

to be of the same small proportions as it has been since December. On the other hand, there is enough backbone and a good enough undercurrent of strength to make prices firm and better as soon as anything like a fair demand shows itself.

CHEMNITZ.—Prices in this market have again advanced. Yarns have gone up still higher, and hies are exceedingly scarce and hard to procure even at prevailing high prices. Spinning mills do not care to accept long contracts, and as manufacturers therefore have to buy the yarns in limited quantities, they cannot hold their prices any length of time, but have to figure with new cost of raw materials and advanced wages almost every week. Nearly all plants are short of help, and girls especially are very scarce, and most mills have large stocks on hand which they cannot get sewed up. Coal is still very scarce, owing to the strikes in the Bohemian and Saxon mines, and manufacturers are inconvenienced very materially in consequence. Some of the large dyeworks are very short, and if the strike lasts any length of time many of these large establishments will have to close up until the coal famine ceases. Orders have been less plentiful during the past week, but this is not astonishing, as nearly all the regular consumers have large orders undelivered, and would like to see part of them shipped before placing new ones. In women's hosiery black is still bought largely, although a considerable part of the orders called for extracted and printed goods. In these colored grounds are bought largely, especially navy blue, cadets and reds. The demand for low grades of embroideries in women's hose has fallen off, as the increased cost has put them out of the range of popular prices. Better goods, however, still find a ready sale. For men's wear embroidered styles are, however, very popular, and extensive assortments of new patterns are shown, mostly in small effects in one or two colors. Large, loud patterns are in small request. The glove market is advancing just as rapidly as the hosiery, and prices change almost from day to day. Large orders have been placed, and knit gloves especially are having a run this season, so that several manufacturers of that line are already completely sold up for the year.

KNITTING INDUSTRY IN NOTTINGHAM.

The United States Consul at Nottingham, in one of his recent reports to the State Department, Washington, D.C., gives certain statistics showing the exports from Great Britain of hosiery and machinery for the manufacture of hosiery and lace, for the last twenty-two years. The value of exports of hosiery for 1898-99 was less than \$300,000, being the smallest amount of any year during this period, except 1897-98, when it amounted to a little less than \$200,000. The value of exports was the largest for the year 1882-83, when it amounted to over \$1,600,000. Perhaps the most interesting statistics are those giving the value of English machinery that is exported to the United States, which amounted in 1898-99 to \$165,000. The exports of this machinery to this country have been particularly large since 1890, amounting to \$340,000 in value in 1891-2. The machinery item has had no separate record showing the relative value of lace and hosiery machinery exported, until since the first of January, 1899, when for the first six months 27 per cent. of the value of these exports consisted of hosiery machinery, and 73 per cent. of lace machinery.

In speaking more particularly of the knitting industry of Nottingham, the consul writes that in a general way the greater proportion of employees consists of girls, their ages running from 13 to about 22 years. British law prohibits the employment of children under 13 years. The trades unions in the manufacturing centres are compactly organized, but the exercise of good judgment and the cultivation of better relations

between employers and employees, have largely eliminated the strife so conspicuously prevalent a few years ago.

Some fourteen years ago, one prominent concern with a manufacturing existence of over a century removed its works to a village a few miles distant from Nottingham. It was not so stated, but can here be correctly asserted, that among the primary causes of removal was the constant friction with trades unionism at that time. In its new location, the firm largely created its own environment, and has since operated with perfect independence, with results satisfactory both to the management and to the employees.

The hours of labour in knitting mills are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., or from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the usual lunch hours. In a talk with one of the managing directors, he stated that full operatives earned from \$10 to \$15 per week, and minor operatives from \$1.25 to \$6.25 per week. This firm's output comprises plain and fancy cotton and merino underclothing for both sexes, women's hose, men's hose and half hose, and a great variety of textile goods. Besides the home trade, the exports go chiefly to Europe, Asia, India, the United States, and British colonies throughout the world. Perhaps the smooth operation of this somewhat independent concern can be ascribed to its humane treatment of operatives. About 600 hands, mostly females, are employed. For the women and girls an iron building, seating two hundred, has been erected, with a view to comfort, recreation and instruction. Classes are under Government instruction and earn grants on results. There is a similar institute for men on another site. Out of their wages these operatives voluntarily contribute to private sick clubs and hospitals. In this way, in the past year, over \$1,000 were collected.

This instance is given as a somewhat interesting exception. In the average city factory, operating under the strictest of union rules, work is also done entirely by the piece. For females the hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; for males, from 6.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one and one-half hours for lunch, or fifty-four hours for five and one-half days, Saturday being a half holiday.

Nottingham is the largest consumer of yarns, both cotton and woolen, in England, and Manchester is the greatest selling market. The Australian drought of last year, and the unusual disease there and in other colonies among the flocks, seem to be chiefly responsible for the rise in woolen yarns, still maintained, which has amounted to about 20 cents per pound since September last. By far the greatest bulk of woolen and cotton yarns used is English spun, coming chiefly from Manchester; but the exact proportion is difficult to estimate. The German yarns are next in favor, costing, owing to cheaper German labor, approximately the same as similar grades of homespun.

In speaking of the use and comparative merit of English and German yarns and their cost, one manufacturer stated that he would price the best standard English cashmere at 729 cents per pound and a similar German yarn at 679 cents—a difference in American money of 5 cents per pound in favor of the German yarn. In all respects, save one, he said, the yarns would be identical, the German having a peculiar soft finish that for some reason is not secured by the English spinners. The varying taste of different markets, is, of course, consulted in the choice of yarns.

Nottingham exports almost every conceivable article in wool, cotton and silk classed under the expansive trade term of hosiery, which includes underwear of all descriptions, as well as golf, outing and sporting specialties. Each manufacturing concern seems to have its own peculiar export fields, and these it holds and extends by catering to local demands as to style, price, and quality, extreme care and pride being shown in main