



The hat season is practically over and wholesalers and manufacturers congratulate themselves that it has been on the whole satisfactory. The recent hot spell moved off a lot of straws which is another matter for congratulation. Travelers are now out with full ranges of fur samples for the winter and already orders are coming in well. Notwithstanding the advance in prices it would appear as if people will have their furs. There are many entirely new novelties shown of which we will be in a better position to speak later on.

#### BEHRING SEA AGREEMENT.

An agreement was concluded on June 15th between the Imperial and United States governments for the purpose of avoiding irritating differences, and with a view to promote the friendly settlement of the questions pending between the two governments touching their respective rights in Behring Sea, and for the preservation of the seal species. The agreement is made without prejudice to the rights or claims of either party, and reads as follows:—

1. Her Majesty's government will prohibit until May next seal killing in that part of Behring Sea lying eastward of the line of demarkation, described in article No. 1 of the Treaty of 1867, between the United States and Russia, and will promptly use its best efforts to ensure the observance of this prohibition by British subjects and vessels.

2. The United States government will prohibit seal killing for the same period in the same part of Behring Sea, and the shores and islands thereof, the property of the United States (in excess of 7,500 to be taken on the islands for the subsistence and care of the natives), and will promptly use its best efforts to ensure the observance of this prohibition by United States citizens and vessels.

3. Every vessel or person offending against this prohibition in the said waters of Behring Sea, outside of the ordinary territorial limits of the United States, may be seized and detained by the naval or other duly commissioned officers of either of the high contracting parties, but they shall be handed over as soon as practicable to the authorities of the nation to which they respectively belong, who shall alone have jurisdiction to try the offence and impose the penalties for the same. The witnesses and proofs necessary to establish the offence shall also be sent with them.

4. In order to facilitate such proper inquiries as Her Majesty's government may desire to make, with a view to the presentation of the case of that government before arbitrators and in expectation that an agreement for arbitration may be arrived at, it is agreed that the suitable persons designated by Great Britain will be permitted at any time upon application to visit or remain upon the seal islands during the present sealing season for that purpose.

#### JOHN DILLON'S OLD HAT.

It is not often, says the Post, of Wellington, New Zealand, of May 15th, that one can turn over upwards of £6 out of an old hat. But this is what Mrs. W. F. Healy has accomplished on the last couple of nights of the late bazaar in aid of the Orphanage building

fund. The secret of it is that the hat belonged to Mr. John Dillon, who, on the occasion of his visit to Wellington, left it behind at the Hon. P. Buckley's. The raffle caused no small interest as to who should be the winner. Eventually Mrs. Sullivan proved the lucky investor, after which Mr. Dillon received three hearty cheers. Strange to say, the lady who raffled it and the lady who won it are both natives of Templemore County, Tipperary.

#### LEIPZIG FUR NOTES.

The Leipzig correspondent of the N. Y. Hatter & Furrier says: Business has been quite rushing after the close of the fair, during which about 20 per cent. more goods were handled than during the same period of the preceding year. The larger figure of imports and exports is due to the advance in prices all round, and also to the larger crops which have arrived, stimulated by the steady demand, which is only the natural consequence of the unprecedented rush and clearing of all sorts of furs last Winter. Persians, krummer, both raw and dressed, and astrakhans have been shipped to Leipzig in very large quantities, and have been purchased on arrival. The assortment of krummer, which arrive about this time, is far inferior to last year's; it is even claimed that the crop of these lambs is not at all satisfactory. In France this article is especially well taken, and a good many big parcels have been shipped to the United States. Teschs are taken for German and English accounts, while most of the Post are purchased by buyers of the first-mentioned countries. Persian lambs are quieter now than they have been for the last two years, but new life is expected in this article as soon as the French buyers step in. Stocks of all sorts of astrakhan have been well nigh cleared of late, only those parcels being in the market which are in the hands of the buyers. Mouffons are in good demand for England and the United States. The demand for brown-dyed American opossum in imitation of skunk is well maintained, while the rush for the Australian opossum imitation of seal has entirely subsided. Some important parcels of dressed nutria selected skins have recently been purchased for your side. The latest imitation of seal produced by dyeing this fur seal brown is about the best of that kind which has ever been produced. Whatever stock of utters' skins is in the market now are Winter skins, as the Summer skins are not expected before June next. Prices are high, and all reports to the contrary will go still higher.

The outlook for Russian furs is very promising for the next season. The same cannot be said of American furs, which met with such good demand at the beginning of the year. Good and medium grades of skunk have a good sale. Poor grades are taken for domestic and English accounts, while the black and small striped skins are taken for French consumption. Mink does not sell half as well as was to be expected; as the price for dark skins appears too high; the lower grades are preferred and are slowly disappearing. Muskrat sold fairly well, to be used both in the natural state and as imitation of seal. Otter is in good demand, but raccoon has been somewhat neglected of late. Good grades of red fox sell readily, and all sorts of high grade fancies command good prices. Badgers are doing well.