

the immediate prospects are fair. In Cachar, the Duars, Darjeeling, and the Terai the rainfall has been excessive. In Sylhet there has been unusually heavy rain, followed by floods. In the Duars and the Terai the out-turn last month was poor. In Darjeeling the situation is normal, but the immediate prospects are bad.

#### IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Marvellous progress has been made in cotton-spinning in Russia. In 1886 there were over two million spindles in the Moscow district and as many more in other places. From 1880 to 1889 the output of the cotton manufacturing industry rose from 240,000,000 rubles to 487,000,000 rubles. During the ten years that have since elapsed vast progress has been made, but serious statistics cannot be obtained. The profits are very high.

Probably the cotton acreage planted in Texas and other Southern states next season will be largely increased, owing to the high prices obtained this year. Thus does prosperity work against itself!

The New York yarn market is in a demoralized condition. There is little demand and what is coming forward is not of first-class character.

The demand for silks in Lyons is improving, and orders for next spring are being placed. These orders, however, are coming in slowly and for small lots, showing that buyers are still uncertain.

The Zurich market shows an improvement but, while a fair volume of business has been done, the general conditions remain the same. Taffetas and some satins have found a market, plain goods having received most of the attention, while in novelties little has been done. Damasses are slow.

Large orders have been received in Chemnitz for striped hosiery. In mercerized goods liberal orders have been given again, although it looked sometime ago as if these had gone out of the market entirely.

There is not much change to report in the Belfast linen market, but the improvement that has been manifest during the past weeks has been more than maintained. Prices are increasingly firm. Yarns have sold to a fairly satisfactory extent, and the demand has been of an all-round character. Spinners are practically cleared of stocks.

Although the piece goods trade in Bradford shows a considerable improvement, manufacturers are not quite happy yet, as there is still a good deal of uncertainty as to what class of dress goods will be most fashionable for the spring season. If, as is predicted, most of the costumes are to be made from plain dress materials elaborately trimmed and stitched, then makers of fancy dress goods will have a difficult time, and manufacturers of such plain goods as all-wool satins and cashmeres will once again capture a good slice of the coming season's business.

In 14 years the advance at Southern mills of cotton has been from 401,452 bales to 1,597,112 bales, or 297 per cent., while that at Northern mills was 1,710,080 bales to 2,068,300 bales, or 20 per cent. Every year has shown an increase except 1894, when there was a decline of about 25,000 bales, more than compensated for in the advance of more than 140,000 bales the next year. While it required from 1890 to 1897 for Southern consumption to increase from the half million to the million bale mark, the million and a half mark was passed in 1900.

Red promises to be much worn in entire costumes. As a rule, these are not elaborately trimmed, generally with black braid and occasionally touches of white. The newest shade is "postilion" red, and others in various gradations are termed "rouge."

It may not be generally known that cutters in the great glove houses in Brussels and France earn higher wages than the fashionable tailors in New York and London. Some of them have a reputation which is known the world over, and the peculiar knives which are used in their business are prized so highly as to be handed down from generation to generation as heirlooms.

The Buyer and Dry Goods Chronicle gives the following advice respecting the Christmas trade: Stock well up on toys particularly and push their sale in every possible way. Make a special effort also towards calling attention to children's nov-

elties, men's and boys' furnishings, fine suspenders, tidy neckwear, attractive half hose, nobby hats, gloves, handkerchiefs, mufflers and the like.

There is a grave crisis in the German textile trade, owing to overproduction due to the growth of foreign interests in the same line. In some of the chief mill centres, the hands have been cut down from one-third to one-half.

For the spring, there is no doubt but that embroideries are to be in great vogue. Prices probably have already reached their lowest limit, and are now likely to rise. A general firmness prevails among the trade.

In certain specialties of fancy millinery laces there is much activity at Nottingham. Valenciennes are still in favor, and Torchons are in good request, as also are all-over nets. The different millinery specialties are selling in laces, insertions and galloons. Limited enquiries are being made for silk laces and nets and articles of neckwear. There is a good demand for spotted and other nets, and the bobbin net, light tulle, and mosquito net branches are well engaged.

#### SHOE AND LEATHER TRADE.

Orders for prompt shipment are smaller than the big shoe houses in Chicago expected for this season. Stronger leather markets are reflected in the attitude of eastern manufacturers of fine shoes, on which prices have stiffened but not advanced.

Twenty-one factories in Quebec have been closed down, and 5,000 employees thrown out of employment, owing, it is stated, to difficulties ensuing from interference by outside unions.

The export of dogskins from China is increasing. Last year's exports of skins of canines was larger than for any previous year, and ranged through all breeds of dogs.

There is a continued and decided increase in the volume of business being done in Boston, and manufacturers in all lines have received a large number of orders. Manufacturers are in daily receipt of telegrams urging prompt delivery. Jobbers, while satisfied that prices are reasonable and as low as manufacturers can afford, are buying as conservatively as ever.

The trade prospects in New York are cheering and orders come in freely. Spring shoes are being shown in the city. The samples were sent West and South a week or so ago from which some orders are coming in. The retail trade is late, but the demand is good now. Goods are promptly paid for, and the discounts allowed on 30-day bills are taken advantage of and the passing indebtedness is small.—Shoe and Leather Reporter.

All the Philadelphia factories are moderately employed. The trade in the lasting departments is now confined to two or three factories, but as new men are daily taking the places of the dissatisfied ones very little inconvenience is being experienced.

Manufacturers are taking an increasing interest in glazed kid, and the demand about equals the supply.

Many complaints are being made as to the injury caused to women's feet by low heels, which cause the instep to fall or become depressed, thus bringing about an ugly flat looking foot, and giving a tendency towards lameness. We hear that to obviate this, in the States, many orders are being taken for button shoes with the Cuban heel. The feet of the señoritas are famous the world over for their smallness and beauty of outline.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

In the United States, we remark several newspaper references to the explosions of gasoline in automobiles. Here is another insurance hazard!

We regret to hear of the death, which occurred on the 20th ult., of Edward N. Gibbs, treasurer of the New York Life Insurance Company.

A recommendation is to be submitted to the Chicago Underwriters' Association, providing that policies may be cancelled pro rata only at the request of the company or when