

THE SILK SITUATION.

LATEST advices give the present condition of the raw market rather weak, but with indications of a stronger and healthier condition in the near future. The low state of the silver market, for which coin the countries of the far East exchange their products, and its consequent effect on exchange, together with the poor demand on account of the general depression have kept the stock of raws large, thereby making holders anxious to sell, and converters or manufacturers keen for trade.

The tide now, however, is being stemmed on account of the supplemental orders beginning to arrive, and which in some instances are larger than original spring purchases, buyers in November and December last showing a timid feeling. Ribbon business is also improving, the trade in millinery having already made itself felt. Silk-pile velvets continue in fair demand. Dame Fashion shows herself strong in moire silks for spring trade, and some predict a larger trade for spring of 1894 than a year ago. So far retail buyers have shown about the same appreciation.

The Japanese at least seem to have touched bottom, and a small reaction of 50 points in the 100 momie, or about an equivalent to 5 per cent. on the lay down prices in Canada, went into effect last Wednesday week. Still the prices of the Japanese habutai are extremely low; with the improvement made in the dyeing, and with a closer inspection of the goods before shipping, they are now handled with a profit by the retailers. The light colors or art shades are dyed equal to French, being solid in shade, and the imperfections always seen in hand woven goods are well covered. The darker shades have not been attended with the same success as the light colors. For actual wear the Japanese fabrics will excel any silk at a corresponding price.

One house reports remarkable success with a range of patterns on Japanese fabric, which they had shipped from Yokohama to their printers in Lyons, France. Black grounds predominate, with also navy grounds and some light colors, printed in petite designs of dark heliotrope, lilac, moss, pink, light heliotrope, and, of course, white. They also show the same grounds printed in patterns embracing three to four colors, for which they ask a small advance on the one print patterns. The trade are buying for costumes as well as for blouses and trimmings.

Some low and medium priced Japanese crapes have met with fair success. In European silks, la haute nouveaute, moire antique, and moire mirror or looking glass, in blacks and colors, are in the first position in Dame Fashion's ranks. For the better grades, moire will undoubtedly lead all others in the unanimity of opinion, and on account of the inability to produce the effect in very cheap goods, it will likely lead for some time. Satins, and a softer make of this class called satin electrique, have many admirers, and will have a good call, especially the softer finished goods. Peau de soie and merveilleux still retain some favor, while the movement in faille Francaise is quiet. Surahs of the heavy twill class with sufficient body in them to make it practicable to be puffed as the sleeves are now worn, promise well, with the usual trade in pongees. Bengaline, or pongor, except in the very low grades retailed at 25c., are defunct. Some low-priced shot effects, both in plains and printed, produce good effects; also some higher priced shots, in shades and make to match the dress goods, are principally fawns and gold browns.

In colors for evening shades, some new casts of mauve and

green are shown, with the usual display of pinks, lemon, straw, golds, blues, Nile, etc., and in the more staple colors, gold, brown, green, and fawn are well up. The former ranges of colors pertain more to Japanese and pongees, while those of the darker casts used for trimming are in surahs, satins, and moire.

WILSON BILL.

THE Wilson Bill has passed the House of Representatives at Washington, and a sigh of relief has gone up from the country. There is no doubt it will be a very considerable benefit to the country, and the benefit will be especially to that portion of the community, "the agricultural," who have been least considered by our own legislators. The trade policy of Canada seems to be based on the Scripture text, "To him that hath shall be given, and to him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Now, take Somerville's "Mexican Fruit" chewing gum and you will find just the opposite to be the case. It benefits all alike, the rich or poor, learned or ignorant, business man or farmer, old or young, male or female, black or white, and it costs everyone the same, 5 cents per bar. Sold everywhere.

DOMINION SUSPENDER CO.

THE Dominion Suspender Co., of Niagara Falls, Canada, are enlarging their plant by the addition of more machinery. Last season, for a few months, they were hopelessly behind in executing orders. They intend not to be caught that way again. The business of this concern in Canada was in marked contrast with that at their factory at Niagara Falls, N. Y., where they have been practically closed down for about three or four months. The manager, Mr. Wm. L. Doran, who is a Canadian, and whose residence is on the bank of the Niagara river near the falls on the Canada side, says that in his whole business experience he never saw such hard times as the people in the United States are now passing through. People in Canada do not know what hard times are. He instanced one example of a leading merchant in a town in New York State, who found one evening that his sales amounted to 68c. that day.

A LONDON JOBBER.

A. E. PAVEY & CO., London, are doing a steadily increasing trade. Strict attention to business in their respective lines has built up for this firm a suitable trade. They are now receiving their spring import, and from their large selection of woollens now going into stock, it will repay any merchant to carefully inspect their samples or visit their extensive premises. In tailors' linings and trimmings they excel, and long experience enables them to anticipate, at all times, every want in this line. In men's furnishings, neck wear, tweeds, and rubber goods, spring shirts and drawers, etc., they are now putting into stock the very latest productions.

W. R. Brock & Co. are showing in their glove department a large assortment of fabric gloves and mitts in Lisle, taffeta, and pure silk; blacks of Louis Hermsdorf's stainless dye, tans, modes, greys, etc., to match the new dress goods. The whole stock shows off to great advantage in point of value and styles.