



THE SILK MARKET.

THE continued firmness of the raw material, with the prospects of crops very little, if any, better than the past three seasons, together with a largely increased consumption, necessarily forces the price of all silk goods upwards. When their advance will end it is not easy to estimate, but those whose business it is to watch this market are uniform in their opinion that we will see silk still higher before the end of the year. Certain it is that Dame Fashion is doing all in her power to put the market into this condition, and if, as is predicted, velvets take a run this fall, together with the styles now in vogue so largely consuming silk -- as ribbons, blouses, silk skirts, dress goods -- it is just a little difficult to predict what prices the consumer will be paying for silk in 1894.

To-day the silk market stands higher than it has for the past seventeen years. Advices from Lyons and Milan and from Yokohama and Shanghai report the markets firm and still advancing.

Large dealers and speculators are now controlling the visible supply of raw material and are forcing manufacturers and spinners to pay big advances, and in no case has the manufacturer been able to get a proportionate advance on the finished article. A much larger proportion of silk will be required than heretofore in the making of silk velvets, plush, etc., and many manufacturers in the United States are buying all they can possibly manage in the firm conviction of good prices and a certain rise.

To give a more accurate idea of the present state of prices it may be mentioned that Italian and Japanese silk, used mostly for weaving purposes, has advanced fully 50 per cent. since April, 1892. The best grades of China silk has advanced 40 per cent. and the low grades 25 per cent. Low grade Cantons have advanced only about 15 to 20 per cent.

Silks in 1876 were over a third higher than they are now but the next year they dropped to a lower point than they are now at, and have ever since been very low. They were never lower than last year, the prices obtained by silk producers being very inadequate, and the present rise will no doubt be permanent. Broad silks have advanced fully 20 per cent. and ribbons are firm at a 15 per cent. advance. Silk gloves and mitts are held at an advance of 12½ per cent. on February prices. It will thus be seen that manufactured goods have not advanced nearly so much as the raw material. But the advance in these will be gradual and steady for some time. Buyers now in Europe report a rising market to buy in.

The situation is about this: The wholesale stocks held in Toronto are not large, with perhaps two or three exceptions. It is very doubtful if houses here will continue to buy as their wants arise, or whether they will stop buying, preferring to sell what they are holding and staying out. From what we have gathered this latter course will be pursued, and if this is the case the stocks will be run very small. We do not recommend retailers to load, but when silk can be bought at old figures no mistakes will come of it.

W. H. STOREY & SON'S GLOVE WORKS, ACTON.

A REPRESENTATIVE of THE DRY GOODS REVIEW having an hour at his disposal while at the pretty town of Acton, Ont., recently spent it in looking through W. H. Storey & Son's glove factory. This important Canadian industry is the pioneer in its line, and the age and experience have been gained necessary to the production of as fine goods as can be found at home or abroad. That this fact is recognized is shown by the market that has been secured throughout the Dominion. Fully 200 busy hands find employment, and the "Storey" interests constitute a most important factor in the town's prosperity.

In company with Mr. W. H. Storey the different departments were visited and there were evidences at every step of energy, perfect system and order. In reply to the query as to whether any recent changes had been effected, Mr. S. replied by directing attention to a new 25 h.p. Wheelock engine, made by Goldie & McCulloch of Galt, which had just been placed in position. The power is applied to relieve scores of men and women from the labor of running the long tiers of sewing machines in use. This enables the operator to devote his or her entire attention to the work in hand, and the speed is under perfect control.

The stock rooms were especially interesting, for here were the coverings of animals so rare as to be almost extinct, and which have been gathered from our fields and forests or foreign lands. Much of the stock is of Canadian manufacture, but in order to furnish goods to suit every taste, European and other foreign countries have been laid under tribute. One great advantage, and which enables the firm to successfully meet close competition, is that a well-equipped skin-dressing establishment is under the same control in Acton. This is devoted to the preparation of fine grades of heavy leathers, such as buck, elk, antelope and mocha goods. This latter material is specially adapted for glove purposes, it being capable of receiving a fine finish, and so durable as to give any amount of wear. It is safe to predict that mocha will, without doubt, be the most popular thing in the market. The mocha is a South American and African animal, a cross between the sheep and goat. As to the quality of the output as a whole, this is so well known that no eulogy is necessary. The designs are obtained from the best skill at home or abroad, but in fact nearly all the firm's own conception. Thus nothing old is retained longer than the demands of fashion render changes expedient. All this implies that only the best workmen are employed, irrespective of cost.

Mention should also be made of the line of moccasins for adults and children. The latter are especially tasty and neat, and are, therefore, both ornamental and useful. Those of our readers who visit Acton should by all means call at the glove factory and see a most interesting and instructive establishment.

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