

cotton, which nowadays enters very largely into the manufacture of a good many manufactured articles. The supply at present is not very great, and the price is exorbitant, and in face of this fact, trade, which at this period should be pretty fresh with manufacturers, is, as a matter of fact, very low, and a good deal of machinery is standing. Neither is there any very decided indication as to what the fashion for next season will be, and the orders so far placed are of a very mixed and varied character. At one time it did seem as though there would be a rush on plain bright goods, and that figures had fallen into disfavor. Later, however, there has been more doing in figured goods, and everything points to a division of patronage between these two classes of goods next year.

LEEDS.—A most decided improvement has taken place in the ready-made clothing trade during the last few days, orders for winter garments having come well to hand. There is no rush in the factories, but they are much better off for work than they have been for several weeks past. The present activity will probably be maintained well into November, when the quietest time of the year is over, and orders for early spring delivery are then beginning to come in. The garments that are now wanted are overcoats for men's and boys' wear. In the juvenile department the Paddock overcoat is still much in evidence, and is a very fashionable style for boys of between eight and fourteen years of age. The S. B. Chesterfield is still the most popular shape for men's wear, if we are to judge from the orders that have just arrived. The firms that are making uniforms for the War Office are still working overtime, and are likely to be fully employed to the end of the year. Woolen manufacturers are still in a position to keep their machinery well employed, but the future of the trade is very uncertain by reason of the unsettled condition of things in the cotton market. As every reader of *The Warehouseman and Draper* knows, all wool fabrics are comparatively rare. Many cloths that by courtesy are called all-wool contain an appreciable mixture of cotton in the shape of a cotton warp cunningly concealed under a woolen weft for the confusion of the unwary. This statement need not startle anyone—the custom is ancient, and widely practised. There is now great difficulty in getting hold of these cotton warps except at famine prices, and it is absolutely impossible for the woolen manufacturer to get from his customers anything like an adequate increase in price for his productions. He does not like to say out point blank that on account of the rise in cottons he cannot sell at the old rates, what time his customer is drawing his attention to the fall in raw wool. Unless the cotton market settles down there is a possibility of a very large number of workpeople being thrown out of employment in Yorkshire as well as in Lancashire.

LEICESTER.—The hosiery industry continues fairly active in the leading branches and the production is well up to the average; but manufacturers of cotton goods have been compelled to postpone further production at present on account of high prices. Fancy goods and specialties are in fair request. Army and navy goods continue to be produced in large quantities. Canadian orders for heavy fabrics have of late been larger than usual.

NOTTINGHAM.—Lace of all kinds, but especially Honiton lace—hand-made—appears to be in high favor just now. The Queen's fondness for it is well known, and she has always preferred it for the wedding dresses of her daughters. Not so, however, with the generality of ladies, writes a correspondent. Brussels lace appealed rather to their taste, but with the new patriotic wave that has swept over the country the interest in British lace has been revived. A hundred new pupils have entered themselves at the Earl's Court Exhibition to learn the process, and the art seems catching on among women.

GLASGOW.—There are no signs of any improvement in the

South of Scotland woolen industry, and a good deal of machinery now lacks employment. It is hoped that things will take a turn for the better when the London wool sales are over, but in the meantime manufacturers are receiving very few confirmation orders, and altogether the outlook is anything but bright. Fortunately, hosiery manufacturers are fairly well off for orders, otherwise the outlook would be serious indeed.

DUNDEE.—The market is strong and healthy. Jute is rather easier in all positions, say 5s. a ton. The market, however, does not fall fast nor far, and the expectation of very cheap jute for this season vanishes. Jute yarn is strong. For 8 lb. common cop 1s. 8½d. is paid. The reason of this is universally ascribed to short production in the spinning mills, owing to irregularity on the part of the workers. Hessian warps are 1s. 9d. in bundle and 1s. 9½d. in spools. There is a better demand for fine qualities, and good yarn is 3d. per lb. Heavy cops are also very strong, and early delivery is difficult to be had. Hessians are again in much better request, and the whole tone of the market is better. In sackings, fine twills, and the like, there is a large and healthy demand. The fancy jute trade is also better, and the prospects of the autumn trade improve. Flax is in a stronger position. The reports of the new crop are somewhat contradictory, but recent advices from Pernau, Dorpat and Livonia, all give hopes of excellent quality. The price of Riga is named at £28 for K. On this basis some small sample orders have been given. It is worthy of special note that it is quite out of the question to expect to take this price out of yarns at present quotations. As it is now seen that flax is to be much dearer than last year the spinners refuse to go on at present rates. A rise of quite 1d. per spindle is therefore asked. This the manufacturers pay with much reluctance, but it begins to be acknowledged on all hands that advanced lists of prices must be issued. Linens are in better request. The buyers have convinced themselves that there is every likelihood of their having to pay more money later on; therefore they buy with confidence. The heavy linens for canvas and Government use are still in request, and all the best makers are deeply engaged in contracts for some time.—*Textile Mercury*.

BELFAST.—The improvement in the linen trade is as yet hardly perceptible, yet the tone of the market clearly indicates that matters are coming to a crisis, and an increase in the turnover is probable at no very distant date. Prices remain firm with an upward tendency. Manufacturers experience some little difficulty in getting the current prices, but they do not press for orders, as to-day's prices are based on the price of raw material, and afford only a fair trade profit. The lessened production has had a good effect in keeping prices steady, and few stocks on clearing lines are to be had. Reports from the States are of a most favorable description, and there seems a more decided inclination to purchase. However, no substantial improvement can be looked for until the Presidential election is over. The Colonial trade has been well supported, and, if anything, shows some slight improvement. The Cuban market is very inactive, whilst from the Home trade centres there is not much business passing except in sorting up parcels. In the yarn market business was the turn better. West lines have advanced 1½d., and even ~~low~~ are firmer, and spinners will not concede anything off current rates. The entire absence of stocks from the market has had the desired effect of keeping prices steady. The new flax is coming into the markets, but only in small bulk. Up to the present the quality, however, is not quite up to expectations. The prices range from about 6s. to 7s. 9d. per stone. Wholesale trade has been a shade quieter during the week, and the number of customers about were very much less than the previous week. The returns for September were not quite as good as anticipated, and it will require an extra effort this month to make up any deficiencies. The falling off in