

Textiles.

THE TURN HAS COME.

(*Boston Manufacturers' Gazette.*)

THE turn in the lane has come, and it is a long lane that has no turning. Two years ago, for instance, the mills at Lowell were shut down for a fortnight, and at Fall River they were silent for many weeks, and the output during July and August was reduced more than one-third. A year ago business was still worse. Shorter hours were worked, and the production during the year was considerably less than in the preceding one. In the autumn of last year there was a perceptible movement, indicating a coming improvement in trade. When the new year came in manufacturers made an advance of 2½ per cent. in brown and bleached goods over the prices ruling in January, 1885. The export business was extended, and gradually the output at the mills has increased until it may now be confidently said that production has once more reached its full standard in most factories. Prices, unfortunately, have not kept pace with increased production, and the profits are small, but any alteration in prices during the last twelve months has been in an upward direction. And what is true of the cotton interest is also true of other industrial interests, the iron interests especially, and the condition of general business is usually indicated by the position of the iron trade. There is a confidence in the future that the demand will continue for some time to come, and the general business situation will improve right along. A boom is not wanted, but a gradual healthful growth is the most essential factor to a substantial prosperity. If prices are not as remunerative as they have been, the natural and logical answer to this would seem to be, that after a period of depression no advance in prices can reasonably be expected until the demand for goods has caught up with the actual facilities for supply. Apropos of these observations, marked improvement in the various channels of business enterprise is noted by all the commercial journals and those which devote themselves mainly to productive interests. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* remarks: "The feeling of confidence is certainly everywhere growing, and though only a few lines have thus far felt the quickening current of business, in a few weeks it is believed the change will be noticed in every department of trade. There is hardly an unfavorable feature in the trade situation to-day. Money, it is true, is reported scarce and rates are hardening, but this is wholly of a local character, and does not reflect the condition of things South and West, where capital is now centred preparatory to moving the crops to tide-water. Certainly the confident predictions made earlier in the year have been verified by facts which have since transpired, and now only time stands in the way of a full realization."

MONTREAL TRADE REPORTS.

THE following paragraphs are from the latest weekly reviews of the Montreal markets, in the *Gazette* and *Herald* respectively:

DRY GOODS.

(*Gazette, Aug. 26, 1886.*)

The situation in dry goods has been without essentially new feature, but has a fairly active tone. The attention of the trade is still directed toward cotton goods, which are firmly held at the advance. Manufacturers advise the wholesale trade to place their orders at present prices, as a possibility of a further increase in cost, of white goods at least, is being considered, but whether it will come to pass is yet uncertain. At any rate prices are very firm. Woollen goods also have a firm undertone, which arises from the continued strength of the raw

material market, but no advance has been made on the cost of domestic goods so far. Trade during the week has been fairly active and of a satisfactory character, the distribution having been fully as large as counted on.

(*Herald, Aug. 28, 1886.*)

The subject of remittances is somewhat complicated. Our city retail trade has revived slightly as families are now returning from their seaside and summer resorts as the schools are about to re-open. The trade in the outlying districts of the city is unusually satisfactory. Our wholesale friends, we should judge, are satisfied with what they have done in the fall trade and with the prospects for the near future. Some one has told us that prices are firmer than in any one season for ten successive years past, that goods of all kinds are held firmly and higher prices are being paid in some lines for repeats. Blankets and such goods are now feeling the advance in the price of wool.

COTTONS AND WOOLLENS.

There is no new feature in the market this week. The mills are all full of orders and prices are firm with an upward tendency. The prospects are good and a steady profitable business is now looked for. The advance in wool and the good demand prevailing for all classes of manufactures continue to assure better prices on all new contracts.

TEXTILE NOTES.

(*Kuhlow's German Trade Review.*)

BERLIN WOOLLEN AND PLUSH MANUFACTURES.

These manufactures are on the whole very well situated at present. The summer business has, by reason of the tasteful character of the articles made here, given abundant work. The goods produced for the winter trade are similarly excellent, both in regard to design and price. Berlin manufactures are certainly able to claim that in execution and tastefulness they often surpass the best products of more renowned manufacturing towns, even though the latter cost more. The made-up dress goods industry has largely to thank the progress made by the stuff manufactures for the success which it has of late years experienced. But for the endeavours of the manufacturers to produce excellent goods at low prices this industry would never have secured its large export trade. The business in woollen and plush goods has already been busy for several months, manufacturers being well employed *both for home and abroad, but the trade with the United States has especially developed*, as the export returns recently published in our columns will show. This branch has also made progress in that the production of cheap half woollen and cotton goods has fallen off the demand now being more for good qualities at moderate prices, the manufacture of which is the main part of the Berlin woollen and plush goods trade. According to extent of sales, the plush manufactures belong to the chief of this city. The manner of manufacturing the stuffs made here remains quite characteristic. Power looms are only used in isolated manufactories, hand weaving appearing more advantageous in many cases. The manufacturer who introduces power looms for these manufactures must first make sure of keeping the costly plant in uninterrupted work. With hand looms the risk is not so great. When a manufacturer has no work in hand, as is often the case in winter, and cannot tell the goods which will be in demand next, he can let the looms stand still. Thus the manufacturer has no loss, for the looms do not belong to him, but to the weavers. It is clear that this mode of production is advantageous for the manufacturer. This is one of the reasons why the power loom has not been much introduced in Berlin. So long as house-weaving continues to be carried on as at present, power looms are not likely to make much headway except so far as they are indispensable for certain classes of goods.