A material change in prices of raw silk has resulted from certain speculative happenings in the producing markets, and practically the whole situation is much firmer, says the "Dry Goods Economist." While there is no great appreciation in demand from manufacturers, both the buyer and seller are much more sanguine over the future than they have been for some time past. A good many more looms are in operation, and demand from consumers on certain classes of merchandise is on the increase. This is especially true of ribbons and narrow goods generally. Banking interests are responsible for a firmer feeling in Yokohama and Milan especially. The stock in Yokohama has been somewhat reduced, but still amounts to about 18,000 bales.

The situation in the hosiery market at Chemnitz has not changed very much during the past week. All manufacturers have a great many orders on their books, and a large number of duplicate orders which came in were refused by them on account of inability to get the goods made up in time. Prices are now higher than they were at the time the original orders were placed, and in most instances importers are not able to pay the difference and sell the goods at the former price.

The white goods situation this year in the United States, says an exchange, presents some very unusual features. For several years past converters have gone in very heavily on certain sorts of white goods, particularly India linons. To such an extent has this been the case that, while early in the season they were able to secure fair prices, later on they were compelled to make sacrifices in order to get rid of their stocks. They finally concluded that there was not much money to be made in India linons, and some who had been heavy operators in this field turned their efforts entirely into other directions, while others considerably cut down their output. This season has consequently found the supply of India linons very much shorter than usual.

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TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 21, 1905.

Chemicals, Drugs, Etc.—The market locally this week has been somewhat quiet, though representatives of the wholesale houses in rural districts continue to speak quite encouragingly of the prospects. Opium and quinine, as well as the other staples, are rather dull just now, though the latter has picked up a little.

Dry Goods.—The mild open weather is having a quietening effect on the movement in many lines of dry goods, the chief call for which comes generally at this season of the year. For example, heavy overcoatings, blankets, woolen and flannel underwear, etc., have distinctly dragged. On the other hand, there has been a good holiday demand for lighter goods and for all articles that can be made presents of. Handkerchiefs, umbrellas, neckties, fur goods, etc., have all been wanted in large numbers and, as has been the case during the last two or three years, people seem to want the best. Millinery also has been a strong feature. No doubt it will take but a very small amount of real wintry weather to give a strong impetus to the whole trade, for there is by no means any feeling of despondency.

Flour and Grain.—Prices for Manitoba flour keep steady, and a fair export business is passing. Ontario flour, however, is dull, and $3.10 for ninety per cent. patents is about the limit. The demand for bran and shorts is very pronounced, and there is a scarcity in shorts. The quotations for wheat, both Ontario and Manitoba, are a little easier. In fact all grains are rather on the dull side just now. Peas, however, are holding up well.

Groceries.—With the exception of the 5c. advance in yellow sugars last week there has been little of special interest in the grocery trade lately. Of course there is a heavy demand for dried fruits, but this is only natural at this season of the year, and it does not appear to be extraordinary. In teas a fair trade is passing, especially Japans. The position of canned goods continues strong, with prices tending upward, but there is little of special interest.

Live Stock.—Good export cattle are wanted, and the prices for the same hold about up to the level of a week ago. Best fetch about $4.80 or $4.85, but there are not many worth that price. A slightly easier feeling is manifested in butchers' animals of all but the very best quality. Sheep and lambs are in fair demand. Milch cows of choice grade sell well.

Provisions.—The enquiry for smoked meats is about normal for this time of the year. Davies' products of choice quality sell readily, but some of the butter now coming in is hardly up to this standard. Cheese is firm.

Wool.—No business is passing, and quotations are merely nominal.