

Foreign Textile Centres

Belfast.—Trade is dull to such an extent that the Irish Flax Spinners' Association, which recently purchased a spinning and weaving concern for £21,000, and in which 11,000 spindles are employed, has decided to discontinue the spinning from 15th June, in order to limit the production of Irish spun linen yarn. This step has caused consternation among the operatives, over 350 of whom will be thrown out of employment.

Dundee.—The flax spinners and manufacturers of Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin, and other places in this district, are so feeling the pinch of bad trade that they are in several cases adopting short time.

Kidderminster.—The carpet trade is a turn better, and the mills are fairly well employed. The spinning trade is moderately well employed. Many spinners have largely reduced their stocks and can now, to a small extent at least, work for stock. Spinners are forced to hold to their advanced quotations, and by degrees the market is levelling itself up to them.

Leeds.—There is no material change in the situation here. Trade suffers from the effect of the rise in wool. When early in the season it was apparent that the price of raw material would further advance, merchants ordered freely to avoid paying higher prices later, but a cold, wet spring has prevented a clearance of stocks. Serges, mixture worsteds, and other plain goods are slow of sale, and the better trade is mostly in novelties and fancy styles. Cheap cotton warp fabrics for autumn delivery are in request for export, but otherwise the shipping branch is quiet. Canada is the best oversea market, and South Africa with ready-mades comes next, but the demand for Australia is meagre.

Manchester.—The high price of raw cotton is likely to force short time, and the hope is expressed that the margin in spinning will then improve and spinners will see their own. There is however, the fear that some will drop out, and the trade demand for cotton, coupled with the manipulations of speculators, may force prices higher yet. The manufacturers are being asked to make a collective exhibit at the St. Louis International.

Oldham.—Cotton mills are working full time and employment is good, though trade is reported as unsatisfactory. Employment is better than a year ago, when short time was being worked at most of the Oldham mills. Trade is reported good with Milnrow woolen workers. There is a strong disposition in the Oldham cotton trade to fall in with the movement for the curtailment of production by stopping mills a full week at Whitsuntide, and afterwards working four days a week. Already several spinning firms have reduced their working hours. The velvet manufacturing firms have decided to reduce production on the lines suggested.

Rochdale.—There is very little new business in the flannel market, due to the unfavorable weather, and the high price of wool. Manufacturers in booking orders early in the year expected some relief in the price of wool, and should quotations remain at the present level there will be some curtailment in production.

The cotton weaving industry is suffering severely, and short time is talked elsewhere. It is estimated that at the present time no fewer than 3,000 looms are idle, and in many mills weavers are working two, three, and four days a week. The spinning section has not yet been so seriously affected, but under present conditions the outlook is very gloomy. Not for ten years has the trade been in such an unsatisfactory condition at this period of the year.

STRIKES AMONG THE TAILORS.

A strike of some 400 coat-makers and pressers took place at Hamilton, on account of the failure of the employers to meet demands made by the union. The difficulty was settled and the strikers went back to work, under an agreement as to prices and hours, to continue six months, as follows: Fifty two hours of labor to constitute one week's work. Ten per cent. increase in wages of pressers, improvers and seam pressers. Saturday to be pay day. Over-time to be paid time and a half. Over-time to include legal holidays and time over 52 hours of any week. The union not to be discriminated against.

A threatened strike in Toronto was averted by an agreement providing for a reduction in the working day to nine hours, increase in wages for pressers to 25c. an hour, time and a half for over-time, double time for holidays, and the adoption of an arbitration clause which will make strikes in the future impossible; at least for the year for which the agreement was made. The men had demanded 27½c. an hour.

At Galt a strike was threatened but a compromise was agreed on, each yielding one-half.

The journeymen tailors of Winnipeg have submitted a new bill of wages to their bosses which provides for an increase of about 25 per cent., and talk strike if it is not acceded to.

But the greatest strike of all is in Philadelphia, where a general strike of textile workers involving 90,000 operatives was inaugurated. Of the six hundred firms engaged in the textile industry, forty-seven granted the demands of the union, and their plants, employing about 15,000 hands, continued in operation. All of the sixty-three ingrain carpet mills are idle, affecting directly 13,000 hands. All of the dyers are on strike, with the exception of those of one mill. Thirty-nine branches of the textile trade are affected by the strike, and the capital invested in the mills affected is estimated at \$100,000,000. The daily loss in wages will amount to \$125,000. The manufacturers admit that the operatives are in a position to close all mills not granting their demands. This is due principally to the importance of the dyers' branch of the industry. Their work is of a character not generally understood or readily learned, and while the dyers continue on strike the mills must remain idle no matter what the other textile workers may do. The large manufacturers are a unit, almost, in opposing the demands, to the extent of keeping their mills shut for a year, if necessary.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Canadian Magazine for June keeps up its reputation. Among the contributors are Frank Cassel, Virna Sheard, Norman Patterson, J. Macdonald Oxley, Jas. Hannay, A. R. Carman, John A. Ewen, M. MacLean Hell'well, John A. Cooper and others not so well known. The number for July, the 125th issue of this magazine, will be a special number and will contain a number of features of interest.

The June number of the Century, among other articles, has one on the Salmon Fisheries of the Northwest, the London Stock Exchange, Modern Musical Celebrities, etc., and a number of stories of great interest. The Century is always a welcome visitor.

The Delineator for July, published by the Butterick Co., New York, in addition to fashion notes, has numerous articles relating to various departments of the household, which will be found of much interest. This is one of the best ladies' magazines published.