

station at a time when everything points to the future supply of London with electric current being carried out from works of the largest size, when electricity will be manufactured not in teaspoonfuls, but upon an enormous scale, so that the Marylebone station will be virtually obsolete before five years have passed.

"Great caution should always be exercised in London boroughs in pledging their future too heavily, if only because there are numerous instances in the immediate past of social migrations and of the decay of once prosperous and wealthy districts. The final conclusion, however, will be that our system of government is at fault in permitting so vast an outlay being incurred against the wishes of those who will have to pay the bill, and against the real interests of the poorer ratepayers, who do not use electric light and probably never will."

POST-OFFICE MYSTERIES.

The clerks in the foreign branch of the post-office in New York, says the Epworth Herald, have many amusing episodes to tell. One day a modest young man, after inspecting the mail-slots marked "foreign," "city" and "domestic," approached the clerk at the window.

"Where do you mail letters?" he asked.

"Ascertaining that the letter was for city delivery, the clerk told the man to drop it in the slot marked "city." The modest man went over, read the inscriptions, and came back to the window with the letter still in his hand.

"Well, did you mail it?" inquired the clerk.

"No," replied the man; "I don't know what to do. You see, it's this way. She lives in the city, but she's a foreigner and a domestic."

On the same day a man approached the window, and, thrusting in a money order, asked for the cash. "We don't cash these here," said the clerk. "This is the foreign branch."

The man leaned over and said, confidentially, "I know this is the foreign branch. That's why I came here. That order is from my father-in-law in Cincinnati, and"—lowering his voice—"he is a foreigner."

THE TEXTILE CENTRES.

Business in Bradford, Yorkshire, has been quiet in all kinds of both home and colonial wools, not because there was any sign of less confidence in the trade, but because stocks of wool are now reduced to an unusually low ebb. As the quantity of wool offering at the present London Colonial wool sales is small, a little excitement there might make the process of covering orders extremely

expensive. Attention has repeatedly been drawn to the unusually high values of all kinds of crossbred colonial wools at the present time, and it was certainly the opinion of some of the large users that the prices of these wools had reached high water-mark at the July sales in London. Since that time, however, prices have put on another 10 per cent., and there is every reason to expect that this advance will be fully maintained quite up to the end of the present sales. There can be no doubt that very dear crossbred wools must mean the dropping out of use of a good many cheap fabrics used by the million which are made from these wools, and of decline in this branch of wool consumption. Any tendency towards lower values seems to be more than counteracted by the great increase in the consumption of crossbred wools in the woollen and tweed trades, and the fact that the attenuated stocks of crossbred wools will not be replenished by the new season's wool to nearly the same extent that the available supply of merino wool will be increased. Most of the leading makers of mohair dress goods, both in plains and also in very neat fancy effects, report that they have sold very good quantities of these goods much more freely in the home trade for the coming spring season than was the case a year ago. It is said that creams and light shades of grey and fawn will also be in demand for dust-coats.

Prices for raw silk softened somewhat during the present week, says the Dry Goods Economist, due to the unwillingness of manufacturers to pur-

chase to any extent at the present high rates quoted, for the reason that prices for the spring season of 1906 for the finished materials are not yet established. It is the opinion of manufacturers that but little relief from the present high prices will be experienced during the spring 1906 buying season, as the most reliable reports from foreign raw silk centres are to the effect that high prices are to rule for some time to come. The raw silk market still shows a comparative advance of 15 per cent. as compared with prices that ruled one year ago, with No. 1 Japan filatures as a basis for comparison.

—An eccentric farmer near Highland, Kansas, was married the other night. "Do you," said the preacher, "take this woman to be your wedded wife, to love and to cherish in sickness and health, for better, for worse, for rich or for poor, until death do you part?" There was an awkward pause. Then the bridegroom finally replied, "Them's the calculations."—New York Tribune.

—Genius that may grow to great things must have been born in the office boy of whom the St. Louis Post-Despatch tells this story: The "boss" was bending over a table, looking at the directory. The new office boy slipped up quietly and put a note in his hand. The boss read: "Honored Sir. Your pants is ripped." The boy's pay was raised.

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