

are comparatively light, even for this early part of the season, and on this account holders are not inclined to press sales so as to reduce prices. Spinners, on the other hand, have been quiet, and are buying sparingly until they see how trade is like to develop. Reports from the manufacturers are to the effect that business continues quiet. Prices of all sorts of wool are without material change.

KIRKCALDY.—In the linen trade business is again rather better, and accounts from the United States are more favorable. Floor cloth and linoleum makers are doing a good trade, as the large quantities of goods sent by rail and boat testify.

DUNDEE.—The jute crop is now believed to be very large. Jute yarn for immediate delivery is still wanted. For forward some contracts are made; prices not reported. Hessians are quiet. The only goods in demand are fine wide cloth. This is not cheaper, and is difficult to buy, as the best makers are all well engaged. Flax yarns are still very quiet. Tows are firm, in consequence of the relatively very high prices of the tow fiber. The unfortunate labor war does infinite mischief in this trade. These yarns are largely used in the home trade, and, of course, when wages are not paid, linen goods, which can be done without, are not bought. There is a fair demand from other markets, however, and makers of linen goods are rather more hopeful. Unfortunately the American tariff begins to be wrought once more in favor of the fine wetspins.

BELFAST.—Our staple market continues firm, business being much on a level. Yarns—Demand keeps quiet, and little doing in any direction at the moment. Values firmly held to be at best points. Cloth—Market for brown goods quotably unchanged. Unions are very firm, with, perhaps, a shade more doing. Tow goods in moderate demand. Damasks are rather more than maintaining recent improvement. Thirty-eight inch power-loom bleaching cloth is changing hands steadily. Finished linens for home consumption are selling in fair quantity to meet current requirements of buyers. Export trade without material change.

LYONS.—The sentiment in this market has not undergone any change, and the situation becomes more gratifying as the season advances. Encouraged by the rising market, numerous buyers have deemed it advisable to take advantage of offers in goods from stock, and have secured lots at comparatively cheap prices. Great stocks have disappeared, and for new goods advanced prices must be paid. The ordering business is satisfactory; it is increasing in volume, and prices are rising, although it is hard to obtain in every case the full advance. Difficulties in this regard are experienced on staple lines, while on novelties prices cannot be controlled. Orders in high-class novelties are still restricted in number, but the employment on fine grades has very much increased, and has led to the renewed and satisfactory activity among the many hand looms in town. Orders for quick delivery can no longer be placed, all branches for the preparation of goods to be made being fully occupied. The dyeing establishments are now working with the full number of hands to meet the existing demand. The prospects for the employment of the weaving population during the winter months are better than they have been for years. In the position of the different staple lines, particularly those produced in the power loom factories, no change has taken place. In the finer grades orders have become more numerous for damas with two and three colors, also glaze and moire, for natte with three and four colors, and for broches with ribbed grounds. Better grades in taffetas, plain glaze, checked and striped, keep well to the front, together with checked surah and large-sized plaids. Satin duchesse still plays a leading role. Velvets are now in particularly good demand, in rich hand-loom qualities, and also in power-loom grades. They are sought in plain, gauffre,

miroir, soleil and plaid effects, with a preference for myrtle, prune, marine, cerise, bluet and mulberry shades. Plain velvet particularly is experiencing a better demand, and larger sales were easier at improved prices. A good demand developed for striped velvets on satin grounds. Fancy velvets also are much sought, and prices for these are very satisfactory. The ribbon trade continues to be very good; satin and failles and also rich fancies for sashes are in request. The narrow velvet ribbons sell well, while the wider ones showed less activity.

CREVELD.—The position of the silk industry here remains very satisfactory. The wholesale houses are doing a good business, and orders by mail and from salesmen on the road are plentiful. The advancing prices have stimulated buying, and have induced retailers to lay in larger stocks than they have been accustomed to do of late. The stocks in the hands of the manufacturers are also affected by this buying, and in many grades there is now a scarcity. Velvet stocks are very much reduced. The increased enquiry has also stimulated competition, however, and complaints are heard that prices have in some cases been needlessly cut to secure orders. Profits, therefore, are not what they ought to be, and even in such styles as plaids, which have been scarce all through the season, the profit is not commensurate with the risk which the production of such styles necessarily entails. The mills are in a very good position; orders as well for the present season as for spring, are numerous, and prices, notwithstanding the usual complaints, are improving. There has been some talk regarding a coming fashion for satin duchesse, and it remains to be seen whether the falling off in the orders for damas is due to this cause. The bulk of the large orders is for plaids and black or colored taffetas, but other branches of the mills, particularly necktie silks, are also well provided with work. Umbrella silks, on the other hand, and also ribbons, are no longer in such lively demand. Velvets are selling well from stock, it being too late for advance orders, but some contracts are being received for spring delivery. Among these, orders for black velvets in better grades for the United States deserve to be noted. The request for fancy velvets continues to be regular, and quite a number of looms are kept busy on them. The dyeing establishments here are all working full time, with the full number of hands employed. This refers as well to skein dyeing as to piece dyeing. The silk dyeing is principally for broad silks, while the cotton yarns are almost exclusively for velvets. The piece dyers complain bitterly about the prices, which have sadly fallen since the convention could not be renewed. It is claimed that most of the establishments are working at a loss. The quantity of goods handled by them, however, is very large, and seems to be daily added to. The finishers, on the other hand, are in a more favorable position. Mutual interest has induced them to maintain the rules by which prices are upheld, and they, therefore, profit by the unusual activity of the market.

ZURICH.—There has been a better demand here during the present week, and transactions were more numerous. All grades were in fair request, with an increased demand for Italian trams. Japan silk was too high in price, and therefore figured only for a small part in the deals. The prices for orgazine and tram are still below a parity of the cost of greges, and unless they advance more rapidly the spinners will be forced to abandon at least the Asiatic products. The mills are very well situated. We have seen more buyers here during the last four weeks than for a long time during the same short space, and the orders placed have filled our mills up to February, and some for the greater part of March. Plaids are predominating; they have been sampled in a variety of grades from the simple combination of plaid colorings to the more artistic and costly arrangements of different weaves with satin stripes, cariete stripes and lance effects on taffeta grounds.