

pany will not be held responsible and parents or guardians sign for minors.

No mill children look healthy. Any one that does by chance, you are sure to find out has but recently begun work. They are characterized by extreme pallor and an aged, worn expression infinitely pitiful and incongruous in a child's face. The dull eyes raised by the little ones injured to toil before they ever learned to play, shut out by this damnable system of child slavery from liberty and the pursuit of happiness, often to be early robbed of life itself, are not those of a child but of an imprisoned soul, and are filled, it always seems to me, with speechless reproach. There is unfortunately no question as to the physical debasement of the mill child.

In the finest mill in Columbia, S. C., a magnificent example of splendid enterprise, I found a tiny girl of five years old in the spinning room. Her little sunbonnet had fallen back onto her neck and her fair hair was covered with the threads that had fallen back on her head from the frame as she worked. She was helper to her sister. Neither child knew her age, but a girl of eight, standing near, told me they were seven and five and worked there all day long. A beautiful little girl of eight, with hectic flush and great gray eyes told me she "hadn't worked but a year."

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE.**

The United States maintains its position at the head of the world's exporting nations, despite the temporary reduction in the value of exports due to the shortage in corn available for exportation. The export figures for the nine months ending with March, as shown by the report of the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, indicate a drop of \$58,681,957 in the total value of exports. When it is considered, however, that the value of corn exported fell, owing to the shortage in the corn supply, 52 million dollars below that for the corresponding period of last year, and that cotton, owing solely to a decrease in price, fell 12 million dollars below the exports of the same period of last year, the entire decrease is more than accounted for. Corn exports fell from 146 million bushels in the nine months of the fiscal year 1901 to 24 million bushels in the nine months of 1902. Cotton exports increased 344 million pounds, but owing to reduced prices, fell 12 million dollars in the total value exported. These two items—due in the case of corn to the shortage at home caused by the drouth of last year, and in cotton to the reduced prices in the markets of the world—more than account for

the reduction of 59 millions in the total exports.

Notwithstanding the reduction of 59 millions in exports the grand total of domestic exports from the United States exceeds that of any other country. The figures of domestic exports for the nine months ending with March are: from the United States, \$1,062,432,158; United Kingdom, \$1,019,466,437. The fact that the commercial and fiscal years of the various countries differ in dates of termination renders a comparison by parallel years difficult, but the Bureau of Statistics in its statement of exports of various countries gives the monthly average of each during the year or the portion of the year which its latest figures cover. By this process it is practicable to show the relation of the various countries in the supply which they furnish to the markets of the world. This analysis shows that the average monthly exportation of domestic merchandise from the United States exceeds that of any other nation, that the United Kingdom stands second, Germany third, France fourth, Netherlands fifth and British India sixth in the list of exporting nations. On the other hand, the list of importing nations shows that the United Kingdom stands first, Germany second, France third, the United States fourth, Netherlands fifth, and Belgium sixth in the relative demands upon the markets of the world.

One especially marked characteristic of the commerce of the United States, in comparison with that of other countries is its large excess of exports over imports. Of the 30 countries whose average monthly imports and exports are shown by the Bureau of Statistics, only 12 show an excess of exports over imports. These 12 countries are Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Egypt, British India, Mexico, Russia, Uruguay, and the United States. The average monthly excess of exports over imports in the case of India amounts to about 9 million dollars and Russia also about 9 millions; while that of the entire list of countries which show an excess of exports over imports (exclusive of the United States) amounts to but 38 millions per month, while from the United States alone the excess of exports over imports is \$42,637,127 per month.

**MATERIALS IMPORTED.**

Practically one half of the importations of the United States are now manufacturers' materials. Of the importations of March, whose details have just been announced by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, 49.13

per cent consisted of manufacturers' materials, and amounted to \$41,381,755 out of a total importation of \$84,230,559 during the month. For the nine months of the fiscal year ending with March, manufacturers' materials formed about 46 per cent of the grand total, being \$310,792,429 out of a total of \$678,698,016.

Importations of manufacturers' materials will in the fiscal year which ends next month by far exceed those of any preceding year in the history of our industries; the highest figure ever reached in any preceding year was that of the fiscal year 1900, when the grand total was, in round terms, 390 millions. In the present year it seems likely to attain the enormous sum of 425 millions. In 1890 manufacturers' materials formed but 34 per cent, or practically one third of the importations; in 1895, they formed 37 per cent, and in March of this year, as already indicated, they formed 49.13 per cent, or practically one-half of the grand total of importations.

Ten great articles form the bulk of the manufacturers' materials imported. These are fibers, hides and skins, india rubber, raw silk, tin, unmanufactured wood, wool, copper, raw cotton (chiefly Egyptian,) and a large proportion of the articles classed under the general head of "chemicals." The table which follows shows the total importations, in value, of these ten great classes, forming the bulk of the manufacturers' materials imported. It will be observed that in all cases except india rubber and tin there is a marked increase in the nine months of the present fiscal year compared with the corresponding months of last year. In the case of tin, in which a slight decrease in value is shown, the figures of quantity exceed those of the corresponding months of the preceding year, while in India rubber the slight reduction in total value is also due, in part, to a reduction in price.

**Importations of Manufacturers' Materials.**

Nine months ending March 31—

|                                | 1901<br>Dollars | 1902<br>Dollars |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total manufacturers' materials | 247,783,462     | 310,792,429     |
| Principal articles:            |                 |                 |
| Hides and skins                | 33,165,417      | 44,187,774      |
| Chemicals etc.                 | 39,281,736      | 43,339,560      |
| Raw silk                       | 19,531,319      | 33,188,523      |
| Fibers                         | 16,128,152      | 22,955,194      |
| Copper                         | 14,016,009      | 19,762,870      |
| India rubber                   | 20,033,924      | 18,855,769      |
| Wood, unmf'd                   | 11,132,727      | 13,959,782      |
| Tin in pigs, etc.              | 14,486,223      | 13,414,046      |
| Wool, raw                      | 8,743,510       | 12,615,874      |
| Cotton, raw                    | 5,163,487       | 9,145,333       |