

any other reason for this most disgraceful state of affairs. Surely the Department of Finance must realize that the better the currency that is put in circulation the more anxious the people will be to get it, and, therefore, the larger circulation this money will have."

This matter has already been ventilated in THE DRY GOODS REVIEW, and merchants ought to enter a vigorous protest through their local M.P. It is well-known that where Government notes are returned to the Receiver-General's offices in the various cities, in the regular way, they are allowed to go out again dirty. Unless absolutely in tatters they are not destroyed by the Dominion officials.

THE ENGLISH SILK INDUSTRY.

A RECENT meeting of the English Silk Association drew forth some hopeful remarks regarding the future of that industry, which has suffered from decline of late years. A correspondent of The Dundee, Scot., Advertiser has been visiting the English silk districts, and thus writes of the Cheshire and Staffordshire silk group:

In Macclesfield and Leek Queen silk reigns supreme, and in Congleton, although it has declined greatly, its position is still important. The power loom exists, of course, but there is a peculiar interest attached to silk in that the hand loom still lingers, not only in the factory, but in the weavers' "garrets" at home. In Macclesfield there are probably a couple of thousand hand looms, and scattered over the surrounding portion of the fertile plain of Cheshire there exist little communities of weavers at Prestbury, Woodford and Hazel Grove. Eight miles from Macclesfield lies Congleton.

The staple trade of Macclesfield is the throwing and weaving of silk goods. This is no place for elementary technical details, but it may briefly be mentioned that "throwing" is the process by which the silk, reeled from the cocoon, is prepared for the loom. The throwing branch of the trade suffers more keenly from foreign competition than that of weaving, the cheap Italian and other foreign goods arriving in this country in large quantities. There have been times in the recent history of the trade when English "throws," as they are called, could have been bought for the value of the raw material, plus the cost of the labor, without any margin for profit, and although matters are not so bad as that just now, the trade is capable of improvement. A glance at the statistics bearing on the subject of the fluctuations in the silk trade since the French Treaty may easily deceive outsiders, and, as a matter of fact, figures have been the cause of most misleading inferences in the London press during recent references to the Spitalfields trade and the absurd attempt to revive it by inducing the Prince of Wales to wear figured silk waistcoats.

I have before me a series of silk brokers' circulars from 1851 to the present time. They show that 44 years ago we imported 46,000 bales of silk, and that from 1853 to 1863 the quantity was never less than 54,000 bales, while the average was a good deal higher, the figures in 1857 being 112,700 bales. Of late years the figure has been as low as 15,600 bales. To put it another way, in 1862 the raw silk imports were 10,295,000 lbs., and last year they had fallen to 1,585,000 lbs. What is the cause of this remarkable decline? Some will at once jump to the conclusion it is entirely attributable to the decay of the English silk trade. That is not altogether true, for to influences of this kind must be added the circumstance that London is no longer the silk market of the world. In the days of guilds and monopolies she enjoyed a supremacy which was acknowledged everywhere, to-day, vast though the shipping trade of the Thames may be, London is only one amongst other cities, many of which surpass her in certain important branches of commerce.

The greatest silk-producing centres in the world are on the continent, Lyons, of course, leading. For many years a large pro-

portion of the requirements of foreign throwsters was imported from the East by way of the Thames. Now they are importing direct, largely by way of Marseilles, which received 55,500 bales of China and Japan silks in 1880, against only 23,000 ten years before. This is a result which must naturally be expected, owing to the heavy subsidies granted to foreign steamship companies by their respective Governments, and which, to mention one instance out of many, enables a French company to maintain a regular service with the Persian Gulf at an actual loss on each voyage as far as that branch of their itinerary is concerned.

After making allowances for this circumstance, however, it must be admitted that there has been a decline in the British silk trade since the sixties. Thirty-four years ago we managed to export £1,122,000 worth of throws, twist and yarn. Last year the value was £296,000. The imports of foreign silk manufactures previous to 1860 did not exceed in value three millions. There has been a steady growth since then, and last year the imports exceeded fifteen millions, the principal supplies coming from Crefeld, St. Etienne, Lyons, Basle and Zurich.

PRICES OF MAGOG PRINTS.

In another column will be found the new price list of Magog prints issued since the last number of THE REVIEW appeared. It will be noticed that among the changes are several advances: 11. cloth regular, 3/4c. advance; ladies cloth, heavy and ex-heavy, have advanced 1c. each.

THEY READ THIS PAPER.

THE REVIEW called on Messrs. Detweiler & Co., of Sault Ste. Marie, recently, and found them in their handsome store, which is centrally situated. They are a new firm just starting in business, and are still receiving and opening up their stock of dry goods. Their first subscription to any journal was for THE DRY GOODS REVIEW.

SEND FOR A CATALOGUE.

The attachable dress shield, made of an odorless fibre, is the new thing advertised by D. C. Hall & Co., of 86 Leonard street, New York. It is an article of much merit, and one for which the trade has long been looking. Their great specialty of perforated buckskin underwear for men and women keeps this firm always before the trade, as they are headquarters on these goods, and dealers can always get any size or kind they want in large or small quantities from stock. This firm also makes a specialty of seamless Sanitas napkins for women's wear, which have already attained popularity. D. C. Hall & Co. are also selling agents for the Canfield diapers, bibs, sheets, stockinet and sheetings. Illustrated catalogue mailed on application.

SMALLWARES.

November is the month that merchants are always sorting up their smallware stock. W. R. Brock & Co.'s smallware department is an important section of their business, and is at all times well assorted with dry goods and dressmaking supplies. Several cases of hooks and eyes, elastics, tapes, pins, piping cords, braids, crochet cotton, etc., were passed into stock this week to keep a solid front.

CASHMERE HOSIERY.

S. Greenshields, Son & Co. have in stock a full range of heavy cashmere hosiery in tucked and 6 and 8 fold knees, all sizes. Their other regular stock of heavy, plain and ribbed lines suitable for the present season is also complete. They have just received a new consignment of their special line of all-wool ribbed cashmere No. 318 at \$2.25. Small sizes have also arrived in the same line.