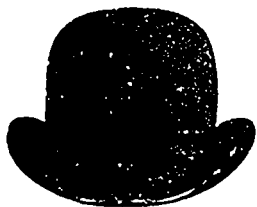


Hat, Cap and



Fur Trade.

The General Outlook in Hats.

Retail trade in the cities is pretty fair, and September sales were quite up to the average. Some dealers, however, find trade a little slow, but look forward to a good October. That present conditions are not unsatisfactory may be inferred from the fact that wholesale importers report that retail orders for Spring hats are large, showing that the trade count upon a good season for Spring, 1901. Samples of both straw and felt hats are now being shown. In straws, rustics sell freely, as well as the turban shape of boater. The out-of-town dealer is also buying the "Century" style—the fedora shape in straws—which made its appearance in the cities last Summer. Linen hats, tourist shape, with fancy puggaree bands, shown both with soft and stiff bodies, are being bought for next season's trade.

Notes of Trade Interest.

There are no hat merchants in Mexico. Hats there are simply a line carried by the general dealer, who sells, usually, various styles and colors of the soft Alpine hat of medium quality, that is \$3 to \$3.50 a dozen. Some American hard felts are sold, and some straws in Summer. The duty on each hat brought into Mexico is 47 cents, regardless of the value of the hat.

E. D. Rose, of Hamilton, took advantage of the millinery openings in that city to have a "men's hat opening." In his two stores he carried a good range of the latest novelties, and called attention to new features in his stock through the local press. The experiment is a good idea, and may commend itself to other dealers.

L. N. E. Lafontaine, Guelph, has moved his stock of furs into new and improved premises. One of his novelties is slippers of Greenland seal, for house wear. These are sold at moderate prices.

James Coristine & Co., Limited, Montreal, say that they are carrying the largest range of hat and cap samples for Spring, 1901, ever shown by a Canadian house. They have secured the exclusive control of many prominent makers' hats, and with 15 energetic men on the road should make the hat trade hum.

The Fur Seal Question.

It is admitted at Washington, says The New York Fur Trade Review, that branding seals, as conducted on the Pribiloff Islands, as yet shows no satisfactory results, the plain inference from the statement being that the experiment has not yet run a satisfactory length of time to demonstrate its good qualities, if it has any. The practice of branding began in 1896 and has been continued to date, which we are to regard as too short a period to be effective one way or the other. How anyone should have supposed that branding seals would be productive of satisfactory results is more than we can understand, or have been able to even indefinitely apprehend from the very beginning of the practice. Canadian sealers, who business it was

believed, not by business men, but at the Capitol, would be very nearly ruined by the cruel operation, looking at the matter from their point of view, note no satisfactory results, though we believe out of a catch of 27,000 seals, six skins presented very clear evidences of having been branded, and presumably only of partial market value. We may suppose that the branding will continue in the hope that in some mysterious way good results will follow, for, in this respect, as in all others, while there is life there is hope.

The English Hat Trade.

The felt hat manufacturers in the Manchester district report trade as being rather quieter than usual by comparison with other years. The disturbed condition of affairs in South Africa and China is beginning to have bad effects upon the shipping trade, while at home the increase in the price of coals and other commodities essential to hat manufacturing has hampered trade considerably. Notwithstanding the condition of trade, the day-wage men at Denton have given notice that from October they will require an advance from 32s. to 35s. Returns show the total exports of hats manufactured at home during 1899 to have been 1,071,315 dozen; value, £1,106,647; compared with 1,072,119 dozen; value, £1,059,739, in 1898. For the seven months ended July this year the exports of skins were valued at £882,879, against £861,473 during a like period last year.

The shellac market has been dull lately, but deliveries keep good. Present prices: Fine orange, £3 15s. to £4; second orange, £2 17s. to £3 10s.; garnet, £2 16s. to £3 2s.; button, £2 to £4.

The trade has received official intimation of the amalgamation as a limited company of the business of John Turner & Sons, hatters and electrical engineers, Denton and the United States, and that of Alderman Giles Atherton, hatting expert and engineer, Stockport. This firm of Turner, Atherton & Co. will, it is stated, shortly introduce new machinery, which will have an important bearing on the hatting industry.

The Story of the Panama Hat.

The United States Consul at Guayaquil, Ecuador, has sent to Washington an interesting report on the Panama hat. "Ecuador," he says, "can, with justice, claim preeminence in the production of cacao and the manufacture of straw hats and hammocks. Her cacao crop represents about one third of the world's supply; her hammocks, made in the coast provinces, notably those of Manavi, cannot be excelled by any made elsewhere; while her straw hats are the finest in the world. The Manavi (Panama) hat was first made in the province of Manavi, Ecuador, about 275 years ago, by a native named Francisco Delgado. The present centres of the industry are Monte Cristi and Jipijapa, in the province of Manavi, and Santa Elena and Cuenca, in the provinces of Guayas and Azuay, respectively. They came to be known as Panama