

Fur Stores of Paris.

Continued from Page 381.

rather long fur, with white points which give it a singular effect. This garment is tied in at the waist behind, with a waistband fastened in front with a jeweled buckle. It is lined throughout with Scotch tartan, and is as carefully made as those of much higher price. This is a feature which I have remarked in all the work at M. Grunwaldt's.

The firm of Valenciennes Freres, No 17 Rue Vivienne, is one of the oldest established fur houses in Paris. It dates from 1820 and employs about sixty hands. It obtains its raw material from London, also from Nijni Novgorod in Russia, and at the fair at Irbit in Siberia where the most important trade in sables is transacted.

The furs most in demand at this establishment are chinchilla, from Peru; sables from Russia; marten and weasel, from Canada, and black goat, from Mongolia. Sable and weasel tails are also in large demand for trimmings.

The garments most in fashion this winter are chinchilla capes, sable capes, with flouncings at the bottom and very high Medicis collars; sable tippets, with tails and paws hanging; Breitschwantz capes, with collars lined with Peruvian chinchilla and astrakhan and weasel capes.

Jackets of sealskin, astrakhan. Breitschwantz, with marten or sable lappets, are elegant and very useful in severe weather.

For the neck, what is most worn is a sable cravat made of two skins with two tails at each end; also the sable stole with plaits.

In novelties I noticed a sealskin cape very much undulated with sable lappets and lined with the same fur. A broad collar of sable on both sides and reversible. This garment is lined with sable and is worn over a costume, the waistcoat of which ends in a point in front. It is made entirely of sealskin.

Another sealskin jacket has rather short basques. It is plaited behind and is fastened in front with a large strip of the same fur ornamented with three large bright buttons. The next is trimmed with a high Henri II collarette, forming plaits. The sleeves are very wide at the top and narrow in the forearm and are trimmed at the bottom with sealskin.

Besides these fancy garments, classic jackets in sealskin or astrakhan are much worn. Here is a description of one of them. It is of astrakhan and has short basques. It fits close behind and is half fitting in front, where it crosses over, showing only one lappet, a style I do not much like, as it makes the garment look all on one side. It buttons at the side, with three large astrakhan buttons, and has a high astrakhan collar lined with ermine, coming round the head. The sleeves are wide. The garment is lined throughout with ermine.

I may as well describe five novelties in muff, seen at the various houses I have visited. One is of sealskin, with a bow of velvet, kept in place by a jeweled buckle for trimming.

Another is of sable, trimmed with buillonnes of velvet to match the dress with which the muff is worn.

Another is of sable with the natural head fixed in the middle.

Another is of chinchilla daintily trimmed with natural violets. All these models are rather small.

A fifth and last is much larger than any of the above named. It is of sable ornamented with three tails of the same shade which look like stripes, rather darker than the rest of the fur.

At Grébert-Borgins', Rue de l'Abre Sec; Sons-Bresson's, Rue de l'Hotel de Ville, and Pfeiffer-Brunet's, Rue de l'Ancienne-Comedie, all of which are high class firms, I ob-

tained very much the same information. An appearance of quality is given to marten, sable and other skins by glazing the fur.

According to what I have been able to learn, the use of furs in ladies' dress is more fashionable than ever. Chinchilla is now much mixed with astrakhan and the latter is used with marten. Ermine is mostly used for collars, trimmings and linings. A great many kinds of fur are mixed with guipure and lace, but this is not done by the furriers, but by the dressmakers.—New York Herald, December 15.

Binder Twine for 1896

The purchase of binder twine for 1896 is engaging early attention. Already orders are being placed and considerable twine has been received. The feeling is that far more favorable conditions surround the market than for many previous years, and while present sales are made at guaranteed prices, there is no prospect of a material change. The quoted prices are 6, 7 and 8 cents respectively for sisal, standard and pure manilla, the three qualities into which the many grades formerly used, and which were found so confusing, have finally merged.

It is merely stating a well understood fact to say that no speculative features will enter into the plans of the manufacturers. The evil results of that course have been too apparent. A conservative management is in control of the corporation whose combined output has long been regarded as the controlling factor in the market, and only those of its factories the operation of which is essential to supply a well defined need, will be run by the Standard Rope and Twine Company. The same is true of other manufacturers and there will be no making of a vast quantity of twine to be thrown on the market and carried over at great expense. This taken in connection with the disposition made during 1895 of the bankers' twine, gives a healthy tone to the market and thus the promise of stability in prices. The small remnant in the hands of the Western Twine Company is not taken into consideration, as that small quantity can be sold at almost any price without disturbing the prices current. No manufacturer or jobber of new twine can afford to tamper with the old stock, and it will probably be sold off in small quantities during the early part of the season.

The price of fibre has been higher this fall than for a considerable period, and this advance has been reflected in the price of twine. The Minnesota state prison bought fibre when it was at its lowest, and will again be an irritation in the market. The quantity made is not of itself important, because small; but the prices asked for this product, to the farmer direct, are made a criterion in the state by which a regular dealers' prices are judged, and as the state sells direct either at cost or below, whichever seems more expedient, the legitimate dealer finds his lot most unhappy at times.

The grades of twine retain practically the same relative positions in respect to output, sisal being the grade in greatest demand. In the northwest, however, pure manilla is the favorite, and exceeds in consumption both the other grades.—Minneapolis Farm Implements Journal.

Railroad Construction Limitations.

The statement of the Railway Age that during the present year railway building reached a lower point than in any of the last twenty years is susceptible of very simple explanation. The greatest era of railway construction is over, and in the future most railroad growth will be in the gradual extension of their iron tendrils in sections already occupied by their trunk or branch lines. In 1891 railroad balance sheets were showing an

alarmingly regular decrease, and the whole theory and practice of railroad management was temporarily condensed to one postulate of the times, reduction of expenses. With increasing earnings and crops already many of the companies are discussing future extensions in adjacent territory upon which their covetous fingers have been itching to close.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The Commercial has received a neat desk calendar from Stephen Nairn, manufacturer of cereal foods, Winnipeg.

The San Francisco Commercial News, of December 23, says that twelve charters for wheat to Australia and South Africa have been made so far, of which three vessels have cleared for Sydney with 16,183 barrels of flour and 129,457 bushels of wheat.

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