

though this bright outlook is, to some extent, interfered with by the disturbed state of South Africa. The fact that to-day the prices of fine merino wool and tops are higher than they have been for ten years past is naturally causing consumers to hesitate and ask to what extent these high prices will cause other wools to supplant these fine colonial wools, and the upward tendency of prices to be checked. At present in this market there is not the slightest sign of any declension in the values of merino, but each market day sees the price gradually creeping upward. The fact that a distinct improvement has set in both in the demand and price of the lower and cheaper kinds of crossbred colonial wool is really of more importance than the more sensational advance in pure merino wools, as by far the greater portion of the world's production of these crossbred wools is dealt with by the combing machines of Bradford. English down wools, which are very similar in character to some colonial crossbred wools, are no less than 3d. per lb. up in the last three months, and English pure lustre wool is also in specially good demand. As might be expected when bright dress goods are in such high favor, the quotations for both raw mohair and alpaca are extremely firm at the considerable advance already established. Worsted spinners of all kinds are now extremely busy, and the trade has become so healthy that it is quite possible for a spinner to get orders which enable him to cover with raw material the same day at a price which left quite a satisfactory margin of profit, and a business of the above kind has for long past been impossible. The autumn season's orders were largely placed before any great advance in the prices of raw material had taken effect, and, therefore, makers would not be able to undertake repeat orders for fine winter dress goods at anything like the rates at which they took the original orders. Makers of coating costume cloths sold either the same or very similar cloths for winter, in a slightly darker range of shades, as they had sold for summer, and there has, of course, been no trouble in getting buyers to accept deliveries of these goods this year. The demand for high-class black fancy dress goods has, up to the present, been hardly equal to last year as far as the home trade is concerned, as the tendency of fashion in the direction of wearing more tightly fitting skirts has made some of the very raised crepon effects to some extent unsuitable. Bradford makers are now, however, producing novelties in fancy black dress goods which are more suited to these closely fitting styles, and these are being exceedingly well received in the trade, and there is no doubt that the wear will be far more satisfactory. For the United States the mohair blister crepons have, however, quite retained their hold in the affections of lady dress wearers up to the present time. Whether on account of the extremely high price of fine wools, or because fashion is ever demanding change, it is hard to say, but there is no doubt that quite recently there have been extremely strong indications that amongst the leaders of fashion Scotch tweeds were coming rapidly into favor as dress materials. No account, however short, of the autumn season's trade, would be at all complete without mention of the immense development of the trade in mercerized cotton goods, in which department of the trade the Bradford district dyers have been easily first. As the high-class foreign made fine soft cloths for costume purposes have been to some extent discarded on account of the great rise in prices, there has occurred a great opportunity for Morley and those parts of the Leeds district where light cheap wooleens are produced, and this opportunity has been taken full advantage of, as to-day these makers are extremely busy on some slightly fabrics at moderate prices.

BELFAST.—This linen market fully maintains its position, the demand gradually expanding at full rates. The spinning branch is unchanged, producers still declining to do more than a sorting-up trade; prices are exceedingly stiff for wefts, and

hardening for warp yarns. The manufacturing end is brisk; stocks are very small or else non-existent, and current buying is fully equal to production, says *The Textile Mercury*. White goods for local and cross-Channel consumption have met with a freer sale, and some very respectable orders are coming forward; prices are steadily hardening. The States are the turn better, and Cuba keeps active. The Continental demand tends to expand regularly.

ROCHDALE.—At the flannel market recently new orders were rather limited. Still, they are more than sufficient with what manufacturers have in hand to keep works busy. Much interest is centered in the London wool sales, and some manufacturers back their views by indifference towards fresh business at current values.

KIRKCALDY.—In the weaving industry machinery is fully employed, while linoleum and floorcloth manufacturers are doing a large and increasing business, and prospects as regards both industries are good.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Not much can be said of the carpet trade any more than that travelers are now starting on their journeys to open the season, and that the wholesale and shipping orders already received are fully satisfactory in quantity if not in price. The yarn trade generally is certainly better. Wool is stiffer, and spinners have more to do; consequently much business is declined at old prices. The movement in carpet yarns is slow, but, without any established advance, such yarns cannot now be bought so well as they could a week or so ago.

LEEDS.—Business done by cloth manufacturers on Tuesday was not of much importance, as so many had gone to the opening of the wool sales. There is, however, an abundance of orders to go on with, and deliveries are proceeding uninterruptedly both to the home trade and shippers. Rough-faced cloths do not go off so well for winter overcoatings as they did, and this branch is about the only one which is slack. Meltons, to a great extent, are taking their place, and makers are engaged on unusually large orders at a little advance on former prices. There is also more activity among mantle cloth makers, but all are not doing equally well. Dyers and finishers are brisk operators in woollen cloth, and mills seldom had fuller or better paid employment than now, writes the correspondent of *The Textile Mercury*.

NOTTINGHAM.—There has been a steady demand for yarns, but orders are sparingly placed, as buyers are less willing to pay full quotations. Fine yarns for nets are selling in good quantities, and the sales of yarns for curtains and heavy nets are fully up to the average. There is a steady demand for merino and cashmere yarns, for which the highest quotations are adhered to. There is no change in the bobbin net trade. Goods are scarce and prices are high. Business in the fancy lace warehouses is rather languid.

LEICESTER.—The hosiery trade is brisker all round, with larger deliveries of heavy fabrics, while prices have a decidedly upward tendency. The yarn market is very healthy and active in all departments, and the whole of the output is absorbed as fast as it is produced at very firm prices.

LYONS.—The general tone of the Lyons raw silk market at last mail advices was one of weakness, says the *Dry Goods Economist*, New York, while prices did not show any actual decline there was less buying, and weaker Asiatic markets influenced the local situation. As buyers have not been active with their demand, sellers, who had become accustomed to have everything their own way, have become more tractable. Japan silk could be obtained at lower prices than had been asked previously, and in Levant and European sorts also sellers did not insist on full figures. Some buyers have profited by this period of rest to make some purchases, but a more general demand would