

only regular organizations in this region engaged in the fur trade. They do not, however, represent the entire trade in the varied furs of the Pacific coast. Little streams of furs pour into our market cities from the country stores, where they are taken in trade from settlers, hunters and Indians, amounting to a vast quantity in the aggregate. These are handled by independent dealers in hides and furs. In Montana, buffalo hides have been an important article of traffic, Fort Benton being the chief shipping point. From one to two hundred thousand buffalo skins have been shipped annually for a number of years, but so great has been the slaughter of these animals that they are now almost exterminated in the United States. Further north they still roam in large herds, but their complete extinction is now only a matter of a few years. Elk and deer also contribute thousands to the great store of hides annually shipped from this region, and though protected by law, the deer is so diligently pursued by hunters for the value of his hide, that this beautiful animal will also become almost extinct, except in the remote and unfrequented mountains. More than thirty million animals are annually killed for their fur, chiefly in the northern portions of Europe, Asia and America. The most numerous of these are the squirrel, six million; rabbit, five million; hare, four and one-half million; South American nutria, three million; musk rat, three million; lamb, two million seven hundred thousand; hair seal, one million; common house cat, one million. The most important fur bearing animals on the Pacific coast are fur seals, of which the two hundred thousand annually caught all come from the Pacific; sea-otter, the five thousand caught in Alaska being nearly the entire world's supply; marten and sable, one hundred and thirty thousand in America, and about twice as many in Europe and Siberia; various varieties of foxes, America supplying one hundred and seventy thousand, and Asia and Europe twice that number; beaver, of which the two hundred thousand caught in America are nearly all that reach market; land-otter, about forty thousand of which are caught in Europe, Asia and America; mink, America supplying two hundred and fifty thousand, and Russia one-fifth as many; lynx, the fifty thousand annually killed being about equally distributed; bear, chiefly brown and black, America contributing fifteen thousand and Europe one-fourth as many; musk rat, nearly all of the three million caught coming from America. Other animals which contribute to swell the great flood of furs poured into the market from this region annually, in common with other portions of America, are fisher, wild cat, opossum, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, wolf, wolverine, panther (the various species in America are known as "catamount," "jaguar," "puma," and "California lion,") and badger. There are scattered throughout the West many experienced trappers who have been forced from their old occupation by the encroachments of civilization. Alaska would offer a promising field to such men were it not for an obnoxious law which prohibits a white man from directly taking the fur-bearing animals of

that territory. This law is made wholly in the interest of the fur monopoly of that region, who have established posts and trade intercourse with the natives, thus shutting out independent trappers and small traders who lack sufficient capital to embark in the business on the same extensive scale. It is possible that at the expiration of the lease of the Seal islands, in 1890, the government will not only decline to renew it, but will also repeal this prohibitory law, thus throwing the fur trade of Alaska open to unrestricted competition. Under the present conditions, the fur trade of the Pacific coast will continue, as for a number of years past, to be an important industry.

HARRY L. WELLS.

THE FAN TIDY.

It can be made of odd pieces of dark and light silks, satins and velvets, combining them to suit the taste; but it is very essential that the dark and light pieces alternate, to give the desired effect of an open fan.

To secure the pattern for a medium-sized tidy, cut a piece of paper ten inches square. Fold it diagonally through the center; measure from one point ten inches on this fold, and round it to the two points opposite, which also measure ten inches from the point at bottom of the fold. Cut the paper as marked and you have a quarter of a circle. Now fold it in twelve equal parts to correspond with the folds in a fan. While folded, cut the rounded side, or that portion which would be the top of the fan, in points, making the difference of half an inch between the bottom and top of the point. Cut a piece of muslin like this pattern, draw a pencil line from each point to the bottom of the fan. Baste the first piece over the edge, letting the raw edge lap on the next space. Sew the next piece down on this, turn it over and baste it on the next, in that way concealing the seams or raw edges of each. Continue in this way until all the spaces are covered.

Paint or embroider a few daisies and grasses on the fan, finish the top with white tulle or Oriental lace sewed underneath the points, and at the bottom with a bow of satin, which conceals a large safety pin used to fasten the tidy to the chair.

THE AIR OF THE SEA.

The air of the sea, taken at a great distance from land, or even on the shore and in ports when the wind blows from the open, is in an almost perfect state of purity. Near continents the land winds drive before them an atmosphere always impure, but at one hundred kilometers from the coasts this impurity has disappeared. The sea rapidly purifies the pestilential atmosphere of continents, hence, every expanse of water of a certain breadth becomes an absolute obstacle to the propagation of epidemics. Marine atmospheres driven upon lands purify sensibly the air of the regions which they traverse; this purification can be recognized as far as Paris.