

Hat, Cap and



Fur Trade.

Present Trade. The severe weather and heavy snow during March had quite as much effect on the retail hat trade as on any other retail business, and the consequence was that the development of Spring business was checked. April, however, is opening with warm weather and bright suns, and a much bigger trade will at once set in, rendered all the more satisfactory by the temporary check during March. The wholesale houses have had their travelers at home, but they will go out again now.

The hat which fashion certainly prescribes is the small low-crowned one, and the dressy man will certainly wear that kind. Some are as low as $4\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ high. This, of course, is the extreme of fashion in the small hat. The majority, which is the staple size, are probably about $5 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$. The new hats give quite a youngish appearance even to elderly men, and will not on that account be any the less popular.

During the last two weeks of March there was quite a sale in the large cities for tweed hats, made in the fedora shape. The most popular shades were in small checks of grey, green, brown and drab. The large dealers all showed these in the windows. But they are really a warm hat, and, with the opening of real Spring weather, it is more than probable that something lighter will be in demand. The expected sales of hard felts should begin almost immediately.

The Coming Trade.

For Summer wear, the Canadian trade is following pretty closely in the wake of American styles. Straw hats are modelled directly upon this style, "Jumbo" braids and rough straws being very much in evidence. There are some interesting novelties in sailors, as well as in full shapes.

Ladies' straws are going back to the sailor shape, specially in the fancy colors. As to the crown, both in ladies' and men's straw hats, the tendency is to a slightly lower crown, with medium brim. There is at present a good demand for harvest hats, which are still advancing in price, as the material is scarce and hard to obtain. There will not, so far as can be seen, be any change in the way of reduction in price till after the arrival of new stock from China and Japan. And as this will not be for some time to come, the changes will probably be too late to affect the trade for the coming season.

Linen hats for the coming season are being shown in a variety of style and color. For the present, however, the demand in this department is limited.

In soft hats the tendency appears to be that caps should be dropped, and the American style of crush hats, or "crushes" as they are called, adopted. One of the leading ranges in the crush hats is the 20 dwt. Of course there will continue, in spite of anything in the way of novelty, to be a steady demand for fedoras; but there is likely to be somewhat of a falling off in this direction in favor of the crush hats.

The new bicycle hat is in fairly good demand, in spite of fact that it is by no means a beautiful contrivance in the way

of headgear. It is a kind of a cross between a fedora and a crusher, with a slight infusion of the stiff hat. The brim in front is turned down, so as to protect from sun and wind when riding, which gives a rather ungenteel appearance to the hat.

In stiff hats lower shapes will prevail, following more or less the Knox and Dunlap styles, which are being extensively copied by English manufacturers.

Alleged Corner In Persians.

A New York contemporary says it has received inquiries in regard to the alleged corner in Persians, and from what has been learned it can but confirm the rumor of a combination which has succeeded in obtaining a very large percentage of the better and best grades of these skins. It is said that instrumental in the coming rise of prices are a firm of Liepsic dyers and a well-known French concern. Dealers who have secured their quota of Persians will have cause to congratulate themselves on their foresight. Persians, in comparison to other furs, certainly were not high in price. Americans who have returned from abroad are unanimous in their declarations that nothing but rubbish, not suitable for either American or Canadian demands, is all that is now left in the open market.

The "Bobs" Hat.

Though the Anderson & Macbeth Co., Limited, the hat firm organized in Toronto at the beginning of the year, is one of the youngest firms in the wholesale hat business in Canada, the long experience of the members makes it to all practical purposes an old, tried house. The senior partner, Mr. George Anderson, has been in this business in Canada for over 20 years. Mr. Hugh Macbeth, a Canadian by birth, has for many years been connected with the trade in the United States.

The firm make a specialty of handling nobby, stylish goods, and as both partners are alive to the trend of fashions, they are fully abreast of the newest ideas. It is their house that got out the novelty for Spring in the shape of a "Bobs" hat, a compliment to Lord Roberts. This is a soft hat, with raw edge, in khaki and all colors.

When a representative of THE REVIEW visited this firm's warehouse at 58 Bay street, the other day, their staff was literally "rushed" filling orders, the most practical proof of the ready recognition by the trade of the up-to-date manner in which this firm are conducting their business.

Furs in the Northwest.

The receipt of all grades of furs from the Canadian Northwest so far this year have been unusually small compared with former years. Several of the best posted firms handling furs in those sections, say that the Spring receipts, which contain the large lots will be small. If this shortage proves a reality during the remainder of the season Canadian furs will be high next year, and it will make prices still higher for the furs that come from those sections. Furs are usually sold on tender in Canada,