

done in thick two-fold yarns made from low crossbred wools both for this market and the Continent. There is a better enquiry for pure lustre English wools, and also for all classes of fine down wools, and some of the cheaper kinds of home-grown wools are being taken readily at very bottom prices. Both raw alpaca and mohair are quite firm, and spinners of mohair yarns are not only busy for the present time, but have booked heavy weights of these yarns on home account for several months' delivery ahead. Spinners of merino yarns are finding that users are gradually bringing themselves to believe in the reality of the advance in prices, and in some instances some heavy weights of fine crossbreds and merinos have in the last few days been actually arranged for. The demand for two-folds for the Continental export trade is dull generally, but there is a very large business doing in thick numbers to the woolen manufacturing districts of Germany and Austria. Manufacturers are generally well employed, and the production of the Bradford looms continues to be large, although, no doubt, a good deal of the work now going through is at prices arranged before the greater part of the advance in raw material had taken effect. Makers of such goods as cashmeres, worsted Italians, and fine coating costume cloths, are finding it difficult to obtain the full proportionate advance for these goods where the fact of their being largely composed of fine makes the rise look very large, but where old makes cannot be sold, these are being substituted by new ones where the advance is present just the same, but is not so distinctly in evidence. Foreign manufacturers of fine wool fabrics are asking advances equal to, if not in excess of, the demands of the British makers. Although the advance in mohair is not as great as that of fine merino wool, still the raw material and mohair yarns are very considerably up so that a distinctly higher level of prices must rule in bright fabrics, as well as in fine soft wool goods. There seems to be ground for the belief that the tendency in favor of wearing tweed costumes, which has been noticed for the coming winter season, will become more defined in the spring of 1900.

ROCHDALE.—At the flannel market recently new business for the home trade was in very small dimensions, but some orders are still coming forward for export, although the bulk of them have now been placed. This early arrangement of orders is of considerable assistance to manufacturers, as it has enabled them to work to order, when otherwise they would have been aiming at a blind mark and working to stock until late in the year. Prices are very firm indeed, and for some descriptions of flannel there is an upward tendency.

KIDDERMINSTER.—The delivery of carpet is still rather better than usual, and no stock is being made. Enquiries for large orders for next season are about, and the probability is that the slack interval between seasons will be shorter than has been the case for some years. The yarn trade shows little change. Some stocks have been cleared at very low prices, but, on the whole, the price of yarn in a regular way is firm. Spinners are rather better off for a good many markets, and are less and less inclined to make carpet yarn until they can see a better return.

NOTTINGHAM.—Lace and curtain yarns, although nominally unchanged in value, are only in languid demand this week. There is a steady demand for suitable qualities of net yarns. Hosiery cottons are slow of sale, but merino and cashmere yarns are in strong request, and prices are firm. There is no change in the bobbin net trade. The machinery is well engaged, and there are no stocks. Business in the fancy millinery lace warehouses is languid.

LEICESTER.—The hosiery industry is in a healthy and active condition, and the expansion in trade is in both home and export branches. Canadian, Australian and Indian orders are above the average. The yarn market is in a healthy

condition, and the heavy deliveries are well maintained with a strong tendency in quotations. The stocks all round are small and even in low worsteds, where the competition has been excessively keen, prices are very steady on a low basis. Cashmere yarns of both French and English production sell very freely indeed at full prices, and lambs' wool and fancy yarns are very firm. Cotton yarns are steady.

KIRKCALDY.—Trade in this district has seldom been in such a flourishing state as during the first six months of this year, the linoleum and linen industries especially.

BELFAST.—A well sustained demand characterizes the various branches of the market and though the half-yearly period of stocktaking interfered with business the general turnover has been above the average. Owing to the July holidays practically nothing has been done in local circles recently, says the correspondent of *The Dry Goods Economist*, New York. Production of yarns and cloth will be trifling, but this will add to the strength of the market. Prices at the moment are very firm, and in the coarse end particularly the tendency toward an upward movement is well marked. Yarns have met with a regular consumptive, if not brisk, demand during the past two weeks and enough has been done to keep stocks in check. Spinners are well supplied with forward orders for medium and coarse sorts, and in prices are very firm. The range of line wets is quoted at 3s., and no doubt will be higher before long. Brown power and hand loom linens in the various widths and weights have changed hands regularly, and fresh business added to that on hand will keep producers well employed. Tow goods and unions were bought freely and demand has every appearance of stability. Damasks and housekeeping goods have gone steadily into consumption and tendency is toward improvement. Dress goods have been very active, but the season is about over. Drills have met with substantial support and stocks trifling. Brown handlooms remain unaltered. Sellers, however, are rather stiffer to deal with and any spurt in demand will undoubtedly mean higher rates. White goods for home trade have sold in sorting-up fashion pending completion of stocktaking. General export trade is quite satisfactory. With the Continent, as usual at this time of the year, things are quiet. The demand from the United States, Canada and Australia is more than sustained. Cuban trade is expanding by leaps and bounds, and no appearance of check in same.

LYONS.—The Lyons raw silk market has been less animated lately. The offers from the producing districts became more numerous, which seemed to have a reassuring effect on the buyers who showed themselves less anxious to secure supplies in advance at the high figures asked by the producers. The volume of deals was therefore smaller, but the prices remained unchanged owing to the great firmness of the holders. It is recognized now that the cocoons have been paid too high and that it will not be possible to realize a profit on the raw silk unless a further advance can be obtained. Unusual resistance on the part of the holders against any efforts to lower the prices again is therefore anticipated. The trade is inclined to believe that the conditions of the market are such as to justify their attitude, but increased caution is shown by the manufacturers, who seem now to watch further developments more calmly. It is conceded that stocks are very low, but shipments of new silk are beginning to arrive from the Chinese ports, which will soon be reinforced by arrivals from other districts. A real scarcity could therefore be only of short duration and no nervousness can any longer be detected, even on the part of those mills which are inadequately provided with raw materials. A steady market, based on sound conditions, is looked for during the near future, equally free from the dangers of a sudden rise or fall in the value of silk. The deals during the week were without any special interest. European greges were again