

WHAT YOUR FURS COST.

Twelve million animals are killed every year to furnish us with furs. Some of these fur bearing animals, like the sea otter, have been almost annihilated, and the beaver has disappeared from all but the most distant regions. Statistics show a constant increase in the supply of furs, but this does not mean that there are more fur bearing animals in the world. It signifies simply that under the impulse of the greater demand and the better prices more persons engage in hunting and trapping the animals.

Every animal that has hair on it is hunted to-day for its hide. The lion as well as the rabbit, the monkey as well as the cat, the fox as well as the seal, the bear and the otter, animals of the Polar region and those that live near the Equator, mammals and amphibians. There are some four hundred species or varieties of fur bearing animals, and almost every country in the world furnishes its quota of furs. China sends furs from Tibet, Japan sends martens and badgers, South America a kind of rat, Peru and Chili the chinchilla, Australia the opossum. In 1898 there were 1,300,000 opossum skins sold in London!

The muskrat furnishes the largest number of skins in 1898, 2,651,342. Of course, the retail buyer does not recognize the muskrat in the furs of the marten sold to her, but that is what most of the marten furs are. The collarettes and boas sold at such low prices are muskrat furs and they wear well. Skunk and the true marten are next in importance. The marten is found largely in Canada and the northern part of the United States, and so are the polecat and the ermine. Fox skins are sold in very large numbers, 250,000 having been used in 1898. But there are all sorts of grades among the foxes. The common red fox is of least value.

The blue fox and silver fox are most valued. The blue fox is sometimes almost as white as the snow on which it lives and at other times of a dark color. It is this second kind which is most largely sought for. Last year the best specimens of blue foxes were sold for as high as \$1,200 each. But the famous silver fox is greatest of all, for its dark skin is liberally sown with white hairs. It is found mainly in the extreme North, near the Arctic Ocean in Alaska, Labrador and Siberia, and, besides, it is very rare. Some specimens of this fur have been sold during the last year for \$1,700.

After the first fall of snow, about the middle of October, the fur hunters bury themselves in the forests, taking with them two dogs, who drag along the sleigh loaded with the necessary supplies. These consist of some blankets, ammunition traps, sometimes a tent and very little provisions. They rely chiefly upon the animals slain for food. After laying the traps—a work of no small trouble and labor—the hunter must be ever on the alert for the wolf is ever ready to rob his traps of any animal caught therein, and the hunter doesn't like to catch furs for wolves.

Toward the end of the winter most of these animals disappear, and then the hunters look for beavers, setting their traps through holes in the ice. When the thaw begins their activity runs along other lines, for the grizzly and common bears may emerge from their winter quarters and their pelts are in no small demand. After catching as many animals as they can, strip-

ping and salting their hides, the trappers must sell the products of their winter's work. The Indians in Canada bring most of their furs to the forts of the Hudson Bay Company.

Canada and Labrador supply most of the furs exported from America. Siberia does as much for the Old World. The most magnificent sables and a kind of marten called the kolinski, are found there. Even the wolf, whose hide elsewhere is of little value, there has a good pelt. Siberia also furnishes a large number of white fox skins, ermine and gray squirrel. Even the hares in Siberia have valuable furs for the hunters. In that part of Asia most of the trapping is done by Zyrians, Ostiaks, Samoyedes and other Mongolian tribes. Their guns are primitive flintlocks, which they use very seldom on account of the price of powder. They prefer to use a bow and arrow, and sometimes only a blunt arrow, so as to stun the animal without hurting or staining the fur. Most of their hunting is done, however, by traps most ingeniously contrived. The winters are terrific, the thermometer going down to 30 or 40 degrees below zero, as a general thing, and sometimes even to 60 degrees. It often happens that the hunters are caught in terrific storms, when progress is impossible, and they are compelled to form snow huts to live in until they can find the way back to their semi-civilized homes.

Hunting the amphibian sea otters and seals is a most profitable and at times dangerous pursuit. At the beginning of the century 15,000 sea otters were killed every year near the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, but the reckless hunting has almost swept them out of existence. Near the Aleutians the tempests are very sudden and terrific, and this increases the danger of hunting in this neighborhood. The otaries, or seals, with ears, bear a fur almost as highly prized as that of the sea otter and were formerly very numerous in ice bound regions. Now they are found in some number around Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, but these have not such valuable furs as the seals found in the Pacific near Behring Strait.

The method of hunting the seals is most curious. While they are asleep the hunters glide along the banks and get between them and the sea. Then, shouting and waving flags and umbrellas, they drive the helpless animals inland like flocks of sheep. Here they are met by Indians armed with clubs, who attack the seals in groups of one hundred or one hundred and fifty, killing with every blow of the club. In forty days they frequently succeed in slaying the hundred thousand seals permitted by law.

London is the fur market of the world and the fur king is C. M. Lampson. His buyers purchase the furs found all over the world. They are all shipped to London, catalogued and then sent to dealers and auction sales are held. Within seven or eight days millions of dollars' worth of furs are distributed to the fur dealers of the world.

Goblet or Tumblers.

In Paris the goblet still holds its own in both private and public dinner tables, but in England the goblet is obsolete, and the tumbler does duty for everything, everywhere, from hot grog to cold water. These tumblers, however, are now very tall and thin. It is said that at Queen Victoria's table she has always clung to high glass, whatever the vagaries of fashion, and that many of her glasses are of great age.

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No Punctuation, Says Fashion. Secret of Leadership.

The latest fad of fashion, it is said, decrees that punctuation is unnecessary in letter writing. It strikes us that the fiat is much more unnecessary than the punctuation. The latter has never been indulged in to any large extent by woman. A dash or so and plenty of italics are the only condescensions her epistles have made toward that phase of rhetoric. That she should be enjoined, upon pain of appearing unfashionable, to forego all the commas and semicolons and interrogation points that she has never used seems hardly fair. It's a case of being found guilty without having as much as given offense. It shows a remarkable ignorance upon the part of fashion. What has she been thinking about all these years that the smart epistolary communication has been so religiously abstaining from punctuation? Perhaps Fashion has been wrongfully reported, such things have happened—perhaps the fiat actually concerns the beloved dashes and idolized italics, so dear to her who takes her pen in hand for the fashionable note. Perhaps it is but a neat little dodge of Fashion to put us on the right track; after denouncing dashes, her next move will be to recommend the established marks for punctuation which the educated woman, be she fashionable or otherwise, has always used. It strikes us that whoever reported Fashion in this thing confounded it with that other dictum known to all, that punctuation marks must never appear upon the engraved communication, be it card or invitation or of visit, and in whatever lettering. But this has nothing to do with the manuscript note, and it will take more than Fashion to convince us otherwise. Even so great an authority must remember that "a shoemaker should stick to his last."

There are certain qualities existing in some people that defy analysis. The talent for success, for instance, cannot be defined, and yet it is well known that certain individuals possess it, while others do not. It is not dependent, apparently, on any particular ability or virtue. Cleverness will not insure it. Perseverance, thrift and industry, although they may help, cannot create it—it is just a gift like the genius for writing or painting, or anything else. It is given to the few, and withheld from the many.

The talent for leadership is another one of these mysterious attributes for which the why and the wherefore cannot be discovered. What constitutes a leader is as impossible to explain as to find the key to the secret of success. Even at school some one boy or girl will obtain this prominence, although there may be others apparently equally well or even better fitted to hold the position. In later life people submit meekly to "bosses" of every description—political, social, or financial—wondering at while not denying their power.

"Why is it," asked a society woman from another city the other day, "that Mrs. Z. has obtained so much ascendancy over you all? Granted that she is well born and is rich, but so are a score or more of others. There seems really no adequate reason for it, yet you have put her up on a pedestal and bow down before her. You all are just as pleased and flattered by her notice as if she were royalty. She is evidently a born leader, but how does she do it?"

There is no power like this subtle power of leadership which is dependent upon no favor and yields no submission; but how it originated and why it is granted to certain individuals is one of the conundrums that forever remains unanswered.

A Bad Case of Asthma.

Mrs. Samuel Ferndel, of Clements-Port, N.S., writes: "It is with great pleasure that I write you to tell of the good I have derived from the use of Catarrhzone. I am in my eightieth year now and from youth up I have been troubled with Asthma, and not until I used Catarrhzone, did I get relief. It has cured my Asthma in an incredibly short time, and I heartily recommend it to all." Catarrhzone is sold by all druggists. Trial outfit sent for 10c in stamps by N. C. POLSON & CO., Kingston, Ont., Proprietors.

To Clean Ribbons.

If a person uses proper care and is in the open air when cleaning ribbons or silk with gasoline there will be no accident. To clean ribbons effectively fill a fruit jar about half with the gasoline, and put into it ribbons that are not mussed. White ribbons should be cleaned separately. Aside from this the jar may be filled with any ribbons of any coloring. Close the bottle, allowing it to remain closed from two to six hours, and shake occasionally. Then take out the ribbons, hang them to dry in the open air, and, if possible, give them a good sun bath, to remove the objectionable odor of the gasoline. The ribbons need no pressing and are ready for use as soon as they have been aired. They should be stretched and smoothed out as they dry.

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