

each end, thus giving the purchaser the impression that he is getting goods nearly a yard wide when, in reality, it is only twelve to fifteen inches.

It is about time wholesale houses began to shut such men out of business, for their own interest, not to say anything about that of honest retailers, who find it difficult enough to realize a fair profit without having to compete with such men as Lindsay Bros.

MERCHANT.

Dundalk, Aug. 20th.

"BADDECK, AND ALL THAT."

Editor of the Monetary Times:

Sir,—My last letter to you was from the Modern Babel, London, its contrast with the wilds of Cape Breton is, to say the least, striking. The summer here has been unusually dry, the hay and grain crops a partial failure, this with the very numerous forest fires causes the country storekeeper to look very blue. Sales for fall consumption will be very restricted.

This is the tourist's and sportsman's paradise, cool, pleasant days, with brilliant sunshine; brook trout and mackerel waiting to be caught. A sail down these wonderful Brads' or lakes on the good steamer "Marmion" is something to be remembered. Quite a number of Americans, including Bell, of telephone fame, are staying at Baddeck; probably incited to come by that droll book of Dudley Warner's, "Baddeck and all that."

If any one should think there is nothing to be seen around Baddeck and nothing in "All that." I will be security for yourself or your friend against all disappointment if you will only come down and see these warm-hearted people. This is the Scotland or the Switzerland of Canada, but we get here what Switzerland cannot give us, whiffs of sea air. And then, as you know, the trip down to Northumberland Strait, via the Gulf of St. Lawrence is a delight, or to come per Intercolonial Railway along the Metapedia is a panorama. Commend them to your good people of the west who are sighing for a refreshing holiday tour.

H. C.

Whycocomah,

Cape Breton, Aug. 17th, 1887.

DRY GOODS AND TEXTILES IN BRITAIN.

The Glasgow dry goods trade still continues quiet and inactive, millinery and fancy dress goods excepted. Producers of the latter have been very much benefitted by the fine weather, and have got their shelves pretty well cleaned out, so that, though presently slack of orders, they are in the position of being able to continue their works in replacing stock again. Generally speaking, only small sales are made for immediate requirements, and there is little doing in forward engagements. There has been some briskness in certain goods in the smallware department, braids and a few other trimmings being in active request; but in hosiery there has been little passing pending the incoming of the new samples for the winter trade. Foreign and more particularly colonial buyers, however, make their inquiries sooner this season than usual. Though cotton is slightly lower, producers still maintain their firm quotations, and consequently the disparity of price between the buyer and seller remains as great as ever. Values of goods are however low, and can be cheaply produced, and good buying may set in any day.

LEEDS WOOLLEN MARKET.—The end of the week has brought about a marked improvement in the market for winter stock, especially of the inferior grades. There is a better demand for presidents, pilots, and such like, but a still larger business will be needed to bring the turnover up to an average of a fairly good season. Buyers of winter fancies are starting only slowly. The rivalry between strong wools and meltons for overcoatings is becoming keener, and notwithstanding a difference of price in favor of the latter, the former have had much the best of the call so far. Shippers are taking somewhat of a busy part in these transactions, especially with a view to Canadian and Australian consumption. The new patterns of coatings, suitings, and trouserings brought out up to this time are not so remark-

able for novelty as was expected. Tweeds again show an improvement as to both design and substance, and the prices named for them are more than ever favorable to a large business in them. The mantle-cloth trade begins to show more animation. Curls have ever been to the front, but some other kinds, and a little less costly, are now receiving attention. Only few union worsteds are selling. Print coatings are doing much better, and some costume cloths in greys, new browns, and olives have been ordered rather freely this week, but only barely remunerative prices have had to be taken. The wincey cloth trade is moving a little, and only white blankets are now required by consumers.

LEICESTER WOOL, WORSTED, HOSIERY, &c.—There is a quieter and more subdued tone in the wool market, but in spite of the limited turnover which is being done in the leading descriptions of home-grown wools there is no giving way in quotations. The consumption is well maintained, but spinners are under no immediate pressure to buy beyond small parcels to sort up their stocks. Half-bred fleeces and Down and Shropshire wools are in good request, and spinners press very much for slight concessions, but growers and dealers decline to give way, although their doing so would result in largely extended operations. The available supplies of wools of choice growth of the fashionable descriptions are smaller than usual at this period of the year, and consequently holders expect that they will be able to sell on better terms later in the season, and are sanguine that the change, if any, must be in their favor. At the present moment speculative operations are entirely suspended, and the business done is sound, regular and healthy, with a fairly hopeful outlook. Although great difficulty is experienced in booking new contracts for worsted yarns at anything like adequate quotations, there is a fairly healthy tone in the yarn market, and the production is well maintained. There is considerable improvement in the hosiery trade, and greater activity prevails in the heavy lambs' wool departments on account of large shipment orders being executed for Canadian and Australian markets. Stocks have been largely diminished, and the production is being maintained at the full limit. There is a steady demand for specialties and fancy fabrics, and the supplies of cotton goods have been run down to a very low point.

KIDDERMINSTER CARPET.—An important step was taken on Saturday by the carpet manufacturers of the Kidderminster district, who are acting in conjunction with the makers of the North. A revised and advanced price list for carpets has been issued, which will come into effect from the date of issue. The increase indicated by the new list is fully 3d. per yard upon best Wiltons and 2d. per yard upon Brussels, and other qualities at a proportionate rate. This step has long been expected, and has been rendered absolutely necessary in consequence of the continued rise in the wool market. The amount which the manufacturers have fixed upon will scarcely cover them for the increased charges made by spinners. The effect on the carpet trade cannot fail to be of a healthy character, especially as on this occasion concerted action has been secured. The carpet trade continues very quiet, but not more than is usual at this time of the year.—*Glasgow Herald*, 8th August.

WHERE RIBBONS ARE MADE.

A city in the north of France enjoys as much celebrity for ribbon-making as does Manchester for cotton or Bordeaux for wines. This is the city of St. Etienne. The manufacture of velvets and ribbons in St. Etienne absorbs annually about 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 pounds of silk. The value of ribbons manufactured is from 70,000,000 to 80,000,000 francs, or \$16,000,000, and this industry is carried on by about 250 manufacturers, employing 18,000 looms and 50,000 workmen. One of the United States commercial agents, Mr. Coleman, tells us in his report that the greater part of the looms are worked by hand and belong to the workmen, who own small factories of two to four looms. Looms for velvet generally belong to the manufacturer, as well as those for the making of elastic ribbons, braids, &c. Some 2,000 or 3,000 looms are worked by steam or water power. There is no fixed rate of wages for workmen. They vary according to the demand, and each ribbon requires a special agree-

ment between employer and employe. While one workman with a loom able to produce the article in vogue will gain from 10 to 20 francs—about \$2 to \$4 per day—another with a loom producing a less stylish fabric will make but 2 or 3 francs—say from 40c. to 60c per day. Till the year 1872 work was regular enough at St. Etienne. Economical workmen grew rich, and most of the houses in the city were built by them. Since then the condition of workmen has been less favorable, wages have been smaller, and many have been out of employment. The manufacturer, too, has suffered, and now that business has revived it is hard to find the skilled labor which is needed. Work, however, is cheaper in the country than the city.

The ribbon production of St. Etienne formerly amounted to 110,000,000 francs (\$25,000,000) yearly; this included braids also, which are now mainly made at St. Chamond. Today the combined production of St. Etienne St. Chamond is estimated at not above 90,000,000 francs—say \$18,000,000. Till the year 1872 two-thirds of the ribbons made were for exportation. To-day those destined for exportation do not exceed one-third.

By the "Chamber of Textiles," an approximate estimate has been made of the total ribbon production of St. Etienne for the years 1881, 1882, 1883. This table shows that, unfortunate as was the year 1881 for the ribbon department, still the total worth of the ribbon production for that year was 63,400,000 francs. This was 4,210,000 francs more than that of 1882. The total ribbon exportation to the United States for 1884 was \$573,243, and for 1885 was \$498,323. The total exportation of ribbons to the United States for the year 1886 is \$793,271.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Cobourg, Aug. 14.—Mrs. Jones' dwelling burned.—Ashfield, Aug. 16.—John Stiles' barn, implements and grain destroyed.—Walton.—Chas. and Lewis McDonald's large sawmill burned down; insured; lumber saved.—East Nissouri.—W. Richardson's barn struck by lightning and consumed. Robt. Fawcett's frame barn in Warwick, burned with contents; loss \$600, insured \$400 in Waterloo.—Ingersoll, Aug. 20.—Carroll's mill gutted; insured \$3,000 on building, \$1,000 on contents.—Kingston, 20th.—Several wooden buildings and stables in business quarter burned, loss not large.—Markham, Aug. 21.—Fire broke out in Sun office, and quickly spread southward, burning Mr. Fleming's piano and organ store, owned by Mrs. Marr, loss \$2,000, insured \$1,200; and two stores and dwellings owned by Mrs. Moore, of Eglington, loss \$1,200, insured \$500; and Mr. H. B. Reesor's house also burned, on which loss is \$3,500; insurance in Waterloo Mutual, \$2,300. Sun printing office and dwelling and stable, owned by J. Robinson, loss, \$2,000; insured in British America for \$1,000. Mr. Chauncey's loss on presses, etc., about \$7,500, insured for \$3,500.—Goderich, Aug. 20.—Barn of J. Salkeid, Jr., struck by lightning and burned down.—Watford, 21st.—B. McMurray's dwelling, stable and barn destroyed; loss, \$1,200, insurance, \$300.—Manotick, 23rd.—Dickenson's sawmill took fire this forenoon and was destroyed, with some lumber. By the efforts of men, women and children, the grist mill and mill shed was saved; partial insurance.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Halifax, Aug. 20.—Gordon & Keith's furniture factory destroyed by fire; loss probably \$18,000 or \$20,000; insured in Queen, \$4,000.—St. Laurent, near Quebec, 21st.—Jean Leclere's dwelling burned and his son suffocated; loss, \$1,500, no insurance.—Montreal, 23rd.—What appears clearly to have been an incendiary fire took place in St. Jean Baptiste Ward at 2 this a. m. Flames sprang at same moment from roof of A. Prevost's stables and of a wooden tenement at 556 Laval Avenue. The two top flats were gutted. Mr. Caron and Mr. Willetimy, lose all their furniture and are not insured. Their loss will be about \$1,000. The straw and walls of the stable were saturated with coal oil, and a black gin bottle, smelling strongly of coal oil, was found buried in the straw.—Hull, Que., 23rd.—A fire broke out in Hull this morning and burned eight dwelling-houses and a school-house. The water supply gave out just as the fire was being got under control. The total loss is about \$5,000, and the insurance less than one-third of that amount.