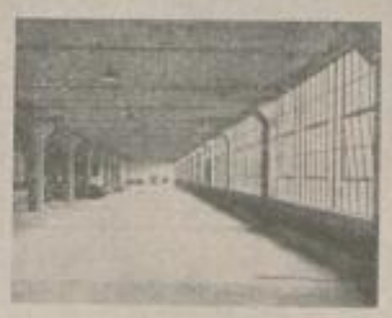

ausgestatteten Festschrift nicht absprechen darf, so läßt sich Geschlossenheit des Eindrucks, höchste Wirkungssteigerung und würdigste Repräsentation doch nur durch ein in der rechten Schmiede aus dem Wollen und Können einer starken künstlerischen Persönlichkeit zusammengeschweißtes Werk erreichen. Nicht der Seitenumfang, nicht die Bilderzahl, 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

The Trapper's Home

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-