

*Red Flannel
and Lumbago*

of butter. It was good for all members of the family, not quite so good, however as the red kind, which had a soothing influence on sore throat, rheumatism and lumbago. It was good also for chest and lung troubles, and if worn next to the skin had acknowledged curative properties.

But silk, at last, has come into its own. Silk nighties, silk petticoats, silk camisoles, silk combinations and silk shirts are as common as linen or cotton and flannel used to be. Proportionately silk does not cost as much, and who is so unhuman as not to like the soft feel of it, its swish and its beautiful sheen?

It used to take eight dozen eggs to buy a yard of good silk. To-day four dozen will do the trick. Do you wonder, then, that the farmer's wife turns to silk stockings if she can get a pair for two dozen eggs when thirty years ago the same pair would have cost a whole summer's laying? You were among the best customers and in easy circumstances, if not in affluence, if you paid as high as \$1.25 for a corset or a pair of kid gloves. Whether rich or poor, your ticking cost twenty-five cents where to-day it costs seventy-five. Your towelling cost twelve and a half cents where to-day it costs forty-five. Your sewing cotton cost four cents where to-day it costs ten. Your man's "ganzy" cost \$1.25 where to-day it costs \$3.25. Your floor oilcloth cost fifty cents where to-day it costs \$1.50. Your ribbons cost twenty-five cents where to-day they cost seventy-five. Your table linen cost one dollar where to-day it costs four. Tobacco was ten cents a plug, with a clay pipe thrown in.

In most of these things, as you can see, the comparative increase is in favour of the butter and eggs. But if I were a farmer I should be just as annoyed as all farmers must be who read this article. For nothing has been said about the chief products of the farm, about grains and fruits and vegetables and roots and live stock. But I have the defense that these important things were not in those days, nor are they to-day, articles of direct barter. They were given in exchange for the common legal tender, and therefore do not enter our present consideration. Anyone can see, nevertheless, that if all farm products have advanced in the same proportion as eggs and butter, the farmer should not fare very badly, even now. After all, everything falls back on the ultimate consumer. He is the one who takes the brunt in all instances of high prices, present company, of course, excepted.