

position in which manufacturers are placed, but it is complained that it is not commensurate with the value of wool. A fair number of orders have been placed earlier than usual, but as the different merchants do not make their plans at the same time, the business will be continued until the late ones finish at Whitsuntide. There is a slight improvement in the Yorkshire goods trade. Prices are firm. Manufacturers who are receiving orders for flannel are buying more freely of wool to cover themselves, and a fair amount of business is being transacted.

OLDHAM.—Both calico and velvet looms in the town are well engaged. A firm of private cotton spinners are about to close their mills. It is reported that three small mills have recently come to a standstill. Shuttle guards have been placed on the looms at a local firm of manufacturers. A cotton spinning mill at Milnrow is closed, and the operatives are receiving benefit from their respective associations. It is reported that some departments of the local textile machine making establishments are getting a little less busy. The out-roller covering employers have come to terms with the operatives as to a wages list and conditions of employment. Twinning employers are very busy, and it is stated that machinery has had to stand idle for the want of the full complement of hands.

LEEDS.—The recently established improvement in the cloth trade is fully maintained. The muster of home trade buyers has recently been larger. Manufacturers were found to be very resolved not to book orders except at clearly legitimate advances and many new orders were placed. There are many inquiries after patterns and terms for next winter, and comparatively little stock remains, it is believed, from last winter. Therefore makers of heavy woollens are looking ahead for a better run of trade than they had last year. All-wool naps and presidents and Irish friezes are already ordered by London, French, German and Canadian buyers. The Americans are remarkably quiet. A busy season for blankets is being prepared for. Army cloth makers are not so sanguine. The ready made clothing trade goes on swimmingly, more than one firm executing bulky orders for fashionable ready-mades for South Africa.

BRADFORD.—The full advantage of the extended portion of the Bradford Exchange is now available to members, the fitting and furnishing of the balcony having been completed. Staplers are asking prices which spinners will not pay at present, but, on the other hand, holders of wool are quite content to wait, as this is the cheapest market to buy in, and any change in the future they firmly believe will be for their benefit. The demand for merinos is continued, and in consequence there is a tendency for prices to harden. Crossbreds are steady, and there is no change in the position of English descriptions. Lustres are mostly inquired after. Alpaca remains firm, and mohair also. In yarns the lull in the inquiry on the part of export buyers continues. They have covered their present requirements and decline to speculate, as they assert that the prices demanded by the spinners will not be paid by their customers. For the most part, however, spinners decline to accept reduced offers, as they have orders to keep them employed for the present. For the home trade a good business is doing, especially in yarns of a bright description. There is no change in the piece trade.

KIDDERMINSTER.—There is no lack of business in the carpet trade, but the result is not satisfactory, owing to the advance in material having overtaken the advance in carpet. The yarn trade is extremely busy. Both woollen and worsted wools are dearer, and, as spinners have plenty of work on hand, they are not inclined to sell except at full prices. Worsteds are on an average $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound dearer than they were a month ago, but this hardly covers the advance in raw material. Woollen yarns are slowly following worsteds, and are no longer to be bought at the extremely low prices lately paid. There are very good hopes that the Worcester Cross Mills will soon be re-started, and that other machinery which has been standing idle may be brought into activity again.

NOTTINGHAM. In the hosiery trade a steady business is being done. Fair orders are on hand for merino and cashmere goods. There is perhaps a little more doing in cotton fabrics. Ac-

counts of the lace trade are still somewhat contradictory, and the demand appears to be of a partial character. The plain net trade shows little or no animation. Fair quantities of bobbin nets continue to be disposed of, mainly for export to the continent, and prices generally are firm. Paisley and Paris nets still meet with a slow sale, and the demand for mosquito nets is only moderate. The inquiry for silk Mechlin nets is maintained, and large quantities of these goods are being sold. A pretty good business is being done in curtains, window-blinds, and furniture laces, but machinery is not yet fully employed. In the millinery lace trade silk goods are still slow of sale, but the demand for cotton Valenciennes laces is maintained, and there is also an inquiry for point de Paris, Dentelle, Bruges, Malines, and other cotton laces. Maltese, torchon, and Brabant laces do not sell freely.

LEICESTER.—There is more activity in the hosiery trade, goods suitable for summer wear selling freely. The yarn trade is active, and future prospects are regarded as very encouraging. There is a brisk sale for lamb's wool, cashmere, and fancy yarns, but business in cotton yarns is dull. There is not much change to report in the elastic web trade.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—Business is slowly improving. So far, the weather has not been of the most encouraging description for the sale of seasonable goods. Complaints are still to hand as to the condition of the tweed trade. Manufacturers find great difficulty in getting orders confirmed except at the old price. There is still a good demand for worsted cloths and fine chevots.

KIRKCALDY.—For many months, the important textile industries here have been in a very satisfactory position. There is no diminution in the general activity which has prevailed for such a length of time. The spring season, during which a large number of marriages take place, is usually a good one for the linen, floor-cloth, and linoleum trades. The present is no exception to the rule, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that the Kirkcaldy firms engaged in the production of the above-mentioned goods have capital orders on hand. Several of the establishments are being extended, and that is always a convincing proof of good business.

DUNDEE.—The feeling at present among the millowners is that the demand for an increase in wages has been practically abandoned by the operatives themselves. A manufacturer recently said he knew from the first that there was no chance of the wages being advanced. There were not 40,000 people engaged in the textile industry in any part of the world who were paid as much in wages as the Dundee mill operatives, and it was quite a dream for them to suppose that the wages could be increased. It was true that there was great necessity for the conditions of labor in the mills of Dundee being revolutionized, but that was a matter entirely in the hands of the workers themselves. The half-time system produced a crop of halfpines who were disappointed at not getting men's wages, though they knew that was impossible. His impression was that power-loom weaving was the means by which these men might look for any improvement in their position. He suggested that they should at once apply themselves to learning this, pointing out that in Calcutta the greater part of the steam-loom weaving was undertaken by men and not by women. In this department of the industry the weavers were making from 15s. to £1 per week, which was the fair average wage of a working man, and there was no doubt it was in this branch that they would ultimately secure a remedy for many of the evils which at present existed in the mills.

BELFAST.—The apron and pinafore trades are profitably busy. The factories continue to be fully engaged to the extent of the productive power, mainly on orders for the English season trade. Repeat orders are coming to hand satisfactorily, and notwithstanding the increased number of machines now at work, no difficulty is experienced in keeping all regularly employed. In some cases, indeed, a much larger business might be done with more machinery, if a larger number of skilled workers were available. The trade in union holland—and in a lesser degree all linen holland—aprons continue to increase, and in several of the leading factories its growth this season has prevented the taking up of some other classes usually in demand for the spring trade. The cotton holland