

**DENVER**—The year closed with a much better hope for the future than it was possible to cherish two months ago. The stocks of jute goods have been—chiefly by an unexpected demand from the Plate—entirely cleared out. Manufacturers have their order books full till the end of January and the price of hessian has risen. It is true that no great profits have been made, but the balances generally will this year show on the right side. Work has been abundant, wages have been good, and multitudes of the working people have saved money. The one unpleasant feature at the moment is the short crop of jute, which is arriving in small shipments and in bad condition. This is bound to tell on those who have small stocks and who are forced to buy.

**BELFAST**.—There is little if any change to report in the linen market, business being on the whole of a fairly satisfactory character considering the stock-taking and holiday season. It is anticipated that trade will brighten up at the beginning of 1899. Business has been at a standstill, owing to the holidays. The curtailed production, particularly in the spinning branch, where there are signs of an early improvement, will help the market. Prospects for the immediate future are considered hopeful. The American trade exhibits gradual recovery, and from Cuba a substantial improvement is confidently expected. Continental buying is fair, but might be much better. Nothing much is looked for on home account till the middle of January. Orders for execution in January and February keep dropping in to a very promising extent, and prices show a stiffening tendency.

**LYONS**.—The market has been very quiet during the week under review. No buyers were on hand during the holiday season, and sales from stock were therefore very small. Neither was there any demand from the Paris houses for delivery of their orders, and a late season seems therefore to be expected. The mills, however, are well employed, but on hand looms more weavers could be utilized if they could be procured, as the production of the most fashionable fabrics, the different styles in taffetas, make but slow progress. Wages have therefore been materially increased, and weavers are now in just as good a position as they were twelve months ago. The mills hold good orders on plain taffetas in colors and glaces, but low-priced fancies seem to predominate, for which the number of hand looms appears to be insufficient for the moment. Aside from taffetas, there are good orders for black and colored damask, and the usual number of looms are busy on the light-weight fabrics. In general the outlook for broad silks is very promising, and, although the season may be a little late, a satisfactory spring business is expected. The demand for velvets continues good, especially in schappé grades. All silk goods are less sought, the demand for these being confined to some special colors. Emerald and violet were most in demand during the week. Fancy and piqué velvets on taffeta grounds with warp print effects are growing in favor. Orders for these are increasing, while plaids are becoming more and more neglected. The ribbon trade has not changed since our last report. Some checks and stripes in wide widths are sought but on the whole the ribbon trade is unusually quiet.

**CLEVELAND**. The market has been very quiet, writes the special correspondent of *The Dry Goods Economist* New York. Retailers did not buy during the holiday season, and the close of the old year, had its influence on the wholesale houses. Despite the apparent lull, however, the outlook is very promising. The spring orders have been placed earlier than usual, and in fair numbers, so that the mills are well provided with work. The strike in the broad silk mills having been settled, the looms are all running again and deliveries of goods will soon be made. The manufacturers hold few stocks, having been able to run their looms almost exclusively on orders.

As the supplies in the hands of wholesalers are also generally light, good repeat orders are expected soon. Some difficulty, however, is anticipated with regard to prices. All wages have been increased in consequence of the strike, and as there is besides a renewed advance in the cost of raw materials it will be impossible to accept repeats at the old figures. Some of the manufacturers are therefore less sanguine, and fear that the changed conditions of our industry will have to stand a severe test. It is considered very fortunate under these circumstances that fashion remains so decidedly in favor of silks. There is no change with regard to the velvet trade. The demand for goods from stock is slack and few new orders are being received. The majority of the mills are therefore working only short hours in order to avoid the accumulation of stocks.

**MILAN**.—The market has been recently marked by increased reserve on the part of both sellers and buyers. The demand was good for various grades, but deals were less numerous on account of the high prices, on which holders appear unwilling to make any concessions. Transactions were rendered difficult also by the scarcity in certain grades. Medium and lower grades of greges were sought by spinners whose orders could not be filled on that account. The better greges, however, were bought for America and some sales were also made to Lyons and to Russia. There was a better demand for the best grades of organzines in which several transactions of importance were concluded. The demand for Asiatic grades was slack, but the advance obtained during the preceding weeks was fully maintained. Taking into consideration that the holiday season is little adapted for the development of an active market and the very firm prices which rule at present, the outlook for the coming season appears as favorable as could be wished.

**ZURICH**.—The demand for raw silk was more active during the week under review. The high price for Italian grades, however, and the disposition of the holders to rather increase their pretensions than to make any concessions rendered deals difficult, and only a limited number of transactions could be concluded. In Chinas some important purchases were made at slowly advancing prices. The demand for Japans was only moderate. In manufactured goods little was done, as is usual during the holiday season. The mills, however, are busy on their spring orders, which are now being prepared for shipment. A fair demand appeared for wide widths of marcelines, in which stocks are small in consequence of the low prices which had lately been paid for these goods. Prices have improved under the present demand, and these fabrics are now being put into the looms again.

**CHEMNITZ**.—Hosiery is selling, but in no very big bunches. A few stock lots in odds and ends of last year's fancies, left over because of the "busted boom," were sold yesterday at very low prices. The Knitter's Circular wonders sometimes that people are able to push the screaming greens and yelling "yallers" at any price. Staples are going well at fairly good prices. As the year nears its end, everyone is asking, in eager tones, what the prospects are for '99. Ninety-eight will not go into the red letter list. To stand still is to go back, but to actually fall off, as indicated by the big falling off referred to above, is to give cause for alarm. Cotton spinners and machine makers are marking broad margins of profit in their books when balancing. As high as 28 per cent has been recorded by the *Mutweida Joint Stock Spinning Company*. From centre to suburbs the city is being transformed, new buildings are taking place of the old. Many of these are magnificent. English buyers are numerous. Direct orders from America are no longer numerous. A few fancies were sold, simple ones, soft in color. Jacquard patterns are being put forth and taken as fast as offered. "Extracted" goods are going as fast as