

HATS AND CAPS—Continued.

and, as they are too high for the American manufacturer at prevailing figures, they will have to be exported. An important Canadian exporter claims that this is an off year, for which fact he finds but one reason—"no rabbits."

The receipt of furs in places tributary to the Twin City markets from this and the adjoining States are very light since February 1. This holds good even for muskrat. Whether there is an actual shortage, or whether the receipts are divided up among the many firms, cannot be told definitely. There is a good call for furs from American manufacturers, but they have bought sparingly, because prices, they say, are too high. The receipts of furs even in this northern country will come in only for another four weeks, and there will not be enough to supply manufacturers. They will have to obtain their goods either directly or indirectly from London. Times are prosperous and people want better furs. Muskrat, in their natural state and dressed, dyed and plucked to imitate otter, are used extensively here, one manufacturer alone, it is said, having used up about 12,000.—New York Cloaks and Furs.

The Fur Sales.

Speaking of the fur market at present, Mr. Jas. D. Allan said to THE DRY GOODS REVIEW: "The fur sales have been in progress in London to March 30, and only fragmentary information, from which no definite conclusions can be drawn, has been received. It is not considered that the reports sent over to this side of the ocean during the sales are official, and Canadian buyers do not, therefore, rely upon them. The indications are that 'something is up' in connection with Persian lamb. If there is a corner in these skins, as is reported, the chances are it will be unsuccessful. If the high prices are due to mortality among the lambs we must expect to see much higher prices. As for the offerings now in the market, they are of the common description and prices are considered prohibitive. A feature of the fur business which might be mentioned is that people are apt to form their values of certain skins irrespective of the quotations, and in ignorance of the markets. For instance, one may make offers for the purchase of bear skins, giving good quotations according to market values, but answers are not received on this basis, and it seems to be the fact that higher prices are expected for bear skins here than are being paid in London, which is the world's market."

Hat Making in South America.

The hat factories in Argentina, 227 in number, are represented by a capital of \$10,000,000, and give employment to 6,700 hands, of whom 2,300 are women and children. Only thirty factories employ steam power. Of the material used for the manufacture of hats, the wool is the only home production; while of those made of hair, only 30 per cent. of the raw material is of home production, the remainder being imported. A Belgian company, however, will shortly establish a factory in Buenos Ayres for preparing all the hair required for the hat industry.

A Hat Yarn.

Some men will buy two or three black derby hats a season, and these will always look rusty and old. Other men will buy not more than one a year, and that will never lose its deep and brilliant gloss. "I'll tell you why it is," said the best dresser in Germantown, the other day. "It is because one man brushes his hat with a stiff-bristle whisk, and the other rubs his

softly with a piece of woollen cloth. The felt of a hat is such a delicate stuff that a stiff whisk applied to it has pretty much the effect that a curry-comb or rake would have on a suit of clothes. It wears the nap off, exposing the bare grey foundation in short order. A piece of woollen cloth, rubbed over a hat with a circular motion that conforms to the grain, doesn't rub off the nap at all, but keeps it lustrous and firm and of good color. I buy one two-and-a-half hat a year, and rub it each morning with a bit of flannel. I guarantee that it outlasts three \$5 hats that are raked and scraped with whisks every day."—Philadelphia Record.

Racks for Showing Goods.

In a hat store there is a great deal in being able to exhibit the goods attractively because it is too much the tendency to make the inside of the store look like rows of boxes. Racks which enable a large number of hats, caps and furs to be suspended on them during the day time and packed away at night are very convenient things, because they impart to the interior of the store a brighter appearance. This is especially true of the Canadian patent hat and cap rack, which Mr. Kirk, of Bracebridge, Ont., has invented. His rack is different from others, in that, it can hang from the ceiling over a floor space, or over a table, in such a way that no room is taken up by the display which can ill be spared. The hooks and general finishings of this rack make it quite a handsome piece of furniture, and it can be made to order for any dealer who wants it of a certain size to suit his store. Mr. Kirk invites correspondence by dealers who want to find out prices and styles, etc.

A Peterboro' Change.

The extensive fur and hat business of J. W. T. Fairweather & Co., carried on at the corner of George and Simcoe streets, Peterboro', has been sold to Mr. Thomas Barrie. This has been one of the enterprising firms of Peterboro'; no other firm has been longer or better known. It is one of those distinctive premises which could not fail to invite popularity and trade. This corner has always been an old stamping ground for shoppers, not only in swell furs and hats, but also in other lines of merchandise. Mr. Thomas Barrie, who has purchased the business, has been associated with Fairweather & Co. for the past 18 years, and will retain the trade and popularity of the house.

An Inventor's Death.

The death of Geo. Yule, the inventor of hating machinery, at Newark, N. J., is chronicled by the New York Hat Review. Mr. Yule was born in Lille, France, March 26, 1852, and may be said to have inherited his inventive genius from his father, who was a celebrated inventor of machinery used in various textile industries, one of his inventions, the "West Fork," being still regarded as indispensable in the flax manufacturing trades. Mr. George Yule, whose father died in 1854, removed from Lille to Stockport, England, in 1863, where he secured employment in a cotton factory, and, later, in the hat manufacturing works of Wakefield Christy, and on account of his knowledge of French, was employed as interpreter and assistant to the French dyer engaged in the factory. During his connection with this factory Mr. Yule designed and invented a number of machines to be used in hating, and he also learned the hat trade in the course of pursuing his work of inventing and operating machinery. In March, 1872, Mr. Yule went to the United States, and his first situation was secured with Charles Crossley, hat manufacturer, at Newark, where he was employed as an engineer, and, later, had charge of the machinery in the factory, and still later, on account of his im-