



THE SEASON'S FURS.

SEAL always stands first among furs for coats. The seal coat of the present season has loose front, double breast; while the skirt of the back is finished with box plait, rather than ripple. Indeed the seal coat of this year follows the jaunty double-breasted cloth coat in fashion and cut.

Furriers are making the sleeves of fur coats as large as those of past seasons. The tight dress sleeve is not sufficiently in vogue in Canada, to warrant the small coat sleeve, they say.

Ermine is shown as one of the favorite evening furs. It is used extensively on opera cloaks, and for tippets or pelermes which are revived in various forms for evening concert wraps. We illustrate such a tippet or caperine as it is called this season, of ermine shaped to fit closely about the throat. It is useful for protection over décolleté bodice at the ball or opera. A cap accompanies it, to be worn with velvet or corduroy street coat.

A pretty muff is shown of seal with ermine trimmings, but the mixture of fur is rather to be taken as a passing fancy, than as a stable fashion.

Chinchilla is in favor as a day time fur this season. It is always delightful in its warmth and softness.

Sable is also in the front rank among the season's fashionable furs, the Russian and Marten being especial favorites.

Persian lamb is a standard fur; and always in demand. This season it has advanced markedly in price.

Black astrachan or dog skin, as it was commonly termed, is not shown. It seems to have been entirely displaced by the Persian lamb.

The grey fur of this variety, is almost a standard for children's coats and caps. It is durable and becoming. But all women who have passed twenty-five should avoid it, since it emphasizes their years and shows up every wrinkle. The chinchilla is the only grey fur possible to women past their first youth. Its exquisite softness in shade and effect rendering it becoming.

Mink is worn. Some very handsome mink sets are shown; and it is still the favorite fur for dress trimming, edging bodices, and so forth.

Bear fur is "out" with all its shagginess. It is relegated once more to the driving coat, robe and rug.

Seal, sables, chinchilla, ermine, with mink and the enduring Persian lamb, may be looked upon as the fashionable furs, ranked in order of their favor.

Grebe is being revived. It is rather a stiff "fur," and needs combining with something softer.

Grebe has had so long a rest that it is doubtful whether even the most careful housewife will have any laid away from the years ago. But in such event mothers may bring out the soft white plumage that suited their young girlhood, and pass it down to the debutante daughter.

Two really new departures are noticeable in this season's furs. First the revival of short capes, or "caperines" as they are elegantly termed. They are ten, twelve or fourteen inches in length, and are intended to be worn over the short cloth coat of the present season.

We illustrate two seen in a large Toronto fur store, one is of ermine, concerning which we have already written, the second is of seal, made in shaped pieces, with edges outlined with mink. This caperine is more than a circle in width; and is beautifully shaped to the neck.

The second novelty is the mother Hubbard opera wrap, a *robe de l'air*. The long cloak has resolved itself into something with sleeves. This new wrap is of the "comfort gown" type, and may be fashioned either for boudoir or opera—not by

any difference in cut, but in material and trimming.

The one we noticed is of lavender ladies' cloth lined with fur, with deep collar and cuffs of white thibet. The sleeves are large and loosely gathered, and the entire robe is a lovely soft, warm affair; not fitted for the evening trolley car, but a delight in a private carriage.

In caps we show, first the Davidson cap, a jaunty, girlish Scotch effect, introduced, I believe, last year by the charming young daughters of Colonels Gzowski and Davidson. This cap has band of black dogskin, with scarlet cloth top and quill. It may be reproduced in any other fur and color.

Number two is a seal cap finished with Hudson Bay sable tail. The coachman's cap is somewhat out of style, but not too much so to wear. The Derby hat is much worn with fur box to soften the stiff effect.

In tippets and shaped boas every style is found. The round boa has largely vanished to give place to old fashioned throat furs of every variety—crossovers, collarettes, rams' horns, tippets short and long, with one tail or ten; the fur stores show them in abundance.

They have two especially distinctive features however. They are not round, but flat, or shaped to the throat; and they are finished with tails. The little bright heads have vanished for the season, and tails are the correct finish for caps, boas and capes during the present season.

Although the tendency throughout is to return to coats and sleeve-wraps, yet for matrons and elderly ladies the twenty-four or twenty six inch cloak is still much worn. A very comfortable and inexpensive one shown, is of black ladies' cloth, bordered with black thibet, and lined with fur.

A very beautiful cape, about thirty inches in length, seen at a well-known fur house, is of seal, with upper part of the soft stone marten fur, coming down in points upon the dark seal, and finishing each point with a tail.

In the event of women wishing to buy new furs, they should pay especial attention to real sables, which are above all others rich, and becoming about face and neck.

The mufflo is a new skin which promises to become popular for trimming cloaks. It is a sheep-wool or fur, long and soft, and may be had in grey, biscuit, black and brown.

In passing from the subject of furs for winter wear, we may note the rapidly extending appreciation of fine furs for rugs, couch covers and robes.

Artistic Canadian homes now take pride in beautiful fur rugs; and the most luxurious residences throughout the country count not one, but many among their furnishings.

—MADAME.

(Enquiries to this department will be found on page 29).



The new Fur Caperine.