

HATS CAPS AND FURS

Wholesalers report that the orders already received for spring hats are very good, indicating that a prosperous trade will eventuate. The cap trade is already booming, retailers being disposed to order liberal supplies.

Sorting orders for furs have only been fair owing to the mild weather, but should a prolonged cold snap set in the demand would be much brisker. There is a great run on sealette jackets on account of the high price of seal. There is also a special run on all kinds of capes, and some of them are now being made as long as 24 inches, thereby in a great measure taking the place of jackets. All furriers are so busy that they are refusing jobbing till after Christmas, and positively will not promise anything. This is a good sign.

THE LONDON FUR SALES.

Speculators in British Columbia managed about the end of October to get a report circulated that a great drop had taken place in the price of sealskins at the London sales. Not much credence

was given to the report, which received prompt contradiction from various sources.

From the report of Phillips Politzer & Co., of London, kindly supplied to us by T. Dunnet & Co., we extract the following: "There is not much change to record in the state of the fur trade since our last report, and prices in the public sales just concluded remain, with few exceptions, unaltered. A considerable early trade had the usual effect of reducing business in the second half of the year, and the present autumn has so far failed to infuse much life into the trade. If we still have maintained and in some instances improved upon the prices of last sale, it is owing to short supplies and small stocks in the hands of dealers as well as manufacturers. Fur seals met with better demand in England and on the Continent than the present high values would have led one to expect, but the public sale had not much support from the Americans, who accumulated heavy stocks last year in anticipation of scarcity, and could, with the adverse effect of a so far exceptionally warm autumn, keep very well out of the market for

the present. Prices generally speaking are about 10 per cent. lower than last October, the decline being very little on large skins, but all the more on small sizes. C. M. Lampson & Co., announce that the fresh collection of Coppers to come up for sale in January will amount to 30,689 against 53,991 skins last year, so that with the short supply of Alaska skins we are, speaking in round numbers, about 100,000 skins short for the coming season. This fact, and the probability of serious restrictions on the killing of seals in the near future must make them a desirable and safe article for some time to come.

Alaska—13,494 skins (last year, 21,000). A very fine parcel in good sound condition realized on the average about 11 per cent. less than last year, the decline in the various sizes being as follows:—Middlings and smalls, 9 per cent.; smalls, 11; large pups, 12; middling pups, 11; small pups, 12.

Copper Island—5,800 skins (last year, —). The balance of last year's catch carefully selected, with a large proportion of low and stagey skins thrown out. Middlings and smalls advanced 6 per cent., smalls 1; large pups declined 3 per cent., middling pups 11, small pups 11.

North-west Coast—39,726 skins (last year, 17,489) of which 23,646 were in the hands of Culverwell, Brooks & Co., who announced a further 17,000 skins to come up for sale at an early date. The skins offered by C. M. Lampson & Co. realised about 7½ per cent. advance on last year's prices, more especially the large-sized skins; while Messrs. Culverwell, Brooks & Co. obtained on the average 12½ per cent. less than C. M. Lampson & Co., owing no doubt to the large number of small, irregular, and mixed lots; which assortment was unavoidable in consequence of the great number of owners whose shipments had to be kept separate.

Lobos—7,807 skins (last year, 8,639). An inferior parcel with a great number of stagey skins, of which the large sizes have advanced 5 per cent., while the small pups declined about 15 per cent., but comparing the quality with last year's there is not much difference in values.

Cape of Good Hope—1,556 skins (last year, 718). The large-sized skins advanced 10 per cent., while small pups were 25 per cent. cheaper.

Australian Opossums—741,076

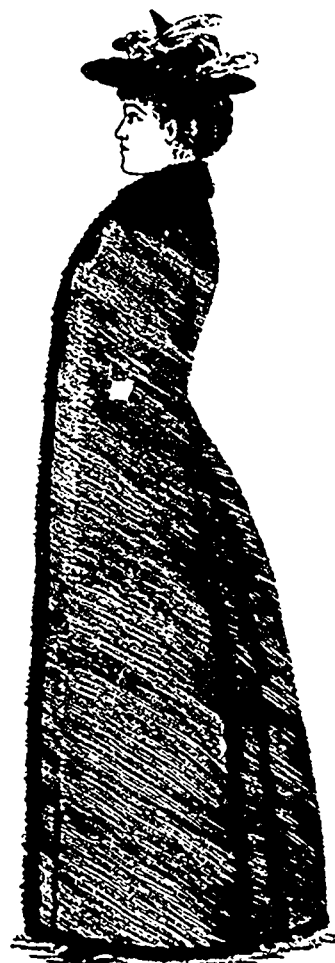


Fig. 1.

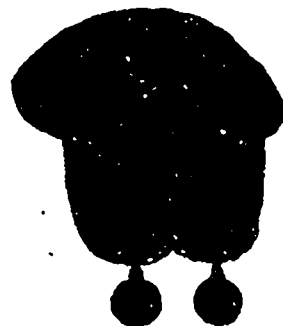


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.