

year in the Continental demand and to have partially recovered from the depressing effects of the Dingley tariff. The state of trade generally in this centre is fairly good. The plain net section continues to be an exception, and mosquito nets are in strong demand; prices are adverse to buyers, and manufacturers command their own prices, as the supply is not equal to the demand. Fine bobbinets and Mechlin tulles are also very steady in value, but orders are being turned out more rapidly. The demand for spotted nets, on the other hand, has been overtaken by the supply. Heavy, stiff nets are not moving so freely, but prices are unchanged. Corset and antique nets are good for special markets. The fancy branches are scarcely so well off. Makers of the best qualities of Valenciennes laces and insertions are brisk, and Dentelle Filoche and imitation torchons are increasing in favor. Honiton braids, linen beadings and pearls are moving in fairly considerable quantities, partly for the manufacture of point laces and partly for millinery trimming purposes. The goods are required in white, ecru, butter and black. Maltese, Brabant and Bretonne laces on the other hand are slow and production has been curtailed. Point de Paris and duchesse laces are selling, but the orders are too small to keep machinery fully employed. There is little movement in embroidery trimmings. Irish trimmings, Swiss embroideries and crochet edgings are especially depressed. American laces, tatting and common warp goods are selling for special markets, but shipments are below the average. Chantilly and other silk laces are neglected, and few new goods are appearing. Silk veilings are not so bad, and novelties are eagerly looked for, but the supply exceeds the demand, and there is severe competition. Manufacturers of lace curtains are doing a good business. Manchester advices speak of a better general enquiry from the United States. Ecru in curtains are having more attention. Some large orders of beurre, tan, cream and white Plauen combination laces are on the market. There has, however, on the whole been rather less doing in embroidery goods of late, and St. Gall houses have not experienced such a good run. Chenille-spot dress nets are among the goods receiving attention. All classes of lace goods will, according to general expectation, be more briskly sold by the end of September.

**KIRKCALDY.**—Capital reports are to hand from Kirkcaldy. The linen trade is busy, and, of course, the floorcloth and linoleum factories are working full time. Very large quantities of the last-named class of goods continue to be despatched. Some good tweed orders have been booked recently by South of Scotland manufacturers, some of whom are very well employed, but generally speaking trade is not what it ought to be at this season. The outlook is considered promising, but those makers who have looms standing idle would like if the prospects would materialize into orders. It is expected that the further advance in the price of wool will help matters.

**MILAN.**—There were very few transactions recently, but despite the limited demand all the markets, here as well as in the Far East, remain totally unaffected, and prices show no signs of weakness. No alarm is exhibited at the decreasing demand, which is thought to be only temporary and which is regarded as natural after the great activity during the last few months. Some efforts have been made to obtain concessions in price, but holders are not inclined to take lower offers, but are, on the contrary, confident that the mills will soon appear in the market in larger numbers to supply their needs. Reports received in Milan show that the activity in the American mills has not increased, which explains the unimportant part taken by them in the recent movement; but at the same time it is shown that stocks in America are very much depleted, and that a good demand will soon emanate from that country. Asiatic silk is as firm in prices as the European product.

**ZURICH.**—The raw silk market remains calm, with nominally unchanged prices. There is a better demand for silk

goods, but as the mills have so far failed to obtain an advance equivalent to the present high cost of the raw material they hesitate to make new purchases, and the impression is gaining ground that prices may be lower. Reports from Italy insist on the necessity of maintaining the present figures, on account of the high prices paid for cocoons; but, on the other hand, it is claimed that the consumption is not as large as it was last year, and faith is no longer placed in a possible scarcity of silk. The opinion prevails that the highest prices for the season have been reached. The mills are fairly busy, some new orders having been received, but on a whole the season is backward.

**BELFAST.**—A steady and improving business has been done in the linen market lately, and the improvement gives every indication of continuance. The volume of trade would probably have been larger had prices remained stationary, but as advances have been asked in several quarters, buyers held back for the present. There is little change in the yarn market. A quiet business has been put through, and prices are fully maintained. For some counts of line welts an advance has been obtained. Brown linens have sold more freely, and some substantial orders have been placed for the various widths and qualities. Thirty-eight inch power-loom linens for bleaching are moving off steadily in larger quantities. Unions are selling freely, and the demand for tow-made goods is improving. Handkerchiefs are in fairly brisk demand, particularly cotton handkerchiefs. Hand-loom linens are selling well at late rates. Cloth for dyeing and hollands is still in dull request, and household linens are also quiet. There has been a shade more activity in the bleached and finished end of the trade, and the improvement affects all branches. Cross-Channel orders are a little heavier, but not so good as might be expected. The demand for white linen is improving. Damasks and house-keeping goods are in better request, and unions are selling somewhat more freely. Export trade is growing. The United States market is taking a gradually increasing quantity of goods, and the demand is expected to continue. Canadian trade continues active. Orders are coming to hand from the Continental markets in fairly satisfactory fashion. West Indian trade has made a moderate improvement.

**LYONS.**—Lately the Lyons market was very quiet; there were few sales from stock, and orders placed were of little importance. Paris buyers in particular hesitate to purchase owing to the threatening political situation, and commission houses also refrain from buying. The chief obstacle to larger transactions appears to be the price question, buyers being unwilling to pay the advance made necessary through the higher cost of raw materials. As the market, however, is very firm there can be no question that these prices will have to be paid. Aside from the reasons set forth, the uncertainty regarding fashion induces buyers to delay ordering. There seems little doubt that plain and fancy taffetas will continue to lead, but with regard to the styles in fancies no definite opinion seems to exist. Warp prints are much favored in light grounds, and the demand for mousselines is expected to be heavy, but as to other fabrics opinions differ. At present there is a fair demand for bengalines and peau de soie, and indications point to an increased use of plain silks, but fancies will undoubtedly continue to play an important role. The demand from America is very light. The velvet trade is good. Orders for plain velvets are continually arriving, the low-priced grades being more sought of late. Black velvets are in best demand, being bought in cheap as well as in best grades. Mills producing fancy velvets are very busy, but in these also low-priced goods are in heaviest request. The ribbon trade has increased in activity, moires, ombres and pointilles hold the lead in fancy ribbons, and in staple goods all silk taffeta in wide widths were in good demand. Velvet ribbons continue to sell freely in black and colors.