



Wholesale houses report that there are already many enquiries for fall hats, but the first arrival of English stiff hats will not be to hand until about the beginning of August. The young men's square crown hats have evidently come to stay, as there is still a steady demand for them. The Windsor seamless caps are having a big sale; they come in very nice stripes and checks and plain colors. Sealette caps are also in great demand, two of the most taking shapes being the Manitoba and Havelock.

With regard to furs, combination capes and short jackets are still running. Ladies' storm collars are again in demand, also ladies' fur-lined garments—dolmans and circulars—which are taking the place of fur-lined jackets. Americans are buying up all the Astrakhan possible, and Canadian buyers will have to get their supplies quick if they want this class of fur. Mink is greatly used in the States as lining for jackets, and American buyers are paying a big price for it, as there is a scarcity of the article both in the American and Canadian markets. Every house in the States is buying up seal goods and holding them at stiff prices. Some think there will be sufficient of these goods to bring prices down, but competent authorities say this is a mistake, and prices will remain high.

HOW IS THIS FOR HIGH.

A. A. Allan & Co., Toronto, are adding a couple of extra storeys to their extensive premises. When completed it will be the highest warehouse in the city—seven storeys and a basement. The top storey of all will be used as the blocking department, and the employes will have a splendid view of the lake and surrounding country. A new passenger elevator will also be built, which will be of great convenience to their numerous customers. This is an evidence of the steady expansion of their trade.

A NEW FIRM.

A new wholesale hat, cap and fur house will shortly commence business in London, Ont. The gentlemen composing the firm are A. C. Fraser, for fifteen years past with R. C. Macfie & Co., and John McMillan for sixteen years with John Birrell & Co. The name of the new firm will be Fraser, McMillan & Co. Mr. Fraser left a few days ago for the British and foreign markets and the firm expects to open out about September 1st, with full lines of goods in all departments.

A WHOLESALE FIRM ASSIGNS.

Maclean, Shaw & Co., one of the largest hat and cap wholesale firms in Montreal, have made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors, at the instance of Greene, Sons & Co. The list of creditors is a large one including the Ontario bank, notes indirect, \$67,000; M. Davis, notes (secured), \$17,000; Walker Lucas, of Bury, Eng., \$1,013; J. Duckworth, Eng., \$1,334; J. Howeston, Denton, \$2,361; Higginbotham & Oldham, Denton, Eng., \$438; West End Co., London, Eng., \$494; Cooke Bros., \$919; John Moore & Son, \$2,533; W. Walsh, Luton, Eng., \$1,227; E. Copleston & Son, \$1,198; Weathers, Hewet & Co., Horde, Eng., \$4,771; A. Ashworth, jr., Hooley Hill,

Eng., \$440; Walter Richardson, \$669; J. Ashworth, \$1,489; G. Howes & Bro., Bristol, \$2,388; Wooton & Forge, Bedworth, \$2,372; Ascon, Grundy & Rowbottom, Stockport, Eng., \$997; M. & J. Marshall, Stockport, \$1,833; J. E. Mills, Stockport, \$852; H. Slade & Co., St. Albans, \$698; Vero & Everett, Atherstone, \$2,959; W. Major & Co., London, \$1,123; Philip Politzer, \$2,214; Rodger & Quarest, Leipzig, \$3,122; M. Doneger, Manchester, \$1,627; J. Elleman, Leipzig, \$10,193; H. O. Bernard Manufacturing company, \$817; C. H. Tenney & Co., \$1,254; Tenney & Dupee, \$2,146; E. E. Francis & Co., \$213; Mattewan Manufacturing company, \$655; Vanderheof & Co., \$381; American Felt Hat company, Toronto, \$1,856; Greene, Sons & Co., \$3,070; Dominion Straw Goods Company, \$736; H. S. Sheyer, \$337; J. E. Molleur, St. John, \$573; Hamilton Straw works, \$741; Craig & Kent, Truro, N. S., \$891; Ross estate, rent \$600 and a number of smaller creditors, bringing the total liabilities, direct and indirect, up to \$150,058. A surplus of \$16,000 is claimed.

STYLES AND COLORS.

The pearl derby, which has been well introduced, has had but a moderate sale and this confined, to a great extent, to the large cities, says the Hatter and Furrier. It has had a good start, however, and will be popular next season. Pearl cassimeres had a moderate sale, perhaps showing a small increase over last year.

For fall colors, it is probable that the various shades of brown will more than hold their popularity. An index of this is seen in the colors ordered by the leading tailors for fall and winter clothing. Everything in this line is brown, particularly for suitings.

The fall shapes thus far shown have no striking divergence from those of the spring. A bullet shape is shown by some of the leading manufacturers, and has received favorable advance orders. The same may be said regarding a full crown, and it is really a matter of individual choice. Both round and D'Orsay curls are shown, and brims and crowns are of moderate proportions.

Silk hats promise a very radical departure from the straight crowns so long in vogue, and the chances are that a heavy bell crown with brim well rolled and pitched will come in. Such a decided change would make all the silk hats now worn look very much out of date and give a genuine revival to the business. It is to be hoped that the arbiters of silk hat fashions will have the requisite nerve to adopt the bell crown unanimously.

A sudden boom in the silk hat trade would make it very difficult for dealers to obtain hats, as the industry has been depressed for so many years that but few apprentices have been taken on and the present journeymen are men well advanced in years; skilled workmen, but not physically able to finish as many hats in a day as they once could.

PERSONAL.

A. A. Allan of A. A. Allan & Co., and W. Myles representing T. Dunnet & Co., Toronto, will be back from making their fall purchases in England in a few days.