

THE DRY GOODS WORLD.

THE LYONS' SILK INDUSTRY.—Not yet completed is the change from manufacture by human labor to manufacture by machinery. In the city of Lyons, France, a great number of hand looms still find a place in the silk goods industry. Lack of capital and ultra conservatism have prevented the owners of many shops from purchasing power looms. This is unfortunate for the reputation of Lyons as a great silk goods centre. An organization, designated "The Society for the Development of Silk Weaving in Lyons," has been formed with the object of introducing power-driven looms into the small weaving shops. Manufacturers have been asked to tender for the laying down of one or more looms in each shop where they are not now in use.

QUALITY V. PRICE.—We have frequently bemoaned the latter-day tendency of advertisers to make prominent the fact that their goods are cheap, that they can be purchased for almost nothing. Value, durability, and style seem factors of minor importance. The *Dry Goods Economist* well illustrates the situation thus: "For instance, A is selling a cotton undershirt of good and satisfactory value for 50 cents. B, on seeing this, sends over and buys one, and rushing off to the manufacturer's agent says: 'Here is a shirt that retails for 50 cents; make me one like it to retail for 35 cents.' 'I can't make you one just like it for that figure,' replies the agent, 'but I can make you one that looks like it.' 'That's all I want,' replies B; 'make me one that looks like it.' So the public buys for 35 cents a shirt that looks like the 50 cent one, just because B wanted to undersell A—not because it, the public, wanted a shirt any cheaper than the 50 cent one. The next thing ought to be that the man who sold the 50 cent shirt wants the manufacturer to make him one to retail at 25 cents, and so they might go on see-sawing, until a shirt was made to be given away." For purposes of illustration the picture is overdrawn, but it pointedly explains a great truth. The same thing has often been done in Canadian woollens. Dry goods retailers are injuring themselves and the public by catering to the desire for something cheap.

CHANGE IN STYLE.—The frivolities and extravagancies of the rich have often been considered an economic advantage in creating work for the laboring man. But waste is waste whatever form it takes. And change in fashion is probably the most serious form of waste. In men's garments, the change is gradual, and only the top feels uncomfortable in a last year's suit of clothes; but in women's clothes, Dame Fashion changes complexion at the merest nod. With every change many thousand yards of dress goods, in the shops of retailers, are suddenly deprived of part of their legitimate value. This loss, in itself, is serious, but sinks into insignificance as compared with the losses consumers must bear.

THE FIRST COTTON CORNER.—What was perhaps the first great "bull movement" in the cotton market, says James L. Watkins, in the "Production and Price of Cotton for One Hundred Years," published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, occurred in Liverpool, in 1825, when cotton advanced in price 110 per cent. The advance was purely speculative, and possibly originated upon the attempt of a Liverpool house to prove that cotton production had reached its limit, and that the demand was greater than the supply. It was a current report that one hundred millions sterling had been raised by capitalists to buy all the cotton in sight.

EUROPEAN GLOVE MAKERS ADVANCE PRICES.—A combination of causes has brought about a stiff advance in European glove markets since last spring. The principal

factor in the higher prices is a remarkable rise in the price of raw material. The merchants of skins used in making gloves have seemingly taken lessons from American tanners and demand 25 to 40 per cent. more for their product than they formerly received. A stimulus in the organization of labor has come from some quarter and the employees in the glove factories have made determined efforts to secure more wages. The necessary advance demanded in this market to cover the additional cost of production will, according to the *Economist's* estimate, be fully \$1 a dozen on all grades of schmaschens, from 50c. to \$1 a dozen on lambskins, according to quality, and from \$1 to \$1.50 on real kid.

FIRE REGULATIONS.

What shall we do to avoid conflagrations? The question carries us back far beyond the conditions of to-day. Properly to provide against the prospect of conflagration one must begin with the laying out of a town. Reasonable width of streets; open park spaces at intervals; plenty of room all around public buildings; a supply of water for health, as well as for fire purposes; restrictions as to wooden out-houses—all these should be considered, if the planners of a town would feel themselves fairly entitled to look with serenity upon the chances of a great fire. But even these precautions are not a guarantee against the ever-present conflagration hazard.

Suppose all this done, and that a village has been by the wise foresight of its founders made a creditable object-lesson to a country side. It is still in the power of the inhabitants to neutralize what may be termed public precautions by private negligence or folly. A man may, from parsimony or greed, put up a dwelling so cheaply that it becomes a fire-trap. Another man may keep ashes and cinders in a wooden box, because he is too stingy to provide a brick or stone one. A factory proprietor may so build his chimney or smoke-stack that it is a menace to his neighbor. Householders may leave loose straw, oiled rags, shavings or paper in exposed places, yard or shed, garret or cellar. Builders may erect unsafe chimneys or faulty stove-pipes. Hence it is needful, if the community is to be protected from individual carelessness or depravity, to frame regulations to govern such people and to see that these are observed.

Quite recently the city of Atlanta, Georgia, framed and passed a series of fire ordinances, which are well deserving of attention. Section 447 of these ordinances forbids any person to place and let remain in any box, barrel or otherwise, in any building, cellar, street, alley or yard within the fire limits, for longer than six hours, any loose straw, hay, paper or other combustible material. All residents are required under penalty to permit the chief or any member of the fire department, or any police officer, to inspect their buildings and premises to see that this ordinance is complied with. It is made the duty of the fire chief to make such inspections.

By section 450, frequent examinations of chimneys and stovepipes are made the duty of the fire chief. If he finds their condition dangerous he may order their repair within twelve hours. Any householder refusing or failing to so amend chimney or stovepipe may be fined \$100 and costs. By a following section, ashes are forbidden to be placed in a wooden box, and people who violate the ordinance may be sent to gaol for thirty days.

It is against the law for any citizen, firm or corporation of Atlanta to have a chimney or smoke-stack whose condition is a source of danger from fire, and it is the duty of the chief of police to have such structure made safe