

cost of production of this year's silk, they are not anxious to sell.

Allovers have things decidedly their way in fashions and costumes for every class of wear this fall. A continual array of new fabrics, new designs and new materials are being pushed forward to supply a seemingly continuous demand from retailer and dressmaker as well. This means that robes, skirts, boleros, guimpes, vests, revers, panels and every possible form of garniture is constructed of allovers.

Speaking of probable favorites in ladies' dress styles, the Dry Goods Economist says that there is no lack of confidence in the continuance of the demand for flannel waists. Earlier orders on which shipments were scheduled to go out each week have not been disturbed, and while there is no inclination for the moment to place large new orders, the least spurt of cold weather will pile them in.

After a period of great activity the Milan market has become quieter, the high prices demanded by sellers having made buyers more conservative; but the ground gained by values is being held. Present prices of Italian silks are higher than at the opening of October, while in Japan silk the improvement has been even greater.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Mr. Thos. Cunningham, fruit inspector for British Columbia, says there is a fine opportunity for establishing a large export trade in apples from that province to Australia. Some orders of fruit from California were countermanded by one of the colonial governments on the ground that that was an infected district; in the meanwhile fruit from the Okanagan Valley and other districts in British Columbia is of splendid quality this year, and only awaits a little pushing to get a firm hold on outside markets.

An advance in the price of olives is likely to take place on January 1st, owing to shortage in the European crops, and an increased demand in this continent.

The demand for salt salmon in San Francisco is very active and prices are high.

New York jobbing interests are agitated over an attempt being made in the middle west states, chiefly by grocery and hardware firms, to secure concessions in transcontinental rates. Should their efforts prove successful, the result would be that Pacific Coast rates would be cheaper from these middle west state points than from New York.

A Duluth despatch states that the most valuable grain cargo ever carried on the Great Lakes was loaded in Duluth by the new steamer "Howard Shaw," which carried 260,000 bushels of flax for Buffalo, insured for \$1.80 per bushel. This would make the total value of the cargo \$468,000, which is by far the most valuable grain shipment ever carried on the lakes.

The demand in Great Britain for cheese is quiet except for strictly fresh late-made stock. The Anglo-Canadian Produce Co. quote finest new Canadian cheddars in London at 53s. to 55s.

Butter in the Old Country is held at firm figures. In Liverpool, Canadian creamery is held at 103s. to 106s., while dairy is quoted at 80s. to 86s. The London price for Canadian butter is 96s. to 106s.

Canadian Wiltshire sides are quoted in Liverpool at 56s. to 58s. and in London at 52s. to 56s., while hams in the latter market are 54s. to 56s.

The British demand for good fresh eggs is active, and prices are firmer.

SHOE AND LEATHER NOTES.

The foreign trade among Lynn shoe, shoe supply and shoe machinery houses is developing to a greater extent than the casual observer would be led to believe, says an American exchange. Manufacturers in Lynn appear to be reticent in regard to what they may be doing in the export line, which has certainly developed considerably during the last year or two.

The Boston boot market is assuming its old-time vigor. The recent lethargy has given place to a sound, healthy and legitimate trading. Jobbers are naturally inclined to act with prudence. The volume of sales has increased of late to such proportions that manufacturers can operate their factories on full time and produce goods to their normal capacity. As to prices, they are so close to actual cost of goods that it is only by the exercise of the greatest economy that a reasonable profit can be assured.

Orders for immediate delivery are coming in to the Rochester factories freely. The stocks of many retailers seem to have run low and present indications are that the retail trade will be better this fall than it was a year ago. The sales of fall shoes have been satisfactory, manufacturers say.

The Shoe and Leather Reporter remarks that the population of the country is a matter of greater moment to the shoe trade than to most other industries. In the doleful times of dull business the people go on wearing out shoes just as fast as in periods of prosperity. They are, however, not quite so particular to get every possible bit of wear out of them when they have plenty of money in their pockets. Then again, the average consumer owns more shoes than say ten years ago. His wants and the ability to satisfy them are steadily increasing.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

"I have never understood that a promise given to a community was less binding on honor and conscience than an engagement undertaken towards an individual." These words, which occur in the farewell address sent by the late Premier Marchand, of Quebec, to his constituents before his death, are the words of an honorable gentleman, who was something more than a mere politician, and who served his country well. They deserve to be remembered. The principle which is affirmed in them is one too little regarded among us whether in municipal affairs or in the higher reaches of politics.

In answer to an enquirer in Manitoba as to the projected establishment of a Canadian Mint, we have seen the following language attributed in a despatch to Hon. Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance. Said that gentleman: "We have obtained the consent of Her Majesty's Government to, if we wish, go ahead with the projected branch of the Royal British Mint, and we may make not only our own coins without limit, but also British sovereigns, which will thus pass as current the world over. I anticipate that in the next session the negotiations will be so advanced that we will only need to pass the necessary legislation." The scheme is said to embrace also assay offices, so as to retain Klondike and British Columbian gold in Canada.

A letter written last week by Hon. Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the United States Treasury, in answer to the enquiry of a Boston workingman, explains what seemed to be a valid argument in the mouths of Bryan men, viz., that the Republican Government was doing, in the continued coinage of silver dollars, just what they blamed the Democrats for doing. Mr. Gage writes: "The exchangeable value of the silver contained in one of the proposed free coinage dollars is equal to about fifty cents in gold, and there is nothing and can be nothing in the mere act of stamping a given quantity of silver one dollar to make it worth more than the commercial value of the metal it contains. It is true that the Government is now and has for several years been coining silver dollars, the commercial value of which measured by the value of the money metal, is fifty cents or less. Mr. Bryan points to this fact, and says that our action in this respect justifies the opening of the mints to the free coinage of silver for everybody at the old ratio of 16 to 1; but the cases are entirely different. The Government bought silver bullion just as it buys nickel bullion. It stamps the nickel bullion into five-cent pieces, and pays them out only when it gets five cents value in return, and stands ready to redeem and always does redeem these nickels in their face value in gold when presented to the Treasury. The real value of the metal in the nickel is about six-tenths of one cent. The present practice of coining silver dollars is perfectly analogous. The Government bought silver bullion and stamps