

tory features of the week is that after a spell of quiescence Europe is again inquiring for exports, principally sesamum seed, ground nuts and oil. European prices cannot as yet meet values in China, but the fact of inquiries suggests that stocks at home are now at a very low ebb. In view of all this there is a more hopeful tone in the freight market, which is further interested in the report that the last of the consignments of beans bought two years ago by government from China have been disposed of in Egypt. They are said to have been purchased at £22-10/- c.i.f., and the selling price is reported as £7-10/- for London, f.o.b. Alexandria. Tea is moving to a small extent, but owing to a telegraphic breakdown business in silk has been practically suspended during the week.

**PIECE GOODS.**

One or two interesting facts are to be derived from a study of recent piece goods auctions. For 17 weeks Whites have been showing a series of small advances, and of all classes of goods they are the nearest to the prices obtaining a year ago, while they are also among the nearest to present home values, although in this respect certain qualities of Greys may approximate more closely. A certain amount of this advance in Whites has no doubt been due to speculative buying, and the speculators are probably to-day pondering the question whether they can go still higher. This was evidenced by the fact that while Whites had a good market generally during the week, there was a slight check towards the close, due doubtless to the cause above mentioned. This feeling, combined with the fact that Korea was temporarily not a buyer, caused demand to become somewhat slower. Another class of goods in which a good deal of interest has lately been taken is Blacks. These have been advancing for only slightly over a month and a speculative demand continues. For the heavier qualities of Greys, on the other hand, the inquiry is smaller, and it seems more than likely that consumers are contenting themselves with the heaviest Japanese makes which come at a cheaper figure.

In piece goods generally the optimistic feeling continues. Orders to Manchester, of the variety to which allusion was made last week, seem to continue in minute quantities, and little, if any, profit can be seen therein. It is obvious that business will not be on a healthy footing until such transactions can show a definite profit, and, with so much high-priced cargo still to be liquidated at a loss, there is a long way to go to the establishment of sound conditions. The fact, however, remains that every week this high-priced cargo grows smaller in quantity, as lots go into consumption, and as this process continues the statistical position becomes better. Further as the process goes on, it is satisfactory—though rather cold comfort to those having to bear the loss—to learn

that prices are being gradually forced up. A report has been received during the week that students in Ningpo have attempted a resuscitation of the anti-Japanese boycott. Their chances of success seem small, and the principal effect their efforts have had has been to unsettle the market in that quarter generally.

**COTTON AND YARN.**

China Cotton.—As a result of higher prices current for yarn, cotton has assumed a firmer tone during the week, and prices are generally Tl. 1 higher. It is reported in one quarter that purchases to the extent of 20,000 bales have been made during the week, and that the farmers are now inclined to hold back in the hope of seeing higher prices. Closing quotations are:—

Tungchow	Tls. 24
Shanghai	„ 23
Taichong	„ 23.50
Shensi No. 1	„ 25
Shensi No. 2	„ 23.50

Yarn.—The yarn market has been firm during the week, and owing to the continuous demand for spot cargo prices have advanced by about Tls. 3. Stocks are short, and the needs of consumers in the interior are not abating. There seems reason to believe in a continuance of the demand for some time to come. Practically all counts are active, and the new orders placed amount to about 20,000 bales. Deliveries remain good, while an improvement in cloth is also to be noted. About 2,000 bales have been done in Indian yarn during the week, and the market, here as well as in India, is firm. Bombay is reported active.

**SILK.**

Owing principally to cable interruptions with America the Silk market has been dead during the week. For the same reason Japan remains quiet. Nothing of interest is reported from London or Lyons.

**SEED.**

The European market for Sesamum Seed has become somewhat steadier. There have been several inquiries in the market, but only one or two small parcels have changed hands. After the reduction of the Conference freight rates prospects for meeting the home markets are better, and it is not unlikely that bigger transactions will soon be possible.

**THE SHANGHAI MARKETS**

**Improved Sentiment: Interest in Piece Goods and Yarn: Inquiries for Exports**

Apr. 30.

The tone of business all round is better this week. Piece goods continue to show a certain amount of activity, and although the situation is far from satisfactory, factors are operating towards the creation of a more healthy market. The demand for yarn is strong, and owing to the scarcity of spot cargo prices show a further advance. One of the most satisfac-