

FASHIONS AND FANCIES

THIS season has been one of novelties in colors, cloths and all of the dainty accessories belonging to a woman's wardrobe. There is one novelty that bids fair to stay in through another season, and that is the long lines of the garments. The woman of medium height is rejecting the plump woman will avoid the too pronounced tunic draperies and the tall girl who is too tall to be perfectly happy wearing the long coats with the unbroken lines will welcome the arrival of the shorter coat in the Russian blouse style.

Dark colors predominate in the new Russian blouse suits this winter. Last winter, the shades were light and the rich,



Black Velvet Ribbon Trims a White Frock

new colors of this season are a relief. The prettiest of the shades are the reddish browns and the dark greens in corjuroys and velvets. None of the Russian coats is cut by the old lines. A stunning one exhibited lately was a raven blue corduroy. It was narrow across the shoulders and fell to a point just below the hip, with the edge bound with skunk. The sleeves were long and finished at the wrists with the same fur. These frocks fasten on the left side, and this fastened beneath three exquisite ornaments of jeweled passermenterie.

The neck of the new coat is finished flat, without a collar, so that it looks equally well with a shirtwaist or a lace chemise. There are a variety of suitable belts to choose from for these suits. There are embroidered ones, plain semi-girdle styles of the same materials as the coats, silk braids and the oxidized silver belts with the huge, barbaric-looking buckles.

The tailored frock is of Bedford cord, an old-fashioned material much in vogue in this year of corduroys and diagonals. The color chosen was smoke gray. The skirt, like the jacket, laps to the left side and is trimmed with braid to match the braid of the coat. The jacket is slashed over each hip and each side of the front, and the girdle, which is fastened in the back under a broad bow, is pulled through the slashes. The sleeve is slashed at the back below the elbow.

Appropriate with the new Russian suit is the velvet-topped turban, with the band of fur and the metallic military aigrette inserted well down on the head. One of the loveliest of the imported hats is a Rebox. It is a combination of velvet, fur and flowers. The shape is a straight brim of medium size, rolling slightly on the left side. In color it is a soft moss green, with a strip of skunk fur about the crown. At the front are posed two exquisite pink roses.

The popularity of furs and fur trimmings is advancing with the season. The fur turban is holding its own, as fur is rivaling plumes for decoration, though here and there is still the broad-brimmed hat with plumes. The more stylish of the broad hats are the satin shapes, with the band of fur about the crown or the entire crown made with the pelt of the animal laid over it.

As wrapped, swathed, draped effects and huge flat or flapping bows are monopolizing the trimmings on the latest hats, it stands to reason that the broad ribbons are to be used. The most fashionable are the plain moires, panne, satin, bengalines, warp prints, jacquards and velvets. Their colors vary to suit the taste of the buyers, but those most in demand are indigo, seal, carmelite, deep prune or raisin, rich greens, dark wistaria, wine and black.

The scarfs of silk and broadcloth, edged with fur or feathers, have been supplanted, to some extent, by the all-fur scarfs, which are flat and modeled on shawl lines. Though most of the young girls have followed their elders in the choice of dark furs, fashion is vigorously protesting that white furs, ermine and fox, are the only ones appropriate for the debutante. White hare can be gotten with less expense, and though it cannot be classed with the durable furs, it is a stunning trimming.

Great daring has been shown in the novelty muffs of fur and silks, velvet, satin and chiffon combined with fur. To describe the lengths to which this style has gone can only be done by naming some of the combinations. One sees a scarlet velvet trimmed with chinchilla or skunk and a muff of the same, a set of white furs, turban, stork and muff decorated with dashing big bows of black velvet, a huge muff of gold tulle with a shrunken border and broad bands of gold trimmings, or a blue velvet and ermine muff. Not to be neglected are the cunning muffs of shirred broadens and velvet for the tiny miss.

It is safe to say that furs will figure at every smart gathering of the winter, either in the lovely sets of sable, or silver fox lynx, which is one of the new effects suitable for the younger women, or in the scarfs of silk edged or lined with fur.

High neck dressing will prevail through the season and the square bows of illusion and maline are relegated to the ranks of the out-of-dates. The jabot seems to be a permanent factor, and this year they are longer and more frilly than ever, so as to be worn with the shawl collars on the new Paris and in some of the local shops are in three pieces—the jabot, stock and cuffs, with colors introduced in the way of inserted fabrics or embroidery to tone in with either the tints in the waist or suit.

Coffee-colored nets and laces will be the prominent materials for the new neckwear. Paris is still holding to the combinations of velvet and gilt, using the velvet in tiny bands on the lace and the gilt in tassels, edging or drops.

There is always the jaunty black and white jabot with its satin pipings, jet buttons and tiny buckles. One-sided jabots are made of the net-top laces and edged with a single row of mother-of-pearl spangles or tiny gilt or silver beads. Irish lace is still popular, and the sailor collar has developed into a rolling shawl collar.

The new veils in the lace figuring should be carefully adjusted so as not to make the face look disfigured. Chantilly figures on "erackle" backgrounds are among the close mesh mesh qualities which receive any attention with so many of the large mesh styles on the market.

The black veil is having a well-earned rest after having been pressed into service season after season. The woman who chooses her garments for their smartness is getting the deep violet, powder blue, bottle green, prune and seal. The Chantilly borders are a fad on the fine nets. Paris, with her love for the unique in dress, has reversed the bordered veil, and the women wear the borders over their eyes like masks with the fine unfigured net coming over the mouth and chin.

This is such an extreme fashion that it may hold with a few, but will hardly become general with well-dressed people.

Frequently the fur coat appears to be more of an affectation than a necessity for street wear in the city and the day frock fashioned to wear with a set of furs and no coat is far more suitable. One is of taupe colored silk and wool mixture. The skirt is embroidered in a panel on the right side below the waist line. It is made with an inverted plait to below the knees, which is stitched flat on the edges. The plait is turned back on each side at the lower part of the skirt and hangs loose. The back of the skirt is made with a panel stitched flat to the upper part and hanging loose at the bottom, while the inverted plait on the left side of the skirt is stitched to the bottom. The skirt is finished with a hem.

The corsage laps to the right side and is slightly draped from under an embroidered ornament of taupe satin. The lower part of the corsage, the girle, the tucked yoke are all of the same satin and the latter are outlined with bands of embroidery. The collar is of cream colored net. The arm hole of the corsage is loose from the lining and piped on the edges with satin. A cuff of embroidered satin finishes the novelties. Fashion seems to be uncertain whether the fine sleeve; the lower part of the sleeve is of tacked satin.

Another frock is of olive green soft satin. The skirt is slightly shirred at the waist line on each side of the front. The fullness is held together at the knees with an embroidered satin ornament. The sides of the skirt slope back over the hips and are slightly draped from under each side of the back, which is shirred at the waist line. The lower part of the skirt is finished with a loose fold of satin. The corsage laps to the left side. The sleeve is one piece with the body of the waist and is trimmed from the neck line to the wrist on top with tiny bands of embroidery over shirring of chiffon. The corsage is embroidered in silks about the neck and around each side of the front. The vest is of satin embroidered with soft color. The collar and lower sleeves are of embroidered chiffon. The soft girle is of satin finished with a rosette of the same.

Carnations rarely, if ever, are a suitable corsage bouquet. They are valuable flowers for room decoration and to be carried with an evening dress. Made into bunches of three or four and laid flat with ferns at the front of the tailor suit a single rich red rose bud, with a spray of foliage, is far better than a number together. Of course, roses may be shaped to fit the front of an evening dress, being held at the waist line and fastened gracefully to the front of the bodice.

Violets are the easiest to arrange. They may be pinned to a muff, tucked in at the opening of a coat or at the girle of a waist and look well.

Artificial flowers are being more lavishly used on the evening gowns this winter, in garlands and corsage sprays. Flowers are used to encircle the round neck; they nearly cover one-half of the corsage. Chiffon over-draperies are confined at the knee with bands of tiny rosebuds. The buds are also used to head a band of fur at a skirt bottom. Flowers are used in combination with aigrettes and ribbon for hair ornaments and even some of the newest slippers have tiny buds tucked into chiffon and ribbon slipper rosettes matching the color scheme of the gown. Although it is easy, as a rule, to get pretty flowers from the gardens and hot houses for table decoration, there is a tendency to get the artificial flowers, which would defy detection and harmonize with the gown of the hostess.

THE GROWING TRADE OF THE PACIFIC PORTS

THE launch of the steamship Prince Rupert is an event of importance, not only to the Grand Trunk Railway system, but also to the Dominion. Less than a quarter of a century ago the coasting traffic along the western shores of Canada was trifling, while the trans-Pacific trade was confined to sailing vessels. When the Canadian Pacific Railway Company entered into the steamship business and introduced its famous "Empresses" as mail-carriers to China and Japan, its enterprise was looked upon as more in the light of a good



With Fur Collar and Cuffs

advertisement than a paying proposition; today not only are there two or three other well-known British steamship companies operating a regular service of large liners from Vancouver and Victoria to Japan, China and Australasia, but Japanese as well as American companies have also fine vessels crossing the Pacific which visit Canadian ports. One of the objects of the present visit of the chairman of the C.P.R. to England is understood to be the allotment of contracts for still larger "Empresses" for the ocean route of the company, and more vessels of the "Princess" type for its coasting traffic. The Prince Rupert is to be the first of many "Princess" built to run under the flag of the G.T.P. In friendly rivalry with those of the C.P.R.; and the more closely the trend of events is examined, the more reasonable does it appear to be to anticipate that there will be ample freight and passengers for all. By the time the port of Prince Rupert is connected with the Grand Trunk system to the Atlantic coast, we shall doubtless see 10,000-ton "Empresses" lying alongside its wharves waiting to transfer transcontinental mails and passengers across the Pacific Ocean at a far higher speed than any vessel now operating is capable of making.

THE LAST PRAIRIE DOG TOWN

ONE of the distinguishing marks of the old wild West was the prairie dog. Where his town yet remained, the little mounds undisturbed by furrow or shoe of, there were other things characteristic of the old days—the antelope, grouse, sage hen, and deer. The cheerful little rodent has been barking a querulous protest against intrusion ever since the days of De Soto. In every story of the romance of the West the harmless, worthless, entertaining little beast has found a place. The buffalo tore up his town for a wallowing place, the elk fought back and forth through its winding streets. The gray wolf and the coyote stalked him in vain. Naked Indian boys made him a target for untrained arrows, and the plains resounded with juvenile war cries when some lucky shaft went home. White men, too, sought to obtain the ill-culty of killing prairie dogs, saying that the animals always escaped to their holes even when an ounce of musket ball had gone straight through them. I marvelled at this when a boy and a girl lived until one evil day when I killed three in as many shots with a .22 pistol, and then another cherished myth had exploded. Really, they have much to answer for, those old story tellers.

The prairie dog has never had any protection, even from the Audubon Societies. Farmers have poisoned him and the Department of Agriculture has published pamphlets telling how it can best be done. Yet when the prairie dog's town has finally become a field of corn or wheat, no more of the West remains that is worth seeing.

In the great states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas the prairie dog is pretty well gone. In all the West I know of but one great town, the like of which used to be observed everywhere from the Missouri River to the mountains. From Laramie Peak in Wyoming, extending thence east for nearly forty miles, there is an unbroken town of prairie dogs, a huge city forty miles long and as many wide in places. It is worth visiting, for the prairie dog is gone its like will never be seen again in all the world. Besides, the prairie dogs of Laramie Peak still have their old companions of the plains with them, the sage cock, sharp-tailed grouse, blue grouse, mountain quail, antelope, black-tail and white-tail deer, a few bears, and rarely an elk.

Try a trip to the prairie dog town at the foot of the Laramie Peak, and perhaps you may decide that after all the West is not so dead as it is supposed to be. You may see the antelope sail on invisible wings, hear the splash of the mountain trout, have your campfire ringed about with a wolf chorus in treble and bass, and the stumpy tail of the prairie dog will wag you as fearless and merry a welcome as he ever did in the days of Lewis and Clark.

ATHLETICS IN PERSIA

THE old East has handed down to us a lot of things, and about a good many subjects has forgotten considerably more than the Occident knows. Credit is given to Persia for cunning arts and paraphrastic poetry, but it is rather jarring to learn that polo is purely a Persian invention, and was played by royal teams for the delectation of early potentates, when England was a wild island, peopled here and there by skin-clad savages. In Teheran and Isfahan, in the possession of the wealthy, there are ancient tapestries and carpets, of incredible fineness, depicting the Persian players doing precisely what is done last summer on the fields at Hurlingham and Meadowbrook.

Another Persian or Perso-Indian athletic device is that to which chance rather than accuracy, has given the name of Indian clubs. The swinging of clubs is to this day a favorite form of athletic diversion and entertainment in Persia, but, instead of being practised by the merchant and the breaker by the display of their skill.

The average Persian is not an athletic man. His tastes run in other directions. He does not box. A fight to him means the pulling of beards and the tearing of raiment.

Before these performers start out in springtime upon a tour through the country, it is the custom to give a show before a prince, a khan, or some other dignitary, in order to take along his approval as advertising material, to be shouted by the crier in the bazars of cities, where they are to exhibit.

At first it is disturbing to see a professional athlete come out before a crowd of several hundred people, and find him as bald as a schoolhouse globe. It is to be remembered, however, that every other Persian, under his black wool cap, has a cranium equally smooth, and that it is not due to natural pro-cesses, but to the frequent shaving of the head which the Mohammedan religion, at least of the Shia sect, demands.

The performers are always accompanied by one or more musicians, according to the "class" they belong to, and all the evolutions are in time with the monotonous rhythm of the hand-drum and the whining iterations of the stringed instruments.

A DOCTOR'S PIGEON MESSENGER

THE carrier-pigeon has been put to a new use by a doctor who has a large and scattered practice in a rural district. When he goes on long rounds he carries a number of pigeons with him. If he finds that some of his patients require medicine at night, he writes out prescriptions, and by means of the pigeons forwards them to his surgery. Here an assistant gets the messages, prepares the prescriptions, and despatches the medicine.

If, after visiting a patient, the doctor finds he will be required later in the day, he simply lets a pigeon, which is employed to summon him if necessary.

CLAMS THAT TRAP MEN

THOSE whose acquaintance with clams extends only to the Little Neck variety will be able to think evil of any members of so delightful a family. But the shy and peaceful "Little Neck" has some big brothers who vigorously resent any attempt to pry into their personal affairs.

Men have accidentally stepped into the open jaws of these huge clams at low tide, and the clams, closing their jaws, have held them fast until the tide rose, when the men were drowned.

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Other men have reached for a lure in the form of a luminous spot. The instant they touched it the shells of a clam closed on their arms and in a few minutes the men were drowned.

Some of these clams that trap men are found imbedded in the coral reefs of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the men captured are pearl-divers. The flesh of one of these huge clams sometimes weighs twenty pounds, and added to that is the five hundred pounds or more of shell. The shell is sometimes five feet long by two and three-quarters wide.

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