

HATS CAPS AND FURS

The wholesale houses are now busily engaged opening out their fall importations of hats and report that trade is picking up considerably. They have had a very large number of buyers in to see them since the first of the month, and a good business has been done. Retailers in the city report a brisk trade in fall hats, and during the exhibition their hearts will no doubt be gladdened by many calls from visitors to the city. There is a continued and brisk demand for the new square crown for young men which is shown in the following cut :



FANCY FELT FASHIONS IN ENGLAND.

There is likely to be a heavy demand next winter for felt hats for ladies' and children's wear, says the London Hatters Gazette. This may convey an impression of monotony which the inspection of a range of samples effectually dispels. For variety in shape, color, finish and dimensions, these felt hats are but little behind the extraordinary range of summer goods. Some manufacturers of the less enterprising sort have hinted that "something" will have to be done to check the present prodigality of invention and to induce a return to more moderate selections. They must commence by persuading their more pushing competitors to forego the benefits of their superiority—a hopeless task. The Luton houses will have very little bad stock left over when the dying season is dead—they have prudently worked on the smallest possible quantities of material, and the last few weeks have absorbed a vast amount of stuff. Luton will be found a dangerous competitor with Stockport, Atherton, etc., in the production of the felt goods already mentioned, while it will probably lead the way with the heavily-raised "beaver" fur goods as sold so largely last season, and which promise an equal success for next.



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This promises to be pre-eminently a fur season. Wholesale houses report that the demand for all classes of furs is very spirited, in fact one house says that furs were never selling so well. There is a big demand for Astrakhan and a steady run on beaver and seal. Persian lamb is also being brought into more prominence owing to the advance in the price of seal. Travelers for Toronto houses are on duty during the exhibition and are kept busy waiting upon customers. But by the end of the month they will be out with their samples. We illustrate this month the shape for a 40 or 45 inch seal jacket, manufactured by A. A. Allan & Co. but there is no doubt that the short jacket—28 inch—will be in greater demand. We will give a cut of it in our next issue. The designs this season in jackets are charming and novel. We may here mention that the English models of short seal jackets are very plain, deriving their beauty from the neat way in which they are cut to fit the figure rather than from any particular embellishment. Roll collars, high shoulders, loose fronts and tight fitting backs are the general rules.

COMPENSATION FOR B. C. SEALERS.

All those interested in the sealing industry in Victoria and Vancouver, B. C., have forwarded strong protests to the Marquis of Salisbury against the prohibition of fur seal hunting in Behring sea, which they claim has inflicted upon them grievous injustice, embarrassment and loss, and submitting that they are equitably entitled to compensation for their losses inflicted through no laches on their own part, notwithstanding their earnest protest against the course which has been taken. In their opinion the only equitable and fair method of ascertaining such compensation will be to allow in respect of each vessel such a sum as will be equal to the value of the average take in Behring sea, according to the number of boats or canoes carried by each vessel, for the last three years (exclusive of such vessels as were seized or driven out of Behring sea in the year 1889) calculated at the current price of sealskins. If allowed such rate of compensation they will undertake to pay all hunters and others entitled to wages, or a rate per skin, such sums as will be equal to what they would have been entitled to receive if they had actually taken such number of skins, and such wages as they would have earned had they served for the usual period. And as many of those interested rely upon the year's profits to meet the cost of outfit, wages, and other expenses, it is of the utmost importance that prompt action be taken by the Imperial Government so as to