

Hat, Cap and



Fur Trade.

The Spring Straw Trade.

Satisfactory reports continue to be made of the hat trade, both in retail and wholesale circles. The retailers are now placing Spring orders, and the indications are that they are going to be larger than last year. The wholesale houses report the sorting trade quite good.

The Spring samples of straw hats are now on view. There is a large range this year, especially in ladies' goods. The English boaters are shown in rustic and fine braids, white, mixtures and combinations, trimmed with ribbons and fancy bands. These will retail from 25c. up. There are also some very nice things in straw rough-riders, plain and fancy straws, tartan trimmed and quills. In this line there are goods to retail from 50c. up.

Men's straw hats show again a large proportion of rustic straws, but the tendency in the city trade is believed to be towards fine braids again. The full range of English golf caps combine some very natty things for the men's trade, although there is seldom much change in English goods of this class. The Canadian-made golf caps are shown with peaks and braids, while some are lined with the new mercerized cottons, which are now made so much to resemble silk effect.

A novelty is a blue yachting cap, the under body of crash with a cloth cover, so that, by removing the cover, the cap can be worn in either cool or hot weather. It retails for 75c.

In tans, there are some pretty things in colored pique combinations. Some fancy silk caps with flannelette backs are among the novelties of the season.

The "No Hat" Craze.

This past Summer, the habit of men going about day and night without any headgear at all was noticeable both at Canadian and United States Summer resorts and watering places. It is a silly fad, a passing fancy which can never spread to any extent, although it seems to have got as far as England, a London correspondent having observed that, at a recent masculine function in the evening, the men came hatless and overcoatless. It was a hot Summer in England this year, which may account for the vagaries of a few men. On this continent, however, the Summer weather was, as a general thing, cooler than usual, so that the "no hat" man could have his fling without much danger of a stroke. The average Summer sun on this continent does not permit of bare heads, so the chances are against the continuance of the practice.

Hat Trade Notes.

The demand for silk hats is reported better by manufacturers than at any time during the past five years, indicating better times and the disposition to dress accordingly.

The Hat Review records that the import of English felt hats into the United States has declined in the following scale. 1895,

19,500 dozen; 1896, 20,100 dozen; 1897, 8,700 dozen; 1898, 3,500 dozen.

James Coristine & Co., Limited, Montreal, are out with a handsome catalogue of high-grade furs. If you have not received one, write.

The novelty hat brush is going to be quite a striking feature of the hat trade next year. It is a small brush, with a straight aluminum handle, which can be carried inside the hat, and is intended for dealers to present to their valued customers free. As it is a nice-looking article and cleans the hat, it would be appreciated. A. A. Allan & Co., of Toronto, are handling this novelty.

The Fur Trade Booms.

The advance in the price of skins and the large orders placed for furs with importers and manufacturers make the situation in Canada an interesting one this season. Skins, since March, have gone up in price from 15 to 50 per cent. and the supplies on hand have about come to an end. The demand has been so exceptional that no importer could be blamed for not providing beforehand, and the fact seems to be that there are more orders than goods to fill them. Even the commonest grades of skins have much advanced in price; grey lambs have gone about 40 per cent. in advance; Persian lambs about 10 per cent., while, as to the finer goods, it is hard to state exactly what the advance may be, the furs being no longer in first hands, but being held by those who may, under existing conditions, put their own prices on them. The fur manufacturers in Canada also find labor hard to get, so that dealers who are disappointed in getting supplies may be sure they are not the only people caught short.

There is no doubt that the dealer who has been in the habit of making complaints, or whose claims are unreasonable, will not get as much satisfaction in the present situation, when goods are hard to get, as when he could dictate terms.

From New York the news comes, according to Cloaks and Furs, that a certain scarcity in some domestic and imported specialties has developed, and prices for those articles have about doubled over early figures. Some of the furs, says the same authority, which have been dead or neglected for years are likely to be taken up when every other article has reached a high latitude, with this inevitable result that those holders who have paid storage and icing charges for a number of years will take advantage of the first rise in price, and just about the time when their last skins are sold the inevitable rise will find them bemoaning their hard luck.

The Seal Catch.

According to Pacific Coast advices the Behring Sea sealers are not having a very good season. One vessel has returned to Victoria with only 54 skins to show for a Summer's work. Owing to desertion of the