keep ahead of our foreign competitors in regard to quality that should occupy our chief attention. The raw material was as good in England as in any country, and the natural advantages we possessed were not, he believed, to be surpassed in any other part of the world. Educational merit and the use made of education were telling in the race, and if they went on progressing there was no need to fear competition with any part of the globe.

Principal Bodington said an hour like the present—an hour of industrial depression and diminished demand, and of great anxiety as to our commercial future—was a very proper time for the opening of a technical school. For two centuries the great object of British policy had been to find outlets for her trade. Her empire was essentially a trade empire. To build it up we had energised, thought, suffered, and sometimes sinned. But victory had followed in our steps, and as a result we held the commercial supremacy of the world, and our success had been the cynosure of jealous rivals. The shadow of foreign competition grew larger and larger, and it was very important that we in this country should make our labour more efficient. Educationalist though he was, he did not put forward technical education as a panacea. There was no such thing as a panacea, but there were palliatives. In analysing the conditions of the world, the benefits

FLAX CULTIVATION IN MINNESOTA.

FLAX is largely cultivated, but almost entirely for the seed. In this connection it will be astounding to learn that 300,000 tons of flax straw tributary to western lines of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway are annually burned up by farmers for want of putting the straw to purposes of utility. The railroad has succeeded in getting quite a number of tow-mills located along the line, and almost the whole of the tow now used in the Eastern States is drawn from mills on the line of this Railway. A number of these mills are being operated by men who have the higher purposes of flax straw in view; experiments are constantly being conducted in mills along the line to use the coarse grade for packing—as excelsior is used—other grades for waste—as cotton waste is used—other grades for papermakers' stock, and the best for linen purposes.

Irish Agricultural Produce. We beg to thank Mr. Richard M. B. Brington, LL.B., of Fassaroo, Bray, for sending us a copy of his notes on the prices of Irish agricultural produce, in reference to a paper which was read before the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland. With a view to make the statistical information in his paper still more intelligible to the reader, he has carefully prepared a series of 11 excellent diagrams, which supply at a glance a very accurate idea of the fluctuations in prices of cattle, sheep, pork, beef and mutton, wool, flax, butter, wheat, barley, and oats, extending over periods varying from 50 to 100 years.

Chemicals and Dyes.

(Special Report by Messrs. SADLER & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.)

THE month has been marked by a complete collapse of prices in the Ammonia market. Sulphate, after touching £15, has gone down to a shade above £10. Muriate and Carbonate of Ammonia have participated in the fall. There is a better feeling in the Tar Products market, and some of the leading products, particularly Benzole, Pitch, Anthracene, and Creosote, are all quotable high. There is a remarkable scarcity of common Tar Oils, a position which has never before been known in the Tar market. Carbolic Acid and other disinfectant chemicals are in capital request, but, with the exception of Chloride of Lime, prices have not been maintained. Notwithstanding the lessened production of Alkalies, from lack of fuel, they have not advanced as much as might have been expected; still, both Caustic and Ash are dearer. Only a moderate amount of business is being done in Aniline and Alizarine Dyes. There is also a distinct falling-off in the demand and consumption of Dyers' Chemicals, all of which has a weakening tendency in respect to value. Oxalic Acid and Bichrome are in fair request, the latter at convention prices, and the former at 3d. net. Superphosphates and Agricultural Manures are commanding a good deal of attention, and large business is reported in all of them. Potash Salts are firm at convention rates.

Selected List of Applications for Patents relating to Textile Fabrics.

Compiled from the Official Records, by Messrs. W. P. THOMPSON & Co., Patent Agents, 6, Bank Street, Manchester; 6, Lord Street, Liverpool; and 323, High Holborn, London, W.C.

- C. G. BUTTRICK, London, No. 18,067.—“Improvements in spindles for spinning machines.”
- J. GAUNT and J. WEBSTER, London, No. 18,359.—“Improvements in relation to shuttles and shuttle bobbins for weaving woollen and other fabrics.”
- P. and J. CLOUGH, London, No. 18,365.—“Improvements in the ‘doffing’ of bobbins from their spindles in spinning, twisting, doubling, and analogous operations, and in the means or apparatus employed therein.”
- F. and J. G. GEGAUF, Manchester, No. 18,568.—“Improvements in cross-hemstitch sewing machines.”
- W. GARNETT, of the firm of J. and J. Calvert, London, No. 18,738.—“Improvements in the spindles of cap spinning and twisting frames.”
- THE FIBRE MACHINERY CO., LTD., and TAYLOR BURROWS, London, No. 18,812.—“Improvements in machines for parallelising and lapping flax, tow, and other fibrous materials.”
- A. GREEVES, Manchester, No. 18,989.—“Improvements in apparatus for spinning yarn.”
- J. G. BARNES, Manchester, No. 19,267.—“New or improved means and method of weaving yarn direct from the cop without the intervention of winding and beaming machinery.”
- J. S. GRIMSHAW, London, No. 19,343.—“Improvements in and apparatus relating to the ‘flyers’ and spindles of spinning frames.”
- A. J. BOULT, London (Gustav Thalemann, Germany), No. 19,700.—“Improvements in shirt collars.”

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED.

The specifications of the following patents have been printed and published during the month, and copies thereof may now be obtained through Messrs. W. P. THOMPSON & Co. at the uniform price of 1s. per copy, which includes postage.

- 1892.
- J. ERSKINE, Belfast, No. 15,222.—“Improvements in machines for feeding flax, tow, or similar fibres to carding and other like machines.”
- A. W. METCALFE and W. J. HENNING, Pately Bridge, York, No. 15,868.—“Improvements in machinery for preparing flax and jute and other fibres.”
- R. DAVISON, Ballymena, Antrim, No. 20,258.—“Improvements in machinery for breaking or treating flax and similar textile materials.”

WANTED, offers for a quantity of NEW