

A. H. McKee, for a number of years manager of the dye stuffs department with Middleton & Meredith, has severed his connection with that firm to accept the agency for the Dominion for the Oakes Manufacturing Co. of New York, one of the leading American manufacturers of all descriptions of dye stuffs and chemicals. The many friends of Mr McKee among the woolen and cotton mills throughout Canada, will be pleased to hear of his promotion. His office is in the Board of Trade Building, Montreal.

Peruvian cotton is being very successfully used as a mixing cotton in merino hosiery and other knitted goods. Alfred Boyd, No. 1 Wellington st., Toronto, has been appointed Canadian agent for one of the largest firms dealing in Peruvian cottons, and is prepared to ship direct to spinners in any part of Canada. These cottons are made up in handy bales of 180 lbs., as brought down from the interior of Peru by mule train, and the samples Mr. Boyd is now showing to the trade are very fine. Mr. Boyd also deals in borax and fuller's earth for textile manufacturers.

MACCLESFIELD SILK TRADE.

The staple industry of Macclesfield was perhaps never in a worse condition than at the present time. Manufacturers, says the *Textile Manufacturer*, have been almost at their wits' end as to what means to adopt to keep their places of business going. The silk weavers, as a class, do not often complain, but the fact could not be lost sight of that very great poverty and suffering has existed. The causes which have been at work to bring about the general depression in the silk industry are various. On the one hand, it is asserted that the bi-metallic question has been a great factor therein, the price of silver during February having fallen to a price yet unprecedented in human history. A turn in the tide, however, came, and manufacturers are hopeful that with a steady increase of price more confidence may be felt, and an impetus may be given to the silk industry.

The outlook at present, however, is not at all reassuring, and the trade horizon shows little, if any, signs of an improvement in the more immediate future. To be sure, there has of late been a run on scarves in the London warehouses, but this has been of little value to the Macclesfield trade, for instead of there being a demand for this class of goods from the manufacturers, the London warehouses and middlemen have been content to lay hold of any odd pieces of silk, and cutting them up to the width of Windsor scarves, have trimmed and hemmed the edges, and, cutting the ends in a vandyked form, have filled them in with lace. Several manufacturers are introducing some new features in the way of scarves in order to counteract this innovation.

The large failures which have recently taken place of several London and Glasgow firms have told heavily on several Macclesfield manufacturers, some of whom have suffered heavy losses thereby.

The forthcoming silk exhibition at Stafford House, London, does not appear to find favor with a number of Macclesfield manufacturers—in fact, at the annual meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce, recently held, one manufacturer called the last silk exhibition a "fiasco," which produced a sharp retort from Mr. Thomas Wardle, the president of the Silk Association of Great Britain and Ireland, who declared that exhibitions in the past had given considerable impetus to the silk trade. It is the intention, however, of several manufacturers to have a number of cases of silk goods on exhibition at Stafford House.

It must be gratifying to silk manufacturers generally to learn that the hon. member for the Macclesfield Division (Mr. W. Bromley-Davenport), who has always taken the most lively interest in the silk trade, has, in accordance with the promise he made during the Parliamentary contest in 1892, and which he has often repeated since, expressed his intention about the middle of April to introduce a motion into the House of Commons for the purpose of ameliorating to some extent the depressed condition of the silk trade. The motion is as follows. "That this House, having regard to the lamentable decline of the silk trade in this country, and the distress caused thereby, is of opinion that a moderate duty, affecting only

an article of luxury, should be imposed upon all imported manufactured silks." The result of this motion will be awaited with concern by all interested in the silk trade, both employers and employed.

ENGLISH CARPET MANUFACTURERS.

The *Teutonic*, which sailed from Liverpool April 18th, conveyed quite a galaxy of carpet talent to America. There were no less than seven carpet travellers on board the liner, including, amongst others, Messrs. Miller (Cook, Sons & Co., Liversedge and London), C. Lowe (James Humphries & Sons, Kidderminster), Bernard Eck (T. B. Worth & Son, Stourport), Lawrence (Henderson & Co.), and Henry Beutell (of John Crossley & Sons, Limited, Halifax). The query suggests itself: How are the employers of these commercial ambassadors going to pay expenses? There are at least ten British firms having connections in the United States market. During the March quarter our sales amounted in quantity to 71,900 yards, valued at £9,510, or say £950 for each house—an average of, say, £316 a week. The weekly average for March was even smaller than this, and when it is remembered that profits are cut down to a low level by the competition of Americans like the Bigelows, Dobsons, Brombys, Smiths, and others, the mechanical equipment of whose mills is certainly up to the standard of modern requirements, it will be admitted that the United States market can offer little inducement to European firms.

As it happens, travellers can cover the Canadian ground on their western tour without much extra expense. New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago can be visited, for the purpose of covering the chief wholesale centres, and from any of these points a capital train service to Montreal, Toronto, or Quebec is obtainable.

In Great Britain many of the large carpet houses sell direct to retailers. In the United States they sell as a rule to the wholesale. The reason is not difficult to find. It would not pay English firms to employ travellers to scour a territory having an area of over three million square miles for the purpose of selling a paltry two hundred thousand pounds' worth of goods per annum; and even sales of this magnitude are looked upon as indicative of an exceptionally good year.

Canada, with its small population of five millions, is actually the largest foreign buyer of carpets we possess. During the March quarter our exports amounted in value to over £89,000. To illustrate the importance of the Canadian market in a more forcible manner, we may state that during the March quarter we shipped to the five millions of people inhabiting the Dominion nearly £10,000 more goods than to the 160 millions of people inhabiting Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, and the United States combined. —*Textile Mercury*.

IN THE CARPET BAZAAR OF CAIRO.

Lost, in every sense of the word, geographically as well as imaginatively, you wander on amid the restless flowing stream of swarthy, turbaned faces, and lithe, white-and-blue robed figures, your ears filled with the strange cries, and your senses intoxicated with the heavy, nameless odors of the East. Farther and farther you ramble, and deeper and deeper plunge into this magic labyrinth of winding ways. The alleys seem to narrow more and more every minute, until the rich brown, profusely carved woodwork of the jutting gables on either side of the roadway almost threatens to meet and blot out the strip of burning blue above your head. As the street straightens the crowd appears to thicken, until at the moment when the one is at its narrowest, and the other at its densest, you step into a little square in which the blaze of color and the play of movement reach their height. You are in the carpet bazaar of Cairo—the spot at which the many colored throng around you finds its most gorgeous background. Carpets of every hue and web—Tunisian, Algerian, Smyrniote, Persian—drape the whole quadrangle with an arras worthy of a Sultan's seraglio.—*London Correspondent*.