

DRESS GOODS AND TRIMMINGS.

SUMMER fabrics are still selling in the retail stores, but the wholesale houses are selling very small parcels and very few of them. Prints and delaines have sold pretty well, while Victoria lawns, satens, and printed flannels have had strong demand. The lighter and more gauzy silks have also sold well. For fall it can hardly be said on what particular color or kind of goods that favor will be bestowed. At present nearly all kinds of tweeds, serges, boxcloths and fancy effect goods are selling well. In tweeds especially the variety as to color, quality, and pattern is very extensive, and no doubt these will be in good demand among the fashionable ladies. In silks some very pretty goods are shown in sarahs, Bengallies, and in the beautiful peau-de-sole. This latter is growing in favor very fast.

As regards trimmings for fall, gimps both American and European are shown in great variety and in some very pretty patterns and interwoven designs. Fur trimmings will be used on the dresses as well as on the cloaks. Fancy buckles will find increasing favor, and will displace other ornaments both for hats and dresses. Silk moss edgings will no doubt find favor, as well as gold and silver gimps.

NOTES

The demand for jet trimmings has been enormous and still continues strong. The stocks in several of the houses is depleted, and this class of goods is hard to procure at present.

A goodly shipment, consisting of 15 cases of black cashmeres, has just been received and opened by Gordon, MacKay & Co. The variety is immense, and they claim to have the best value offered to the trade.

Caldecott, Burton & Spence have received their shipments of Victoria lawns and check muslins, from their cable repeats which were necessitated by the great sale experienced for these goods. Several cases of buttons, mainly jets and pearls, have also arrived. They have just received some beautiful Japanese merchandise in silk dress goods and silk handkerchiefs which are very attractive. They report a continued strong demand for tweed dress goods for fall wear. The orders received are large, and many of the retailers are desiring immediate delivery.

Wyld, Grasset & Darling are making a specialty of fall dress goods, and have a large variety of tweeds, henriettes and silks, and the newest colorings in these and other lines.

John Macdonald & Co. have some boating serges, especially twills in black and navy blue, which are an attractive thing, and their range of ladies' cloth is good. In pongee silks they are showing a nice line, 22 inches wide and comprising all the colors.

Wyld, Grasset & Darling are showing a nice range of fall dress goods in tweeds, serges, boxcloths and fancy effect goods. Among their special drives are a job line of ladies' circulars, which are of excellent value, and a new line of ladies' cotton hose.

Gordon, MacKay & Co. have just received a very large shipment of woollen and silk seaclette. In order to show the extent of the demand for these goods, it might be mentioned that in one line of this cloth several hundred pieces were sold last season, besides doing a large trade in other qualities and

prices. Their range this season will be quite extensive and varied, both as to quality and price. They are opening up some novelties in frillings, ruchings and some pretty silk and wool mixes in fall dress goods. These are shown in shot effects, in twills and jacquards.

John Macdonald & Co. have just received several cases of new American silk gimps, from which they have filled all their back orders, and the balance is placed in the department. Gold and silver gimps and silk moss edgings are shown in pretty designs. Among their new goods are some pretty pongee silks in all colors, for dresses and fancy work, and moire ribbons in colors, sizes 5, 9, and 16.

Among the noticeable things in the house of Caldecott, Burton & Spence are some new and pretty lines of trimmings, especially in gimps and fur trimmings. They have a large range of new silks in pongees, sarahs, Bengallies and the peau-de-sole, which is fast becoming very fashionable. They have shipped a large quantity of the latter silk during the past week to Montreal merchants, the Montreal wholesale merchants not seemingly being up to the fashion in this trade.

FALL CLOAKS.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Cloak Review* says:—The cloakings in demand for next fall are the same as I recommended some time ago: beaver, vicunas, the same articles with colored backs, rough Scotch cloth, cheviot diagonals, cloakings in plaid patterns, with colored boucle effects, matchase in one and two colors (this last article in a moderate way), are the sign of the season; medium colors, tan, and beige much liked.

I am told that silk seal plush jackets are more in demand here in Germany than last year, but in general it is very quiet in the silk plush and velvet centres. As linings for cloaks, the changeable brocade, and even matchase silk is used largely. The woollen and cotton plaid lining for cheaper class jackets and gentlemen sack styles are still much in demand.

I made the observation that braids in Russian-Turkish cashmere, fancy colored patterns, also worked with gold tinsel, will become fashionable for fall. They are used as trimmings for cloaks, but more so for dresses. The principal trimming, however, will again be for fall, fur in all possible variations.

The fashion for jackets is now established; we know that there are only two ground shapes on which the business must be built this fall; the one is the sack shape, and the second is half in back with wattleau pleat, loose in front. These two styles are worked out in great variety; some show a novelty in the collar, others in the sleeves

or cuffs; others again are braided, some are plain, some have a yoke out of which comes a wattleau pleat, etc.

The Russian peasant jacket may likely still be bought with you. It is already a little passé, having been in fashion this spring, but I don't believe it will become a staple jacket. The best selling styles, in my opinion, will be the jacket half tight on back, loose in front, with wattleau—or other pleats on back.

RAMIE CLOTH.

Some interesting experiments have been made recently with the ramie fiber, at the San Jose, Cal., Woollen Mill, in the manufacture of cloth, which is said to be the first attempt to spin and weave the fibre in the United States. A thread of ramie and a thread of wool were twisted together and then woven on the ordinary loom, producing a strong and closely woven fabric, which could be seen through by holding up to the light. According to the Pacific Lumberman, the color of the cloth was a bluish grey, the wool supplying the dark and the ramie fibre the light portion. Ramie is much stronger than wool, is forty-one times stronger than cotton and more nearly approaches silk in this respect than any other material used in the manufacture of cloth. Thus it is evident that a fabric made of a mixture of wool and ramie is far superior to a cotton and wool mixture. The fibre when ready for the mills is in bunches about five feet long, of a creamy white color, and has a luster like silk. It can be dyed any color and still retain its luster, and hence can be used in the manufacture of silk-mixed weaves, making a fabric just as good in every way, but much cheaper than if silk were used.

It will have the effect when it comes into general use of cheapening all textiles of this character, while giving a fabric better in looks and wearing qualities. One of the big points claimed for ramie is the ease with which it can be produced, and the consequent big profit to the producer. Ramie is nothing more or less than a weed, and grows and increases with the profligence for which weeds are noted. The plant does not need a rich soil; in fact, seems to thrive best in a soil in which nothing else will grow, and is especially valuable on this account. It is claimed that three crops a year can be secured, and that at the least calculation a profit of \$200 an acre will pour into the pockets of the ramie cultivator. The field will not have to be replanted for twenty years, for the plants will grow and produce good fibre for that length of time.

—WOOLLENS AND
TAILORS' TRIMMINGS—

JOHN FISHER, SON & CO.,

Balmoral Buildings, Montreal, Canada.	✻	Huddersfield, Engl-nd.
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