

satisfied as to the political outlook, and we may look for prices hardening. In crossbred wools there is also more inquiry, and some further transactions are reported in pure lustre wools for the United States at top prices, and it may be noted that, notwithstanding the depression in the prices of nearly all other classes of wool, pure lustres have practically not given way at all. There continues to be also a considerable amount of quiet buying in mohair and alpaca, and one of the leading merchants in these classes says that if the recently increased rate of consumption of these bright materials goes on, the supply in merchants' hands will be practically exhausted before the new clips begin to arrive in May next. The enhanced prices of mohair and alpaca seem to have checked the trade in fine bright serges for lining purposes for the United States, but should the improved trade continue on the other side, we may expect American buyers to very shortly commence operating again in these goods. Although, of course, the warehouses present a somewhat quiet appearance, immense quantities of bright goods are lying on manufacturers' hands, ready for delivery the beginning of December as soon as the stock-taking is concluded. This feature of the trade is much more evident this year, as makers commenced to manufacture spring goods fully three months before their ordinary time for doing so. There is no particularly novel feature in the bright dress goods trade, except that a taste appears to be developing for more elaborate designs in jacquards in preference to the very neat patterns which were so much wanted at the end of last summer. In very fashionable circles pompadours are sure to be wanted, as well as stripes and checks. It is, of course, getting very late for the home trade in winter dress goods, and the weather has now for some weeks been too open for these lines to move freely, but it must be remembered that there are some months before it will be possible for really summer dresses to be worn, and stocks of winter dress goods are this year unusually small in both the wholesale and retail. Although the yarn market has been quiet lately, spinners are still fully employed, and the fact of a revival being felt in the demand for pure lustre and mohair wett yarns for the continent, shows clearly that makers are receiving new orders for bright goods there. In the worsted coating trade new orders have of late been arriving slowly, but the fact of the American manufacturers opening out the new season's trade with an advance in prices of from 10 to 15 per cent., has created a better inquiry for these goods on this market, and some new business is already reported at slightly reduced rates.

ROCHDALE.—A moderate amount of new orders are being placed. Manufacturers are still busy, and will be so for some time on orders already received. There is no change in prices, and the London wool sales will have little effect on the market. The mills are working full time, and stocks are now reduced to so low a point that there is every probability of machinery being well employed during the greater part of the winter.

LEEDS.—Although business is rather quiet, prices are upheld. There is not the least falling-off in the production of first-class worsted, nor of union worsteds, for which the ready-made clothing firms are good customers. A few lots of winter assortments have been cleared out at fully former prices. Blue and black friezes have risen in price because of an extraordinarily large shipping order. Curl serges, matelassés, sealskins, and union shirtings sell satisfactorily. Demand for covert coatings is larger than usual, and for scotch and fancy tweeds generally there are plenty of customers both at home and abroad. Large quantities of flannels in special patterns are offered at prices from which the makers allow no concessions. Blankets are very active, particularly colored. All the ready-made clothing factories are in full swing on account of both the present and next season, and also on account of colonial orders.

Huddersfield.—The woollen and worsted cloth manufactures this week show rather a falling off as compared with the month past. The termination of the winter trade makes a good deal of difference, but producers of goods for that season are not at all slack of employment, because some who are usually large buyers for America are placing conditional orders in view of the winter of 1896. Orders for spring cloths have flowed in more largely than

ever both to home trade and shipping merchants. The run is chiefly upon fine and medium fancy worsteds, vicunas and serges. At the same time serges of a lower grade and low-priced tweeds are ordered freely by the ready-made clothing firms. The shipment of cloths to Canada and the United States for the spring season is nearly completed.

DUNDEE.—The makers of looms and spinning frames in this district are all very busy, their order books being full of Indian business for months to come. The Glasgow strike already tells on the demand for Forfarshire goods. Drapers cannot be expected to buy linens while the wages of thousands of their customers have ceased to be paid. The deplorable and far-reaching injury done by these disputes and the loss to workers in other trades can hardly be overrated.

BELFAST.—The market continues very firm throughout. Manufacturers as a rule are well supplied with orders and will only book further ahead on their own terms. Yarns are steadily advancing, and wett lines are now firmly held at 3s. 1½d. in the range, a rise of 3d. since September 1st. The demand at the moment is well sustained, and prices are likely to go higher. For brown power-loom goods there has been a moderately brisk demand, and in the coarser sets considerably more might have been done had manufacturers cared to book. They are so full of orders for tow-made goods that they are quite unable to deliver in reasonable time, and prefer to refuse orders so that they may catch up with their work. Damasks are going off very fairly, and house-keeping goods generally are selling well. There is a better inquiry for handkerchiefs, and cambric cloth is in good request. Hand-loom linens are meeting with their full share of attention. Prices are firm, and are certain to remain so, owing to the increasing difficulty year by year of getting competent weavers. The younger people do not take to the looms, and as the old folk die off the production gradually gets less. Bleached linens for home consumption have been more inquired after. There is practically no alteration to report on export account, the volume of fresh business keeping up fairly well. Taking all around, the market is in an extremely healthy condition, and the outlook for the coming year is very cheerful.

LYONS.—The raw silk market is quiet, and what business is done is in small lots. Prices are fairly firm, but when holders are anxious to sell they can only do so by making concessions. The figures registered by the Lyons Silk Conditioning Works for the week ending November 14th, give a relatively large total—139,917 kilos, against 119,064 kilos for the corresponding week of 1894. But that total does not represent actual transactions of recent date. In it are included deliveries of Asiatic silk resulting from previous transactions. Two principal causes—besides the one that the large buying previously done for European account has naturally led to a reaction—may be made responsible for the present stagnation. One of these is the political situation. An article of luxury like silk is likely to feel very quickly the financial strain resulting from a clouded and uncertain political situation. The other cause is the condition of affairs in America, which deprives the silk market of the strong support it would have received from the United States had fall business there been as good as it has been in Europe. But with all this, and with a few weeks of actual stagnation, prices have stood the test well. While here and there some weakness is seen, no sensible decline has occurred. Buyers from Paris have been in this market, and have operated sufficiently for ready delivery to keep the movement of goods from stock on a fair scale. Further orders for spring delivery have been placed for Paris and London account, and buyers from America are beginning to arrive and will make their presence felt. But the feature in the situation as far as spring business is concerned is that manufacturers have too much to do and cannot make deliveries on new orders until after the first quarter of 1896. The looms are provided with work ahead for several months, and there is more anxiety on the part of manufacturers to obtain looms than for weavers to obtain work. Printed goods of all kinds have received much attention for spring, and warp-printed effects will undoubtedly find good consumption.