

colonial crossbred wools are being taken for the manufacture of khaki, and there seems a likelihood of this material being used for some time to come for army purposes, even long after the South African War is a thing of the past. English wools are in unchanged demand, but there is an unusually large consumption proceeding in such wools as Yorkshire, Lincoln and Irish, which possess bright, lustrous qualities. The prices of both mohair and alpaca are quite firm, and holders of the former are trying to form some estimate of the extent of the shortage which is likely to arise as the result of the war. Spinners of various kinds of worsted yarns are still well employed, although new business has not been plentiful lately, and orders from the Continent are apparently being kept back in hopes that better terms may be arranged later.

HALIFAX.—The following is the Chamber of Commerce trade report for February: Wool—The market for wool has been exceedingly quiet all through the month, with hardly sufficient business offering to tully test prices. The tendency, however, has been downward. Woolens—The prospects of the woolen branch of trade continue good, with chances for decidedly better prices for manufactured goods than for some years past. Worsted Yarn—Most spinners have been fairly busy during the month. Spinning instructions are not quite so plentiful and new contracts are scarce. Prices are a little easier, especially for yarns made from merino wools, which are already too low, and much out of proportion to that of the raw material. Cotton—Twofolds continue in strong demand, and machinery is fully employed. Fustians and ready made are still busy, the latter working overtime. Spun Silk—Spinners have been well employed during the month, mostly on old orders taken last year. There is an abrence of new orders, as buyers are hoping to get in at lower prices. Carpets—The output of carpets has been very satisfactory this month.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Trade has been in a somewhat unsettled condition recently, says The Kidderminster Shuttle. The series of brilliant achievements by our soldiers in South Africa has sent a wave of enthusiasm throughout the land, and men have not been inclined for serious business. The wool and yarn trades are a shade quieter. Dealers and spinners are holding their hands pending the London Colonial sales and the British Wool Fair.

NOTTINGHAM.—Although the home demand for lace goods is much better than for some time past, by far the most activity is observable in the shipping departments, says The Draper's Record. Business with the United States is on the up grade, whilst Canada and Australia are both purchasing freely. The war, so far, does not seem to have affected Nottingham trade unfavorably. As regards the home trade, the unsettled weather has no doubt had a prejudicial effect, but still there is less grumbling than usual at this time of the year, which may be taken as a good sign. In lace, as in almost everything else, the influence of khaki is being felt, and if this craze continues much longer we shall soon become a brown-clothed nation. Some friction is still caused by the advanced prices, but manufacturers remain firm, and refuse orders at the old prices. There is a good amount of business doing in fancy millinery laces, although there is no striking departure in styles. Valenciennes, Torchon and other cotton and linen laces, edgings, insertions and nets are enquired for, both for home and export, to a large extent. Crochet, American, furniture and other heavy cotton laces and trimmings are more or less affected by the advance. There is less demand for point de Paris, Malines and Bretonne laces. The plain branches of the trade remain prosperous, especially in the qualities of goods for export. The prices of plain nets, fine tulles, and mosquito nets continue to harden, and there is a continuous demand for embroidery for millinery purposes, and altogether the outlook is very promising. The

demand for heavy stiff foundation nets is not so active as formerly, the actual high prices having had a detrimental effect in the home markets for these goods. An extensive business is being done in lace curtains, window blinds, and toilets, and prices show a hardening tendency. The machinery here and at outside places is well engaged, and furnishers are busy. Both the colonial and American demand for these goods is satisfactory.

LEICESTER.—Elastic web fabrics, cords, braids and dress beltings are in good request. The wholesale clothing trade is brisk, with an unusually heavy output to meet contracts on hand, says The Textile Mercury. Yarn is active as far as deliveries are concerned, but the new business is checked by the quotations. Cashmere yarns are being used very freely, lambs wools are brisk, and there is a larger turnover in worsteds, while cottons are firm with a general dearth of stocks. Hosiery is active in every branch, with very large deliveries in fine spring fabrics. Specialties and fancy goods sell freely, and a large quantity of machinery is fully engaged on fabrics for army and navy purposes. Prices are firm, especially for all fabrics of choice quality.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—Good reports are to hand from the South of Scotland tweed districts. The majority of the mills are working at full capacity. Confirmation orders, however, are not coming in very freely. Wool transactions are limited, buyers preferring to wait the result of the London sales.

KIRKCALDY.—Floorcloth and linoleum manufacturers are very active. In the linen trade there is a large amount of employment, but the repeated advances in yarn, and also the difficulty experienced in getting delivery, have considerably handicapped manufacturers, and are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the industry.

DUNDEE.—The Dundee market remains very firm, and a considerable amount of business has been put through at gradually advancing prices. It is gratifying to report that local firms have been successful in securing a large Government order, for which tenders were invited some time ago. The contract in question is for a large quantity of duck, suitable for tents and such like. The market is stronger. Jute is quite 10s. a ton dearer. Good jute R F C is hard to buy even at the rise. For good firsts, also, there is a steady demand. Many spinners now come on the market to replenish their stocks, and constant buying, even of small parcels, stiffens the market.

BELFAST.—The Irish flax acreage is officially returned for last year at 34,989 acres, yielding 1,145,261 stones. There is little change in the position of this linen market; prices continue to tend upward, and the turnover is only restricted by the disposition of sellers to book ahead. Russian flax appears to have reached the limit and prices are a shade easier. The spinning branch remains as last recorded; there is a fair average turnover at extreme rates, with many producers altogether out of the market. The manufacturing end is steady, with a well-sustained demand, and sufficient new business coming forward to replace orders remaining off. The damask department is the only inactive one. White goods for home account are in quiet, regular request. The demand for export is fully sustained.

LYONS.—There is little change in the Lyons raw silk market. The demand is slow and the market is dragging along as best it can. Buyers are not interested and cannot be tempted to purchase. Prices are more or less nominal and show considerable weakness. There is a little buying done, but this is for strict requirements. In these few transactions sellers can keep their end fairly well up in regard to prices, and the figures at which the silk has changed hands do not show a heavy decline. But this cannot be taken as an indication of the future, says The Dry Goods Economist, New York. There is little doubt but that prices cannot hold their ground if the demand continues