



Travelers report good sales for stiff hats and straws, and that there is every prospect of a first-class Spring trade. The spring goods are now being received by the wholesale houses, and in stiff hats the open roll and roll front, with wide band, is very stylish and will, without doubt, become popular. It is very similar to the Fedora, which has been so fashionable. The wide brim has not "caught on" to any marked extent, but will likely do so when dealers become more reconciled to the change. In caps the English naval will in all probability be the leading style for the coming season. They are in all grades, and are very attractive.

#### STYLES AND COLORS.

There is but little to be said about either styles or colors this month, says the Hatter and Furrier. Sales of the soft round crown, with stiff flat brim, have been large, particularly in the West, and many orders have been placed for soft crown with curled brims. Altogether it looks as though that class of hat was destined to have quite a run, but not with high-class trade. Tourists, particularly in some of the new and nobby shapes, are selling well. In stiff hats the tendency for the best class of trade is decidedly towards a wider brim, although many manufacturers of fine goods are showing narrow brims. One in particular shows a high taper crown with rounding square, 16 line band and a narrow flattish setbrim with flat curl: it is selling fairly well. One of the best styles shown by a prominent English manufacturer has a bullet shaped  $5\frac{1}{2}$  deep crown, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  brim well rolled and set. It makes a striking and a stylish hat. In colors fancy browns hold their own, although pearls will be shown by the best trade. Without any definite information, it is safe to presume that inasmuch as Dunlap issued a pearl derby last Spring, he will do so again the coming season. It met with but moderate success then, but should do better this time. The new Tourist with sharp square taper crown makes a beautiful hat in pearl, and such should be a very popular seashore and mountain style. The latest Parisian agony has its possibilities, and in the hands of ingenious American manufacturers, may be utilized.

#### BEAVER HATS.

It will be bad for the beaver if the praise which is being so freely bestowed upon its fur should lead to beaver hats becoming fashionable again says the Warehouseman and Draper. It is hygienic according to one authority, economical by another, in spite of its high price at first, and it is generally agreed that for lightness, warmth, and comfort the beaver hats, which were at one time the only wear, are still ahead of any others. "Of all feltes that may be felt, give me your English beaver," boldly declares an old song of 1658, and three years after Pepys bought him a "beaver," which cost him £4 5s., which is assurance doubly sure that they were then in the front of fashion. The colonies first, and the Hudson's Bay

Company later, almost depended on the beaver for their prosperity, and the number of skins which have at times been imported is surprising. It is popularly supposed that the invention of the silk hat led to the freedom of the beaver from the persecutions of the trappers, but the fact is, that he has been hunted all the same, and if any considerable demand were made upon his felt or fur by fashion, there would be serious danger of his extinction.

#### THIS YEAR'S FUR SALES.

The following public fur sales of Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co. and the Hudson Bay Company, are announced to take place during this year. C. M. Lampson & Co., January 20 (salted fur sealskins); Hudson Bay Company, January 25, C. M. Lampson & Co., January 25 to 29; Hudson Bay Company, March 21 to 24; C. M. Lampson & Co., March 21 to April 1; June 20 to 24; October 24 to 28.

## B. LEVIN & CO.,

### WHOLESALE MANUFACTURERS OF FINE FURS

—AND—

### IMPORTERS OF HATS.

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A large and well assorted line of manufactured furs and high grade hats always in stock. Orders by mail from the trade will receive careful attention.

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