

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

A LONDON, England, correspondent writes:

In acceding to your request for a letter to suit the ladies it will please them to learn that Lady Aberdeen, the next Canadian Governor-General's wife, has just returned from an Irish tour. Her ladyship is quite as popular in Ireland as in Canada, and if such a thing were possible her latest efforts on behalf of Irish industries, chiefly lace and linen, have increased the sum of Irish affection for her. No doubt Canadian ladies will find their interest in these artistic and beautiful fabrics quickened by Lady Aberdeen's residence at Ottawa.

The sensible and popular blouse bodice shows no signs of taking its departure. It will in fact be more than ever popular this spring. I have seen a pretty blouse in reseda surah which has the yoke embroidered in gold on a net foundation and is finished at the waist with a full empire belt fastening with a bow at the side. Another is in red China silk flecked with white, the collar being of white serge cut with two sharply defined points both back and front.

The prettiest spring hats are a combination of lace and straw. They are charmingly picturesque in a shape composed of black lace and bordered round the wide brim with coarse straw in chartreuse green, a band of the same likewise encircling the crown. For trimming there is a large bow of shaped green ribbon and a handful of green wheat, held together by a gold buckle.

A fascinating spring bonnet has a dainty crown, composed of a kind of gold filigree. The soft velvet edge is of yellow, tinged with apricot, and over it a shower of gold. A coquetish cluster of feathers and ospreys, shading from yellow to white, gives height to the capote in front.

In the spring, nothing but pelerines reaching a trifle below the waist will be seen. These are very full and have a gathered cape on the shoulders, which has the effect of an Elizabethan frill. A smart cape of green cloth made in this fashion and outlined with jet trimming, has the shoulder cape of velvet and is lined with shot mauve silk.

Fur trimming for evening wear seems to be rapidly disappearing, and except interwoven with pearl embroidery on an occasional white satin, is absent now from really fashionable drawing rooms.

It is curious how popular velvet sleeves have become, and although not worn as full as they were a few months back, still attain fair proportions. Two-thirds of the ladies seen in the best drawing rooms of London appear with velvet sleeves.

Diamonds seem to have given way to pearls, which are very much worn this season. The difficulty is to get them, so scarce are they becoming.

CANADIENNE.

DRESS SILKS, VELVETS, ETC.

Satin finished weaves grow in favor.

Semi-lustrous peau de soie is in favor for evening wear.

Crepe Mireille is one of the latest things in French crepes.

Surahs are always good. They are

never out of style. They are in favor now.

The ombre effect is a general favorite, being found in silks and ribbons of all kinds.

Pansy velvet and Bishop purple are Parisian favorites in both costumes and millinery.

China crepe is being used in large quantities by Parisian modistes, including the great Worth.

Some of the latest productions in white silks have shaded stripes, tiny figures and delicate cross-bars of black.

Small figured brocades, in Empire, Pompadour, Louis XV., and Dresden patterns, in changeable effects, are among the leaders.

In the class "Aqua," or silks with watered grounds, are shown velvet palms, water-cresses, sea weeds, and like aqueous plants and flowers.

The *American Silk Journal* says that palm-leaf designs, lovely satin brocades of a pale clover-pink shade, sprinkled with sprays of clover in a deeper shade, and trailing vines, stems and leaves, black grenadines with linen and figures in satin and velvet effects; new style bengalines, cross-corded, giving a honeycomb effect; black gauzes sown with small colored dots, diagonal stripes, garnished by tiny sprays of flowers, on a white satin ground, crinkly horizontal cords, shaded effects in various weaves, the shading forming two wide stripes, separated by a large dark stripe in the middle, and with narrower borders of the same color, are among the features of the display of the newest things in dress silks.

THE SPRING OPENING.

Since our last issue, says the *B. C. Commercial Journal*, the leading dry goods houses of Victoria have had their Spring Millinery opening and, it is said, some specially pleasing things have been displayed. The range of color, shapes and styles is, so the authorities say, wider than has been known for years. The colors that have been fixed upon as the thing are greens, heliotropes, magentas and mauves. To appreciate the particular shades they must be seen. Large hats will be specially popular and crinkled shapes will be in demand. Bonnets are numerous in their assortment, almost all kinds having their admirers and patrons. As for trimmings, Irish point lace has been declared to be *en vogue*, and Chantilly lace is to be used in combinations. Wide silk ribbons and wide ribbons made of straw are much fancied. As concerns details, the milliners must be consulted and the samples inspected.

DRY GOODS.

The *Toronto Empire* says: "This week has been a very active one in most departments of the wholesale dry goods

trade. The milder weather has induced merchants to examine their spring stocks, and to send in repeats for lines which promise to have a good sale. There have been quite a number of buyers about, and there were a satisfactory number of letter orders. The movement has been chiefly in leading staples, including shirtings, prints, gray and white cottons, etc. Dress goods have also received a fair share of attention. Woollens and tailors' trimmings show no change, but the demand is satisfactory; the merchant tailors in the city say that they are becoming busy, and this is beginning to tell on the stocks in the wholesale houses. More attention is being given to waterproof garments and umbrellas, as the season when they will be more frequently required approaches. Values in all departments continue steady. Silks and cottons are firm, and there are no complaints of cutting; at present prices these lines are generally regarded as safe purchases. The war between the cotton spool manufacturers still rages. There are no lower quotations, but prices may go up or down at any moment. Chadwicks have issued a circular saying: 'Rumors that we are about to join the Central agency being in circulation, we beg to say that there is no foundation whatever for the report. We have always conducted our business on thoroughly independent lines and shall continue to do so, trusting in the excellent quality of our cotton to gain and keep our customers.' The travellers are now making up samples preparatory to starting on a sorting trip. They are all in good spirits, for the trade have bought much more freely than for many years past. Retailers have had a good winter's business. Their stocks are well in hand—never were better. They have come down to the sensible idea of buying goods when they want them, not speculating in quantities. They pay for goods on maturity as a rule. Travellers now get an order any time they call. One of the oldest travellers on the road said to-day that he never saw business on a more satisfactory basis. There were quite a good 'jag' of bills due last Saturday and jobbers report results as satisfactory as far as Ontario is concerned, but hardly up to the average from Manitoba and the Northwest. The wholesale dry goods section of the Board of Trade have issued a circular saying that the following terms have been adopted, all sales to be on a four months' basis: Discounts—6 p. c., 10 days, 1st following month; 5 p. c., 30 days, 1st following month; 3 p. c., 60 days, 1st following month; over 60 days, discount allowed at the rate of 7 p. c., per annum for the unexpired term."

AMONG the arrivals in Victoria, Sunday evening, were Mr. A. F. Gault, of the well known Montreal dry goods house, of Gault Brothers & Co., and one of the leading men interested in the Canadian Cotton Industry. He is accompanied by Mr. Morrice, also a cotton man of considerable prominence and a partner in the firm of D. Morrice & Co. In conversation they said neither of them had previously visited the Pacific Coast though doing considerable business here. They had come out in the first place to California, and had taken advantage of the opportunity to survey the situation in this Province. It is not unlikely that Mr. Gault and those with whom he is associated may become substantially interested in some of our enterprises.