

cancelled. Inquiries from Japan are numerous, and the outlook with China has never before been so good.

HUDDESFIELD.—In Huddersfield business is certainly no worse, and in addition to an improved demand for spring woollens and suitings, there are distinct signs of a better call for worsted coatings for both the home trade and America at an early date. Makers of blankets and rugs are not getting as many new orders as they did, but are still well employed, and should soon be getting some new season's shipping orders. The Yorkshire flannel makers have had a fairly good season, and up to the present have been able to run without increasing their stocks. A feature of this season's trade has been a revival in the demand for cheap scarlet flannels, and also a large growth in the demand for finer makes of very cheap all-wool white flannels. Clothiers are busy getting out the remains of their winter orders, but report new business quiet, except from the mining and shipbuilding districts, which are very busy. All classes of rubber goods are in great request, and the factories where these garments are made are extremely busy. There is not much movement in linings for men's wear goods, and some season's goods in low fancy checks have begun to be jobbed off.

BRADFORD.—The last colonial wool sale of the year has now opened in London, and will quickly test the reality of the present advance, and also the possibility of still further upward progress. Since the conclusion of the last sale series several things have happened, and the general tone of the wool market has greatly improved by the result of the American Presidential election, and prices may be said to have already gone up some five per cent. It is too early to predict what the course of things will be to the end of the present sale series, but there are the strongest reasons for expecting that both competition and prices will improve. This view is much strengthened by the latest news from America, to the effect that a specially early session of Congress will be arranged by Mr McKinley, in order that a high tariff bill may be pushed through as soon as possible, so that the time for getting in goods before the increased duties would be much shorter than was expected would be the case, and, consequently, the busy time begins at once. Fine merino wools form a considerable portion of the present sales, and the new fast boats are every year getting in a larger proportion of the new clip, which used only to arrive in January. The trade here in these fine wools during the past week has been quiet, as holders were not anxious to push business until after a standard had been fixed in London, but prices are very firm, and large operations could not be effected in this class of wool even as well as a week ago. Very large sales of fine wool tops have been sold forward, and wool combers are all very busy indeed. In crossbred colonial wools there is no great amount of new business, but spinners have all bought so largely that some time must elapse before their orders are completed. English wools, both of a bright and of a non-lustrous character, continue to be to some extent neglected, but I hear that there is a better inquiry for low carpet wools, which are likely to be wanted for America. Mohair and alpaca are quite firm at unchanged prices, but as the greater part of this year's clip has reached the consumers' hands, there is no chance of large sales of the raw material. The worsted yarn trade is for the moment quiet, as only small orders are coming to hand on export account, and these have been already provided for by merchants, and our home manufacturers have also supplied their pressing needs in regard to yarns. In piece goods business is distinctly quiet, and the tone of this trade is rendered more flat by the disappointing nature of the autumn dress goods trade, in which reports have been unusually scarce, either on account of the wet season or bad harvest, or both combined. The state of internal commerce in the United States has this year been so bad that business cannot become good all at once, and it is now too late to get anything but regular plain dress goods round in time to catch the spring business of 1897, and goods for the autumn trade in America need not be shipped before next July, so that the new business actually coming to hand on American account has not up to now been large. There is, however, amongst our manufacturers here a most confident feeling as to the next spring season's home trade, and some makers of novelties are well under order for that

season. In printed silks, the neat chine styles of last season have given way to more elaborate effects of a floral character. There are some very pretty new black and white styles in minute stripes and checks, which, although neat, are very stylish.

ROCHDALE.—There has been no change in the condition of the flannel market recently, and trade remains very quiet for the time of the year, repeat orders being of meagre dimensions. Some manufacturers are, however, busy on old contracts still. The wool market is decidedly against manufacturers, whose prices have kept the same, notwithstanding the advance in raw material.

NOTTINGHAM.—The revival of American business, of which we heard so much on this side since McKinley was chosen for President by the American people, and which really seems to have struck a number of English industries, has not been felt here. We have, however, had a number of American inquiries, and a really brisk business on that account in the laces preferred by the American consumer would seem to be only a matter of a few weeks or even days. When it comes, the revival will be welcome, for with most markets just now there is considerable dullness. The orders on hand for the Continent are limited to a few specialties, and agents scattered over the home centres of distribution and consumption are sending in somewhat indifferent reports. The best feature of the situation is that there are some respectable orders on hand for the colonial and a few other far distant markets. Manufacturers are at this moment paying particular attention to the preparation of pattern and novelties in various departments. Black lace is taking the place of Valenciennes as a trimming for underwear; and the batiste chemises worn lately are trimmed extensively with embroidery and platings. Braid trimmings from 2½ to 3 inches wide are being taken up well. Lace insertions are largely used with crepe lisse ruffles. Ecru as a color promises to become popular again. In curtains, plain centres with borders from 12 to 16 inches wide are likely to become common. Neither silk nor cotton millinery laces are being taken freely by the home trade. Cotton embroidery trimmings for underwear are languid, and considerable machinery is only partly occupied. Bobbinets and plain tulles continue healthy and are fetching top prices. Stiff foundation nets and millinery tulles are a trifle languid, but there is so far no reduction in prices. Curtains, window blinds and furniture laces are being turned out in large quantities, but sales are not large—at least for immediate delivery. Stocks are rather large. Makers of these goods are likely to be busy in a month or two, if only on goods ordered for late delivery. Manufacturers of caps, aprons, collarettes and ruchings, though not fully engaged, are doing a fair amount of business. Cotton hosiery is depressed, but merino and cashmere goods are in demand, and are firm in price; while fancy half-hose merino vests and natural-wool combinations are dearer, and are moving well.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—There has been no great improvement in the South of Scotland tweed districts. Some firms are being well employed, but trade as a whole is below the average at this season of the year. It is hoped the advance in wool will help business a bit. Makers are now showing their new ranges. A quiet tone prevails in the Glasgow cotton yarn market, and rates are slightly under those current last week. Buyers are simply supplying immediate requirements.

KIRKCALDY AND DUNFERMLINE.—The Dunfermline linen trade is showing signs of improvement. The home orders have been much better of late, and the American demand is brisker. Manufacturers do not anticipate a boom; they think the trade with the States will be a gradually increasing one. There is steady employment in the linen industry at Kirkcaldy. Floorcloth and linoleum manufacturers are unusually busy, there being a good demand for all kinds of cloth. In some departments overtime has had to be resorted to.

BELFAST.—The market is without much alteration, but very firm in all branches, with a full turnover. Trade with the United States is steadily expanding. Orders are coming forward pretty freely, and for fair quantities. The European demand is rather more than supported. The home trade is keeping up very well;