

FOREIGN MARKETS.

THE Draper's Record, of Jan. 12th, says: "The large and influential meeting of cotton masters and others interested in the trade, held at Manchester, on Tuesday, was somewhat remarkably unanimous in the opinion expressed concerning the new Indian cotton duties. The resolution condemning those duties was passed, with only two dissentients. The most important section of the resolution affirmed 'that, if necessary, and if no other remedy can be devised, India should be subsidised by the Imperial Government rather than this important trade (the Lancashire cotton industry) should be seriously injured and crippled by the imposition of the said import duties.' The suggestion has not found much support, except in the Manchester press. At the same time, it seems very unjust to taunt Manchester men with subordinating national to trade interests. As Mr. Whiteley, the member for Stockport, pointed out, there is an old saying, 'Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin:' and although party politics may be very near to Manchester merchants, their bread and butter, and the means of their getting it, must be nearer still. However great India's financial needs may be, it is clearly unjust to satisfy them at the sole expense of Manchester, and that is practically what the Indian Government are now doing."

TRADE AT MANCHESTER.

A Manchester correspondent writes under date of Jan. 10th as follows:

"During the past week travelers have not met with noteworthy results, as was to be expected at the commencement of the year. In the woollen trade some good styles of Yorkshire cloths are being offered in competition with Scotch makes. Carpets are dull, and reduced profits are, as a rule, the result of the past half-year's trading. 'Linos,' however, hold their own well, and the trade is one of the most promising in the floor-covering branch.

"A good deal will be heard in the trade before long concerning a new unspottable trousering finish for dress goods, suitings, and cloakings. Fabrics treated by the process, it is claimed, will be unshrinkable and impervious to water. The invention, although English, has not yet been introduced in this country. Dress goods and woollen buyers generally on the look out for a good season 'special' would do well to note this paragraph, and to await developments. They will first be approached from Yorkshire.

"The statistics of the various textile industries here show that, on the whole, the last year was a prosperous one. The exports of printed calicos show a slight falling-off, but grey and bleached goods a considerable increase. The last month shows a heavy decline in our trade with China and Japan—only natural under the circumstances, but not the less to be regretted. India also furnishes an unsatisfactory record as far as cotton goods are concerned."

RIBBONS ADVANCING.

The constant falling of the Basle ribbon market, and the unsettled state of prices, which for the last few years has operated to the detriment of both the producer and the holder of stock of the manufactured article, has finally induced the Basle manufacturers to meet and discuss the question of their future prospects. In comparing notes, it was ascertained that, regardless of the cost of silk and the rise in wages, the values of silk ribbons in that city have sustained a depreciation which cannot readily be explained in the face of a fair demand for the article.

The result has been serious loss of capital. A resolution was unanimously passed that all manufacturers should, from the middle of December, raise their prices to the level of a fair profit on their trading, and that a diminished production would be willingly met by them if such a measure proved to be necessary in order to bring about a sounder condition of the market.

LAST YEAR'S SILK TRADE.

Messrs. Chabrieres, Morel & Co., in their annual review of the Lyons silk trade, state: "The year 1894 has been one of continued depreciation. It was thought that after a heavy decline during six months prices would have reached their lowest, but the hope proved to be a deception. The following shows the rates of the principal articles from the Far East during the year:

	Jan.	May.	Dec.
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Japan filature, No. 1, 12, 10, 12 . . .	41.42	37½	36½
Canton filature, No. 2, 10, 12	33.34	29½	29
Tsatlee Gold Kilin.	25	22	20½

WHAT SILKS ARE SELLING.

A report from Lyons says: "Plain silks have a good market. The favor of the fashion continues for colored corded silks, mousselines, shot silks and embossed crepons, the latter article being also required in printed styles. Cotton shot textures, such as satins, meet with a restricted inquiry, and the demand for wool mixed textures has also slackened down. The reduced market for this class of goods is largely made up by the demand for all-silk goods. Broche silks have found ready buyers. Black damasks are selling to a good extent for the present season, and as regards colored damasks, very good orders have been given out for the summer season. Shot broches also show a good tendency."

KIDDERMINSTER.

The slight, steady improvement in the carpet trade continues: machinery is not fully employed throughout the town, but some few firms have a fair amount of work in sight. Orders for Axminsters are plentiful; but there is much room for improvement as regards Brussels. New business in yarn is distinctly bad. Spinners maintain their prices firmly, although buyers for the time are indifferent. Deliveries are better, and particulars for delivery this and next month are more freely given out.

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