

the long run retains markets is not a safe one in German hands. No one, for instance, who has experience of the relative value of English and German wearing apparel will be inclined to subscribe to the confident assertions of the Cologne Gazette, and the same is true of a great variety of textile manufactures.

—A curious feature of the American speculation in cotton is mentioned in Fall River reports to various New York papers. It is said that 25,000 pieces of regular printing cloths were purchased some time ago with the intention of stimulating prices of cotton, and that these have now been sold at something under the market price. This is a curious way of stimulating trade.

—The Silk Association of America has issued a statement showing that the dutiable silk imports at New York for the five weeks ending July 31st, amounted to \$2,794,241, being an increase of \$573,268 over the same period in 1902. Raw silk, duty free, shows a falling off from \$642,939 to \$578,226. This would indicate a falling off in home manufactured goods, and an increase in the consumption of foreign goods of this class.

—The value of woollen goods imported into Italy is on the increase. The quantity imported in 1902 was £1,221,516, over a third of which went from Germany, nearly a third from Great Britain, less than a fourth from France, and the balance from other countries. The wealthier sections of the people are in the habit of asking their tailors for British woollen materials, but of late years Germany has largely supplied them with woollens. The patterns are, in many cases, a close imitation of the British ones, but the quality is not so good. The German goods are, however, cheaper.

—Some time ago, the Journal of Fabrics drew attention to the possibility of using the fibre of sweet clover, which is spreading so rapidly in some parts of Canada, as a raw material for binder twine. At our suggestion, the firm of M. R. Perine & Co., at Doon, entered upon a series of experiments to test the matter. We are now in receipt of a letter from them stating that they have found sweet clover yields such a small percentage of fibre that it cannot be used to advantage in the manufacture of binder twine. Our hope now lies in flax, the possibility of which has passed the experimental stage.

—The quantities of raw cotton and cotton yarns imported into Japan have undergone a reversal during recent years. In 1902 Japan imported £139,423 worth of yarn, as against £1,105,539 worth in 1889, while in 1889 the value of imported raw cotton was

£138,113, as against £827,685 in 1902. Cotton prints, and white and grey shirtings, all show a considerable increase in the value imported. The United Kingdom at present controls the greater part of the trade, but we see no reason why Canada, which has supplied a limited amount, should not enjoy a larger proportion of this growing trade.

—J. S. Turton, secretary-treasurer of the Australian branch of the Massey-Harris Company, who has just returned to Canada, says there is an excellent field for an increased Canadian trade with the new Commonwealth. Of the three staple industries of Australia, mining and farming are making great progress, while the sheep-raising industry, though injured by a seven years' drought, is now enjoying favorable rains. Canadians need not expect to secure Australian business merely by sending out samples. They should either send hustling representatives or place their interests in the hands of good men there. Goods should be packed properly and forwarded promptly.

—One cause to which the advance in the price of wool is partly attributed by some users, says the Textile Mercury, is the increase in the demand for Oriental rugs. These rugs are largely made in Turkey, and in their manufacture a considerable portion of the Turkish clip of wool has been consumed, so that exports of wool from that country for this year will, without doubt, be smaller than have been known for a very long time. The requirements of the Turkish army have also called for an increased consumption of Turkish wools. Turkey cannot spare as many wools as she could at one time, the result being that the price of this kind of wool has advanced materially. In Turkey three or four years ago the growers were not obtaining more than 2d. or 2½d. per lb. for their unwashed wool. Now they are getting about 1d. per pound more, which, of course, means a good deal to the Turkish wool-grower. It is not generally supposed that Turkish wool is an important factor in the markets.

SELECTING STEAM BOILERS.

An important matter, and one which should not be overlooked when selecting a type of boiler, is that of general economy; but, unfortunately, the subject is such an intricate one that there is no time to do more than give a general summary.

There are two important heat losses from a boiler—radiation and heat carried up the chimney. Radiation is undoubtedly greater from water-tube boilers than from marine or Lancashire boilers, partly because of the relatively larger radiating surface, partly because the bricks are at a white heat, on the fire side, as against coverings of boilers being subjected only to the steam temperature. Assume that there is a constant loss of 5 per cent. of the full power heat supply, and suppose that a boiler is only worked eight hours