

also speak of the cumbersome nature of the divisions of the system—kilogram, centimetre, millimetre, etc., contrasting them with inch, pound, grain, and so on. In actual use one does not find these names so cumbersome; it is just as easy to ask for a "metre of ribbon" as a "yard of ribbon," or for a "kilo. of sugar" as for a "pound of sugar," for a "litre of milk" as for a "pint of milk"; and when a mechanic wants a screw it is certainly not more difficult to inquire for a "millimetre screw" than for a "thirty-second of an inch screw." It is apparent that the writers have simply an abstract knowledge, gleaned from tables of the measures, rather than a practical knowledge of the working of the metric system. We should say that a person comparing the table of weights on the metric system with those on the avoirdupois system could not fail to be struck with the simplicity of the former compared with the latter, and the greater ease with which calculations can be made; say, for instance, a person weighing one hundred bales of cotton in cwt.s., qrs., lbs., on the one system, and in kilos. on the other, and obtaining the total weight of the parcel by the process of addition. Many people seem to think that when the metric system is adopted they will have to change the yard into the metre, and the pound into the kilo. in all transactions, but this is not so; in place of the yard and the pound we shall have the metre and the kilo. It would be far better to discard the old terms at once and adopt new names with new standards."

Foreign Textile Centres

Manchester.—In the Manchester cotton market the Sully failure in New York caused a temporary panic, but the market recovered in a few days, and Egyptian and Brazilian cottons came up again also after some fluctuations. The yarn market appears uncertain. The Textile Mercury says spinners report that things are dragging, and there seems to be at present no relief in sight. Even the lessened output of the machinery is not being cleared, some instances of stocks of twist being mentioned. Irregularity in quotations is noted according to the varying conditions obtaining. Medium and fine wefts are holding their own fairly well, but in these also demand is hampered by the harassing condition of the raw material. Inquiry for piece-goods is reported fairly abundant, but the offers in most cases are found to be low. Indian buyers appear to have few instructions to place new business at the moment, and, excepting for isolated small transactions, it has been an altogether disappointing week. Shirtings have shown no improvement, and the small trade done has been effected only after the greatest difficulty in negotiation. China buyers have done a little in specialties, but shirtings and heavy goods are reported still of sale. In odd quarters rather more has been done for the South American markets, but the Continental outlets are not very active at the moment. Egyptian advices are rather unsatisfactory. The cattle plague is seriously interfering with inquiry from Alexandria. Printers of fine-reed kinds are fairly well engaged, and a moderate trade in a quiet way continues to be put through; but in the common Burnley makes there is a somewhat depressed tone at the moment. T-cloths and mexicans can only be sold at extremely low prices, and, notwithstanding short time, there are stocks to be met with.

Huddersfield.—Operations are limited, and caution is observed by merchants with respect to the winter trade, and orders are sent forward slowly. The Continental trade is still confined to the most expensive grades of worsteds, and only choice designs are looked at. Nearly all kinds of cloth were bought for Canada and Australia, but South Africa remained a slow market. Cheap woollen manufacturers are well employed, and some makers of good worsteds have since last week put their hands on full time. This, however, is exceptional.

Bradford.—It is thought by many that the war in the east will stimulate trade here as it did during the South African war, especially in goods made from crossbred wools. Maritime trade is quiet. Argentine wools are being more extensively used throughout Yorkshire than formerly. There has been a large increase in the consumption of such wools in Bradford in the past year. Men to-day see that if the Continent can use River Plate wools to advantage, then there is no reason why Bradford cannot do likewise. According to reports there seems to be more doing in mohair in the United States than in Bradford. Here things are quieter than they have been for years back, and hardly anything but a few low Capes and Turkey yellows are being sold. Cape firsts have sold relatively better than Turkey average, and one can buy even the former at a shilling per pound. There seems to be a little call for Cape mohair, but Turkey best qualities are altogether neglected because there is no dress trade doing.

Dewsbury.—Canada is again buying after a period of slackness the usual qualities in merinos extracted and unseamed, in darks, lights, grays, etc. Coarse whites for the hosiery trades are taken freely again. Worsteds in the carded state and steel grays, if fine, are asked for; black stock to a certain extent is taken freely, and a few other lines that are not produced in the Dominion are asked for.

Kidderminster.—The Shuttle reports that all the carpet and spinning mills are busy and employment is good. Special orders are being received, and requests are made for immediate delivery. The wool market remains very firm, and spinners have been obliged to advance their prices for carpet yarns.

Kirkcaldy.—A large amount of business is passing the linoleum trade, which continues steadily active. With regard to the linen industry, there is practically no change in yarn prices, which remain quite firm. The home trade is buying little cloth, but the Americans are free buyers, and some pretty large orders have been placed recently, while others are in course of negotiation.

Belfast.—Market conditions show a rather improving tendency. Prices were very firm and a shade harder. The spinning branch is steady. Delay in deliveries is still a matter of complaint. The manufacturing end of the market rather more than maintained the position; the demand is broadening out, and business placed showed a slight improvement. White goods were in fairly strong request, particularly for the United States, buying being well up to an average, and there was more doing in the Colonies and South America.

Dundee.—Following an increased list for linen goods by one of the large firms, a general rise of 5 to 7½ per cent. on prices is anticipated. Raw materials and yarns have crept up for some months, but manufactured goods have not till now followed at the same ratio. Flax is quite firm. For good quality the top quotation must be paid. Bejetsky