

branch has not benefited much from the improvement, and the looms are not well provided with work. Velvets are quiet, but some business has been done for fall, and an increase in production will soon have to set in.

ZURICH—The silk goods market is not very active, few buyers being in the market, and business being also interfered with by a railway strike. The agreement signed by dyers and manufacturers prohibiting the loading of silk to excess is considered here by all concerned as a step in the right direction and from which the Swiss silk industry will ultimately benefit. Some business is being done in black and colored surahs and mervilleux, but taffetas have the lead in the transactions, with a fair movement in changeable taffetas and checks, and plaids on taffeta. The raw silk market does not show a decided advance in prices, but a better business has been done, values are firmer and advices from all markets are more favorable. The silk situation is much stronger, but it is retarded by the political troubles in the Orient. In Milan transactions have been on a more liberal scale, and parcels of silk have changed hands for shipment to America as well as for European consumption. Japan silk is very firm and advancing and China silk is also firmer in sympathy with original markets.

CHENNAI—Many buyers will be disappointed when the few weeks are passed and the goods are due, as a number of manufacturers have promised considerably more than they can do, and thousands of dozens will not be ready at the dates ordered. Now importers are wiring to have their goods shipped at once, and give April 15th as the date on which the goods shall leave here. Dyers and finishers are overloaded, and cannot satisfy their customers' wants as quickly as they would like. As much fleeced hosiery is shipped at this time of the year, deliveries are still more delayed by the fleecing process. Large quantities of ladies' 40-gauge goods in the low-priced grades are ordered for speculation, as it is expected that those goods will suffer heavily under the new tariff. In misses' flat hosiery there has been a good many orders in the market, considerably more than in past seasons, from which it appears that these will be sold again in liberal quantities. The immense demand for Scotch plaids on ladies' goods has induced the manufacturers to make them for children's wear also, but in those they have not taken well, and blacks or tans are bought in preference. For ladies' goods, dropstitches and Richelieu ribs are used in large quantities, in the cheap grades as well as in hies. Glovemakers are also filled up with orders until the middle of May. Four-button styles are again chosen in large variety of all possible contrasts of buttons, points and stitchings. Trade in underwear is also very lively, and manufacturers of ribbed vests have more orders on hand than they can fill, because they cannot get skilled hands enough.

CHEAP FRIEZES.

Although the sale of friezes has never assumed very large proportions, it cannot be denied that there has been a constant, if limited, demand for them for the ulster trade. Usually the better grades have come in for most of the trade, but like all other goods, a demand for something cheaper has sprung up, which, of course, must be satisfied. But when we are required to put upon the market a serviceable piece of cloth of this kind, which must weigh at least 30 to 32 ozs. per yard for the ridiculously low price of 75 cents, we may well stop to consider how such a fabric is to be produced and still leave a margin for the manufacturer after paying living wages to his help. To make a piece of frieze of all wool or its equivalents at these prices, is simply out of the question, and therefore recourse is had to cotton warps.

In order to give good service, the warp must be exceptionally strong, so as to admit of using inferior stock in the filling. Still, the filling stock must possess felting qualities in a high degree, or else the success of making the fabric will surely turn to failure. Considerable importance attaches to the proper laying-out of this class of fabrics in the designing room, for if not properly put together all subsequent efforts will be found unavailing. Here is a point too often lost sight of in the manufacture of woolen goods. We find one mill making a certain line of goods without any appa-

rent trouble in any department, while at another mill, making the same class of goods and having the same facilities as the first mill, we find nothing running right and lots of trouble from beginning to end. There is constant complaining from the commission house. Overseers are changed, and everything possible resorted to but the right thing to foster success.

Where the fabric is put together right in the first place, and the stock used which is best suited to the goods which are being made, we do not find any trouble, and things run smoothly all the way through, the production is larger and better, and as a natural result competitors are left behind. Finishers are more often held responsible for the shortcomings of the designer and the superintendent than any other overseer in the mill, for where the goods are not properly put together, and the right kind of stock is not used, all previous experience counts for nothing, and all his efforts usually result in failure. When a finisher has some knowledge of the designer's art, he may be able to point out some of these shortcomings, and thus save himself from blame; but as this is not generally the case, he will have to shoulder the blame, and most likely have to make room for someone else. We have one particular mill in mind where this condition was most vividly illustrated; and after changing finishers eight times during one year, the proprietors at last changed the superintendent, when all trouble and friction ceased at once.

The color of friezes are usually brown, blue and black, and once in a while we find a very dark green, while all kinds of mixes are also used. As these goods receive an unusual amount of felting and are not sheared, the burling process does not amount to anything, while the mending is omitted altogether. The best way to handle these goods would be to wash them before fulling; but as this would increase the labor cost to such a degree as to wipe out all margin of profit, it cannot be thought of here. So we take them to the mill and put them in. The soap used must be of good and lasting body, with the alkali reduced to the smallest proportions. Take 4 oz. of cotton-seed oil soap and 4 oz. of palm-oil soap to the gallon, and alkali sufficient to stand 14° Be., and no more. Wet goods thoroughly and evenly, and after they have run a while add part of the flocks required, leaving the rest to be put on later. Of course it is out of the question to make these goods without flocks, but care must be had that the flocks are put on right so as to stay. A simple cramming on of flocks, to have them fall off about as soon as the goods are made up, or even before, will not do. Whatever flocks they are to receive must be put on so as to be a permanent part of the fabric. This can be easily accomplished, first, by carefully selecting the flock with a view to its felting qualities, and, second, by a judicious application of the same.

It is surprising how much flock can be put into a piece of cloth to stay, if these two points are taken into careful consideration. Give us a good gig flock and let us cut it to our own satisfaction, mind, we say cut it, not grind it, as is so often the case, and there will be no trouble in making the flocks go on and stay on. As soon as the goods begin to get warm the mill should be opened at the back so as to keep them just barely warm enough to felt and no more, else the process will be too rapid and we shall not get what felt we want. A frequent overhauling of the goods may also be necessary, especially if there seems to be a tendency towards rolling or roping. If goods are properly laid out, however, this need not be feared, but for all that, overhauling them will put them back, and we are sure to get more felt. As soon as the goods get warm we add another part of the flocks, taking care, however, to watch the goods so they do not run too dry for every time we add flocks they will absorb part of the moisture, and this must be watched, for as soon as the goods get too dry they will chafe, and in this way we shall lose more stock than the amount of flocks we add, to say nothing of the value the stock thus chafed off would be to the look of the goods when finished. We can make weight with flocks and make the goods firm and compact with them, but flocks will not supply us with the fibres so necessary on the face.

After the fulling process has been completed we take the goods to the washer, and have a scouring liquor of good strength ready,