

first part of December of last year. The market is healthy and prices firm, though with a somewhat slow sale. This is attributable to the mildness of the season. Dealers in woollen goods naturally hoped that the sharp weather of the early part of last week would continue, so as to give an impetus to the sale of warmer clothing and materials. Drapers have heavy stocks in these departments, and carpet travellers report a present indisposition among the retail houses to increase stocks by giving orders for carpets for immediate delivery. They are consequently delaying purchases. Still trade is sound, even if manufactured goods have to be stocked for the present. Spinners have a little more to do as the season advances, but there is a tendency in certain quarters to keep stocks of yarn as low as possible, in view of early stocktaking. The wool trade does not show very much activity just now.

NOTTINGHAM.—Although the drapers are busy with their Christmas bazaars, and are making big displays in connection therewith, the activity is not reflected in the wholesale houses in this city, which have to do exclusively with lace goods. It was thought that the lacemakers' dispute at Caudry would have a favorable influence on business in Nottingham, says the *Draper's Record*, but from all accounts it has not made much appreciable difference. Manufacturers are, however, looking forward to an improved trade with America in the near future, now that the country is settling down after the war, and some of them are also expecting an increase of orders from those colonies, and British possessions, which have adopted ocean penny postage, when it comes into operation. If the mail service is accelerated there is no doubt that English trade generally will be benefited. Fancy millinery laces have met with a moderate demand, both for home trade and for shipment. Valenciennes and Victoria laces are mostly in favor, with Point de Paris and fine Malines laces for special markets. Oriental laces are not so much sought after as formerly, the market apparently having been overdone with inferior qualities. Maltese, Bretonne, and other cotton laces for making-up purposes move slowly. Torchons in cotton and linen are receiving a moderate amount of attention. Some fair orders have been placed for Honiton braids, beadings, and purls in cotton, linen, and silk. A limited demand is experienced for American laces and warp goods. Silk laces continue in a very depressed state, but local manufacturers have the satisfaction of knowing that their Calais rivals are in no better case than themselves as regards these goods. The plain net, light tulle, and heavy mosquito net branches continue to prosper. The machinery is well engaged, there are no stocks, and prices remain at the highest level. Rice and Paris nets are only in moderate request, and there is not an average demand for other stiff foundation nets. Point d'esprit nets meet with steady enquiry, and Brussels, Mechlin, and Zephyr tulle are also enquired for. Silk nets and tulle are selling in small quantities. With the near approach of Christmas, the making-up branches are showing more activity. The novelties produced in caps, aprons, ruchings, and other fancy articles are receiving a fair amount of attention. The plain and fancy veiling departments are doing a fair amount of business, but prices are run very low by the prevailing competition. Crochet edgings, Irish trimmings, and Swiss embroideries are dull of sale, and the machinery producing everlasting trimmings is only partially employed. A startling development of French competition in the lace trade may be looked for very shortly, says the "*Nottingham Express*." Suitable factory premises have been secured in Nottingham, and the trade will soon be supplemented by the manufacture of certain French novelties and specialties in veilings, etc., by a firm from Lyons, which is bringing its own machinery. This will be a complete bouleversement of the ordinary course of proceedings in the lace trade; but the advantages to the French firm are obvious.

DUNFERMLINE.—The local linen trade is quiet, as is usually the case just before the wholesale houses take stock. The export trade is inactive, and prospects are rather uncertain.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—The present state of the South of Scotland woollen trade is not at all up to the mark. Although some manufacturers, especially those making worsteds, are moderately busy, trade as a rule is very quiet all round. Repeat orders are not coming in well, and as it is now getting on between seasons, if these orders do not come to hand a dull period must ensue.

KIRKCALDY.—Both mill spinners and linen manufacturers are busy, and in one or two instances a scarcity of hank is experienced. Great activity characterizes the floorcloth and linoleum industry. The negotiations for the amalgamation of the principal firms in the trade in the district (it is not proposed to include any outside), are proceeding, and it is believed that the combination will be the means of still further developing the industry. In connection with this manufacture, it is just notified that Mr. M. B. Nairn, Dysart House, has patented a process of inlaid linoleum manufacture, which it is believed to be of great value in connection with the trade.

BELFAST.—There has been a regular demand in all quarters of the linen trade, and the best features of the market recently were well maintained. Yarns are selling slowly, and without improvement; prices nominally unchanged. The manufacturing end is fairly brisk, most descriptions of brown goods meeting with a satisfactory amount of attention, and producers are engaged for some time ahead. There is no improvement in prices, though these keep firm throughout. Bleached linens for home consumption are moving fairly well for the period of the year, but prices rule very low. The United States market is fairly satisfactory in the cheap end of the trade. Better class goods are quiet. The general export demand is fully sustained.

LYONS.—The raw silk market was only moderately active recently, but the transactions show regularity. No speculative purchases are made, manufacturers contenting themselves with securing only those materials required for immediate consumption. From the figures registered by the Conditioning House, it may be seen that, despite the many complaints, a fair amount of business is continually being done. Most of the deals are for comparatively small quantities. There is no other reason for this continued caution on the part of manufacturers than the general uneasiness over the political situation. Fashion is unmistakably in favor of silks, and there can be no doubt that without these disturbing influences, great activity would prevail. The present condition, however, is not favorable for high prices, and a certain weakness has resulted, although quotations are not appreciably lower. Japanese grades alone declined, in consequence of lower quotations from Yokohama, where the absence of the American demand is beginning to have an unfavorable effect. The supplies in the hands of our manufacturers are very light, especially in best grades. Purchases are, therefore, more numerous in fine Italians, which are principally used for the orders on taffetas. The demand for Japans is not brisk, although the lower prices at which they can now be bought bring them again within the reach of the mills. These grades have evidently lost ground through the high prices at which they were held, and they have been supplanted, to some extent, by the cheaper Cantons. The latter now form by far the greater part of the shipments arriving here every week from the far East. There was a better demand for thrown silk at slightly lower prices. European organzines were bought, but trans-Asiatic grades received the preference.

ZURICH.—There is little change in the situation of the raw silk market. The demand continued light, and prices were about the same as during the preceding week. There was