

HATS, CAPS AND FURS.



N Toronto nearly all the wholesale men and fur dealer, in particular complain of the excessive freight rates charged by the American railroads from New York to Toronto. Raw furs can be brought from London via Portland over the Grand Trunk to Toronto; at a much cheaper rate than from New York to Toronto. The rate from London to Toronto in the way mentioned first is about 22s. 6d. per ton measurement or for about 1000 lbs. The rate from New York to Toronto is \$1.08 per hundred, furs being charged double first class rates. The rate from New York to Toronto for hides is only 17 cents per hundred for hides, but the Interstate Commerce Commission does not allow raw furs to come under this heading, and the consequence is that fur importations come mostly via Portland over the Grand Trunk. Importers say that the service from Portland to Toronto is just as fast as from New York to Toronto, cases having been noticed where shipments took much less time by the Canadian railway route. This speaks well for the management of the Grand Trunk.

SUMMER FUR TRADE.

There will undoubtedly be a summer fur trade in Canada this year. In the various countries of Europe fur capes are much worn during the summer by the ladies of these countries on account of sudden changes and cool evenings. In Canada fur or fur-lined capes for summer evening's promise to be more popular than ever. In fact it would be better for the health of the Canadian fair sex, if fashion would more strongly decree for fur capes for summer evening wear. But this is not the only circumstance which foreshadows a summer fur trade. The large influx of foreigners en route for the World's fair will no doubt have an effect on the fur trade. Many garments of the class mentioned, and also of other classes, will be picked up by tourists. Fur garments are cheap in Canada and this will attract many customers. Fur dealers should whenever possible prepare to take advantage of this to the fullest possible extent.

AN ANOMALY.

A curious and startling statement was recently made by a fur dealer when he declared that he could buy Canadian furs, in many cases, cheaper in London, England, than in Toronto. He declared that the trappers all had the idea that their furs were first-class and demanded the best market price. Buying in London at the commission merchants' auction sales, the price could be suited to the quality, and stock was better assorted. The conditions under which the sales were conducted left a buyer free to exercise his personal judgment without any hindering circumstances, and consequently dealers preferred to buy there. The freight to London and back again is a small consideration, and even with this added, furs could be laid down here ten per cent. cheaper in some cases than they can be bought from the trappers. Nevertheless a large quantity of furs are bought in this city and in Montreal, which never have performed the double journey across the ocean. But the competition for these may have something to do with keeping the price up. Small dealers who buy all their furs on the domestic market pay good prices for them; while the large dealers prefer in some cases to make their purchases at the London sales.

THE LONDON FUR SALES.

From March 13 to 24th, the great sales of furs went on. The results are as follows.

Sea Otter.....	12½	per cent. higher than last March			
Fox, Silver.....	27½	"	"	"	"
Fox, Cross.....	5	"	"	"	"
Fisher.....	25	"	"	"	"
Wolverine ...	100	"	"	"	"
Otter	15	"	"	"	June
Lynx	10	"	"	"	"
Bear, Black.....	20	"	"	"	January
Bear, Brown.....	40	"	"	"	"
Bear, Grizzly.....	15	"	"	"	"
Beaver		same as	"	"	"
Marten.....		"	"	"	"
Mink, Eastern and Hali-fax		"	"	"	"
Mink, other sorts....	10	"	higher than	"	"
Skunk	7½	"	"	"	"
Fox, Red.....	6	"	lower	"	"
Fox, Gray.....	10	"	"	"	"
Wolf.....	10	"	"	"	"
Wild Cat.....	25	"	"	"	"
Badger.....	25	"	"	"	"
Opossum	15	"	"	"	"
Raccoon, Northern....		same as	"	"	"
" Western.....	7½	"	lower	"	"
" South Western	14	"	"	"	"
" Southern....	15	"	"	"	"
Muskrat, Spring.....	15	"	"	"	"
" Fall.....	10	"	"	"	"
" Winter.....		same as	"	"	"
" Black.....		"	"	"	"

The quantity of skunk offered at this sale was a few thousand less than last year, but in most all the other leading articles the stock offered was double and treble what it was last March. This is conclusive evidence that instead of the crop being a short one, it has been quite large.

The March sale is the last opportunity to dispose of furs to advantage, and hereafter we must depend upon the June or next November sales, when the attendance of buyers is smaller, the competition less and the skins less desirable, as they will contain a good many late caught, sheddy and faded. There is also the risk of another cholera epidemic, in which case furs would rule very low.

[The above report was received through J. & J. Lugsdin, of this city.]

MINK AND WOLVERINE.

These two furs are ruling high just now. Wolverine is much used as a cloak trimming, and its popularity shows the growing favor of natural color in furs, and the lessening demand for dyed goods. It rules 100 per cent. higher than it did a year ago. Mink shows a corresponding increase. It has a big call in the United States just now, and it bids fair to be the fashionable article.

THE LEADING HATS.

The fedoras are selling fairly well for the general trade. The Carlsbad is a prime favorite in browns and blacks. A grey Carlsbad, with black band and binding, is a taking novelty. The Homberg is also well to the front. But the hat of the day is the Prince Arthur Derby, or similar shapes. Blacks and colors