

MAKING QUICK REPAIRS ON KNITTING MACHINES.

There are times when it is necessary to hastily repair broken or worn parts on knitting machines, in order that a certain lot of goods may be finished at the specified time. It is an excellent plan for all mills to keep a supply department in which there shall be shelves and boxes for retaining the different parts of the knitting machine. These parts should always be kept in stock, and so arranged in the supply room that the fixer can place his hand upon any part promptly. Castings are procurable at a low price, and the expense of fitting up such a room is not great when compared with the saving of time and money resulting from having the small gearing of the knitting machines at hand in case of want. The parts need not be finished—they can be purchased direct from the foundry at such a low cost that manufacturers prefer to buy them in that condition and do the cutting of threads, drilling of holes, rimming out of bearings, painting, etc., at the factory.

But there are many manufacturers that do not believe in keeping a stock of supplies on hand. They contend to have ample supplies of new parts is to encourage the fixer to cast off parts of the machines before they are worn out in order that they may substitute new. Other mill owners have a supply department in which they keep parts that are most likely to give out. Few mills are so liberally supplied with extra parts of machines to warrant the fixer depending wholly upon these supplies in case of some part of his machines giving out. Although it is not advisable to do very much patching up on a knitting machine, it is better to skillfully piece a broken or worn part than to have the machine stopped several days while waiting for a new piece to be made or sent from the works. After having been in use a few years the cam is so badly worn that it cannot manipulate the butts of the needles correctly, and bad work is done. The remedy consists in substituting a new cam, but if none is at hand, the worn part can be cut away on an emery wheel or a grindstone and a new piece inserted and rivetted on. Such a cam will work all right until it wears away again.

When nuts bother by working loose on a knitting machine, it is, of course, practical to put on another nut, and by tightening the one close to the other, both nuts interlock and hold securely in the one position. But there are times when there is not room for an extra nut. Then have a hole cut and threaded in the side on the nut, put in a small set screw with a piece of leather on its end, and tighten it against the threads of the bolt. The set screw will be arranged to tighten with a screwdriver. The leather at the end of the set screw will prevent injury to the threads of the bolt. Another way to prevent the butt loosening is to put in a threaded pin, between the bolt and the nut. The revolving cam adjustment of the knitting machine is always subjected to more or less strain, and the result is that it breaks occasionally at the juncture between the edge of the elbow and the stud. If this part is not on hand in the supply room, and it is desirous of keeping the machine at work until a new adjustment can be cast or purchased from the makers, the break can be repaired in less than an hour by drilling a hole through the elbow and into the stud. The latter can be cut with a rather coarse thread and a set bolt put in. This bolt can be so securely tightened that the crank will work well and correctly for a long time. In certain styles of knit work there is a need of intricate fashioning chains and ball, and these chains must operate with great accuracy, otherwise the pattern will be imperfectly produced. The constant strain to which the links of the chains are subjected soon produces worn parts. The holes in the links are first to evince signs of wear, in which the bar holes are unshapely, elongated, and otherwise incorrect in proportions. The holes were perfectly round in the beginning, but constant use has worn them. The pin that holds the links together in the formation of the chain, also wears at the edges of the bearings. To remedy, have the holes in the links redrilled a few sizes larger than formerly, and new pins put in. After the new hole is drilled with a new pin the whole space is taken.

Foreign Textile Centres

MANCHESTER.—At the moment there is not much doing in cloth. Granddrills are being bought for the home trade, and there is a fair demand for shirting cloths. Beyond this there is little to say. There is not much passing in the linen trade. The home trade departments are fairly busy, but there is not much doing for the States. The anticipated rush has not yet manifested itself. As far as linens are concerned, it is not likely that there will be heavy shipments at all, as linens are not produced to any noticeable extent in the States. There is a moderate output of crashes and other coarse goods, but nothing beyond. It has been assumed from the inability of the Americans to turn out linens in competition with Europe, that other classes of fine goods are the monopoly of this country, even against the tariff. As a matter of fact, the American market for English cotton goods has been going down for years. It is difficult to sell some grades of quilts against the competition of firms in New England, and the better end of the cotton trade—all that Lancashire has to depend upon as far as the United States are concerned—gets smaller every year. New York as a market for Lancashire goods is scarcely worthy of consideration, leaving out the velveteen business. The total turnover, in any case, does not exceed an average of three millions sterling a year. This is a poor total for a trade like Lancashire's.

LEEDS.—In Leeds the clothing trade continues good. The factories are busy, and are receiving a plentiful supply of orders in spite of the recent unpleasant weather keeping back retailers' sales. There appear to be no striking novelties this season, but the styles of both fabric and make show better taste and more careful execution, without apparently any increased cost to the consumer. Cloths for the present season are wanted in haste, and the worsted coating trade has jumped up considerably for provincial consumption, while more best all-wool superfine broadcloth has been sold during the past few weeks than in many years previous. Melton cloth makers make a good deal of short time, but their branch is improving generally. In shipping there is little new, except that the American demand is stronger, and large consignments of heavy woollens are going on before the new tariff comes into operation. Fancy suitings, trousers and overcoatings form the bulk. The sealskin and fancy rug trades are moderately good.

Huddersfield.—In Huddersfield there is more doing for America, both in worsteds and woollens for very quick delivery, and the home trade demand for the best class of goods is also keeping up well. In the heavy woolen districts there is much complaining on the head of trade, and the new business on American account is quite insignificant. There is a good demand for some light fabrics for the spring clothing trade, and some specialties in mantles and costume cloths are keeping a few makers busy. In flannels makers tell me that they are getting their season's orders fixed up rather earlier than usual, and that the quantities are quite up to the average, although, in spite of dearer raw material, it is impossible to obtain much advance, and, therefore, business is closely cut.

BRADFORD.—The wool sales in London retained the firm tone with which the series opened, and all classes of Colonial wool, excepting inferior and faulty lots, realized prices at least equal and in many cases slightly in advance of opening rates. The American demand continues unabated for both fine merinos and good crossbred combing wools. This unusual buying on the United States account means that purchasers are supplying their requirements for many months to come, and as all this wool will be hoarded on the other side, stocks both in England and on the Continent will be kept low quite up to the end of the year, especially as the present year's clip in Australia is not expected to be a large one. The firmness thus created in London has, however, had very little effect on the wool market here, and spinners are only purchasing in the most cautious and hand-to-mouth manner, and any attempt on the part of wool merchants or top makers to put up prices at once stops business. There is not quite so much business in crossbred wool or tops, but as holders see no chance of replacing their stocks