

SILKS IN THE AUTUMN.

MANUFACTURERS of silken fabrics know that silks will be worn in the fall, says *The Dry Goods Economist*, and they also feel a certain security as to the styles of silks that will be in demand, but no one knows what the prices may be, which is the only difficulty in booking orders ahead. In fabrics all are agreed upon the lead which satin Duchesse will take. In Paris *peau de soie* is always somewhat worn, but has not taken here. Black silks, especially in satin Duchesse and bengaline are expected to be more worn than they have been in several seasons. The young, middle-aged and elderly ladies will again rejoice in a "best black silk." Satin and taffeta weaves are now leading in the looms, but there are rumors of fancy armure grounds for self and changeable brochés after one of the latest Parisian fads. Plain black armure of a good quality is likely to be in demand.

The purple, purplish red, mauve, old rose, dark, leaf and Nile greens, browns, hussar, navy and turquoise blue, deep and light golden tints, rose and flesh pinks, buttercup cream, mahogany, elderberry and, in fact, all of the colors written of in dress

LATEST INFORMATION.

The accompanying chart shows the fluctuations of the raw material since 1876. It will be seen that since raw silk touched 122 in 1876, it has since been very low, and last year was extremely low. At present prices have reached 95, or five points higher than indicated in the chart. Some people, who are supposed to be reliable judges, claim that the advance will continue until the height of 1876 is reached, but this is only a guess. Yet the enormous difference between the prices of raw material now and the prices last year, as shown by the chart, will be sufficient to show the reader that he must pay more for silks in the fall of 1893 than he did in the fall of 1892.

Toronto and Montreal buyers who have returned from the silk market claim that no new stuff will be made until the middle of September. The mills are working night and day to fill their enormous orders. Buyers from the United States have been buying everything in sight at whatever price was asked. They believe that the increased demand for silks in the United States will continue, no matter what the price. Canadian buyers report having been forced to pay an advance of 35 per cent. in some cases. One buyer cited an instance of a silk which he

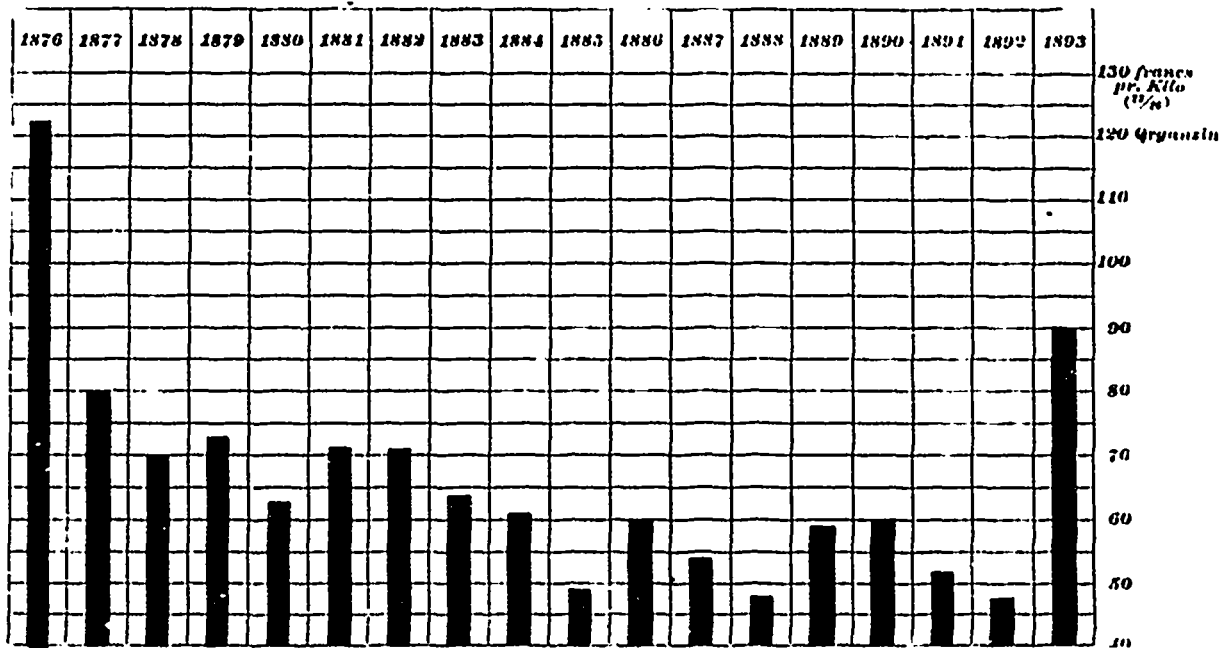


TABLE SHOWING THE FLUCTUATIONS OF RAW SILK SINCE 1876.

goods and many evening colors besides, will flaunt anew their charming shades and exquisite combinations. Fashionable shades of plain bengaline will have a certain following for conservative costumes and combinations, but the feature of the autumn silk trade will be, as now, the changeable effects. Every art is brought into play to combine weaves and colors in these novelties so that they will surpass the fabrics of the present season.

The wildest flights of the dreamer in colors and the most unheard of freaks of electricity are mild in comparison to the coloring and designs shown in the latest changeable novelties. We can but admire them, as from their very nature they bewilder and enthrall even if they do not convince sober reason of their beauty. Changeables are a success; they will be a greater one in the fall, and for beauty nothing has or ever will probably equal them. We might call changeable silks one of the wonders of the textile world.

sold last year at 75 cents, and which will cost him laid down this year 94 cents, but still he bought because he believed consumer would buy anyway. Starting the first of June, every retailer in Canada must pay an advance on every line of silks he buys. This is a fact he must realize, and govern himself accordingly.

The latest street-dress fabrics in London and Paris is satin Duchesse. Some of the Canadian houses will show it for fall. It is shown only in black, which color seems to be increasing in favor for street dresses in both silks and satins. The novelties which will be shown on this market for fall will include ombre effects in taffeta, shot surahs, and plaid taffetas. These will be much used for skirtings, blouses and trimmings.

A movement is on foot in Montreal to bring about a daily meeting of merchants to talk over trade questions. There is much to commend the proposition.