

more Italians left their country and settled in Lyons, and, being real artists in their trade, the population, perceiving the advantages of possessing such a stimulant to their own silk manufactories, treated them with a good deal of consideration. It was from this period that the silk industry became definitely established at Lyons. Later it spread to the neighboring localities, and in the course of a short time St. Etienne became, in its turn, the chief centre of ribbon manufacture, and it is here at the present day firmly established.

St. Etienne was, however, more prosperous fifty years ago than it is to-day. In 1833 the United States was the chief importer from this town; it also alone took a fourth of all that was manufactured, another fourth was used for home consumption, and the remainder was exported to England, Germany, Russia, etc. Consequently three-fourths of the production was exported, for at this period St. Etienne had the monopoly of new articles of ribbon manufacture of any real importance. Fancy ribbons were at that time in great demand, and St. Etienne alone could furnish them. Twenty years afterwards Basle, Crefeld and Moscow became serious rivals, and the prestige of St. Etienne was much affected, but the great blow came from the United States when, after the war of secession, numerous ribbon manufactories were established at Paterson, N.J., which speedily developed, and at the present time almost meet the demands of the American market.

However, in spite of foreign competition, St. Etienne's ribbon production is at present four times greater than when it held undisputed possession of the markets of the world; but the manufacturers are obliged to content themselves with much smaller profits. The total production for the year exceeded 92,000,000 francs.

The number of looms in St. Etienne and vicinity is 22,000, of which 18,000 belong to the weavers themselves and are worked in their own homes, the remainder being owned by the large manufacturers. The average value of a loom is 1,500 francs, but there are some which cost from 3,000 to 5,000 francs, consequently the total value of the weaving plant exceeds 39,000,000 francs, of which two-thirds represent the savings and investments of the weavers. The number of persons engaged in ribbon manufacture (men and women) is put down at 70,000, the men for the most part working in their own homes, while a large portion of the young girls are employed in the manufactories or in sale and packing rooms connected with them.

The independent weaver generally possesses two or three looms; one is worked by himself, the other by his wife, and the third by a son or daughter or journeyman. The weaver's house contrasts strongly with that of the miner or gunsmith. It is generally scrupulously clean and might be considered decently furnished, that is to say, the furniture looks bright and clean and is of good quality, although there is of necessity but little of it, as the space is very limited. The apartments consist, in most cases, of two front rooms, serving for kitchen and bedroom (in many instances there is only one room to serve for both), and a large room at the back for the looms, furnished with two or three large windows (a window for each loom). The weaver, from the fact that he works in his own house and leads a domestic life, is in general of a much higher moral and intellectual standing than other artisans here. He is sober and industrious, having but one object in view—the well-being of his family. Although he suffers a great deal at times from enforced idleness by reason of lack of work, and though he has often to be content with small earnings, he never murmurs, but does what he can and hopes for better times. It is not to be wondered at, then, if he is able to economise a little when work is abundant, but it too often happens that the sum laid by in the favorable season has to be drawn upon before the year expires to provide for the necessities of life during periods of dullness.

What are the daily earnings of a weaver at St. Etienne? The question is difficult to answer, because his occupation is dependent upon fashion, which, as everyone knows, is periodically changing. At one time fancy ribbons are in great demand, at another plain ones. So black, colored, wide, and narrow ribbons are at times preferred. The amount he can earn depends, also, on the quality of silk furnished him. If it is of bad quality, it will often break,

so that his time is wasted in tying and arranging the threads, consequently he will not be able to do the average day's work, which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres. Again, the kind of ribbon he makes affects his earnings, on narrow ribbon he will earn less than on broad, and silk ribbon is less lucrative than velvet ribbon. In any case he is paid on the average at the rate of 150 francs for 15 metres on a loom making twelve pieces, and, as he can, under favorable circumstances, do 5 metres per day, his earnings will amount to six francs for the twelve pieces, and if he has two looms at work on the same kind of material, which is rarely the case, he will earn 12 francs per day. But account must be taken of fifty-two Sundays in the year, during which he does not touch his loom, and of eight days every six weeks spent in putting up a new order received, during which he earns nothing, so that his earnings all the year round, if work be regularly given, will not exceed 8.50 francs per day, and this amount is considered a fair average. If he is obliged to call in help from outside, his earnings will be still further reduced, as he will have to divide the profits of one loom with the workman. If the weaver makes velvet ribbon, he earns about 8 francs per day on each loom, at the rate of 3 francs per thousand threads; but velvet is not always in fashion, and the demand for it seldom lasts for more than one season. So it is seen that the average yearly earnings of a weaver in St. Etienne possessing two looms and working two hundred and fifty-five days in the year, do not exceed in any case 3,000 fr., or \$600, and in very many instances they do not exceed \$500.

The following table shows the actual cost of living for a weaver's family, composed of man and wife and three children:

Expenditure.	Per day.		Per year.	
	s.	d.	£.	s. d.
Rent.....			10	0 0
Food:				
Wine.....	10		14	12 0
Bread.....	7½		10	19 0
Meat.....	3½		18	5 0
Coffee.....	1		1	9 0
Vegetables.....	1½		2	3 6
Coal.....	3		4	7 6
Light.....	2		2	18 4
Clothes.....			10	0 0
Taxes.....			0	10 0
Medical attendance and medicines.....			2	0 0
Repairs to looms.....			8	0 0
Other expenses.....			12	0 0
Total.....			£97	4 4

It results, therefore, that if the year be favorable a saving of about £23 can be made; but, as I have already said, it too often happens that the man is idle for weeks waiting for orders, and thus the saving, which is always carried to the savings bank, is drawn upon, and before the year is out it may have been all used for the necessities of life.

Many weavers have three looms at work, but, as one at least must be worked by a journeyman, the owner gets only half the profits of that loom, and, besides, he has to pay a higher tax.

In conclusion, it may be said that at St. Etienne a weaver can live and rear his family, but can do no more—that is to say, he can not to-day lay up money by his trade. The average number of children in a weaver's family is three.

OWING to a fire which broke out on McGill Street, Montreal, the premises occupied by MacLean, Shaw & Co. (hats and straws), W. J. Price (hides), and A. Mendel & Co. (cloth hats and caps) were badly damaged by smoke. Total loss, \$10,000.

MUCKLOW's Liquid Hematine for wool dyeing is the only perfect substitute for logwood chips in the market. The advantages in using Mucklow's Liquid Hematine are, 1st, saving of steam and labor, 2nd, uniformity, 3rd, cheapness. And being perfectly free from tannin matter, the wool is left in a soft and natural condition after dyeing, and the bloom of the chip logwood is not destroyed, which is the case with the ordinary logwood extracts. The agents for Canada are Dominion Dyewood and Chemical Co., Toronto, who, we believe, have so far met with more than the average amount of success in making this article known.