

THE EXCAVATION OF A DITCH



the new Croft & Langmuir plant, which has been completed. This influence of much of man's intelligence and knowledge, more careful selection, less expensive stock, and what is generally considered a more democratic stage, an increased emphasis on the part of the employer in the employee's welfare, brought about by methods of working organization. The very nature of the plant adapts itself to this. On the upper floors of old Foss mills the employees can look out over Long Island Sound and the historical Normandy Harbor on one side, and over the great fishing waters of Connecticut on the other.

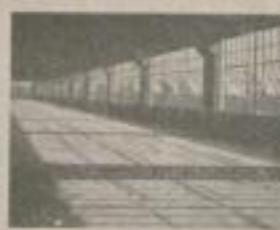
The new Croft & Langmuir plant is a collection of buildings which are peculiar to the fur industry—of places that are not adapted to the present. That place is set in addition to an old factory, it is built on a new site, and is substantiated by the success of putting it to a given new venture. It has

not been necessary, because of existing buildings, to build first and then fit the process to them. The proper measure of equipment and location of departments was determined and the new construction was designed and the two worked in together. In this way the proper space and the plant has not been required to sacrifice to accommodate the use of old structures.

Every provision has been made so that the plant can be expanded by the addition of extra docks on the original facilities, or by extending the original building to one side. The departments have been arranged so that they can be extended to take care of increased production in a direct and logical manner without disturbing the "square-built" method of production characteristic of the Croft & Langmuir process.

A sketch prepared by the Furman Construction Company, pictures following interesting figures. The new plant reported

THE EXCAVATION OF A DITCH



8,000 cubic yards of concrete, 400 tons of reinforcing steel, 14,000 barrels of cement, 10,000 bushels of sand and 500,000 shovels.

The value content of the building is about \$1,000,000, the steel weight alone, 100,000 tons, and the steel reinforcement alone, 10,000 tons. The foundation area is about 8,000 square feet.

The new building was constructed by work weighing, with an interior, 1,000 tons and



ausgestatteten Festschrift nicht absprechen darf, so läßt sich Geschlossenheit des Eindrucks, höchste Wirkungssteigerung und würdigste Repräsentation doch nur durch ein in der rechten Schmiede aus dem Wollen und Können einer starken künstlerischen

Persönlichkeit zusammengeschweißtes Werk erreichen. Nicht der Seitenumfang, nicht die Bilderszahl, nicht die Kostbarkeit des verwendeten Materials führen zu Gipfelpunkten, sondern allein die Leistung des schaffenden Künstlers.

farm, and, like all the boys around him, hunted and trapped; he knew how to judge furs. In the village of Danbury a market for pelts already existed; here many trappers exchanged their beaver, muskrat and rabbit skins for food and clothing. And here back in 1780 Zadoc Benedict's small red hat shop—long afterward the site of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad depot on Main Street, now the site of the postoffice—employed a journeyman hatter and two apprentices and turned out three hats a day. Indeed, the first hat made in the United States came out of Danbury. As long ago as 1808 there were fifty-odd makers of hats in the Danbury region, employing from three to five men each. Many of these "hatters" were farmers who made a crude product and worked irregularly.

So it was natural that Ezra Mallory should choose the hat-making business when finally he made up his mind to quit agriculture and cattle.

In his primitive shop at Great Plain, Mr. Mallory began with one hatter and an apprentice. Indeed, he was an apprentice himself, and learned the composite trade. There were no skilled specialists, as now. Today the fur is bought detached from the pelt and partly prepared, but in that dark industrial era, Ezra Mallory began with the raw pelts themselves. One fertile source of skins lay in the sand dunes



of Coney Island. This famous resort owes its name to the coney rabbits which lived there.

Ezra Mallory bought many of his pelts from the Indians, and sometimes went up into Canada to buy beaver, muskrat and otter skins. He and his two workers cut the fur from the pelts with long handled shears, and with their fingers separated the fur from the hair. And then they did the forming with a device resembling a violin bow, though five or six times as big. One old bow is now a treasured relic at the Mallory plant. By snapping the catgut string upon a pile of fur on a bench, the particles separated, scattered, and gradually deposited in a smaller and finer sheet, free from other sub-

[10]