

That fine old historic stuff gingham used to sell at twelve and a half cents a yards, and naturally one dozen eggs would buy one yard. Now it sells at forty cents, and a dozen eggs buys almost two yards.

Every little while someone would want a bundle or two of cotton warp. It was used mostly in coarse weaving and as a binding for rag carpets and mats and sold at a dollar a bundle. Now it is worth at least four dollars a bundle. Here, then, we have an item that has advanced to the disadvantage of the farmer, but as practically none of it is used nowadays the result is as nothing.

We should remember that I am writing in the month of March, in the "winter of our discontent", and that the farmer does not get as much for his butter and eggs in the summer months as he does now.

What a splendid place "cashmere" took in the economy of those days! Do we remember the stuff that used to sell at sixty cents a yard and that was of exquisite quality at a dollar? A black cashmere dress always was in proper place, even at a picnic, and it was very handy in case of death in the family. It is almost off the market now, and if a woman to-day buys the kind that used to cost her a dollar a yard she pays four dollars for it. But she doesn't buy any, so where's the difference? Cashmere stockings that used to cost forty cents a pair now cost \$1.25, and one almost has to wear them these winter months.

But we are harking back to the good old days when flannel was in the heyday of its respectability. A silk stocking or a silk "undie" was mentioned only in connection with royalty, and one silk dress was supposed to last a life time. But what a change! For now everybody wears silk wherever it can be worn, and the lady, especially the young one, who appears formally in anything but silk unmentionables is regarded as far from being smart and indeed almost as *outré* as if she were to appear in evening dress wearing a wrist watch.

But flannel! Who would be so careless as to wear it for any practical purpose nowadays? Still it has had its day of glory. Who can remember the lovely soft cream-coloured flannel that used to cost only from forty to sixty cents a yard? It was smooth enough for the baby and costs to-day from a dollar to a dollar and a half a yard. And all-wool gray flannel that might shrink a little you could get for forty cents a yard or in exchange for two and a half pounds

*Gingham at  
Twelve Cents*

*The Heyday  
of Flannel*