

attended, even if the competition is not keen, but there will probably be some hesitation shown on the opening days. The price of fine merino wools and tops in this market to-day are probably some 7½ per cent. below the rates which obtained at the close of the last London sales, but with the exception of the nervousness which is always developed in a market after prices have been falling for some time, there is no apparent reason why rates should have dropped even as low as this. There has been a further fall in the quotations for South American or B.A. merino both at Antwerp and the other continental wool exchanges, but I understand that this fall is generally attributed to the action of some financiers, who wish the market to be depressed, and are pursuing a "bear" policy. Other raw materials required for the textile trades, such as silk and cotton, have recently shown considerable weakness, and, of course, in the case of silk prices, have quite broken down, but as merino wool first commenced to fall, it is quite possible that wool may be the first to start on the upward grade of prices. Although colonial crossbred wools have not shown nearly the same drop that merinos have done, the market in the coarser description of these colonial wools has for some time been weak, and any distinguishable tendency recently has been slightly in favor of buyers. As there is still some hesitation amongst users of serge dress goods and men's wear as to whether plain finished coating serges or cheviot serges are to be the most fashionable, worsted yarn spinners are also compelled to defer the purchasing of their wool until they see whether they will require raw material with milling properties for chevots, or brighter wools for the smart coating finish. When it is definitely settled which class of goods is to be most fashionable, prices of the most suitable wools will at once commence to rise. Unusually little interest is being taken by the buyers from this market in the various country wool fairs which have been held throughout the country during the month, and farmers are holding on to the produce of their flocks wherever they are able to do so, rather than accept the very low prices which wool dealers are offering. It should be understood, however, that, with the exception of pure lustre wool, very little English wool is used for either dress goods or the better classes of men's wear goods. The great bulk of home-grown wools are used for hosiery, upholstery cloths, and carpets, so that the price of the general run of home-grown wools has no effect whatever on the cost of dress goods. There is no change in the prices of raw mohair or alpaca, and if the spinner and manufacturer are to receive anything like a fair remuneration for their labors, the price of bright dress goods should be advanced, as the present basis of prices was established when raw material was very much cheaper. Although worsted spinners who confine their attention to English wools and colonial crossbreds of a similar character are still busy both for the home market and the Continent, new business is not specially plentiful, and the yarn market throughout has recently been distinctly quiet. For piece goods it is, of course, between seasons, as the goods required for the spring season are now to a great extent in the hands of the retailers, and it is still too early for the trend of fashion to be sufficiently indicated for any large number of repeat orders for the autumn season's requirements in dress goods. The heavier and more warmly-finished fabrics, which have been in such good demand for the autumn season, are more than holding their own in competition with the more smartly-finished coating serges, and there are distinct indications that even for the coming spring season fabrics of a tweedy character will in a modified form be in vogue. When these fabrics of a tweed nature have been fashionable before, there has always been great difficulty in obtaining a finish for them equal to that given by manufacturers who had always confined their attention to these goods, so to speak, on their native heath; but now I am glad to find that at

least one firm of dyers here are not only finishing locally produced goods most satisfactorily, but are actually getting goods to finish from tweed and frieze districts. As the time for buying approaches the feeling is growing that really good plain mohair goods will again be much worn for the summer season of 1901, but it is to be hoped that blacks will not be as much in request by that time. The clothing factories of Leeds and Huddersfield are still busy, and the buying of summer garments seems to be continued much later on into the season this year.

HALIFAX.—The following is the Chamber of Commerce trade report for June: Wool—The trade during June has been very quiet. Unfortunately, merino sorts have made another drop in prices, and English wool and strong crossbreds have barely held their own. Worsted Yarns—There is no improvement to record in this branch during the month. Pieces—Manufacturers all round are very quiet, and few new orders are being placed. The China disturbance has affected the Oriental trade, and the uncertainty of the future value of wools operates adversely to the giving of orders. Spun Silk—During the month prices have become slightly firmer, especially in Eastern materials, and machinery has been fairly well employed. Carpets—There has been a brisk demand for goods, and looms have been kept busily employed. Cotton—Bundle yarns, both single and two-fold, are exceedingly slow, only very small lots changing hands. Fustian weaving is steady. The wholesale clothing houses are doing less business than for some time past.

ROCHDALE.—Business on the flannel market recently, says the Textile Mercury, was rather quiet, considering the time of the year. The manufacturers are busy working on old contracts, and they have a difficulty in delivering at the time arranged. The merchants' travelers are now on their rounds, and increased repeat orders are expected. There is no change in prices, and so far as can be ascertained they are practically settled for the season.

KINDERMINSTER.—The carpet trade is growing more quiet in places; in others it is still busy. The constant repeats from the retail trade, and the early enquiries of the wholesale and shipping houses, point to a healthy state of the trade. Buyers' actions are probably hastened by a fear of higher prices of all classes of carpet; the cheap materials are nearly all used up, and makers begin to feel more plainly the general advance in everything that they use. Not much can be said of the yarn trade. General stocktaking has deadened business more than ever, and any business that has passed in the last few days is not enough, or of a nature, on which to base a report.

NOTTINGHAM.—The lace trade is without much change, and there are a good many complaints among makers and finishers. The silk fancy lace trade is in a depressed condition. Orders are given out very slowly for the goods, and the machines engaged in the production of silk millinery laces are very differently employed. There is a steady business doing in the more fashionable varieties of cotton laces, but the demand can be readily supplied, and there is no pressure of orders. Valenciennes, torchon, and Victoria laces are among the more fashionable varieties. All-over nets are still in some request. The curtain trade is in a somewhat languid condition, and machinery is not fully employed. Even the plain net trade shows a slight falling off. Makers have had as yet no need to curtail production, but new orders are being placed less freely, and buyers are inclined to resist the high prices demanded. The making-up branches are fairly active. In the hosiery trade cashmere stockings are in fair request, and there are good orders on hand for underclothing.

LEICESTER.—The yarn market is cheerful on the whole, but the transactions, if numerous, are on a small scale and merely to tide over current necessities. The deliveries under old contracts are still sufficiently large to prevent the accumulation