As we predicted, if any change was made it must almost of necessity be on the lines this country had travelled, and we are therefore not surprised to find, according to the summary furnished by the Times correspondent, that the Bill regarding the amendment of the pre-sent Factory and Workshops Act is grounded on the resolutions of the recent Labour Conference, and in those parts which relate to the employment of women and children is almost identical with the English Factory and Workshops Act. The former law, which enacted that workmen were not bound to work on Sundays, is amended to the effect that workmen employed in mines, salt works, quarries, foundries, and other similar branches of industry are prohibited from labouring on Sundays or holidays. On Sundays such workmen must have 24 hours' rest, and at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide 48 hours. Workmen engaged in certain handicrafts may not work more than five hours on Sandays or holidays. In the case of certain trades, where a press of work takes place at certain seasons of the year, the police authorities are empowered to extend the hours of labour in cases where the nature of the occupation does not admit of a stoppage of work. The prohibition of Sunday labour can with the consent of the Federal Council be extended to other occupations by Imperial order.

These proposals are excellent, and will work a revolution in the domestic and social life of German workpeople, the consequences of which will be advantageous to them in every respect if the best use be made of the leisure and the opportunities thus afforded of intellectual and social improvement. So far as the provisions stated relate to adult working men, they go beyond those of our own labour laws, but not beyond what our common law or ancient statutes provide. The freedom with which our laws permit working men to organise, and which is perfectly proper, has enabled them to make their own terms upon these matters with their employers.

The Bill next deals with the employment of children, young persons, and women. In regard to the regulation of the employment of children and young persons it is proposed that the former should not be employed under 13 years of age, unless they have completed the requisite attendance at primary schools. The hours of labour should be fixed for them at six hours, and for young people under 16 years of age at ten hours per diem, with a pause of at least half an hour. In spinning factories and certain similar occupations exceptions may be permitted, but the total hours of work per week must not exceed 36 in the case of children, or 69 in the case of young people. These proposals will bring the regulations affecting the employment of these sections of the working classes almost upon a level with those affecting our own. As regards the employment of women, it is proposed that it should not occur between the hours of 8.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m., nor after 5.30 p.m. on the days preceding Sundays and holidays, and that women over 16 years of age should not work more than 11 hours per diem, with a pause of at least one hour at mid-day. Such women as have house-hold work to do should be allowed to leave work hour at mid-day. Such women as have household work to do should be allowed to leave work half-an-hour before mid-day. No woman should be allowed to return to work within four weeks of her confinement. Under exceptional press of work permission may be accorded by the police authorities for the employment of women over 16 years of age up to 10 p.m. for a period not exceeding 14 days; but the total number of hours of work per day must not exceed 13. The superior authorities and the Federal Council

should have power to permit further exceptions. There are some of these regulations that might with advantage be embodied in our own acts, especially that relating to mothers. With reference to the protection of workmen against danger to life, health, or morals, the new Bill proposes that employers should be bound to arrange the workmen mechanisms as to a range the workmen mechanisms as to so to arrange the workshop machinery as to obviate all danger to life or health. Ample accommodation should be provided, and machinery should be fenced in and all danger to life minimised. As far as the nature of the occupations will permit the sexes should be separated, and ample accommodation for each should be provided. Regarding the regulation of work, it is proposed that within four weeks of the amended Act coming into force each employer should be obliged to issue and hang up in his factory regulations regarding the hour of commencement and ending of work, and the pauses; the time and manner of the calculation and payment of wages; the amount of notice to be given before dismissal, where such period is not already fixed by law, and a list of the grounds for instant dismissal without notice; the punishments proposed, their nature and extent if by fines, the regulations as to payment, and the purposes to which they will be devoted. Punishment calculated to hurt the self-respect or injure the morals of workmen should not be permitted. Fines should not exceed double the amount of a day's wage, and should be devoted to the benefit of the workmen." Such is the summary of the Times correspondent of this section of the Bill. There are some points in it which admit of serious question, but it will be better to leave any comments until details are to hand or the Bill becomes law.

Letters from Readers.

The Editor does not necessarily endorse the opinions of his correspondents.

COTTON GROWING IN THE WEST INDIES.

(TO THE EDITOR OF *The Textile Mercury.*) SIR,—Enclosed with this I send you a letter eccived from a resident in one of the British West Indian Islands, asking for information and advice in respect to growing cotton in the above

As this is the second letter I have received from residents in the above Islands asking for information on the same subject within the last two years, and as good cottons seem to get scarcer every year, it seems a pity that the offer of these, our own colonists, to supply us with cotton equal to the bulk of American grades and better than some of them, should pass without notice. The two pods he refers to are from different species, but both are a good class. One of them evidently belongs to the Brazilian species; the seed is knitted together in the kidney form, and the staple is somewhat harsh, but no harsher than the Brazilian on the Liverpool market, while it is equal to most grades of this class. The other pod belongs to the American green and silky, averaging over an inch in length, yet these are called "wild cottons," that is, the plants grow in a wild state without cultivation or attention. We have it on record that the cotton from these Islands once stood well in the estimation of English cotton spiness. Convention stimation of English cotton spinners. Can you, Mr. Editor, account for the imports having nearly fallen off altogether?—Yours truly, JOHN BUTTERWORTH.

21, Blakelock-street, Shaw, near Oldham.

JOHN BUTTERWORTH, Esq.

DEAR SIR,-Permit me to take the liberty of

Would you, therefore, kindly inform me what kind of cotton you would recommend me to grow, so as successfully to compete with American grown cotton in the Liverpool market? (2.) What might probably be the highest as well as the lowest prices that the West India cotton would bring in Liverpool, and what might be the chances as to prices for the next few years? I have at the moment several dozen cotton trees on my estate, and I have no doubt that my soil is suitable—for the trees continue to bear year after year (i.e. the same tree) while in Arrival after year (i.e., the same tree) whilst in America (Southern, U.S.) I hear the tree has to be

planted every year.

I yenture to forward you two pods of cotton grown here, and I do not know the names of either. Would you advise me to grow either, and may I finally ask you to recommend me some work on the culture and preparation of cotton for the English market?

cotton for the English market?

I feel, dear sir, that I have intruded on you, but I knew that the generous nature of an Englishman never or seldom withholds a helping hand to his fellow man.—Again apologising, I remain, dear sir, faithfully yours,

J. Cox Fillan.

Wall House Estate, Dominica, B.W.I.,

27th March, 1890.

Designing.

NEW DESIGNS.

COLOUR AND WEAVE EFFECTS. Some time ago we referred to the likelihood of colour playing a prominent part as a sucd cessor to the large twill effects, etc., in the worsted trade, and now colour and weave effects are being extensively adopted therein. The weaves used are, as a rule, simple twills, and large checks or stripes are produced by variation in the colour, to which form is given by the weave similar to the effects shewn in Designs 90,

91, 92 and 94.

These Designs are furnished as suggestions for application to woollen goods. The improvefor application to woolien goods. The improve-ment that has taken place in the production of the finer sorts of woollen tweeds during the past ten years, in respect both of build and colour, is marvellous. The production of hard, uncongenial fabrics seemed at first to be aimed at; the true use of the woollen thread, as we now understand it, being in most cases as we now understand it, being in most cases unappreciated. Manufacturers evidently thought, as the public refused their soft, beautiful doeskins, etc., that what they sought after was a hard, bare cloth—in fact, a woollen cloth as nearly like a worsted as possible. Up to a certain point a woollen cloth may be—in many cases with advantage—rendered something like a worsted. But with the woollen thread as then spun, i.e., a typical woollen thread, a cloth made with this idea simply possessed all the made with this idea simply possessed all the bareness of the worsted and received no com-

pensation in the way of smartness.

The West of England cloths have for years been noted as some of the best examples of their kind, and these cloths are in reality perhaps as near the worsted as the woollen, but smartness is imparted to these fabrics by means of excel-lent colourings and fine yarns. The yarns used in these goods are rendered almost like worsted, i.e., the fibres are made parallel by roving pre-vious to spinning. When the modern convious to spinning. When the modern con-denser was introduced into the woollen trade many years since, it made little headway at first; in fact, manufacturers put in the machines, and then took them out as doing unsatisfactory work. This was entirely due to the manufacturers not understanding the printhe manufacturers not understanding the prin-ciples of their trade. The condenser turned off the slubbing as much finer than the old carder and piecener, as Platt's condenser turns off slubbing finer than the ordinary condenser now, and thus the slubbing required less drawing and spinning. But if less draft be given to a sliver, we cannot expect to get the fibres as parallel as the fibres in a sliver where much draft has been given. This fact seems not to have been grayed by the experience. have been grasped by the manufacturers, and therefore a return was made to the old carder and piecener, which in many cases resulted in trouble to firms for years to come. And yet, strange to say, we believe that in one or two

cases the old system is still in use in some parts of Yorkshire to-day. The introduction of the modern carder has resulted in the production of a great variety of woollen goods, and in the finer sorts it seems to us that much is yet to be nner sorts it seems to us that much is yet to be attained in the application of weave and colour in unison. A few examples are, therefore, given, each being produced by a weave suitable for woollen goods.

**Design 90 is simply colour applied to the 2 and 2 twill in both warp and weft. This effect has been produced by the following:

1st Pattern. 12 threads white,

The following will make an effective large

check :olive, black & blue twist, black olive, black, olive, black, black and blue.

West West.

Same as warp.

Same as warp.

Design 91 is a coloured weave effect formed by colouring on the same principle as for Design

90, the weave being the twilled hopsack.

Design 93 is an effect obtained by applying eight threads of black, eight threads of white, with the same weft to Design 93.

Design 93 is simply the twilled hopsack weave a proposed to form about. With a dealy warm

Design vs is simply the twilled hopsack weave reversed to form a check. With a dark warp and light weft a good effect will be obtained, or the design may be enlarged by means of drafting, and the check further demarked by

dratting, and the colour applied to the Mayo or Campbell twill in the same way as to Design 90.

Design 95 is a twill effect formed by a ground of the Mayo twill, and a more decided twill effect of the hopsack weave, which will give a finer effect than the body weave.

NIGER STRIPE

The whole of the Uganda territory in Africa is now exclusively under the influence of the British Government, and we therefore again draw the attention of manufacturers to the great field now opened out for African cloths. At any time we are willing to give advice and assistance in producing fabrics which we know from years of experience will suit the markets of the pears of experience win suit the markets of the Dark Continent. A pattern is now given which is well worth a trial; it is simple, the colours are suitable, and the materials inexpensive. Reed 36, two and four in a dent, 1,065 ends, on 30 inches wide, all two in a heald; the warp 24's, weft 24's, and 40 picks per inch; one shuttle

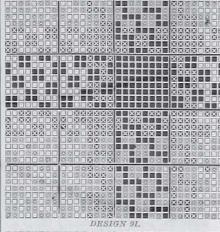
dark blue; 8 shafts, 4 for ground, one heald per dent, 4 for the stripe, two healds, or 4 in a dent; the stripe ought to be on a second warp beam, or at all events separate from the ground or plain portion. The pegging plan A will make a twilled stripe, shewing the colours to the best advantage, the ground being plain; B will give a broken twill ground, the stripe remaining the same as in A. Each of these plans may be used for variety. Four to the round. Warping and draft: 12 dark blue, 2 white, 2 dark blue, 2 white, 6 dark blue, 2 white, 6 dark blue, 2 white, 6 dark blue, 2 white, 2 dark blue, 2 white, 4 dark blue, 2 white, 5 dark blue, 2 white, 6 dar white, 6 dark blue, 2 white, 2 dark blue, 2 white, 6 dark blue, 2 white, 2 dark blue, 2 white, 2 dark blue, 2 white, 12 dark blue. All these two in a heald, one heald in a dent, on shafts 1, 2, 3, 4. The stripe—2 opal blue, 2 dark blue, 4 white, 8 orange, 4 white, 2 dark blue, 2 opal blue, all two in a heald, two healds or 4 ends in a dent, drawn on shafts 5, 6, 7 8; total ords in pattern 102. total ends in pattern: 198, making 5 repeats and 75 ends over in the width. The 75 ends must be divided so as to form a smaller pattern at each side, including selvages. In no instance must these cloths be made with a full pattern immediately after the selvage. The principal reason for this is that when the native wiskes (which is often the case) he may cut the selvages away and join the sides together, and thus a full native of the solid great way and because full pattern of the solid ground would be seen. It would be less trouble to the warper, and of great convenience to the drawer-in, if the ends were doubled in the creel. Although this pat-tern may be considered simple, yet for fear of a mistake and waste of material too much care will not be out of place.

INDIAN SILK COUNTERPANE.

This example is from the Panjab, length: 4 yards; width: 1 yard 20 inches. These cloths vary in size; some are larger than the one here given and others very much smaller. The numbers at the bottom of the design denote the colours. The selvage is white silk, about one half inch; No. 1: a light green; 2: red; 3: light type bright yellow, cross type deep purple; 4: light type white, dark type crimson. This pattern is type white, dark type crimson. This pattern is an especial favourite throughout India and other parts of Asia, being made in cotton, woollen, and silk, for carpets, rugs, scarfs, and women's garments. It is a beautiful specimen of native design; the surface is well broken up; the stiffness incidental to diapers is carefully reduced; the colours are in perfect harmony, and the ample border, with its small bands, gives a richness of effect to the centre, forming a perfect picture of textile ornamentation.

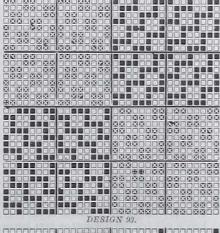
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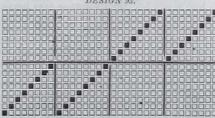
NIGER STRIPE.



DESIGN 91.						

DESIGN 92.





DRAFT FOR DESIGN 93

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