THE COURIER

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Panama Hats
The Reign of a Fad

True, the season of the Panama hat is closed but its evil results will tax its devotees even until the break of the new season. The husband who bought a Panama hat is disarmed. In future months, and the holidays are not very remote, he dare not peep when his wife asks for the bonnet that will drain his bank account. Yet it may be some consolation to hark back and realize that he has kept abreast of the most virile fad of years, barring ping pong.

Maybe it is not a fad. Some folks deny it. These, of course, are to be numbered with those who bought the hats on the excuse to their wives that they would last forever. They cannot bear to think that something new will be on the racks next year which will displace the Panama. Opinion is divided. Only the coming year will prove what's what. One merchant says there have been too many imitations. When a man puts a big sum into a Panama he feels that he stands among the very elect. To think that his neighbor, who in verity has less gold than he, wears a hat identical to the naked eye, yet in reality an imitation, chills his soul. If he must pay the price he wants to be on a peak by himself. And this, therefore, means a lighter sale of the hats next year. Another merchant feels just the opposite. Not until this year, he thinks, have the people been impressed with the real merits of the Panama and next year the unconvinced will get busy with their big bank notes.

The sale of the hats in Lincoln this summer has been almost phenomenal. Every hatter has been harassed to death with demands. He in turn has clamored in vain to the jobbers for supplies to equal the need. Only within the past few weeks has the trade diminished, but even at that only a few hats will be left over until next year (when they will be as good as new).

This good as new plea is what has done much to make the sale of the stock. The hats are truly remarkable bits of art. Everybody knows that the most expensive call for the year's earnings of an ordinary man, or over $500. While none in Lincoln has sold for over twenty-five dollars and the most at between $10 and $15, even these possess qualities that are quite a matter of amazement.

They can be bent, twisted and doubled into almost any imaginable shape. Mould them back again and there isn't a wrinkle or crack or sign of damage to show for it. Rain doesn't touch them. They were made in water and are used to it. Only when you strike an imitation do you get into trouble. Water will betray it quicker than thinking.

Many of the hats sold as Panamas in Lincoln were made of grass from Porto Rico. The genuine article grows in Venezuela and is of marsh growth. While that of Porto Rico is very good material it has not the texture nor the durability of the Venezuela article. It sells high enough, however, and at $10 a hat saves many a man $30. A New York man says that no genuine, bona fide, honest and truly, Panama hat can be procured for less than $40. And to the man with the money to spend for such gear it is worth every cent. He would think so if obliged to make it himself, for it takes from four to eight months, depending on the quality of the work. The women of Venezuela are the makers; the men haven't the patience. Sitting meekly by a jar of water day after day for eight months they toil with infinite care with the grass, keeping it all the time under the water. When the hat is finished it is so truly a work of art that nobody can tell where the work began or left off. Could an American witness the patience with which the woman labors he would pay all she asks for the hat and more if necessary. Some say that the New York jobbers are the ones who set the figure, but sailors and naval officers who have visited Venezuela ports say they cost practically as much there as anywhere.

Always expensive they will always remain so, say the dealers. People are learning enough about the qualities and qualifications of the hats to guard against deception. That means that imitations will never again bring fabulous prices, and there will be no bargain days in the real thing. The dealers who have them in stock say they will hold them over at the same prices and buyers need not expect cheap rates this fall. Whether the fever dies out or not by another season the strictly original goods will continue to command big prices and the wives of the wearers may have their spangles and feathers. Billie can't complain.

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When Admirals Evans and Schley were both assigned to duty on the light house board, which convenes in rooms at the treasury in Washington, the colored messenger at the door one morning stopped Admiral Schley.

"I wish," said the darky, "you would speak a kind word to Com'dore Evans for me. He's done got it in for me."

"You must be mistaken, George," Schley replied. "I happen to know that Commodore Evans, like the rest of us, thinks highly of your distinguished services."

"Oh, I's sure," persisted the colored man, "that Com'dore Evans don't like me no more."

"What makes you think so?" demanded Schley.

"Well," explained the messenger, "usually when Com'dore Evans arrives in the mornin' he says, 'Hello, George, you blankety-blank-blank fool, how are you?' but dis mornin' he done say merely, 'Hello George.' The com'dore must surely taken a pow'ful dislike to me."

* * *

"Papa, has congress any other name?"

"Yes, my son. It is sometimes called the house of misrepresentatives."

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Why You Should Insist on Having

EUREKA HARNESS OIL

Unequaled by any other.
Renders hard leather soft.
Especially prepared.
Keeps out water.
A heavy bodied oil.

HARNESS

An excellent preservative.
Reduces cost of your harness
Never burns the leather; its
Efficiency is increased.
Secures best service.
Stitches kept from breaking.

OIL

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Localities

Manufactured by
Standard Oil Company.

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WAISTINGS—Beautiful Novelties in French and American Waistings in handsome new colorings and patterns—very rich in effects—exceedingly popular materials, and so desirable for a stylish waist.

We shall take pleasure in showing you these new fabrics—it will be a great help to you in your later selections.

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New Cloth Jackets, Rich Fur Capes, Jackets & Scarfs

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Big range of values, **$5.95, $6.50, $8.50, $10.00, to $16.50.**

Dependable Fur Jackets—All the rich and stylish Furs, Astrakhan, Marten, Electric Seal, Near Seal, Persian Lamb, and genuine Seal, **$20.00, $25.00, $50.00, to $250.00.**

Astrakhan and Electric Seal Fur Capes, $12.50 to $75.00.

Fur Stoles, Scarfs, and Boas—an elegant variety in Marten, Krimmer, Electric Seal, Mink, Beaver, Russian Bear, etc., **$4.50 to $50.00.**

A Rich Lamp Display

150 Different Styles—The largest stock of Lamps shown west of Chicago is on exhibition at our store this week. Over 85 numbers, every one different, can be seen in our elegant west show window, ranging in price from $1 00 to $17.50. Every decoration is fired, and is guaranteed to be absolutely fast colors. Our decorations won't rub off or wash off, which same cannot be said of the lamps as advertised at other stores in the city. We call particular attention to our line of celebrated "Cerise" colors, made by the originator, Kopp, of Pittsburg. Founts and bases are gold plated. A deep, rich Cerise of perfect color, and ranging in price from **$3.00, $3.45, $4.25, $5.50, $5.95, to $17.50.**

The display is well worth a visit, and should be seen by all intending lamp purchasers.