

A PROGRESSIVE FIRM.

B. Levin & Co., wholesale hats, and manufacturers of fine furs, Montreal, inform us that their spring trade has exceeded their utmost expectations, so much so that they were compelled to lease another warehouse to do their business this year. Having been successful in securing for the Dominion the agency of Lincoln, Bennett & Co., Sackville street, London, hatters to Her Majesty and Prince of Wales, a firm well known and celebrated all over the world; and also for W. Wilkinson & Co., Regent street, London, another manufacturer of acknowledged reputation, the trade under the circumstances, were only too glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of securing hats from two such manufacturers. The firm congratulate themselves in being able to offer goods of this class to the trade, thereby placing the Canadian public in the position of being able to buy the best goods in the market. The success that has attended this effort will enable them next season to put upon the market a line of stiff hats that cannot be excelled. Their travelers, six in number, are now on the road for the coming fall trade, and are showing a line of furs in capes, plain, Queen Anne, and Princess styles; collars, in almost every description of fur, with muff to match, and caps in a variety of styles. They are also showing some entirely new novelties in furs made up into capes, collars, and muffs, and the trade should not allow the opportunity to pass without giving their samples an inspection when their representative calls, as they would be interesting to look through. They are also carrying some new lines of robes, coats and jarkers, besides the usual line of gloves, mitts, imitation lamb goods, and Scotch caps in great varieties. Their buyer in Europe has this year made a special study of new furs for the Canadian trade, and the firm feel that he has succeeded in enabling them to put upon the market a line of samples in fine furs, not to be excelled by any other house in the trade.

JAMAICA EULOGISED.

Mr. A. A. Allan, of A. A. Allan & Co., wholesale hatters and furriers, Toronto, returned, in the beginning of this month, from a three-months' visit to Jamaica. He feels greatly benefitted by the change and speaks in glowing terms of the beautiful scenery, the hospitality of the inhabitants, and of the island as a health resort, particularly for certain lung and throat diseases. In his opinion the trip from Canada to Jamaica is far ahead of any other winter trip upon the map, and only requires to be better known to be more fully appreciated by Canadians. He says the exhibition has been a wonderful success and the Canadian exhibit was the talk of the island. One great benefit of the exhibition has been, that it has opened the eyes of the people of Jamaica to the fact that there are other people to trade with in the world besides those of the United States. There is no question in his mind but that a good live trade will be done with Jamaica by Canada. It may take time; progress at first may be slow, as the islanders are a most conservative people, but it will be certain and lasting if properly looked after. There is practically no manufacturing done upon the island, but they do not require many of our manufactured goods. What they want, and what we should make a point of establishing a trade with them in, are breadstuffs and natural products; also dressed lumber and prepared lumber for building purposes. They are very deficient in their laundry service; the country is warm and laundries are as necessary as drink. There is a grand opening in that country for energetic laundrymen and first-class bakers.

THE SILK HAT.

In many years there has not been such a wide discrepancy in the appearance of the high class native and foreign type of high silk hat. The home article does not differ in a marked degree from the block of last season. It is not at all ultra in form, having a narrow brim with slight curl and a straight symmetrical crown. It is a style becoming to the average man. The English tall hat, on the other hand, has a striking bell crown and noticeably curled brim. There can be no confounding the American and English styles this Spring. The English type has scored a positive success, and will probably be followed more closely by native manufacturers in the Fall.—N. Y. Hatter and Furrier.

TRUE IT IS.

A man may still be honest in a hat of last year's shape; but to insist upon wearing it is to go heavily handicapped; the odds are ten to one that, from looking askance at him, his fellows will proceed to charge him with eccentricity, and end by grave doubts about his reason. He finds himself suddenly forced, some fine morning, to set aside his own taste for that of the wide civilized world, which agrees in thinking his brim an inch too wide. How has the world precipitated itself so swiftly to this just conclusion? The process is as startling as any transmutation of the alchemists; it defies augury, like the philosopher's stone. Scribner

STRONG DEMAND FOR KRIMMER.

The Leipzig correspondent of the Hatter and Furrier says: "It becomes monotonous to repeat continually the same thing about Astrakhan, Persianer, and Krimmer. All these articles are as much in demand as ever, and importers here actually contract for the lambs before the ewes are born. As everybody bids for goods the quality of which is utterly unknown, prices are expected to strengthen. It has to be considered that, with the continued slaughter of lambs and ewes alike, this order of things cannot last. Krimmer is in very strong demand for your country and France. The demand for American furs, which began under good auspices, has sagged of late, and shippers, of whom two or three have just left for London, are more than satisfied."

Krimmer is what is known in Canada as grey lamb. So strong has been the demand for it that several houses cannot get it at all and those who have been more fortunate are holding it very stiff.

A Toronto house, the other day, received a cablegram from their representative in Leipzig that Astrakhan had advanced 70 per cent.

PANAMA HATS.

The art of manufacturing Panama hats had its origin in Guayaquil, and from thence was imported into Peru, some fifty years ago. Ten years back it was a flourishing business, but its importance has greatly diminished. This decline is said to be owing to the progress made in the European manufacture. In Brazil, where the sale of the Panama hat was once sure and profitable, an Italian straw hat may be obtained for a franc and a half, arranged according to the fashion, while the most ordinary Panama hats cost about two francs each. The inhabitants of Mayobamba, Sarapoto, and Somas, who formerly lived on the hat industry, have considerably diminished, and at the present day they turn their attention to the more lucrative gutta-percha industry. The preparation of the straw for the manufacture of hats is a somewhat delicate operation. The fibril parts are separated, and for this purpose a hook is used resembling a hairpin. The strip separated by the two points is that used, and all the straw used in the manufacture of a hat is cut in the same way, and must have the same width. These shreds of straw are submerged in boiling water for six hours, then exposed to the dew, and afterwards dried in the sun. The value of the Panama hat increases in proportion to the fineness of the straw. The ordinary hats have three numbers, No. 1 being the least fine.

VALUE OF THE ALASKA FUR INDUSTRY.

In a census bulletin on the wealth and resources of Alaska, recently issued by the United States census office, Mr. Ivan Peteroff, the special agent who prepared it, says:

"The discussion of the wealth and resources of Alaska can be properly classified under four heads—furs, fish, minerals and timber. This classification will give these products in the order of their relative value and magnitude of proportions. The fur trade, the most important industry of Alaska, may be divided into two branches, namely: The trade in land furs and the pursuit of marine mammals, such as fur seals and sea otters. The trade in land furs, though a decline has been noticed in the supply of certain sections, cannot be said to have decreased in volume. There is no doubt that fur-bearing animals are hunted and trapped with greater persistency and energy than ever before, and as a natural consequence there must in the future be a greater decline in numbers. The land furs export-