

to Chicago on almost the whole 100 pounds of cotton. That is the discrimination in favor of the Southern mill, and it is not affected by the quantity the Southern mills make. The cheaper thing regulates the price the same as with exports; if it comes to a question of competition, rates govern. *Beyond Chicago there is no competition.*

RECLASSIFICATION OF DRY GOODS.

(*New York Tribune, Aug. 7, 1886.*)

The Executive Board of the trunk lines, after giving several days to the discussions of the demands of the dry goods merchants for a fourth-class rate for domestics, have decided to offer a compromise, which the dry goods merchants seem inclined to reject. The offer is set forth in the following letter sent by Commissioner Fink to the Committee on Dry Goods Reclassification yesterday:

The Trunk Line Executive Committee have carefully considered the application of your committee for changes in the classification of dry goods, and they have concluded to make the changes recommended by the Railroad Commissioners of the State of New York, in their report dated November 28, 1883, page 60, viz.:

Changed to Class 3.—Grain bags, cotton, jute or hemp, in original bales or trusses; brown sheetings, in original bales; denims, in original bales; tickings, in original bales; oil cloths, boxed, under 10 feet wide.

Changed to Class 2.—Domestic prints, in original cases; bleached goods, in original cases; cotton flannels, in original cases; hemp carpetings, woven or printed, in original bales; crashes, linen, cotton or jute, in original bales; canvas, linen, cotton or jute, in original bales; warp, cotton, carpet warp or chain, in original bales.

The committee are also in favor of making similar reductions in the classification of goods shipped in assorted packages, provided the railroad companies are protected by law against misrepresentation and fraud in the description of goods, in which case they propose to make the following classification:

Reduced to Class 2.—Muslins (bleached), chevots, ginghams, glazed cambric, warp, twine (all kinds), carriage and enameled cloth, jeans, prints, silesias, cotton flannels (white or unbleached), yarn, table cloth.

Reduced to Class 3.—Muslins (unbleached), denims, tickings, drills, ducks.

The above recommendation of the Trunk Line Executive Committee is subject to the approval of the roads engaged with them in the carriage of these goods. If a further conference on the subject is desired by the interested parties, the Trunk Line Committee will be ready to meet them.

Charles S. Smith, the Chairman of the Merchants' Committee, sailed for Europe a day or two ago, and in his absence Secretary T. S. Greene called a meeting of the Committee to consider the letter. After some discussion a letter was prepared requesting a further discussion of the subject, and was forwarded to Commissioner Fink last night.

A PROPOSED LAW AGAINST CHEATING THE RAILROADS.

(*New York Tribune, Aug. 14, 1886.*)

Many dry goods jobbers who have not taken part in the efforts to induce railroads running out of New York to change freight classifications so that the cheaper grades of dry goods in original and assorted packages may be included in the third and fourth classes, are indignant at what they call an aspersion cast upon their trade by the proposal to enact a law making it a misdemeanor to ship "any freight under any name or class other than that to which it rightfully belongs according to the official classifications of the railroads or transportation company by which the freight is shipped." In referring to the matter, Daniel Robinson, of the firm of H. B. Claffin & Co., and a member of the Dry-Goodsmen's Committee, said:

No honest jobber will object to the enactment of such a law protecting railroads. When it was asserted by the railroad

people that they had no means of knowing whether the contents of packages sent by jobbers were first or fourth-class, we offered to give bonds that all shipments would be as represented. The objection to this was that they had no authority to open and examine packages, and then the law making misrepresentation a misdemeanor was proposed. One railroad man told me that if such a law could be passed it would be worth millions to the railroads. For years they have suffered large losses through improper classifications by hardware men. Nuts and bolts are admitted at the lowest classification, and taking advantage of this fact many dealers ship fancy hardware and expensive cutlery under the guise of nuts and bolts. In the case of packages containing everything from a paper of pins to a silk dress the entire package will be classified according to the highest classification of any article in it. If it contains a piece of silk, no matter what may be the grade of the other articles in the package, it must go first-class. You have no idea what an enormous amount of trade has drifted away from New York because of the excessive freight rates demanded here, and it is not to be wondered at that we are making determined efforts for a change.

TEXTILE NOTES FROM GERMANY.

(*Kuhlow's German Trade Review.*)

THE BERLIN MADE-UP DRESS GOODS TRADE.

A FALLING-OFF in the activity which has distinguished recent weeks must be reported in so far as American and English buyers are concerned, for these have now left the city, *though not before giving large orders. The American export business has far exceeded that of last year, and is satisfactory in every respect. The same may be said of the English business.* Little home trade can be expected before the middle of August. Firms not interested in the export trade are beginning to receive orders from their travellers, mostly in rain mantles, winter articles being little ordered. The travelling business is poor at home, and normal in Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland. Our woollen and plush goods manufacturers are able to keep their workpeople fully employed, prices being strong. Soleils, chevrons, with mohair loops, *bouclés*, tricots, plushes, and krimmer with novelties are in demand, and Elberfeld, Gera, and Greiz goods are bought for dolmans. The tricot shape branch continues well employed, American orders decreasing but English orders increasing and France also ordering well. There is work in hand which will last some months. The fringe branch has not much to do; feather and fur trimmings take the lead, beaver, opossum and hare being preferred.

THE CHEMNITZ HOSIERY TRADE.

This trade continues very regular, a large number of buyers having been here of late. There is plenty to do till autumn, *and the visits of transoceanic customers will then give a fresh impulse to business.* Neither in quality nor colors have plain-colored goods undergone material change. *The imitation yarns are still much used for cheap goods.* Simple 11 and 12 are numbers much used for stockings and socks made on 16-needle frames. *Enormous quantities of these goods are sent away.* Prices are, too, so satisfactory that good profits are made.

THE amount of wool contained in the wool fabrics imported into the United States in 1885 was about 100,000,000 lbs, while the raw wool imported in the same period, was 56,000,000 lbs coarse carpet and 14,000,000 lbs clothing and combing wools.

THE conditions of the American cotton crops by States is reported by the national cotton-exchange as follows:

Virginia, etc.	80.0	Arkansas	97.0
North Carolina	76.0	Mississippi	84.0
South Carolina	71.0	Louisiana	82.0
Georgia	80.0	Texas	98.0
Florida	84.0		
Alabama	82.0	Average for belt	85.4
Tennessee	91.0		

Against 83½ last month and 97 last year.