

TAILORING AND FURNISHING GLEANINGS.

THE Thornton Inverness continues a fashionable overcoat in England, according to *Minister's Gazette of Fashion*. The shoulder seam is carried across square with the natural level of the shoulders, giving a squarer appearance. The cape reaches to about the knees, and is furnished with a fly front. The materials used are mostly fine Cheviots, Shetlands and Vicunas.

This journal also describes a dress coat with turns arranged to roll very nearly to the bottom, and with the ordinary "step" form of fronts, which are covered right out to the edge with silk. It has also plain round cuffs four inches deep. The *Sartorial Art Journal* points out that dress coats are several inches longer than in previous seasons. In materials it prefers Oxford Vienna.

Geo. Anderson & Co., 8 Wellington east, are desirous of purchasing \$30,000 worth of raw furs for the English market.

The United States tailors are going to have an elegant building of their own at the World's Fair at Chicago. This will give suitable accommodation for the visiting brethren; although of course no one but subscribers to the building fund will be entitled to its privileges.

The question at present agitating the minds of manufacturers and the trade generally is whether or not regatta shirts will become the rage. Buyers are timid, and are acting with a good deal of reserve and caution. There is one thing certain, that the open back dress shirts in medium quantities are not going to be knocked out to any degree, and the goods shown for spring are superior to any former season in quality and general get-up. Although regatta shirts can be worn with any suit for business, or for walking, etc., yet not on dress occasions, when men must don the conventional full dress court shirt. These are mostly of German make. In fact the Germans make the best lines on account of the amount of hand labor which is bestowed on them, such as hand-made button holes, etc. It seems strange that the Germans can import Irish linens, pay 15 per cent. duty on it, manufacture it into shirts, export it to Canada, pay 30 per cent. and a dollar a dozen, and still compete with Canadian manufacturers. Surely there must be a lack of snap somewhere. But the fact remains, and there seems only a slowness on the part of our shirt manufacturers to explain the startling state of circumstances. The duty amounts to a heavy bounty, but still the domestic goods cannot compare for nicety of detail, with foreign made goods.

The regatta shirt which promises to lead during the coming season is the open front shirt worn with a white collar. Many dealers predict an enormous sale. Neglige shirts with a stiff collar and a short stiff bosom will be much in favor. Bedford cords in the regular neglige shirts will lead, especially when varied by the introduction of a silk stripe. The furnish-

ers will have to watch carefully for the next season or two, because fashion promises to exceed her usual fickleness in the matter of shirts.

The newest thing in knot ties are the smaller knots and the loose, flowing, unlined ends. This is a variety which promises well. Shot effects in ties are taking well, especially in fantastic line patterns. These are even ahead of the florals. Spots hold well. Derbys of all kinds are in as much demand as ever.

Men's gloves and mitts have had a somewhat slow season as yet; due no doubt to the mild weather of the past two months. Stocks in the wholesale houses are fairly heavy, while the same seems to be the case with the retailers.

The fur garment season has opened up poorly for the retailer. Ladies' capes, caps, gloves and jackets have sold fairly well, but men won't buy their goods till they need them, and consequently stocks are almost unbroken. Seal goods have been in fair demand in ladies' jackets; boas in restricted quantities have sold, but capes are the proper caper. Ladies' fur goods would have sold in even larger quantities if fur trimmed cloaks had not been imported in such large quantities. The fur trade, considered en toto, has not been so brisk as dealers would have liked. But the weather is an uncontrollable element in varying trade. If January turns out cold, it will lighten stocks; if not, there will be little profit in this fur season.

In the men's furnishing department of Wyld, Grasett & Darling's warehouse may be seen a crowded display of holiday neckwear, and also of lines suitable for the spring trade. They have just opened up a shipment of 27 cases of these goods, which includes many novelties, and embraces all qualities. These were picked up in England quite recently by their buyer, Mr. Fisher, and he claims that he has secured the finest line of neckwear ever shown in Canada. This statement was made with the calm confidence which always betokens honest knowledge. The newest thing in these English goods is what is called the American "turning" in Derbys. This feature is that the lining of the tie comes only within a quarter of an inch of the edge. Thus it is impossible for the lining to be visible when the Derby is properly tied. This idea is shown in all qualities, and they have made it a leading feature of their goods. They claim to be the only jobbers in Canada who have secured this improvement in their lowest priced Derbys. They have also received a shipment of their English "Grandee" two-inch collars, and have now all sizes in stock, and back orders are now being executed. They are doing a good trade in Japanese silk handkerchiefs, both in initial and plain hem-stitched, and are showing special value in a job line of colored brocaded silk handkerchiefs. Another shipment of their light colored check waterproof coats has been passed into stock. The trade have handled this line in large quantities for three successive seasons.

John Macdonald & Co. are in receipt of a large shipment of their celebrated full dress German court shirt. This shirt has been on the market for years

and has in every respect proved satisfactory and superior to any other competing shirt. This year they have introduced a lower grade, which can be retailed at \$1.25, still retaining their standard quality. These shirts possess many peculiar features which other shirts do not, and buyers if not already familiar with these leaders should become so.

W. R. Brock & Co., in their furnishing department, have just passed into stock, for the holiday trade, large shipments of the latest novelties from the London market, purchased quite recently by their European buyer, Mr. A. Crawford. They consist of men's neckwear in knots of all styles, Derbys, and Windsors. One of the newest knots is called the *Manvers*, being a combination of a knot and Windsor tie, having long flowing unlined ends. Spots, figures and brocades lead. Their stock is very extensive, and exceedingly well chosen. Silk handkerchiefs in white, cream and colored brocade, and shot effects are very attractive. They have a large shipment of Japanese handkerchiefs direct from Yokohama. This gives them a range of handkerchiefs of all kinds for the holiday trade which has pleased large numbers of buyers. A new Christmas novelty is a new silk umbrella done up one in a box. These are shown in both ladies' and men's styles in natural, celluloid, gold and silver mounted, and other fancy handles. These are extremely rich and fantastic in effect.

John Macdonald & Co. are making a special display of neckwear in all varieties. The usual space allotted in the warehouse for these goods was too small, and increased space has been given to them, and there are better facilities for inspecting them. They display thousands of patterns, and the turnover of these goods will be phenomenal this month. It is astonishing the volume of trade done in this class of furnishings. The handkerchief trade has reached a volume already unprecedented in the history of the house. During the past week one buyer alone purchased over a thousand dozen of assorted lines of handkerchiefs, and yet the assortment on hand has never been better nor larger. Merchants from all parts of Ontario have visited their haberdashery department during the past week, and a huge business has been done in holiday goods, which will be advantageous to these buyers as well as to the house. Five cases of finest American braces have been opened up. Nineteen cases of white dress shirts, collars and cuffs, three cases of men's novelty umbrellas, and sundry cases of underwear and half-hose have also been passed into stock. Thus the arrivals of half-hose and underwear are about at an end for the season.

At a recent meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade the matter of petitioning the Government to insure money packets sent by registered post was remitted to the council to take direct action with the Government in conjunction with the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto. The council were also requested to take up with the Government the matter of the reduction of postage on city drop letters from two cents to one cent. It is understood that other boards are moving in this direction.