

## Foreign Textile Centres

**MANCHESTER.**—With the close of the cotton year on August 31st, the usual annual reviews appear. It is yet too soon to correctly define the exact size of the late crop. The New Orleans Cotton Exchange puts it at 9,901,251, and, considering the extra size of this year's bale, we may call it 10,000,000 bales - by far the largest crop ever grown. Yet the world's visible supply is only about 300,000 bales in excess of last year. What has become of the surplus is an unsolved problem. This may be the great factor in causing the present rise in price. If the cotton has been consumed, to-day's quotations are too low, if it is in stock they may prove too high. Unfortunately, yarn and cloth are in poor request, and can only be sold at unremunerative prices. An authority states that in every other country where cotton spinning and manufacturing exist, capital is making 10 to 40 per cent., while in England we are sustaining 5 to 15 per cent. loss. The disease is apparent, but the remedy not forthcoming. Some trade has been done in 40 mule for Madras and Bombay, and also in bundles for China and Japan. Home trade yarns are dearer, but very little doing. The continental demand is less active. In cloth few orders are being booked. India remains quiet, and China is now content with recent purchases. Home trade and minor markets continue slow. The majority of the recent Oldham stock takings has not been very satisfactory. But in few instances have dividends been declared. The Rochdale flannel trade continues satisfactory, and orders are increasing. Several manufacturers have advanced prices 1/4d. per yard on account of the increased price of wool. The waterproof garment industry is said not to have been brisk this season. Some of the leading manufacturers are full up with orders, but the prevailing opinion is that business has been below the average. The umbrella trade is improving, and manufacturers anticipate that the season will be a good one for home and export.

**BRADFORD.**—The correspondent of the *Drapers' Record* writes, under date September 7th: "Since last week the wool market here has at times been in quite an excited state. Prices have advanced rapidly for all classes of bright material, and have shown a continuous, if somewhat slower, advance for fine wools and cross-breeds. Business has, however, now settled down a little after the large trade which has been passing during the last few days. Staplers are not anxious to sell, except at a further advance, which users at present are not prepared to give. Lustre wools have gone up fully a penny per lb. in the last week, and every transaction a wool-stapler makes emboldens him to ask for a still further advance. Both mohair and alpaca are firm at the extreme rates touched, but as no new business is reported no further additional prices can actually be quoted, although the tendency is still upward. The yarn trade continues brisk, and large business could be done in almost all varieties if spinners could promise deliveries in any reasonable time. Nearly all these are weeks behind with the orders in hand. Spinners of mohair and other bright yarns have put up their prices to prohibitive limits, or they could do a large business both for home and the Continent. Manufacturers appear busier than ever, and the large contracts placed for the United States in worsted coatings are far from completed. Inquiries are being made which seem likely to lead to business in the class of fabric which will keep the looms going when the orders in hand are cleared. Of course, makers of bright goods are still inundated with orders. One good feature is that, instead of the bright goods craze calling gradually for cheaper fabrics, there is an increasing demand for the highest class styles in the most expensive fabrics, to meet which some most beautiful fabrics, composed solely of mohair and silk, are being produced. In the warehouses the employees are having a busy time, and all possible overtime is imperative to deal with the present rush. For the winter the close cut, smart-faced Bradford serges are in great request both in lower and expensive makes, and the supply is already quite below the demand. There are also some indistinct effects in Ottoman wool dress costumes, which give quite a novel appearance to the material.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—The home-trade demand for winter goods of all kinds is very brisk, and while fine and medium qualities have sold well there has been a considerable increase in the inquiry for low tweeds and serges. Wholesale houses have been placing many large orders for fine and medium vicunas and serges and medium tweeds for next spring, and orders have come in satisfactorily for cheap tweeds. There is an increasing trade with the Continent, with United States and Canadian merchants, and with houses doing business with South America. Nearly all manufacturers are busy, many are running overtime, and some day and night. The Huddersfield branch of the West Riding Weavers and Textile Workers' Association has accepted the invitation of the Huddersfield Chamber of Commerce to attend a conference to consider the causes which are supposed to affect detrimentally certain classes of the Huddersfield trade, and has appointed the secretary (Allen Gee) and three members of the branch to meet an equal number representing the Chamber of Commerce. It is expected that special attention will be drawn by the chamber representatives to the advisability of one weaver taking charge of two looms—a contentious question which the weavers' representatives declined to recognize as bearing upon the depression generally at the last commission of inquiry held by the two bodies named.

**LEEDS.**—Both the home and export trade in woolen goods is steady, and prices keep firm at the recent advance. Meltons are hard to clear except some special makes, which are freely taken for the United States. Large parcels of presidents and cure serges are also going there to order. Except some in the ladies' line no goods are shipped to the States speculatively. The union cloth trade has almost disappeared for the time being. The new spring styles are quieter than last year. So far it appears probable that the sale will be larger of the better qualities than of the inferior. The worsted coating manufacture keeps buoyant, and further revision by manufacturers of their quotations would not be surprising. Of the improved outlook in Australia there is strong confirmation. Winter orders from the Continent are fully maintained. Some exporters in Paris doing business in Japan are operating in this market. Some firms are doing substantial business with the Cape, and matters are found to be improving both in the Argentine and Chili. Another Leeds correspondent says that in flannels there are better reports from all quarters, and now the season seems to be opening out in earnest there is every prospect of a good year's trade, unless there is a check on account of higher prices. Leading makers, who are now as a rule busy, have advanced some of their leading numbers 1/4d. per yard, declaring that this does not half cover the advance in wool which they are paying. There is a better demand for fine Yorkshire grey flannels, which are coming more into favor.

**LEICESTER.**—The activity in the yarn market is well maintained, and with an upward movement in values spinners get particulars of old contracts much more freely. Stocks are small, and the deliveries on home and Continental account are now very large. Lambswool, cashmere and fancy yarns sell readily at full rates. All the leading branches of the hosiery trade are active, and there is some pressure for immediate delivery. Already a heavy business has been done in football jerseys for the opening of the season, and the demand is fully equal to the supply. Cords, braids, belt-ings, and fancy elastic-web goods are in fair request.

**KIDDERMINSTER.**—Many carpet buyers are away for holidays, and for the moment, little is doing. Inquiries from various markets are, however, being made, and the volume of the autumn trade promises to be considerably increased as compared with last year. The yarn market is buoyant, and spinners keep busy at advancing prices. Not much is being done in new business in carpet yarns, because the manufacturers are fairly covered, and, for the present, they decline to pay the advances which spinners ask and maintain.

**JYTTINGHAM.**—The lace trade is still quiet. A few additional orders have been placed both in the home and foreign branches, but they have not been of sufficient importance to stimulate business to any appreciable extent. The Valenciennes continues to be the prevailing style for cotton laces, and moderate quantities are selling both in white and light tints. Some goods formed of an ad-