

ing one of the great potentials of trade, and in the exchange of the old for the new, we have a business that is rounding out to large proportions. The manufacturer behind the times in the use of improved machinery travels a rocky road, not to fortune, but insolvency. Machinery is rapidly displacing hand labor, and it will go on doing so till the last spindle hums and the last wheel turns in the industrial world.

It would be well to remember in this connection, that as the man who handles a machine is the first to detect its shortcomings, in many cases he ought to be the best able to suggest improvements. What is wanted is more encouragement in this direction. Many machine users hold their peace in this matter, for the suspicion or knowledge they have that others would monopolize the benefits, some of which at least he would be justly entitled to. A more generous appreciation of practical suggestions would bring its own reward. In some instances this obligation is being recognized and with good results. It would be well for all concerned if this practice was more common than it is.—Age of Steel.

Foreign Textile Centres

Belfast.—This linen market is steady, with a moderate business. The spinning branch is unchanged, and there is a fairly strong demand for tows, orders being forthcoming to a considerable amount. No improvement is obtainable in prices, which keep unremunerative. Line yarns are quiet at unaltered rates. The manufacturing end does not show much briskness, but fresh business keeps coming forward regularly, and, added to the orders on hand, keeps looms fairly employed. White goods for home markets fully maintain their position, the tendency being in the direction of further improvement. The shipping trade is devoid of special features. The United States continue satisfactory buyers, but South Africa, Cuba, and the Continent are quiet. Colonial trade is fair.

Bradford.—This market is cheerful, with business on a firm footing, and so far as merinos are concerned topmakers are expecting a further advance at the approaching London sales. Topmakers are able to secure profits on wool bought at the last sales, and it is taken for granted that in view of this fact London prices will rise. There is no speculation, however, and the purchases only cover actual requirements, and it is a matter of complaint that it is not possible to command better rates. Cross-breeds are firm, but spinners assert that the trade cannot stand a further advance.

Dundee.—There is nothing new to report regarding the state of the linen trade. A fair amount of business, both home and export, is being put through, and prices are unaltered. The most marked thing is a sudden, brisk demand for sackings and baggings. The prices for these are very steady. Tarpaulins are also on the firm side, and makers are refusing to accept former prices. Jute is getting steadier, but prices cannot be quoted higher. Some small sales of natives have been made at £11 2s. 6d. to £11 5s. for April-May, to London, but spinners here are not inclined for business, even at reduced limits.

Kidderminster.—Business is still in a sluggish condition. Retailers of carpets are busy, and goods seem to be going into consumption fairly well, but manufacturers do not get any bulk of orders; in most instances they have enough from day to day to go on with, but such business is of a troublesome and not very profitable nature. In spite of a poor demand locally the spinning trade is firmer. Prices of carpet yarns are hardly tested, but in other branches there is more to do and a rather better price to be got.

Leicester.—In yarns there is a full average turnover, stocks are kept small, and buyers are placing new business with more confidence. The hosiery industry is active with larger deliveries and machinery is fully engaged.

Leeds.—The low class woollen trade continues to be depressed and a termination of the war is longed for to revive the export trade. Stocks of low-priced cotton warp goods are heavier than they ought to be, although production in many instances has been restricted. The better class trade continues prosperous. All kinds of worsteds are selling freely in the home markets; mixtures suitable for summer wear are selling largely, also close cut serges in black and blue. Vicunas of medium quality are in considerable request. The ordinary tweed trade is smaller in volume, owing to the favor being shown to the all-wool flannel tweeds and to lower-priced imitations. Of speculation there is very little, notwithstanding the expectation that the next London sales will show higher values, and manufacturers are obtaining advanced rates for the better qualities of worsteds and woollens. The claims of the producer are strictly based upon the increased cost of raw material, and there is no disposition to create a boom. The clothing factories are fully employed. An increasing trade in ready-mades is being done with the Cape. Rates in the local wool markets are very firm, but little more than a hand-to-mouth business is being done.

Manchester.—In the cotton trade the demand has been poorer than expected, and the efforts of the bulls to force prices upwards have attracted more attention than the actual movements of the market. The linen departments are doing fairly well, and for the States there is a brisker turnover than usual. In the linen section of the trade there has been an increase in the demand for the West. The New York enquiry for flax goods has been improving for some time past, and orders from the West have been growing rapidly.

Nottingham.—Business in the lace trade runs along as usual. While finishers of cotton fancy laces cannot get the goods fast enough, firms confining themselves more exclusively to the silk branches are by no means well employed. The run on valenciennes, torchon, and cuny laces, with nets and insertions to match, continues, and some other descriptions of cotton laces are also selling fairly well. There is, however, no expansion in the sale of silk millinery laces, and production has been curtailed. Good quantities of curtains are being disposed of, and there is a fair demand for other goods made on curtain frames, but this section of the trade cannot be described as healthy, competition being severe. A steady business is being done in plain nets at about recent prices. There is a good business being done in made-up fancy goods. The hosiery trade is without much change. There are fair orders on hand, but all manufacturers are not fully employed.

South of Scotland.—The cotton yarn market shows a hardening disposition, and indications seem in favor of higher values. For buyers the position is rather perplexing as foreign markets continue very irresponsive. The turnover in fancy departments still keeps well above the average, sales having increased considerably. Millinery displays in the shops are at their best, with all the newest spring and summer goods. Increased activity in the retail trade gives a more cheerful tone to the wholesale.

LITERARY NOTES.

"Practical Cotton Calculations" is a new treatise by Ernest Whitworth, late teacher of designing and cloth analysis at the New Bedford, Mass., Textile School. This little work treats of cotton yarn, the structure of cloth and calculations