

**CONTRACTION OF COTTON.**

Strong alkaline lyes produce in cotton threads a contraction amounting to about one-quarter of their length, but this can be prevented by stretching the cotton and keeping it stretched during the mercerization and until the lye has been washed out. The process about to be described, however, reduces the contraction to a negligible quantity. The cotton is placed in caustic potash lye at the ordinary temperature, and after having been dried at a low temperature, is rinsed in a lukewarm soap bath. The details for cotton yarn are as follows: The cotton is first soaked with warm water and then centrifuged. The object of this preliminary treatment is to enable the lye to penetrate the cotton quickly and uniformly. The cotton is next worked from 15 to 30 minutes in cold potash lye of 35 deg. B., and then centrifuged and dried at a temperature of 35 deg. C. It is then rinsed in the warm soap bath. The contraction after this treatment is, for big counts, about 2 per cent. of the length, but may reach  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. with the very finest yarns. Another important point is that the yarn, as it requires no stretching like that mercerized with caustic soda, is not subjected to the weakening action of that stretching as that mercerized with soda is, and is consequently far stronger and more durable. The new process also gives a very high lustre, very different from the parchment-like appearance of yarn mercerized with caustic soda while stretched.—S. Eisensten in *Farber und Wascher*.

**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR CLOTHING.**

The following bids for clothing for the U.S. army submitted to the quartermaster's office at Boston, will doubtless be of interest to the trade: 50,000 pairs of wool drawers, from 59 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents to 65 cents per pair; 50,000 cotton undershirts, 22.21 cents each; 50,000 heavy wool undershirts with collar-ettes, from 58 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents to 65 cents each; 50,000 light wool undershirts, with collar-ettes, 40 cents each. At Philadelphia the following bids were received: 100,000 pairs jean drawers, from 26 cents to 26.5-6 cents per pair; 50,000 pairs knit wool drawers, 57 cents per pair; 50,000 pairs wool stockings, heavy weight, from 26.73 cents to 27 cents per pair; 100,000 pairs light weight wool stockings, from 19.97 cents to 21 cents per pair; 50,000 cotton undershirts, with collar-ette, from 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents to 25.11-12 cents each; 50,000 wool undershirts, heavy, 54 cents each; 50,000 wool undershirts, light, 35-49 cents each.

**STRIKERS BOYCOTT A CHURCH.**

The strike at the Beoli Mills, West Fitchburg, Mass., has developed a feature that is unique. It is stated that among the worshippers at the Methodist church the weavers constitute a larger part, and in their number it is said there is a family that seems to be trying to break the strike in favor of the American Woolen Company. The strikers' latest move is reported to have been the notification of the pastor that as long as this family goes to church there, just so long the majority of the men will stay away. Not much seriousness was given the matter or much thought either, but the Sunday service, it is learned, was reduced to a small number by the act. This is believed to be the only instance on record where a church has been boycotted in the endeavor to win a strike.—*Textile Manufacturers' Journal*.

—The woolen and cotton yarn districts of Philadelphia were damaged by fire on the 2nd of July to the extent of about \$200,000. Several stocks of yarn were destroyed.

**THE TWINE MARKET.**

The prospect of a good crop in Manitoba and the Northwest has given firmness to the market for binder twine. Business has become active and orders are coming in rapidly. Prices for the remainder of the season will be regulated mainly by developments with regard to demand. As the season progresses and the true state of affairs with reference to supply and demand comes to light the price will go up or down, according to developments. Manufacturers are divided on the question of supply. Some say there will be enough, others predict shortage. The crop conditions at this time, all things considered, are not favorable to an adequate supply, but a great deal of twine will be made in the next few weeks. Whether it will be enough remaining to be seen. In any event a surplus now seems out of the question.

The Consumers' Cordage Co. quotes the following prices: Sisal, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; standard, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; manila (550 foot), 13¢; manila (600 foot), 14¢; pure manila, 15¢. These are wholesale prices.

**NOTABLE CARPETS.**

The Royal carpet factory at Wilton has just turned out three very fine carpets for the hall of the Goldsmiths' Company. The Goldsmiths' is one of the twelve great London livery companies, and though not so wealthy as the Mercers' or the Drapers', or even the Clothworkers', is still able to afford decent carpets for its hall, as will be seen from the description of the new ones. Of the three carpets, that made for the Court drawing-room is the handsomest, and combines effects in design which can only be found in hand-made fabrics. It measures 40 feet 2 inches in length, by 26 feet 9 inches in width, and is woven in lustrous worsteds, which impart a very striking appearance. Some idea of the work involved in the weaving of such a carpet may be gathered from the fact that 11 weavers have been continuously engaged in the manufacture during 16 weeks, and that it contains rather more than 5,300,000 (five and a half million) knots. The border itself is 6 feet wide in the Georgian style, with festoons of roses, etc., in shades of pink, purple, etc., and with a medallion in each corner. The margin of the carpet is of rich maroon color, 18 in. deep. The centre of the carpet is made up of a small design in two shades of purple crimson. The chief feature, however, is the coat-of-arms of the Goldsmiths' Company. This is worked in vivid shades of heraldic blue, red, green and purple on a pure white ground, and is surmounted with the typical figure of justice holding the scales. Underneath the coat-of-arms the motto is worked in black letters, "Justitia virtutum regina." The coat-of-arms measures about 10 feet by 9 feet, and is edged by a scroll of similar design and coloring as the border. Altogether 46 colors have been used in the manufacture of this beautiful specimen of hand-woven carpets.

The other two carpets, made of Saxony yarn, measure respectively 31 feet 8 inches by 28 feet 4 inches, and 36 feet 4 inches by 28 feet 2 inches, the larger of the two containing over 5,200,000 knots. The centres of these carpets are of the same design as the Court drawing-room carpet, minus the coat-of-arms, but the border of these consists of a bold scroll in golds and golden browns. Altogether, the three carpets furnish examples of hand-woven manufacture which are rarely seen except in Royal palaces, and will, it is claimed, vie with the choicest productions of Oriental looms. The old carpets in the Goldsmiths' Hall were first laid in 1835, and the new ones are in design, coloring and texture reproductions.