

UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA.—Only full fashioned goods are used, and by far the greater quantity is made of cotton. Lises are also in strong demand. Cashmeres, though not a very large matter yet, continue to be bought in increasing quantities. A nice trade is done, too, in plaited goods, cotton or lisle backs and silk fronts. American-made all-silk goods have, however, now quite superseded those made in Germany. In cotton fine gauges, varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to 2 lbs. weight for hose, and 14 ozs. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in half hose, are the staple article. A few Balbriggans, mostly not clocked, are used, but the bulk is required in black with a fair proportion of tan and slate shades. Lises from 33 to 39 gauge are used extensively in summer, and many gauge lisle stockings weighing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. a dozen are sold. Both in cotton and lisle in ladies' and men's goods there has been a very strong call for solid Maco feet, or Maco split feet, the rest of the hose being black.

For children, socks and $\frac{3}{4}$ -hose in sizes from 4 inch to 7 inch in white, black and tan, are imported. $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ ribbed hose are extensively used both in infants' sizes and up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Most of the ribbed goods are turned out on ribbed top machines and have French feet. In fact all the goods sent to America must have French feet. Children's goods are largely bought in cashmere, and the bulk of them are fine gauge. The cashmere hose bought for ladies' wear are mostly plain black, and fine gauge. They vary in weight from about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. The men's half hose are similar in quality, and run from 1 lb. 2 oz. to 1 lb. 12 oz. A few natural wool half-hose are also bought for summer wear in light weights. Americans always prefer fine to coarse gauges, and since the former have been got out at such popular prices, the latter have gone out more and more. There is no doubt, too, that American-made seamless hosiery has supplanted the old 24 and 27 gauge produce. For winter wear, some heavy cotton hose and half-hose, and a large quantity of fleeced hosiery, is imported, but since the duty on cotton and wool goods has been the same, cashmeres have been bought a good deal, instead of fleeced hose. This, however, is not the case in the South, where cashmere is scarcely worn at all. Fancy hosiery in an enormous variety is now finding its way into the States. Embroidered goods have not yet been very much taken to, but printed and extracted styles have found favor. High fancies, Scotch checks, and boot patterns of every description have found a ready sale. Hose with lace insteps are very popular. Golf hose, though chiefly bought in England, have also been ordered in Saxony. Machinery is now being put up to meet the demand in this class of goods. Before passing to the next market, it should be remarked that most styles are required in small quantities, made 36 inches long in the leg, and in opera shapes. A good trade, too, is done in extra wide hose, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch under the welt.

CANADA.—In Canada they are now using goods abandoned by the States some five or six years ago. In this country much inferior styles are required. The

bulk of the demand is for 24 and 27 gauge heavy black cotton, weighing from 2 lbs. up, and costing between 3s. and 5s. Below 3s. the goods have circular cut legs. Of late years a fair proportion of fine gauge hose from 5s. to 6s. has also found a sale, and this shows the tendency of the market. In children's goods, low American cotton ribbed hose are required with as much weight as possible. A few heavy-weight cashmeres are occasionally bought, but the bulk of these goods has, no doubt, up to now, been bought in Nottingham and Leicester. A few odd dozens of fancy and plaited goods are bought along with the staples.

SOUTH AMERICA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO.—South America and the West Indies take all kinds of gay-colored goods, low-priced qualities, cut and cleared. Hose begin at about 1s. 6d. per dozen, and half-hose are in proportion. A nice trade in high-class lises and fine gauge cotton is done with Mexico. Cashmeres are not sent at all to South America. Many of the goods have white or brown grounds and colored stripes; press patterns of every kind are most popular. Royal blue, scarlet and chocolate are characteristic shades. Plain brown half-hose are also in demand in some parts. Seamless goods in brown and heather shades, made from imitation yarn, are required a good deal. Just as in other countries, so in South America, fashioned goods are slowly but surely killing off the older kinds of circular cut goods.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND.—Australia and New Zealand are beginning to be an important market for Saxon hosiery. The trade used to be done chiefly through London, but transactions are now being done directly, and the future of the trade no doubt lies in this direction. Not many circulars are now bought, and the coarse gauge goods are gradually being replaced by fine gauge ones. There is no longer any prejudice against French feet. A good many children's ribbed hose in medium weights are required. Cashmere half-hose are extensively used, attention being paid that the quality is good. Besides black, navy and tan are saleable colors. There is little demand for fancies at present. The striped half hose, so extensively imported some years ago, are entirely out of favor. The patent half-hose, too, that were sold in quantities, have quite gone out.

POLYNESIA.—The islands of Polynesia get their supplies from the mainland of Australia. As washing is usually very expensive, low goods that are worn and thrown away are consumed in fair quantities.—*Knitters' Circular.*

(To be continued.)

THE CULTURE OF JAPANESE HEMP IN CALIFORNIA

An industry which is likely to be far-reaching in its effects throughout the United States and many parts of Europe, is now springing into existence in the San Joaquin Valley, California. About two years ago Felix Fremerey, who has devoted 45 years of his life to the culture of fibrous plants and the preparation of their fibrines for market, who is recognized by the Depart-