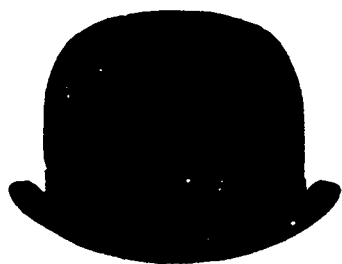




Travellers are now on the road for sorting orders, and it is apparent from the orders already received that good business will be done. Repeat orders are also coming in freely for popular lines of hats. Browns are quite a favorite color this season both in softs and stiff, and it would be advisable for retailers to place their orders for this color as early as possible, as these goods are bound to be scarce as the season advances. The retailers report splendid business during March and bright prospects for the season. Shipments of straws are up to the average. The season is not yet advanced enough to show if repeats will be as large as last year, but if the weather is at all seasonable there is no reason to doubt that it will be otherwise. It seems as if wide-leaved boaters in fancy plats will be very popular.

POPULAR HATS AND CAPS.

A. A. Allan & Co. report that there is a brisk demand for the following styles:



Fashionable round crown hat for young men.



'Varsity cap made in fancy and plain tweeds and silks.



Ladies' yachting cap in plain and fancy checked tweed, subdued colors, which will be very popular for the seaside, boating, etc.

NEW YORK STYLES.

The Hatter and Furrier says. Now that all the styles are issued, there seems to have fallen upon the trade the quietness of a reaction, and it would be very hard to specify just what styles are most in popular favor. Each special style has its special adherents and advocates, and as business generally is very quiet, the public are left to follow their own sweet fancy. There are certainly styles

enough from which to select, and even the most finicky buyer can pander to his finicky ideas and still be in the swim. The stiff, flat brim, with soft crown, seems to be dead, as it deserves to be. The narrow brim derbys, are selling well in some sections. The shapes of the leading New York introducers of styles are neat and unobtrusive, and sell when anything does. In colors, the various shades of brown, in solid colors and mixtures, are still the most popular. There is some talk of a pearl or pearl mixture, but as yet it has met with no demand.

Tourist shapes continue to sell well, and will be good for months to come.

There is every indication of a strong revival of cloth caps in fine grades. This is as pronounced in England as here, and the cloth-cap makers are preparing for it in good earnest.

HUDSON'S BAY CO'S MARCH SALES.

We have received from T. Dunnet & Co., the following report of Phillips, Politzer & Co., on the Hudson's Bay Co's March sale: Although the fur market was unusually inactive at the commencement of the present year, the Spring Sales of the Hudson's Bay Co. disclosed quite a confident tone. The general heavy decline which was looked for, has not taken place, a few articles only giving way to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent., while many have brought prices equaling those of last year, and others even a substantial advance. Considering the mild winter and the heavy losses resulting from the Russian trade, the present firmness can only be attributed to an increasing demand for furs, against a stationary, if not decreasing supply.

The following are the results compared with the March sales of 1891:—

OTTERS—(9,748 skins—last year 8,171)—Firsts declined 10 per cent, Seconds and Thirds 15 per cent.

FISHER—(5,169 skins—last year 5,658)—Average 10 per cent lower, the fall on Seconds being heavier.

FOX SILVER, have declined 20 per cent.

FOX, CROSS—(2,740 skins—last year 2,477)—Firsts declined 5 per cent, Seconds 12½ per cent, Thirds 7½ per cent.

MARTENS—(73,439 skins—last year 64,689)—Have met with very good demand, more especially the good coloured Skins. Firsts have advanced 30 per cent, the best marks even as much as 100 per cent, Seconds and Thirds 15 per cent, Pale being in less request were only 5 to 10 per cent higher.

FOX, RED—11,104 skins—last year 13,948)—Firsts and Seconds advanced about 10 per cent, Thirds 5 per cent.

FOX, WHITE—(9,390 skins—last year 3,704)—Have declined 25 per cent.

FOX, KITT.—Advanced 20 per cent.

MINK.—(42,094 skins—last year 29,363)—Have advanced 25 per cent.

BEAR, BLACK—(11,414 skins—last year 8,960)—Continue in good demand, and prices remain about the same as last March, ex-