The Textile Mercury

A Representative Weekly Journal for Spinners, Manufacturers, Machinists, Bleachers, Colourists, and Merchants,
in all Branches of the Textile industries.

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Current Topics.

The Indian Factory Commission’s Report.

A little more intelligence regarding the Indian Factory Commission’s Report has filtered through the telegraph from Calcutta. It is stated that, in addition to what we gave last week, the Commission makes the following further recommendations:

First, factories may work on a Sunday following a national festival holiday; but if too much holiday occurs in one week, the following Sunday should not be working days. Secondly, there should be compulsory stoppage of work for 30 minutes about midday for male operatives not employed on the shift system. Thirdly, a maximum weekly hand should be paid monthly wages. Fourthly, the Commission having found that most of the mills round about Calcutta, and some in Bombay, Ahmedabad, and Damascus, provide medical advice and treatment for their operatives, they bring this subject to the consideration of employers who have not yet adopted the dispensary system, and also recommend the starting of provident funds for operatives disabled by accident or disease, and the provision of instruction for children.

We do not care to begin the discussion of the recommendations of the Commission on the measly details which have already arrived, but we may be permitted to observe that if anything like an accurate outline has been presented here, the individuals constituting the Commission have been very inadequately qualified for the task in which they have been engaged, so far as their possession of any practical or theoretical knowledge of the subject extends. The truth of this statement is demonstrated beyond dispute by the comparative inaccuracy of the report, which is as follows:

We hope we may be allowed to say that we have been profoundly impressed with the vast and far-reaching benefits which the people of India are deriving from the improvement and prosperity of the great industries which we have seen in our turn. It would, in our judgment, be a great calamity if, by any injudicious recommendations or unnecessary restrictions, the prosperity of these industries were endangered.

The Commissioners appear to have been overwhelmed with the magnitude of the industries into the superficial condition of which they have been making an investigation, and of the vast and far-reaching benefits that are likely to spring from their development and prosperity. Yes, it is indispensably true that India will derive great benefit from the development of these industries, but we would ask that those benefits shall be obtained without a repetition of the distressing experiences of the English cotton trade operations from 1869 to 1870, of which, probably not a little, has been the result. We have heard from the President of the Indian Factory Commission that the English cotton trade has been restored.

Are they those of the English Factory Laws? If so, how do they make them out to be no less necessary in India than in England? Are the capitalists of the former country, either native or foreign, of a more kindly and benevolent disposition than those of the home industry? Or would they pronounce the restrictions of the English industry injudicious and unnecessary if, so, they would run counter to the two conclusions of the much more experienced publie at home. In order to give these gentlemen a little very necessary corroboration of a subject that has been engaging their attention, we would strongly advise the being remitted as a Commission to帧sons, manufacturers, machinists, bleachers, colourists, and merchants, in all branches of the textile industries.

The Textile Mercury


Editorial Notices.

Articles, Correspondence, Reports, Items of News, and other contributions for the Textile Industry, Home or Foreign, are solicited. Correspondence should be addressed, on the reverse side of the papers, to the Managing Editor, and in all cases must be accompanied by a stamped postal card, as a dispatch fee will be charged to any communication on receipt of which our subscribers do not desire to be addressed.

Advertisements should be ruled in the space following the following:

ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements will be inserted in the following:

Advertisements of Offices, Factories, Mills, Works, Rooms, or Shops, to be inserted on the following dates: January 1st, February 1st, March 1st, April 1st, May 1st, June 1st, July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st, November 1st, and December 1st.

Advertisements should be addressed to the Office of The Textile Mercury, 23, Street Street, Manchester.

All communications to be addressed to the Office of The Textile Mercury, 23, Street Street, Manchester.

Advertisements should be ruled in the space following the following:

The Imperial Federation League and Commercial Ties.

The Imperial Federation League, whose objects we have expressed appreciation over since this journal was founded, continues its good work for the more perfect unification of the British Empire. It has secured the admission and active cooperation of the most intelligent men of all parties, and we are pleased to think its labours have had an appreciable influence upon the mind of the Imperial Parliament. As our colonies and dependencies have, to a large extent, the liberty of dealing freely with their own fiscal matters, and of imposing or remitting tariffs at their own discretion, it is quite desirable that they should possess the power, if they desire it, to accord exemptions from import duties to the productions of the mother country. At present in relation to two countries, Germany and Belgium, they are restrained from so doing by existing commercial treaties. The clauses in the treaties preventing this the League—rightly as we think—desires to have abrogated, and accordingly at a meeting of the General Council, held last week at the office of the League, 40, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, Lord Beacons in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—That the Imperial Federation League makes formal representation to the Board of Trade Commercial Committee now sitting concerning the paramount importance of the earliest possible notice being given to the King of the Belgians and the German Emperor of the intention of her Majesty to cancel the clause in the treaties of commerce of 1845 and 1865 restraining colonial Governments and
people from according any fiscal advantage to British goods over those of Germany and Belgium." It will be obvious that these clauses constitute a serious disadvantage to England in dealing with their own fiscal arrangements. In fact the arrangement is a contradiction of the spirit of the liberty we have granted them of establishing their commerce in their own fashion. This liberty, if perfect, would imply the right to grant or withhold, enlarge or contract, and to discriminate in those matters between 51 and without recipients of their favors. We sincerely trust the League will press the matter with all its power upon the attention of the Government. Considering the offensive spirit that is abroad masquerading under the name of Protection, which seems to believe that a blow struck by a country at the interests of its neighbors is a benefit secured to itself, it is quite time that we resumed all the powers we possess, but foolishly fail to exercise, for the purposes of protection, in order to correct our notions about unfortunately good examples do not always carry with them sufficient force to secure their extended adoption; and as long as thieves may come into the house of the honest man in robing him of his property, it is necessary that the latter should at all events arm himself sufficiently to repel attacks that may be made upon him.

EASY TEXTILE DESIGNS.

Although China was for so many ages either entirely cut off from the western world, or very loosely connected with it, it is not improbable that the influence which has affected the contemporary art of the western courts. All the silk which was in circulation in the West until the second century after Christ is said to have come from China or the neighboring Indies. Not im-

probably the gorgeous Solomon owed something of his magnificence to the fabrics of the distant East. At any rate there can be no doubt that his ships, or those of his friend Hiram, were directly or indirectly in communication with the silk-producing districts of the vast continent. In this, it may be

Chinese fabrics bear the religious symbolism of Eastern Asia to Alexandria, from which they were diffused through the Roman Empire, and during the centuries that followed spread throughout the service of Christian art. We have evidence of this in the fact that many representations taken from the animal and vegetable worlds which are sacred to Buddhism, Syriac, and early Italian art, are found at the present day in Japan. The resemblance is so close that scholars versed in the subject have assumed that the designs must have been imported into Eastern Asia from the West. That, however, would be carrying things too far. Modern research enables us to correct our notions about medieval art, and thus we are now able to explain, e.g., the unicorn which was sacred to the Medes. It is one of the four holy animals of that race. If it were seen in the imperial gardens its appearance announced the advent of a beneficent and glorious prince of peace. And this legend was the notion transferred by the Church to Christ and the Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel, in the form of a hunter, is represented as driving the unicorn into a flowery enclosure where it takes refuge in the lap of the Virgin. If these ideas are correct, and they are urged by an accomplished writer, the weavers and designers of the Celestial

Empire exerted a potent influence in lands of which probably they had never heard.

BRANCH OF THE FACTORY ACT AT HAMBURG.

Two prosecutions for breaches of the Factory Acts, instituted by Mr. Birtwistle, factory inspector, and some of his assistants; one being Thomas Birtwistle, secretary of the Northern Counties Weavers' Association—were heard at the Hamburg Police-court on Monday, both of which called for a few remarks. Let us say at once that we impute no blame either directly or indirectly to Mr. Birtwistle in either case, as the point of our remarks is not here his share of the proceedings. In the first case the Hargreavesstreet Manufacturing Company, Limited, were summoned for employing four women and a young person at 6 minutes past five o'clock on the afternoon of the 24th October, the proper time being 5.30. Mr. John L. Whitaker, for the defence, a limited number of offences, and said the engineer was to blame, as Mr. Cartmell, the new manager, did not allow any overtime running. Fines of 50s. and costs were imposed in one case, and costs in the remaining cases. This case brings up the question we have raised before as to the responsibility of subordinates. Here is a direct plea put in by a respectable and well-known firm that was committed in direct violation of their instructions through their manager. If the firm had taken all reasonable means to bring their desires to the knowledge of their engineer, we submit that individual ought to have been the one prosecuted and made to pay the fine, and not his employers. We should like to know whether Mr. Birtwistle made any inquiry or received any information on this point before instituting the proceedings? We hold that if it could have been proved that he had any reasonable degree of certainty that they had, it was his duty to have summoned the engineer. As there appear to be conflicting views entertained amongst the inspectors, we would suggest that they should appeal to the higher quarters for instructions upon the point. We hold that the Government ought to submit a case to the law officers upon points of this kind in order that its servants may have an authoritative opinion upon the subject to guide them in their duty. We can hardly imagine that the personal opinions of the inspectors, or even a bench of local magistrates, are of such weight as to entitle them to questioning acceptance, while on the other hand it is not likely that for the small amount usually involved a manufacturer or spinner will care to encounter the annoyance and cost of an appeal to a higher court. Thus it may arise that a constant succession of petty acts of injustice may be committed. We say again the Government ought to provide its servants with an authoritative opinion on this matter.

COTTON OPERATIONS AND EXSERTS CIRCUMSTANCES.

The second of the prosecutions to which we referred in the preceding note was that of the Hatch Bank Manufacturing Company, Limited, who were summoned in ten cases for running their mill six minutes beyond the legal closing time on the 5th November, when the Inspector (Mr. Birtwistle) found the mill at work, and took evidence accordingly employed. Mr. John L. Whitaker, for the defence, admitted the offence, which was owing to the workpeople coming to the mill at six minutes past the dinner hour, they having stayed away to watch a marriage procession; and although they only worked six minutes overtime, it did not by a long way

balance the time lost by the workpeople foolishly staying away to watch the circus when they ought to have been working. A fine of 50s. and costs was imposed in one case, and costs in the remaining nine cases. This is another example in which what is virtually a piece of injustice was done, it perhaps the fact in this case. "A show" has always been a weakness and an irresistible temptation to the factory operative, and very probably to his professor, to heed for a moment. In the days of the latter, however, contracts were not so indissoluble, and laws—well, there were none for home work. The fathers and mothers of the younger generation, who picked the picking stick had a ready means of compensating themselves by compelling the "gadding" weavers to remain on the "sitting-tree" until they had made up for all time lost by leaving their looms to follow the hounds, to watch the antics of a dancing bear, or to gaze with open eyes and mouth upon the clowns of a wandering circus. In such cases the law was dead.

We say again. And in the prosecution instituted by Mr. Birtwistle—though he has certainly the letter of the law upon his side, with no one to oppose it, and the defendants had technically broken it—the case was certainly one that should have been passed over. It was far better from an equitable point of view that time, which the employers, in order to fill up their loss caused by the giddy folly of the weavers, that they should have thrown the establishment into a ferment by inflicting fines upon those who abstained themselves. But not! Mr. Birtwistle, as a new broom must sweep clean, and accordingly drops upon the employer, the law, practically broken, and institutes a prosecution, with the result stated above, which is an instance of these numerous cases of injustice that are exceedingly irritating, and are apt to be serious. Suppose that instead of endeavoring to make up their loss in this way the employers had imposed a small fine upon every weaver who had stayed away. What a hub-bub they would have had, and very probably a strike, and a call upon the Weavers' Associations to resist such arbitrary tyranny; metaphorically speaking the fury cross would have been sent round the districts from Chichester to Longendale, from Cherley to Tolmorden, and the cross would have gathered for a red waving upon the Hatch Bank Company to uphold the "eternal principles of justice," and punish those who would break them. But as all this threat, the consideration of the employer having been prevented, we have a suggestion to make whereby justice may be met. Let the operatives of this mill who have been the cause of it subscribe the amount of the fine and the fines from their wages next Saturday, and hand the sum over to their employers. Or, and this is an alternative, let the Weavers' Associations pay it from their funds. Surely such societies, which are so anxious to secure justice, will not withhold the remedy when their own members have been the cause of inflicting the injustice. Their organ in the press might take up the matter with advantage to the reputation of those on whose behalf it is ever ready to buckle on its armour.

THE PROTECTION OF THE SHIPYARD TRADE.

The failure this week of several United States iron vessels to reach the harbour, on account of various merchants in Canada, have produced an uneasy feeling amongst those British shipping houses that deal with Transatlantic firms. Messrs. Bellows & Co., Messrs. Foster, and Co., Lamotte, and other concerns in the Dominion are included amongst
The unfortunates, and the largest house in Ottawa, with somewhat extensive liabilities in Europe, has paid its indebtedness by being assessed at $20,000. The United States Treasury is making every effort to relieve the position of some of its embarrassing features by making bonds freely, at $8,000,000 last week, but the pressure has been relieved in this way during the course of a few days. Notwithstanding this, however, failures continue to take place. Messrs. Case, Chaseney, and Co., stockbrokers of New York, and Messrs. Whitton, Horr, and Young, brokers, of Boston, have suspended payment. The liabilities of the latter firm are estimated at one million. Large gold imports are expected; it is believed they will reach five millions of dollars in the current month. The ability to import gold through depressed cattage exchange rates arises mainly from the distribution of the New York banks to carry cotton bills any longer, and they are being freely sold at whatever they fetch to raise money. In New Zealand a large farm of 1,000 acres has failed, with liabilities exceeding $200,000, and we are warranted in saying that the immediate prospects of the shipping trade have not been call for a long time. It is well known that discounts have been difficult to obtain in the States except for what the Americans expressively term "pigeon-saled" paper. In Canada the industrial conditions anticipated in view of the abundant harvest of this year have not been realized, and railrates have come forward very slowly. Wholesale houses in Montreal and Toronto found that payments in Quebec and Ontario were not prompt, and in districts where September sales are the chief item of business has been very poor owing to the depressed state of the trade in England. The principal disturbing influence in the Antipodes has, of course, been the strike, the rancorous effects of which are now being felt throughout the colonies. South American trade continues in the depressed position already referred to in these columns, so that the outlook generally is indeed gloomy at the moment. It is a curious fact, however, that in this country, which is the main market of India, the cotton goods trade is the most prosperous of the three mentioned, with the difficulties of Messrs. Barlow Brothers, no disturbance has practically speaking, taken place as yet.

The Board of Trade returns for November. So far as regards the entire trade of the country, apart from the textile industries, the returns for the month are not unfavorable, considering the unusually large figures for November, 1888. The imports are valued at $277,126,000, a decrease of $1,184,000, or about 10 per cent, and the exports of British goods at $1,013,000, a decrease of $2,154,000, or about 15 per cent. The imports in November last year reached $317,519,000, the highest ever attained, and the total of the exports was also one of the highest recorded. Another cause of the decline shown in each case on the previous occasion is that in last month there were only 25 working days, as compared with 30 in the corresponding month of last year. As regards the imports the annexed tables show general decreases, except in flax and hemp, the falling off in the import of woolen goods being marked. Of this staple, Australia sent only half of the amount that was received in November, 1889, the other European countries having sent much less. Cotton from the United States is less by 170,000 8ts., the quantity from Egypt being the same. With reference to the exports the tables also show a very general decrease, practically in all textile articles except jute yarn and piece goods. Woollen yarn and cotton yarn, together with the respective piece goods, have all very sensibly diminished. Whether it be that the higher prices of wool have tended to check the export of wool and worsted goods or not, it is clear that the shipments have considerably fallen off during the current year. In the following abstract we give particulars of the imports and exports of textiles, etc., for the month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity 1889</th>
<th>Quantity 1888</th>
<th>Per Cent. Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cotton goods</td>
<td>3,521,164</td>
<td>3,942,737</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flax yarn</td>
<td>2,442,390</td>
<td>2,529,390</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk yarn</td>
<td>2,082,700</td>
<td>2,450,000</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton yarn and piece goods</td>
<td>2,442,390</td>
<td>2,529,390</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolen yarn and piece goods</td>
<td>2,442,390</td>
<td>2,529,390</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total exports of textiles, etc.</td>
<td>10,440,000</td>
<td>11,960,000</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following facts regarding the growth and condition of this industry will be interesting to our readers. A machine of this class was invented in 1826 by Joshua Hall in Massachusetts, and the Alacoque—celebrated more particularly for his invention of the cotton loom—had it hampered by serious defects. Franz Reinhard Rottmayer, of St. Gallen, improved it, in the years 1840—1850. At the present time there are in East Switzerland 4,000 machines at work, which makes it possible for St. Gallen to export embroidery to the value of more than 100,000 francs per annum. In Saxony about 5,000 machines are at work in Pauw, etc., and about 7,000 more in the other countries of Europe and North America. East Switzerland employs about 90,000 persons in this department of industry, amongst whom are 1,000 designers, who are said to produce more than half a million of new patterns every year.

Migration of French Silk Weavers from Lyons to French Villages. A remarkable feature in the present condition of the silk industry in France is the tendency of the workers to remove from the towns into the country. A time, indeed, can be foreseen when all ordinary work in this department will be transferred to the looms of the country. The art workman alone can afford to stay in the great cities, where living is so dear. Lyons has little more than 32,000 to 40,000 hand-looms, whereas it had as many as 60,000 to 65,000 in the flourishing era of figured stuffs. Net fewer than 60,000 to 65,000 hand-looms have been removed into the rural districts, together with 15,000 power-looms. Many are established in the neighbourhood of Lyons; 700 in Ain, 1,000 in Ardeche, 1,000 in Drôme, 2,000 in the department of Loire, 1,000 in Savoy, etc. The manufacturers of Lyons have erected workshops even in Delas, Gard, Haute-Vienne, Creuse, and Puy-de-Dôme, and it is considered to be only by these means that this branch of French industry can defend itself against the competition and other adverse forces with which it has to cope.

France and her Rival in the Silk Industry. French merchants complain bitterly of the presence of foreign competition with the silk industry of France. A considerable amount of the silk sent to France has been imported according to the preceding note. The sewing silk department is alleged to have been half annihilated by the placed all goods imported from England and Germany, and the important manufacturers of St. Pierre des-Calais are said to have had great difficulty in struggling against the factories of Nîmes. The intensity of foreign competition is shown by the remarkable development of manufacturing in some of the neighboring countries during recent years. The factories of the Rhine district, for instance, which had only 25,000 looms in 1844, had 57,000 in 1854, and the production rose within that period from 30,000,000 francs to 290,000,000 francs. The specialities made in these factories are cotton Velvet, ribbons of silk and wool, and cotton and silk fabrics of light silks. In Switzerland similar phenomena are presented. The looms of Olten have increased from 5,000 to 37,000 during the last 20 years, and the production, which at the beginning of that period amounted only to 15,000,000 francs, reached 64,000,000 francs in 1855. France has made less startling progress, but even there the production has risen from 30,000,000 francs to 37,000,000, Italy, which has been so successful in agriculture, rearing, and throwing, has been less successful in weaving; nevertheless the number of its looms has trebled in 20 years, and it produces silk to the value of 10,000,000 francs, of a special kind, and which are beginning to come to Paris. The chief weaving centres are Como, Genoa, and Turin. Russia is also one of the rivals of France in this field. In less than 10 years the looms of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Vladimir have increased their production from 10,000,000 to 100,000,000 francs. America has already established a silk industry of its own, and from the opposite side of the world—Asia—danger is also foreseen. The following tables are the substance of an article in the Revue des deux mondes. We have no doubt it has been published in that influential journal with a view to securing more
protection for the French silk manufacturers. The appetite for protection grows by what it feeds on, and like the daughter of the horse- leech it is perpetually crying out for more.

COTTON WASTE SPINNERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

The cotton waste spinners—that is, the hard working men—are apprehensive of being overlooked or intending to do as many other traders do at this season of the year, namely, to lose stock of their position. We don’t wonder at this, because for a number of years their lot has not been an enviable one. Their raw material may be regarded—as a by-product, it being the hard waste made in spinning mills and weaving sheds, and mainly in the latter. Nobody is interested in increasing the supply of this raw material, as it must be derived from an article costing from three to five times as much—that is, cotton yarn. They never get any benefit from an abundant crop of cotton, as it does not increase their supply of the material, neither does a reduction in the value affect their or future’s correspondingly lower rates.

Whilst this is their plight regarding their raw material, now and increasing demands for clothing are bringing increased competition, and a consequential tendency for values to advance. It was not always thus, but then the little cotter changed, giving place to the new, and the latter among one of the feet of the fish that jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire:—it cannot be said that they have benefited themselves by the change. Even chlorides of zinc and water hardly suffice to make the balance right. Cotton waste dealers and manufacturers affect the prices of the Victoria fin and flower market, and it would appear that little cotter of them, depressed in spirit, have been discussing their prospects, and not finding them satisfactory for the coming year unless they take very decided steps to help themselves, they have as a first step thereto called a meeting—a common resource of Englishmen in distress. It was a meeting of the Committee of their Association, which was held on Tuesday at the Bally’s Head Hotel. The outcome was the passage of a resolution that a general meeting of the trade be held at the above-named hotel on Tuesday the 25th inst., to consider the present condition of the trade proceeded to contractions being placed for the coming year, and also to consider future ways or means of conducting the operations of the association as to prove most beneficial to the trade generally. It may not be generally known that a different method of treating presents in this branch of the cotton trade from that which is general in what may be termed the superior section. Manufacturers generally at the commencement of a year sell their waste by contract for six or twelve months, the buyers taking all they produce in that time. They have, therefore, to make their market in the first week or two of the year for the whole quantity they sell in the year, so that they find themselves in a quandary, and for their supply of the raw material they have to throw themselves upon the tender mercies of the waste dealers, which are said to be like those of certain persons named in Scripture, not kind. It would seem as if the “waste men” are disposed to rebel, and are about to enter upon the purpose of securing a part of the manufacturers’ profits at their own price. If so, why should not manufacturers offer their production of waste at a lower tender? There can be no objection to it, and then the waste men would not object at their own price and be, we suppose, satisfied.

HOW COTTON TRADE DISPUTES ARE SETTLED WITH OLDHAM.

Our Oldham correspondent writes: “Seeing that Oldham has so important a place in the spinning world, and now that greatness in the wages question is being thrust upon it, it may not be regarded by our readers as inappropriate if we place before them a method which has of late been adopted in this noteworthy Lancashire town in connection with the settlement of grievances that the workpeople may have with their employers as to work and wages. We have previously intimated that the Oldham cotton operatives have obtained from employers the recognitions of the right to compensation for less in wages caused by circumstances over which they have no control. We might here state that this has reference chiefly to bad spinning, through which the workmen contend they are harder worked, while at the same time receiving less wages. Employers also, have allowed themselves to be persuaded when it has been found that hands have been discharged without just cause, and have allowed themselves to be thus smitten rather than disturb the good relations with their workpeople. Two points, it will be readily admitted, are two distinct gains to the cause of labour. But the officials of the Operatives’ Association have not stopped there. They have made another further advance, and one which, if carried out in a proper spirit will do no doubt have the effect of preventing serious breaches between employer and employed, and must also lead to better understandings between capital and labour. The third point, therefore, that we wish to allude to is the adoption of a plan by which the grievances of workpeople are thoroughly thrashed out in the presence of all parties concerned. The usual method operated upon by the cotton operatives is to have a conference, in which the workpeople present are received by the employer, and an intimation is given that severe measures will be undertaken if an improvement be not brought about. It will thus be seen (imaginary, of course) that matters have now reached a crisis. Let us say, by way of parenthesis, that so far as we learn, there is a strong disposition on the part of the trade-union officials to do everything possible to avoid a strike. The next day, when we allude to then goes a step further in the direction of peace. In several instances quite recently where differences of opinion have existed as to the nature of complaints and conferences between those most interested have been held—namely, the employers, representatives of the operatic associations, and the workpeople. Thus the complaining parties are brought face to face with those who can settle them and in this way the whole of the facts are gone into, and methods proposed for making matters run smoother. By this means a number of grievances which threatened to lead to strikes have been removed, and it would appear that the end justified the means adopted in towns where the master element is more predominant than at Oldham the operatives will be unable to make such rapid advances. The direct result of the Oldham compromise is largely composed of working-men has undoubtedly been greatly in the operatives’ favour, and has materially helped in giving them a standing with capital. Still it can scarcely be alleged that the new procedure will in any way humble capital. Of course it must be granted that it is rather democratic in its tendency, but as we write this it may be said to have more of the most sacred tie which binds together the human family.”

WEAVING AMONG THE ANCIENT GERMANS.

The old Germans have often been thought of as barbarians, chiefly because most of our knowledge about them has come to us through Roman channels, and Londoners view the Germans so strongly influenced European life and culture. If, however, we examine classical evidence very carefully and take into account evidence from other sources, we see clearly that the ancient Teutons were in some respects very far indeed removed from barbarism. One department in which they seem to have made capital ages was the production of textiles. Herr Fischbach has just called attention to a passage in the Lexicon of Aristophanes, which shows that German textiles were known amongst the Greeks 2,800 years before the time of Christ. Grecian balls, it seems, encouraged to increase the effect of their charm not only by results of flowers, paint, slippers, and satin-coloured robes, but also by veils or shawls of Cimbrian (German) make, which had probably been brought to Greece by the Phrygianumber. Some centuries later Julius Caesar spoke highly of the linen of the Atrebates, who dwelt in the county of Lutich and Brussel. Even then Tacitus mentions the white garments decorated with red and blue embroidery, which were worn by the German women. Fischbach thinks it allowable to suppose that Flanders, which in more recent times produced such marvels of textile art, possessed fine weavers in very early ages. Ancient tombs have yielded but little, but still their evidence is by no means contemptible. A tomb at Witmitz, near Reginald, in Pomerania, dating from the third or fourth century A.D., contained a small piece of fine linen decorated with white embroidery. The clothes of Roman soldiers of the first or second century, which were found embedded in the möchte of Mayence, must be regarded as of German manufacture, because they have the trill or Batavia border, obtained by means of the thread-loom and not by weaving. The linen, exhibited at the Egyptian fabrics down to the fourth century. It came with the lift-loom from India, but the Germans were previously acquainted with the thread-loom and could produce geometrical patterns. It is a noteworthy circumstance that Frisian linen has excelled in such small
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THE TEXTILE MERCURY.

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How any man possessing the knowledge of textile matters that Mr. Birtwistle may justly claim could bring himself to favor such a proposal exceeds our capacity to comprehend. We don't reckon the opinion of the other operators as being of any weight in this connection, it being nothing more than that of the man in the street. What have the operators got to do with the weight of threads in the warp, the length of dry twist, counts of wool, cotton of twist, and every other of the technical details they ask for? What concern them is the width, length, count of thread, and count of twist when the piece of cloth is placed upon the counter. Really they are making demands here which would at once make their whole trade into the hands of foreign competitors, and provide by English law for the benefit of foreigners the very knowledge they are supposed to obtain in order to become competitors with us. Does Mr. Birtwistle not know that on the acquisition of this knowledge the United States Government has spent thousands of dollars through its consuls, and has, very properly, failed? Does he not know that having thus failed it is now trying another dodge to effect the same purpose, namely, that invoices of goods exported to the States shall contain the particulars for what they are being sold? We hardly thought he would have shown such want of enlightenment regarding the interests of the cotton trade, and not least of those of his own clients, in these new petting forward proposals of this kind. The operatives' union of yesterday, referring to the conference, says:—

"The employers have not been asked to be present as the operatives' representatives have found it impossible to get them to agree to what they (the operatives) considered a fair bill. Talks, for many months, in a regrettable circumstance, as it would have made facilitated the passage of such a bill had it been unopposed. We believe the employers are pursuing a mistaken policy in opposing to law-breakers being adequately punished, as it only makes the law stronger that they and their employers are of necessity in opposite camps."

This is the sort of bill which is called a fair bill, made up of classes such as we have drawn attention to. The employers last year introduced a clause enabling them to repudiate the responsibility for insufficiencies of the law by the operatives when the mill engine was not at work. Who resisted this! Was it not Mr. Birtwistle and his co-directors? We think it was. Employers want the law to be left to be adequately punished whether they are found in the ranks of the employers or in those of the operatives. What they object to—and very properly so—is to be punished vicariously for the law-breaking of Mr. Birtwistle's clients. We shall probably have further observations to offer upon this subject at an early date.

FOREIGN TARIFFS AND LABOUR QUESTIONS.

News of an important event that throws a flood of light upon the position of employers in a certain trade has reached us since the publication of our last issue. Messrs. Lister and Co., Limited, have notified the workpeople in a portion of the velvet department at Manningham Mills, numbering about 1,100 persons, that their wages will be reduced next week to what the directors state will be rates similar to or a little above those which are paid by the principal Bradford firms. In an interview with delegates from the various classes of operatives affected, Mr. Tetcher, managing director, said that the concerns of Lister and Co., Limited, could only be carried on under the same conditions as those under which other Bradford manufacturers worked. The McKeeley Tariff had stopped the trade of Lister and Co. in America entirely, and the Germans were competing with them in the home market more successfully than ever. In addition, the proposed new French Tariff threatened to seriously increase the ease of the duty on cotton manufactures. The operatives have not yet decided as to what course of action they will adopt, but it is probable that a struggle will take place before they decide to accept their employers' terms. That is a matter which concerns the men. Of this, however, we may be tolerably certain: the plush trade to-day is not such an easy-going business as it was in the early period of its history, when Samuel Caniff Lister had things pretty much to himself, could do what prices he pleased for his production, and could afford to pay good wages to his operatives. The business is now occupied for very keenly. There arise two pressing concerns: the Salt, Brights, Walkers, Hinds, and others. Foreign tariffs, too, have undoubtedly tended to drive our manufacturers into a corner so that Messrs. Lister will have strong arguments to bring forward in support of their decision. The opportunity is, too, a splendid one for impressing the commercial world with the simplicity, the ease, and the cheapness of our strips, free trade at home and protection abroad may after all be an unimagined blessing for them. Mr. Lister, whose firm stands so well known, and other fair traders, would be quite within their right in sharply emphasizing the fact in such a formidable manner. We have already mentioned the illustrated advertisements of the great changes which have been brought about in the position occupied by us in relation to foreign countries. The facts, the sales, the figures, and we have shown again and again, by giving practical illustrations gathered from the experience of those interested in almost every department of British industry, how vitally these foreign tariffs are affecting us.

It is needless to reply that by the imposition of taxes in order to purchase the goods of foreign manufacture as before, the case would be different and the reply unnecessary. But it greatly reduces their purchase and consumption of such goods, and to that extent throws both the capital and labour hitherto devoted in their manufacture out of employ, thereby inflicting a practical injury upon the operatives as their manufactures are displaced. It is this phase of the subject that imperatively demands our attention and close investigation. The intercourse between nations is not regulated by moral principles, and it is incumbent upon our government to see that our interests as an industrial and commercial nation are not injured by the consequent tariffs of such countries as the United States, France, and Germany upon them. Messrs. Lister and Co. have been compelled to recognize by decisive action the altered aspects of the case as it affects themselves. Whenever any fresh line of manufacture has been started the hands have been able to fix what is in time proved a fancy wage. As far as the plush trade is concerned—and the same thing happens in all such instances—the work of the operatives has become easier, the new goods have become common, and prices have fallen. But the wages remain at the original figure. How then, ask Messrs. Lister, in effect, can the business be made to pay? While there has been a monopoly of certain manufactures and prices under the wages have not been reduced, but now the time has come when the management cannot afford to pay such wages, and having ascertained what is being paid by other firms in Bradford,
reductions have been decided upon which will bring the wages paid in the velvet department of Lister and Co. to figures that are generally, though not always, higher than those paid by the best Bradford firms. If the hands decline to accept the lower rate of wages proposed, the directors intend to close the department until such a rate of wages can be agreed upon, and this time of year, between the seasons, is peculiarly adapted for such a re-arrangement.

We have no wish to enlarge upon this matter in the present stage of what has hardly yet become a dispute. But in a general way it may be remarked that these reductions are inevitable in the present condition of things. The life of England is commerce—that is, her foreign trade. That trade, as we have shown, is being steadily and successfully attacked, not by one, or two, or three, but by every civilized nation in the world, with the exception of a few of the sparsely peopled Australian colonies. And yet now and more stringent tariffs are proposed; any attempt to obtain an enquiry is resented as if it were impertinent the whole system of our policy, which is not the case. New that the working men of the country are threatened with a reduction in their incomes, these unfair tariffs imposed upon British goods abroad, they may be induced to take an intelligent interest in the question, and support the demand for an investigation. Such a course would prove far more probable to them than to many subjects to which they give attention.

Lest this important subject, we turn to another aspect of the labour question, this time abroad. Last week a delegation of Toyorno and mowers—men of practical experience—was received by the French Board of Trade in order to submit their respective schemes for eliminating the differences between capital and labour set forth so prominently this year by the House of Commons. The employers urge that it is necessary, firstly, to come to some understanding with Germany to institute a ten hours working day, secondly, that night labour be abolished, and, thirdly, that a local Government inspector be nominated, with power to grant overtime permits when it may be deemed advisable, and to ensure the proper working of the Labour Bill. The working-men representatives advocate, firstly, the suppression of night labour, secondly, a ten hours working day, and, or an eight hours day, if other Powers promise to adopt the same course at once; thirdly, a rise of from 30 to 50 per cent. in wages; fourthly, that no foreigner be employed in French mills; fifthly, that overtime be authorized by an inspector, appointed by the working-men's syndicates, only when accidental stoppages have occurred. As the parties still disagree upon certain points, the Board of Trade intend to consider concerning them individually, and decide what steps ought to be taken to call the attention of the Legislative to the importance of the labour question and its solution. It is a fact well worth the notice of the cotton manufacturer, that their French competitors should have taken up the question of hours of labour. It is necessary, however, to point out that this course marks itself to the operation of any international arrangement on the subject so long as operatives here work less hours and have better wages than their con- countrymen. Whether the French and Germans will consent to compete on fair terms is open to question. In any case, the decision of the French Board of Trade will be awaited with interest.

THE TEXTILE MERCURY.

Foreign Correspondence.

TEXTILE MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CARDS—AMERICAN TEXTILES OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO—NEW YORK'S GIGANTIC NONSPUN.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29th.

There is not much excitement by importers just now. The tendency of prices continues to be upwards, and there is a general disposition to charge in all cases the full additions imposed by the tariff. Retailers are transacting a very heavy trade, as usual at this season, and the fair of goods answered the demand for an investigation. Such a course would prove far more probable to them than to many subjects to which they give attention.

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Designing.

NEW DESIGNS.

REVERSIBLE SATIN.

This design is a suggestion, and may be applied to a variety of cloths. It is a perfect five-end satin on ten ends, warp and weft, and of any colour, thus producing an equal surface both on the face and back of the fabric. The design can be used on any kind of satin, either in one or two colours. The structure is simple, and the effect is great, and it has already been much used. The main part of the satin is in one colour, and the remainder in another. The satin is made up in different widths, and can be used for any purpose. The design is easy to produce, and can be worked in any number of colours. The effect is bright and striking, and it is a useful and elegant design for any kind of satin.
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developed across the piece, unless the strip effect lengthways is strong enough to counteract this tendency. If, however, the similar effect in the next stripe is made to oppose the first, all tendency to show bars will be avoided.

Cotton warp and mohair and woolen weft will produce an effective pattern in this case.

Producing a small shaded effect which will of necessity be developed on both back and face of the cloth, since these effects are practically reversibles. Now it will be observed that in this design, four, three, and two threads respectively, work together throughout the piece. This may be objectionable owing to the threads failing always together to retain their relative positions, and therefore it is often desired advisable to bond such threads into position, at the same time producing a stronger cloth.

Design 219 demonstrates one method of effecting this, a flush of more than three being avoided, and one of the four threads producing each stripe being upon each pick, thus preventing any wrapping over.

It will at once be perceived that if either of these designs be worked 1 pick dark, 1 pick light, or 1 pick woolen, 1 pick mohair, stripes of light and dark or of woolen and mohair will appear both back and face. On this system both the succeeding designs are intended to be developed.

Design 211 practically consists of two portions, viz., a two- and a stripe effect.

The twill effect used of course is used alone, and may be extended as required, using the principles demonstrated in Design 210.

The following is a suitable set:

Top:

All 9/8 cotton. 32's red 22. Weft:

20 sh. woolen, or, as a finer worsted set:

Warp:

All 9/8's cotton. 32's red 22. Weft:

20's worsted.

If a huckaback effect is desired a red, 12 to 20's or mohair may be used.

Design 212 is a novel effect, that may be developed with practically little trouble. It consists of a figured stripe effect on 8 threads, which may be developed any breadth by drafting, and a twill effect on 24 threads. As the design is given here 24 shafts are required for its production, but if the effect be broken up to 12 threads, then only 20 shafts are required, as indicated in the draft. There is a fault, however, in this design which may require correcting, namely, that owing to the peculiar form of the eight-thread there is the likelihood of bars being

NOVELTIES IN LOW WOOLLENS AND WORSTEDS.

In our last issue we quoted some novel designs which were intended to be made in low worsteds for general use. We now direct attention to the production of worsted by the use of cotton warp and woolen, worsted, and mohair wefts, either combined or separate, and in this way to satisfy the requirements of those who have asked for suggestions in this direction, our remarks shall be confined to this class of work.

Design 209 demonstrates as simply as possible the method of using a cotton warp and two better class wefts, these latter covering entirely the cotton warp both back and face, and yet

SPRING VESTINGS.

This design is extremely simple, being convertible to 4 shafts, 24 to the round (see pegging plan). A very suitable, pretty, and neat cloth for vestings may be made by using a 90 red 4 in a dent, or 120 ends per inch; 200 red 2 in a dent would give a better appearance to the cloth, although the former red is more convenient; two-fold 40's twist for warp and 12's single worsted or cottons per inch. Those quantities can be varied according to heavy, medium, or light effect required, though narrower in the three classes would be very desirable. The following colourings for warps are required about and likely to be in favour:—

No. 1.—4 black, 4 white, 4 slate, 4 white, 4 slate, 4 black, 2 slate and dark double, two in a head, two heads in a dent.

No. 2.—4 brown, 4 light straw, 4 lavender, 4 light straw, 4 lavender, 4 light straw, 4 lavender. This pattern is also 28 ends, all doubled as in No. 1. It will readily be seen how various shades may be obtained by tuckinig the pattern increased by enlarging the warp pattern and the round; the whole also may be changed from black to any dark shade.

A very light make of this design would be effective for linen dress goods. Take No. 6 pattern in a 40 red 2 in a dent, or 60 ends per inch of 90's twist for warp and 20 lines or twice warp with pick. No. 8 pattern with a two-fold yarn of blue and orange twist in place of light straw would give a very satisfactory result.
Machinery and Appliances.

IMPROVED COTTON COMBER.

Messrs. Dobson and Barlow, Bolton.

Perhaps the most impressive feature in connection with the cotton trade and the one which excites most amazement in a thoughtful mind is its possession of such a perfect series of machines, and each of these so perfect in itself. In every process manual power has been superseded by the creation of the inventor's genius, and in each the product of the machine, both in quality and quantity, far exceeds the average results of manual work. The transformation of the manual to the mechanical form is now complete. We have ceased to look for inventions that will revolutionise the trade, because the failure of any professing to achieve such results would be foreseen, as they would have to destroy the capital already irrationally invested in trade, the cleansing is held to have been completed. In the fine spinning section, however, which is carried on at Manchester, Bolton, Reddish, Stockport, Cheetham, Tyldesley, and a few other smaller centres, the cleansing process is carried a step further by the removal of all fibres from the cotton below a certain standard in length, this varying according to the quality or fineness of the yarn required. Were any person, unfamiliar with the processes of cotton spinning, to be shown the lap of cotton as it comes from the finisher, and told it was necessary that every fibre shorter than a standard would have to be extracted from the others, he would either deny the possibility of its accomplishment or have his faculty of wonder greatly excited. But, as is well known, this is easily accomplished by the combing machine.

The combing machine is of comparatively recent introduction, having been invented by Jannes Heilmann, of Mulhouse, one of the Continental centres of the cotton trade, about the year 1840. For several years it attracted attention to the improvement of smaller details, and with very satisfactory results. It has been reserved, however, for the present year to witness the realisation of, perhaps, the most important advance that has been made in the construction of the combing since its first invention. It is to this we wish to direct the attention of our readers on the present occasion.

For the purpose of this article it is not necessary to enter into the details of the construction of the combing machine beyond giving the merest outline necessary to enable the reader to follow the description. Our Illustration, Fig. 1, gives a view of the general appearance of the machine as constructed by Messrs. Dobson and Barlow, whilst Fig. 2 shows a section through the working parts, exhibiting the improvement recently made. As in the ordinary construction of the comber, so also in this the lap is placed upon rollers, which by their revolution slowly unravell the fibre, and deliver it to the guide plate, down which it passes to the pair of fingered steel feed rollers, which
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improved arrangement of the needles in the comb upon the cylinder. Ordinarily these contained 12 strips, with needles of varying functions and arranged in various gauges, beginning with the coarsest and ending with the finest. This arrangement typically represents the brokener, the intermediate, and the finisher end in the carding system, performing in the comber exactly the same function. The needle points range 20 to 85 per inch. In the aggregate the 12 strips contain 7,590 points in the ordinary arrangement. In the improved arrangement the number of strips has been reduced to 9, while, with the diminished surface speed of the cylinder, it has been found that the coarsest series of points can be dispensed with. Beginning with finer picks more closely set, as many points are got into the thirteen

SECTION OF COMBO.

These give an equal number of what are termed 'rips' in the same time. In this plan a considerable proportion of the periphery of the cylinder was, and is now, perfectly idle. The question was therefore asked, perhaps not for the first time—could this not be utilized? As a fact we believe attempts have previously been made to do it, but from one cause or another they have been unsuccessful. Messrs. Dobson and Barlow, however, have been more fortunate. From a careful inspection made into the working of the improvement under notice, we believe they have been perfectly successful in the attempt to introduce a second series of combs and a corresponding second fluted section. The importance of this will at once be obvious. If the cylinder were maintained at its usual speed it will be apparent that the production would be doubled, but as the higher speeds mentioned are known not to yield the best results, it is preferred to reduce the speed and to content with the larger gain still accruing. As ordinarily worked both cam and cylinder shafts are geared by wheels of 80 teeth each, but in the change which has been made the 80 tooth on the cam shaft has been replaced by one of 40, thus giving the cam a double speed and thereby enabling the nippers to perform the extra work required from them. The speed of the cylinder shaft has been reduced to 90 revolutions per minute, causing a corresponding reduction in the speed of all the working parts actuated by it, which means something appreciable in wear and tear and power in a mill containing a considerable number of combs. At the same time 120 nips per minute are obtained, as against 80 with the comb running at the usual speed. This shows a clear gain of 50 per cent. in the production, with equally good quality—or rather as we shall show with better—whilst the surface speed of the cylinder is reduced 25 per cent.

For sea islands cotton, when the ordinary comber works at a speed of 65 revolutions of the cylinder per minute, making the same number of nips, in the improved arrangement with the cylinder running at 80 revolutions, making 250 nips, the gain is 84.5 per cent. in the production, with 89 per cent. of cylinders, which are two great advantages.

The important change we have just described, as might be expected, has permitted several subsidiary improvements, only less material than itself, to be made. One of these is the strips as previously into the seventeen. For obtaining a high quality of work this is a decided advantage. Any one who has ever seen a filament of cotton under the microscope knows that its surface is covered with a fine vegetable wax, giving it a rich, purple, and beautifully lustrous appearance, which it is the desire of the spinner who knows his business to preserve from injury throughout every passage to the completed yarn. The more perfectly he can accomplish this the better will be the price obtained for the market for his yarn. As the combing is effected by the needles of which we have spoken, and as the finest and most highly polished of these ever turn out from Holland or any other centre of production, when placed alongside and contrasted with the beautiful handwork of nature...
as seen in the cotton filament, is in comparison a coarse rough bar of iron, it will be clear that the fiber and more perfectly finished these needles are, the less likely are they to interlace the pearly surfaces of the cotton filaments. The greater fineness of the needles and the reduction of the speed at which they are drawn through the slots of the eye combine to produce a more satisfactory result than can easily be otherwise obtained.

There are several other improvements, but these do not call for extended notice. The detaching roller, by an improved arrangement, has had its movement reduced from 4ths of a revolution in each stroke to about one half. This has been effected by a reduc-

and last, but not least, the great saving in wages that will result, as the improved machine requires no more labor. Existing Heilman combers can easily and cheaply have this invention applied. We need only add that the makers will be pleased to afford any further information that may be desired.

NEW PATENT YARN BEAM DRAG FOR JUTE LOOMS.

There has just been introduced into the jute manufacture, a new invention for regulating the tension of the warp in the loom with greater perfection and facility than has hitherto been the case. It is the invention of Mr. Robert Scott, of the firm of Messrs. Scott and Fyfe, manufacturers, Dundee.

The new appliance is illustrated herewith in both its detail and its application. In Fig. 1 is shown the beam a, as ordinarily made, excepting that on the ends there will be observed projecting pins or keys, which are either attached to old beams or constructed upon new ones made specially with the view of having this invention applied. The small double ring b in the centre constitutes a tube, which is passed upon the neck of the beam and is held by the projecting pins just mentioned. On the right hand, and leaned against the beam, is a second ring or tube c, to the inner face of which three blocks of hard wood are securely attached. Upon the outer surface or periphery of this tube is cast a ratchet wheel, the use of which will be obvious before we have proceeded much further in our description. On the left hand of the figure and leaning against the beam is shown the new appliance, d, put together. It will be seen here that the wood blocks of the ring c come in contact with the periphery of the ring b. They form in fact by their conjoint action a trip brake, and brake the revolution of the beam in the loom precisely as the eags of ordinary brakes retard the revolution of a carriage wheel. To one of the wood blocks is attached an adjusting screw by which the force of the brake power is easily applied to a point. On the second beam e, presenting its end view to the observer, the appliance is seen properly mounted in its position upon the beam neck.

The beam, having been filled with a warp, is put into the loom as shown in Fig. 2. To the side

FIG. 1.—IMPROVED YARN BEAM DRAG FOR JUTE LOOMS.—MR. ROBERT SCOTT, DUNDEE.
is given behind the looms. The second improvement attained is in the relief it affords to the weaver, who in the frequent necessity of turning back her beam, in which she had to overcome the resistance of the heavy tension weights just referred to, is by this invention relieved from the great strain which this causes in the old arrangement. Should the loom make several picks or throws after the warp is exhausted, or should the weaver have to "pull back" or un-weave a fault, all she will have to do with the new arrangement in order to get a proper tension upon her warp will be to turn back the beam by the flanges—which any child could do in a moment—and the catch will at once retain it in the position to which it has been returned. This will save a great deal of labour to the weaver, and we have no doubt it will prove a highly acceptable arrangement. It will also save much time and thereby increase the production. Further, the quality will be greatly improved, as the cloth will be made much more evenly than before, and will finish better and with less waste.

Alumino, gallic acid, anthracene brown, gasoline dyes, which require the fibre to be previously mordanted, a chromic mordant has been found that will give full rich colours with these dyes-stuffs; either there is not a sufficient quantity of mordant fixed on the fibre or the mordant is not uniformly distributed on the fibre, and hence colours are weak. The employment of basic mordants with or without the use of glazing to prevent too rapid drying gives only imperfect results. A method of mordanting sensibly superior to that universally used consists in fixing on the ether of a salt of chromium and an alkaline solution of oxide of chromium, a double precipitation of oxide of chromic acid, which is derived partly from the salt of chrome, and partly from the fixing bath. This gives very uniform and full shades with the other method of using chrome mordants. The basic mordant must contain a slight excess of oxide of chromium; if the caustic soda be in excess the results are not so good, as the alkali prevents the proper fixation of the chrome acid. For light colors a bath of basic mordant may be used, the fibre being laid down in it over night, then washed, dried, and washed. Treatment with solution of soda or ammonium will help to fix the oxide of chrome on the fibre. For some of the colouring matters used, anything of soda being required, and further states that the whole of the colouring matter is deposited. If the mordant is greatly in excess there is a slight tendency for the colour lake to be re-dissolved.

The application of tannin in the dyeing of cotton is carried out as follows:—The yarn or fabric is first passed through and allowed to steep in a solution of tannin containing 1 lb. of tannin in a gallon of water, using the bath at from 150° to 160° C., and allowing the fabrics to remain in it six hours. For delicate colours it is necessary to use a pale tannin as it is possible to get; for dark shades the tannin may be replaced with economy as to cost by about twice its weight of sumac extract or five times its weight of sumac. No strict rule can be laid down as to the quantity of tannin to be used, as it depends much on the quality of the tannin materials employed and on the kind and quantity of dyes-stuff used. Generally about 0.5 to 1 per cent of tannin is employed for medium or pale shades, and 0.8 per cent for dark shades, those quantities being calculated on the weight of cotton to be dyed. If the tannin solution enters directly into the dye-bath, some of the tannin would dissolve off the fibre, and, passing into the bath, would precipitate more of the colouring matter out to the bottom of the bath. This would also get on the fibre and being loose would cause the latter to be dirty or rub very much. To prevent this the tannin is fixed on the fibre by means of a metallic mordant, such as nitromolybdate. This is done by passing the tannin through a solution of a metallic salt. A large number of these are and have been used, such as crystals, antimony chloride, and other antimony preparations, etc. Of all these, tannic acid has been found to be the one that gives the best results, and is the almost universal mordant or fixing agent for tannin now in use. This is because it contains a fairly large proportion—about 43 per cent—of valuable metal, is neutral, and any free acid that may be formed from it does not appreciably affect the colour or prevent its dyeing properly, as happens with other dyeing preparations and salts of antimony. Many substances have been proposed and offered as substitutes for tannic acid, but as yet none have been found to equal it.

**Tannin and Antimony as Mordants.**

When a solution of tannin is added to a solution of a basic carbonate of lead, the latter is precipitated as colour lake, insoluble or nearly so. The complete precipitation is in some cases prevented by the acid which is present in combination with the colour-base, which is due to the solubility of the colour lake in this acid; by neutralizing with soda this action can be prevented and the colour completely precipitated. Justus Kesten has found that for 4 parts of magenta, there are required 3 parts of tannin and 2 parts of soda for complete precipitation of the dye-stuff; for 4 parts of malachite green, 3 parts of tannin and 1 part of soda are required; and for 4 parts of mastic green 10 parts of tannin and 4 parts of soda. Q. M. Hurst, in his work on "Analytical Lake making," gives from 1 to 4 parts of tannin for each part

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**Fig. 2. Detail of Improved Draft—Mr. Donald Scott, Dundee.**
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December 16, 1899.

FLUORIDE OF ANTIMONY & TARTRIC EMETIC.

The Committee of Chemistry of the Société Industrielle, of Rouen, requested MM. Ed. Koepp and M. Malet to report upon the merits of Koepp’s substitute for tartar emetic. In a report presented to the Committee, they say—

"We would be interesting to complete our work by the study of two similar products which have lately been introduced to the double fluoride of antimony and antimony salt, the combination of antimony fluoride and ammonium carbonate. Of the three products Koepp’s double fluoride of antimony and sodium is the most interesting. It contains chemically the greatest amount of oxide of antimony, 67 per cent, and on analysis the samples forwarded to the Society gave theoretical numbers. Antimony salt contains only 47 per cent, 80.6, and the liquid fluoride of 1855 sp. gr. 2900, tartar emetic contains 23.9 per cent. 80.5.

"Having made a series of experiments with each product in the laboratory, we repeated them in the works, so far as antimony salt and Koepp’s fluoride were concerned. We considered that the liquid fluoride was too dangerous to be placed in the hands of the women, as it is common in contact with the skin, very serious burns being the result. The trials were made without obtaining equivalents of SWC of each substance. These baths were made up as follows:—

"For Koepp’s salt: 7 litres of the fluoride, 400 oz. carbonate, 2,200 litres of water.

"For antimony (or Ham’s) salt: 11 litres of the salt, 1200 oz. carbonate, 6 oz. carbonate, 2,350 litres of water.

"On powdering samples of pieces treated in these various baths we found the following results:—pentylene blue was assayed generally and less fully when treated in the first two baths than when treated with tartar emetic. Rods, yellows, greens, browns, were all distinctly darker. After seeking for the cause of this, we believe it is to be found in the strong acidity of the solutions of the Koeppe’s fluoride and Ham’s salt, whatever the proportions of the substances may be to the contrary. In conclusion we conclude that neither double fluoride of antimony and sodium (Koepp’s salt), or antimony salt are any longer to be recommended as a fixing agent for the coal-tar colours."

BLEACHING BY ELECTRICITY.

"(Continued from page 574.)

It was in 1893, after the failure of M. Naudin, that M. Hermite was led to take up the subject of the electrolysis of the chlorides. After prolonged experiments on sodium chloride, he relinquished this substance, firstly for calcium chloride and then for magnesium chloride, the latter salt in his opinion lending itself best to transformation into a bleaching agent. In the case of magnesium chloride the "electrolyze" is of galvanised cast-iron. Along the bottom run six pipes, pierced with numerous holes, by means of which the solution enters the vat. A channel runs along the upper edge of the "electrolyze," which is the electroplated solution overflows and finds its way to the bleaching vat. The calcium chloride consists of a number of discs of zinc mounted on two spindles, which slowly rotate. Between each pair of discs is an anode, consisting of platinum plate fixed in an electroplated frame and communicating by a lead line with a copper core. In order to keep the zinc discs perfectly clean, flexible choline scrapers are fixed to the anodes, and as the zinc dissolves, their teeth break surfaces clear of any deposit. In carrying out operations on a large scale several "electrolyzers" are connected in series. Generally speaking a current

of from 1,000 to 1,200 amperes at a pressure of five volts is employed.

"From the point of view of economy the anode should be a good conductor, cheap, and unsusceptible to the products of electrolysis. Carbon seems therefore to be the most suitable substance for this purpose, and in many processes it has been and is employed. M. Hermite, however, after lengthy experiments failed to obtain a grade of carbon proving sufficiently resistant to the action of electrolysed chlorides, finding that carbon oxidized and disintegrated. The classical researches of Bartoli and Pascoli in 1892 showed that whenever oxygen was liberated at the anode, carbon is attacked, and we have as a result carbolic oxide, carbonic acid, and a black substance, "melogen," etc., also in the case of graphite, graphite acid. According to the same investigator, when chloride solutions are electrolysed the disintegration of the retort carbon employed is the more rapid, the more dilute the solutions. Since, therefore, in the Hermite process the magnesium chloride solution is used very weak, platinum anodes become absolutely necessary, and this renders the "means of light" costly, and tends to prevent the general introduction of the process, especially on a small scale. M. Hermite has endeavoured to make use of planished coppered porcelain, but the platinum was rapidly attacked by the electrolysed solution. Up to the present M. Hermite has employed an 18 per cent solution of magnesium chloride, but he now proposes to use a more economical means. After having tried with some success a solution of Stasart "Carballite," which is a double chloride of magnesium and potassium, he now makes use of a solution containing 5 per cent. of magnesium chloride and 5 per cent. of sea salt, a small quantity of previously precipitated magnesium being added to the bath. When this solution is electrolysed only the water and the magnesium chloride appear to be decomposed; the solution remains perfectly clear, and if the sodium chloride were electrolysed, soda would be formed and magnesium precipitated, the liquid being clouded."

(RECIPES FOR DYERS.

The following are mostly translations from foreign sources. We do not guarantee the results from these recipes, but give them for the purpose of showing our readers what their foreign competitors are doing:—

For 100 lb. goods. Prepare a dye-bath with

1 lb. oxamide black 200
2 lb. borax 100
2 lb. sugar 100
1 lb. salt 100
Dye at the boil for 1 hour, then enter in a fresh cold bath of

1 lb. salt 100
Work for 20 minutes, rinse, wash, and dry.

SCARLET ON HALF WOOL.

For 100 lb. goods. Prepare a dye-bath with

2 lb. borax 100
2 lb. sal ammoniac 100
2 lb. sugar 100
5 lb. salt 100
Dye at 60°C. heat to boil, and dye boiling for one hour. Lift, wash well, and dry.

SALT ON SATIN.

For 100 lb. goods. Prepare a dye-bath with

5 lb. sal ammoniac 100
2 lb. borax 100
5 lb. salt 100
Dye at the boil for 1 hour, rinse, and dry.

A PATES has been recently taken out for following matter, which presents a very novel feature—that of dyeing fluorescent shades on cotton. These are obtained by chloridizing benzene Cs Hs C (Cl) 4, which by condensation with mandelic dimethylamylamine yields a new base, and this treated with nitro-dimethyl aniline gives the new colouring matters as a brilliant, crystalline, brownish-red mass of remarkable colouring power, dyeing wool a blue-violet, tannin-mordanted cotton a bluish-violet, and flax with brilliant yellow, and silk with a violet colour.

The Russian Government is intending to introduce into Czarist Russia the cultivation of jute, of which the East Indians have hitherto had the monopoly. Experiments made in the Caucasus and in the districts of the Don river have yielded satisfactory results.
News in Brief

ENGLAND.

Accrington. On Monday night at the Assembly Room, Mr. Thomas Wood, of Church, delivered an interesting lecture on "A Visit to an Italian Cotton Mill." The lecturer also described the methods and effect of competition in the cotton trade all over the world. A very successful discussion followed the paper, Mr. Wood receiving a vote of thanks for his able performance.

Meers. J. and E. Wood, Victoria Road, Bollington, have supplied Messrs. J. Bunny & Co., Manchester, with several bales of high-class piece goods, which will be sent to their Manchester house for immediate delivery.

Blackburn. On Saturday last a lecture in connection with the Blackburn Technical School Students' Union was delivered in the Alliance Hall, by Mr. W. H. Halse, the subject being, "Notable Blackburn Mill Girls." The lecture was a large attendance, and in the course of his lecture Mr. Halse referred to the life and work of Julian Hargreaves, the inventor of the Hargreaves Loom, and also to the textile industry of the West Riding, and the various stages of its development. The lecture was well attended, and the audience showed much interest.

Bolton. On Friday night, the meeting of the Bolton School of Art received a vote of thanks from Mr. Thomas Taylor and Sons' new mill, Great Tower. Fortunately, the damage was confined almost entirely to the lower floors of the building, and, as a result, the loss will only be about 600,000. The mill was commenced on Monday morning at ten o'clock, and the cotton had been covered by a temporary roof, which was framed up, put up, and completed, and the cotton was removed within three hours of the fire.

A mass meeting of Bolton and district card room and mule spinners was held on Monday night, and it was decided to leave work at the expiration of the notice given to the employees under the clause of their agreement, which is to expire on the 20th of this month. The Committee of the Lancashire Operatives' Association are making preparations for a general strike. One or two employers have granted the advance, but the majority are holding out.

Bradford. A bag containing about £300 has been stolen from the house of Messrs. J. Holt, and Sons, Allerton.

Manchester. The directors of Messrs. Eaton and Co., and the Manchester Mills have announced a reduction of 2s. per ton on the price of cotton, and 2s. per ton on the price of wool, and 2s. per ton on the price of linen, and 2s. per ton on the price of silk. The mills are of the "fleece-reel pattern." The Herald Mill, which was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, is now in full working order. It is to be remarked that the lower portion of the mill is about to be turned into a warehouse, to be let to two Nelson men.

Bury. Mr. James Blakely, cotton manufacturer, has been returned unopposed in the Liberal interest, for the Bury by-election.

Bolton. On Wednesday, Messrs. W. Throp and Co., cotton manufacturers, have announced a reduction of 2s. per ton in the price of cotton, and 2s. per ton in the price of wool, to be effectual on the 1st of next month.

Bury. A committee consisting of the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and of the members of the Manchester and Salford Traders' Council, which has been engaged in preparing a scheme designed to prevent or limit the existing out of labour disputes, has established a body to be called the Manchester Joint Board of Conciliation. The board proposes to appoint arbitrators in disputes which may arise, and anticipates that it will find a greater disposition to submit the question to its judgment and friendly advice, if it is known to be composed of men of good will and, with a view to the interests of all parties, with the view to the interests of all parties.

The Swale Mill, Worsley, belonging to Messrs. L. and Co., was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. The loss is estimated at from £6,000 to £10,000, but it is covered by insurance. A woman employed in the mill was burnt to death.

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SCOTLAND.

Dundee.

We understand that the old-established firms of Mearns, Todd and Higginbotham and S. Higginbotham and Co., Dundee, printers, have entered into a new partnership.

The share capital has been subscribed by members of the firm and the new concern will trade as S. Higginbotham and Co., Limited.

The Central Agency, 8, Maxwell-street, representing Messrs. John Black, J. and F. Constable, Ltd., thread manufacturers, have bought the ground on the north side of Duthie-street, between the old-vellum-street, for the purpose of erecting new offices for the accommodation of their clients and their present premises being insufficient for that purpose.

The share capital is £15,000.

A meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday, Mr. James Ewing, the president, in the chair. A minute of the Committee on Foreign Affairs stated that a number of gentlemen had promised to send in written reports regarding the view of the particular traders they would be appointed by the new French tariff. The chairman said that after getting the information would be placed before the Committee on London by their representative, Mr. Griffiths. The directors would be glad if any other traders should come forward and give additional information. The minute was adopted.

Percy.

A movement was set on foot a few weeks ago by those employed in the dying and calico-printing works. A number of the principal retiring offices throughout the kingdom, to contribute a sum for the purpose of presenting a handsome present to Mr. Ruskin D. Pullar, elder son of Mr. Robert Pullar of Tayside. In the end the sum was very handsome sum was subscribed, the result being the purchase of a handsome silver tea and coffee service and dessert service. In the latter there are four elegant tripod stands, bearing graceful filigree upholds and scenes in the Renaissance style, with Vandyked glass dishes. There are also two delicately chased antique covers with the newest style in table decoration. The tea and coffee service is fashioned and ornamented in the Hindostan style, being a reproduction of the service of plate presented to J.R.I. the Prince of Wales when in India. It is mattress and standing in character, and is completely covered over with richly and magnificently chased Indian pincers, with exquisite details of Hindostan art. Engraved monograms embellish all the plates, and on one of the principal pieces the following inscription is engraved:—Presented to Ruskin D. Pullar, Roy, on the occasion of his marriage, by his employers at the Textile and Receiving Offices, Percy, 11th December, 1868.
The textile mercantile.

COTTON.

Manchester, Friday.

The movement for an advance of wages continues in a steady course. Some little hitches have occurred in the negotiations at Oldham and Bolton, mainly regarding the card-room hands, on whose behalf, or at whose behest, a certain portion of the mills, for the most part, is demanded. Owing to the great improvements which have taken place in this department of the trade during the last twenty or twenty-five years there are now very few workers of the class in each mill. It is hardly likely, therefore, that an arrangement will fail to be made. In Bolton, owing to the continued demand of the operatives for an increase, it is quite possible that there may be a partial cessation of work for a few days, arising from the fear that the operatives would be rendered too numerous for the mills, by the advance of the 15th inst., whilst the employers have committed themselves to commence from the 1st of next month. This advance, however, will not come up by day in the current year. Owing to the annual holidays happening at the same time as the reference, two of four or five working days will be lost. It is probable, however, that the difference will be made up by the notice period, unless in the other spinning divisions claims for an advance have been or will be got forward in a similar manner, and it is not likely but that they will be conciliated to the same extent or in the same manner as was done in the cotton trade. Cotton remains unchanged. For Egyptians there has been a large demand and stocks have been sold off in the early part of the week, but have since recovered from the losses, current qualities offering unusually good advance at about 2fl. upon last week. In Persian a fair demand has been experienced, the quantities being quite limited, but much more for the full range. In Western a good business is being put through at steady prices. The following is a summary of the business of the week from the official report issued by the Liverpool Cotton Association—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Dealer</th>
<th>Sales</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>24,797</td>
<td>7,839</td>
<td>6,076</td>
<td>40,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>6,076</td>
<td>9,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>1,180,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 117,708,929 £67,700,792 6,980

The following are the official quotations from the same source—

The textile mercantile.
The Textile Mercury.

LEICESTER.

The woollen market is still in a very depressed condition, and the turnings are reported to be of small extent. Spinners are disinclined to buy raw materials owing to the depression in the yarn market, but prices are slightly lower. steady, and holders do not press buyers, as they know stocks cannot be easily disposed of. Better terms offered.

Leather manufacturers and dealers in the country are inclined to part with raw materials in terms offered. Their position is now a much stronger one, as the smaller orders, which hitherto they have been able to dispose of, have now been removed. Lemnus will steal steadily if firm prices. Buyers have been informed of the situation, and prices are now fair in the market. Leathers are well held and the price of wool has increased.

The balance between supply and demand must for a long time have been running very evenly, because the only factor that can be discovered to have given spinners the decided advantage they possess has been the moderate increase in the demand for yarn from Austria, and some little in the finer qualities from America, which were rushed to avoid the Mcnally tariff. A similar situation exists, an advantage of supply, diminishing the movement from Austria. Spinners are inclined to take advantage of this situation. Buyers are reported to have proved sufficient to turn the scales heavily against home consumers. Prices remain unchanged, and in view of the slight demand from the Continent holidays there is no great desire on the part of either side to press for a new arrangement. Some buyers are operating only to a very limited extent, foreign distribution is not large, and all are unwilling to pay forward, and those at sales which are yet going quite unacceptable. Current rates are perhaps the turn cards for spinners.

GLASGOW.

In cloth very little change has occurred in the range of demand within the last week or two, and exports are not large. Some buyers have been experienced for several weeks continuing without substantial change, through perhaps a little legerity is encountered here and there. East buyers are very much more active, but in accord of lower qualities manufacturers are not so well supplied with orders. Muls, jacquets, and chintzes are about steady, but the rate of current sales are very unattractive to manufacturers. South Lancashire and Yorkshire manufacturers are reported to be well sold and firm, but further descriptions are neglected and very unimportant orders are accepted. East buyers of the stock-taking season in the home trade-houses limits the demand for the heavier cloths suitable for the home trade.

WOOLLENS AND WORSTEDS.

BRAIDFORD.

The wool market remains dull, and prices of worsted goods are very weak. Some spinners are disinclined to make any demands for the present, chiefly on the fact that country dealers are firm and refuse to reduce still further. It is reported that the consumption of the Christmas goods is being held up. Alpaca is steady. Mohair is not moving freely. But any little up today is not sold, and the prices remain the same. The East End market is a little more active, spinners are not as firm as in the case of the other districts, and some firms with special orders on hand are busy. The general run of the trade, however, may be described as very dull. The local counts of worsted yarns are more largely required for. Beige yarns are thin. The piece trade is steady on new features. The home trade is very quiet, and there is very little demand for the United States of America. From the Eastern and Continental markets there are few orders, and on such as are received the margins of profit are only small. Most houses in the stuff trade are now closed for the season.

HUSSEINDURF.

Manufacturers have not sent their treasurers out to predict what is in store for them and for the purposes of showing samples of next winter's goods. But the official report of the Board of Trade is that conditions have been satisfactory, and a considerable amount of dissatisfaction is expressed at the current of the trade. Demand for goods suitable for this season's trade is largely very small at all levels for buyers having been in the market this week. Manufacturers are not disposed to make any further reductions, and prices are steady, but fairly supplied, and shade changes are sufficient to keep the orders in the trade. As the new worsted goods are not so much as finished, they are not likely to command much attention, but still they are being moderately well employed, and give work to the spinners, because they are not too strong. They have been generally employed, and will be able to order the best goods for the market of early winter.

Tweed is sent to the worsted manufacturers, and the demand for worsted goods is sufficient to prevent the accumulation of stock.

Dundee fancies are good in excellent demand, especially medium-priced carpets. Even in the best houses these are being used. Where there are much traffic there are now made in colours which are suitable and last, and the demand for them increases from day to day.

Tweed and carpets are doing well, and the demand is very steady, and the makers are pushed for orders.

SILK.

LONDON.

The textile trade is not showing the same degree of activity as in the East End market. The East End market has been less active, and the demand for goods suitable for this season's trade is largely very small at all levels for buyers having been in the market this week. Manufacturers are not disposed to make any further reductions, and prices are steady, but fairly supplied, and shade changes are sufficient to keep the orders in the trade. As the new worsted goods are not so much as finished, they are not likely to command much attention, but still they are being moderately well employed, and give work to the spinners, because they are not too strong. They have been generally employed, and will be able to order the best goods for the market of early winter.

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NEW COMPANY.

The Manchester Exposed Company, Limited. Registered by R. Jordan, 129, Chaucer Lane, with a capital of £200,000 in £5 shares. Object to acquire the capital and property of the Manchester Exposed Company, and for the purpose of carrying on the business of the said company, with James Russell King, at Rochdale; and to carry on a cotton factorage business, with new factories, machinery, and other concerns.
THE TEXTILE MERCURY

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Gazette News.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Harry Drake (trading as H. Drake and Co.), Canal Mills, Great Horton, Bradford, worsted spinner.

William Ochey, the younger, Chapel End Mills, Birkbeck, woollen manufacturer.

RECEIVING ORDERS.

Harry Drake, Canal Mill, Great Horton, worsted spinner.

Henry Russell, Russell-street, Nottingham, lace manufacturer, Nottingham.

WINDING UP NOTICES.


PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Thwaites, Taylor, and Robinson, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

Patents.

APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS.

The names in italics within parenthesis are those of Communicators of Inventions.

Where Complete Specification accompanies Application an assignment is sufficient.

1ST to 6TH DECEMBER.


16,949. H. H. Muncaster, 6, Quality Court, London. Skips for ring or drafting frame spindle.


16,943. J. H. Scott, 6th, St. Ann's-court, Manchester. Slices employed in weaving or rolling yarns or threads into bobbins.


16,940. J. Muncaster, 8, Quality Court, London. Looms.


16,919. G. W. Snel, the firm of Underwood and Co., Temple Chambers, Manchester. Manufacture of machinery whereby burrs are dispensed with.

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED.

19,9.


1,081. Selsdon. Colouring machines.

1,711. Selsdon. Colouring machines.

5,492. Andover and others. Washing wool, etc.


16,366. Shoreham and Morse. Warp dressers.

ACCEDED SPECIFICATIONS.


ABSTRACTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.


Economies Oil 25 cent. per gallon.

Walter Royle, 22, Legh Road, Atherton, near Manchester.