

SPRING MILLINERY.

ACTIVE preparations are being made by all the wholesale millinery houses for the spring openings to be held about March 1st. Large importations are being passed through the Customs daily, and the London, Paris and New York markets are being closely watched by buyers for the latest novelties.

The shape of the season promises to be the broad-leaved flop, of which several varieties are illustrated herewith. This is a revulsion from the crumpled and twisted forms of last

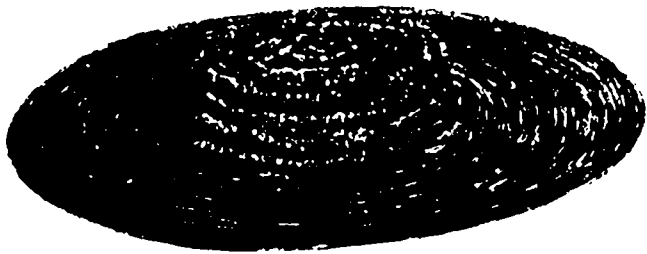


FIG. 1.

season. The straight leaf, as shown in Fig. No. 1, has, perhaps, been the best seller of the season, the original of the illustration being picked from the stock of a leading Toronto wholesale house. Figs. 2, 3 and 4 are merely slight variations of Fig. 1, and indicate a few of the large number of similar styles of this class of hat.

Paris hats have not yet been shown in Toronto, but the writer was afforded a glimpse at a few by the kindness of Miss Mahaffy, head milliner at Reid, Taylor & Bayne's. A fancy "race-meet" hat consisted of bright green tinsel crown, running forward into two curving ears, with bright pink ribbon daintily bunched in the back and front, and with poppies. Another odd hat consisted of a jet crown about three inches in diameter, encircled by a row of red roses, some two dozen in number. But the leading hat was a combination of black lace and gauze, and red roses clustered around a not overhigh

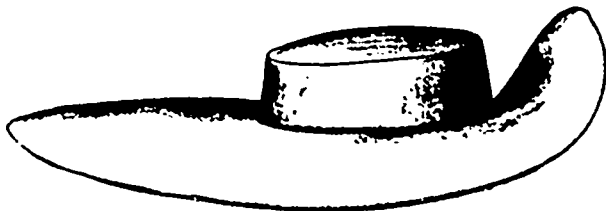


FIG. 2.

crown, and resting in a perfectly flat, broad brim. It was a gem. In bonnets, the shape is more butterfly than ever. The depth from front to rear varies from one to three inches, and the width from side to side from one to three feet. That is, the bonnets are narrow from front to back, but wide and generous at the sides. Some queer combinations were shown, the characteristic one being a union of pink and purple.

In flowers, which are the leading thing, as everybody knows by this time, the variety is great. The cornflower in natural and other colors, violets in natural colors, hyacinths in natural colors and also in whites, pinks, etc., poppies and shaded poppies, iris, Scotch heather, cowslips, chrysanthemums, blue bells of Scotland, orchard, etc., are the leaders, and are gorgeous to behold in the beauty of their multi-shaded radiance. Large flowers and large hats are to be the feature of the season.

In D. McCall & Co.'s they were beginning to open up spring stock. Mr. Blackley explained one innovation they made this season. Heretofore they sold their parasols mostly by import

orders, and as a consequence their samples were chosen early and did not contain the newest novelties sometimes secured by the importing retailer. In order to protect their customers and secure them the latest goods, they decided not to send out their parasol samples until they had received the latest novelty, and to sell from stock only. They found that this was a pleasing innovation to their customers, and were certain that this move would be beneficial to both.

Speaking of parasols, some pretty ones are noticed. Chene silk, an old fashioned effect, is one of the latest things in fancy parasol tops. It is shown with lace insertion, as many of the fancies of this season are. Taffeta shot silks are also favorites just now and here insertions are used. Fancy striped silks and black and white combinations complete the leading part of the range.

A BOARD OF APPRAISERS.

Two important changes are necessary in the Customs Department. Mr. Watters, the acting commissioner, should be given another position where he would cause less worry and annoy



FIG. 3.

ance to the trade. He was a good accountant, and to that work he should be again assigned.

There should also be a Dominion Board of Appraisers, made up of capable men from the leading departments of business. With such a court there would be no such thing as importers at one place passing goods in free, another paying 20 per cent., and another 35 per cent., as is constantly done.

Attention was drawn to one article this week which pays \$3.90 duty in Toronto, 80 cents in Montreal, and has been brought in free at a number of outlying ports. Halifax dry goods men have brought goods in at Montreal and paid freight to that point. A Montreal wholesale hardware house says that a London firm can import at a less rate of duty than they can.

The United States tried to go on without such a board, but now it is recognized as a most valuable institution. Unfair



FIG. 4.

rulings are often given, but this board sets them right. In Canada the importer generally has no appeal, and often suffers severe loss.

Spring Trade Number of THE DRY GOODS REVIEW will reach every dry goods merchant, milliner, gent's furnisher, etc., in Canada. It will be mailed February 25, in time to catch the Millinery Opening buyers. Page rates reduced for this Number.