

This Week's

Millinery Openings.

Full Account.



WINTER is in truth a thing of the past and with gradual steps the influence of spring is being felt. Heavy overclothing is giving place to more graceful and less cumbersome, lined gowns are leaving the hands, and muffs and mufflers are being relegated to the cedar chest, more, but perhaps the most potent evidence of the rapid advance of spring and summer is the flood of new dry goods, millinery, footwear etc. now on. To emerge from a six-month of sombre-shaded and cumbersome apparel into a new world of goods delightfully bright, novel and new, is undoubtedly a fascinating experience to all the men as well as the gentler sex. Fashion's fancies are unfolding themselves in such rapid succession that one becomes in reality bewildered, and this is particularly true this year. The originality of the weaver has indeed been taxed, the millinery designers have caused hundreds of new ideas to see the light and in millinery trimmings the array of novelties is almost having the effect of suggesting to expert hat creators, that they will have to learn a new catechism with regard to adornments for headwear. It is a season of millinery surprises, and the pleasantest of surprises too.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week the big wholesale millinery houses, Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison; Brock & Paterson, Skinner, Le Blanc & Co., also the retail establishment; the Parisians, held their openings. From Thursday until Saturday Messrs. M. R. & A. held their retail opening, which is having its usual large attendance. The city was full of milliners from every where. Even as early as Saturday last they started to flock into the city and on Monday every train and boat was crowded. Notably among the visiting ladies were several contingents from the sister provinces, Nova Scotia and P. E. I. As was remarked to PROGRESS the millinery class of workers seem to believe in wearing the very best of clothes, evidenced on opening days. The richest clothes, costliest furs and rarest millinery were none too good for them and to find a hundred or so of these ladies in a large room set about with the gaudy coloring of flowers, silks etc.—well, it was pretty too, to say the very least! Of the womanish scramble for the choicest novelties and keen rivalry in buying up model hats the writer will refrain from further referring to, although to a disinterested person with an observant eye, the scenes were some times warranted to cause a smile.

What is to Be Worn.

Of the tendency of fashion for the spring and summer of 1900 the following observations were made during a tour on opening day.

Small hats and toques will be more "off the face" than even the winter headwear. These with turbans of course are chiefly for spring wear, the larger hats coming when June and the summery months arrive. Differing widely from those of last spring the present hats and turbans are modelled chiefly after the shapes which have dominated during the past season of snow and ice, only, as was above mentioned, they flare up more abruptly. The toques however have seemed to branch off by themselves and are quite original.

In trimmings there is a wealth of new ideas. Lace will be used plentifully, especially of the Battenburg patterns and heavy effects. Black velvet ribbon is also found in no stinted supply on many of the model hats, while the ever popular rose, violets and foliage are staples. Small fruit such as berries, grapes and cherries will be more frequently called for than ever.

It cannot truthfully be said that ribbons will be the proper thing this year, at least

to any great extent. While the market teems with dainty silks and satin stripes in all the richest shades and most delicate tints, yet Dame Fashion is exacting from her followers more of labor this year and tucked and shirred chiffons, malines etc., will serve to make up the dainty pieces of head adornment. Chiffon is to be the prevailing material apparently, with such a carnival of tucks, shirings and gathers, as well as being bunched, rosetted and puckered, that milliners may not fear being unscrupulous in asking a higher price than usual for their wares. There is certainly lots of work on the hats which are to be worn, but the people will have them and the labor incurred in their production must find its just recompense.

Speaking, or rather writing of the newest shades and tints it seems as if old rose is to be a leader. This rich, subdued shade is finding its way to a large proportion of the spring hats. Tuscan, that deep cream color found so much in the heavier laces, is to rival old rose, and tu-



can straw, tuscan lace, tuscan ribbon, silk, etc., is sure to have a big run.

Referring once again to the shapes now being shown it appears as if there is to be a diversity as to the direction in which brims shall run, whether straight, crooked or curved. But really in the end all this indecision is set aside and what best becomes the individual purchaser is invariably selected. Leghorns for summer wear, which seldom differ in shape, this year include a unique design known as the mushroom. This style of hat will of course be found beneath such materials as flowers, foliage, lace, tulle, and like dainty and airy trimmings. However the most sombre shade of black is to be very common and even some of the gayest creations will have to allow for some of these. It might here be mentioned that tuscan and black will be a powerful team in the line of colors until next winter sets in.

M. R. & A.'S. WONDERFUL DISPLAY.

As early as 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning PROGRESS sought the millinery rooms of this well known firm in order to have a general survey of the good things before the crowd arrived, but even the paragrapher was a late comer, for already a surging and chattering assembly of milliners was there. However under the kind chaperonage of the head milliner the sights were all seen and sufficient notes taken to acquaint the readers unfortunate enough not to be present, of them.

In the ornament room some of the newest novelties were shown in wings, some of which were pastel blue, also clair de lune wings, tobacco leaf wings, tuscan straw wings in all shapes and sizes. Other new ideas are black chifon with tuscan straw and sequins, fancy crowns of black chifon with the pastel blue shade adornment, etc.

In millinery trimmings horsehair ribbons, horsehair lace with black straw and sequin, is quite new, as is also the sequin crown with tuscan straw effect. A pretty trimming this year are black and white fancy sigrettes, also in all black. Lace scarfs and handkerchiefs will be considerably used for sweeps about hats, and made to stand up like wings. Wings of chifon rounded with wired straw are to be used to trim hats and bonnets.

In the line of ornaments pearl buckles were found in an almost endless variety, as well as rhinestones, combination gilt and steel buckles, pastel colored buckles and steel buckles, the modallion buckle and ornament. Straw braids for making hats are this season found in the predominating pastel shades—those delicate faraway colors, such as pink, a peculiar blue, roseta green, heliotrope, tuscan, old rose; several tones of brown and woody colors. Black will be used in endless quantity.

Besides these various lines of pretty goods in all their pleasing colors and shimmer, the big room was decked in a profusion of flowers for Easter decoration, such as orchids, palms, grasses, Burnside lilies etc.

French Model Hats.

The large room in which the French model hats were shown was packed from early morning until late at night on both opening days, and those who arrived on the scene of beauty first took full advantage of the opportunity afforded to select the best of them. Without further remark a few of the best ones will be described:

(1) Hat with crown of fancy black straw, outside rim of black net and faced with white tulle in very fine folds. Four old rose chrysanthemums are placed at the left side, fastened with a large bow of black and white ribbon.

(2) A medium sized hat of bridal net with rows of narrow black velvet ribbon so as to form little ruffs over the brim and crown, finished at the side with a cluster of seven large white sigrettes, pearl ornaments.

(3) A medium-sized hat of allover tuscan straw, the crown and brim being in one piece and pleated into shape. This hat was trimmed with a cluster of black and white chrysanthemums and jet ornaments.

(4) A very pretty hat with a black fancy straw brim, a fancy crown in a pastel shade of blue, with large black chifon rosette in front and two large chrysanthemums, one of tuscan and one of blue.

(5) In leghorns a very handsome model was shown. It was a hat for a Miss, the crown being literally covered with pink roses, with large clusters of the same flower and foliage in different tones all over it. The hat was very prettily caught up in front, with black chifon pom-poms, gilt and rhinestone ornaments.

(6) Another pretty hat was one made of black chip with a band around of pale green and sequin, also a band of horsehair net; trimmed in front with eight bunches of wings, the pastel shades of heliotrope, green, and two large rosettes of black tulle.

(7) A fetching creation indeed, was a helmet shaped white straw hat, dipping in front and back with clusters of white chrysanthemums and white taffeta ribbon.

(8) Large black picture hat of black straw and jet with sequined lace. The trimming consisted of black tulle and white cross ospreys.

(9) Among the novelties shown in sailor hats was one decked out with large gull wings, black velvet ribbon and bow.

(10) An evening bonnet which attracted much attention was made of clair de lune net and Nile green, mauve and fawn shades of ribbon, pastel green pansies, with black velvet ties.

(11) Another very beautiful bonnet was made of fawn colored tulle with tuscan straw, pink roses and two large clusters of green grapes. Tulle was combined with the black velvet of the strings.

(12) Easter bonnets were shown in quite a large number, one of the prettiest being a bonnet of black net with coronet front of jet sequins, a crown of fine black straw and a large bunch of daffodils at the side, caught up.

Purple, yellow and white cross ospreys completed the makeup of this bonnet.

(13) Picture hat, made of black fancy straw, shape rolled off the face—the Hobb's shape—and very becoming. Crown of fine flowers in new Vandyke shades, large black tobacco leaf standing in front.

(14) Pretty turban of tuscan snake straw caught up with bunches of blue flowers and jet ornaments. Simple but effective.

(15) Hat with tam crown of black straw caught up in front with a black chifon rosette and large clusters of green

and purple berries.

(16) Another purple hat in different tones of purple straw with a soft sweep around it of purple crepe silk. Purple and black roses and three large black tobacco leaves.

(17) Strikingly catchy was a bright red hat of red fancy straw and red chifon to match, caught up with large clusters of red poppies and rhinestone ornaments.

(18) The ever-wearable gray was nicely embodied in a pretty shaped straw turban trimmed with white and gray fancy ribbon, a soft sweep of gray tulle and gray forget-me-nots with pastel ornaments.

For Children.

For the younger ones the hats this year are exceedingly pretty, one of the latest being the Babe (pronounced "baby") hat, made of white and blue straw with two large rosettes of white and blue chifon, faced in front with chifon, and white chifon ties. A pretty poke shape. Straw crowns, ruff, brims, chick and



Sailor hat with heavily sprayed wreath of flowers, and crown of velvet. Taken at M. R. & A.

lace predominate among the young fry this summer.

Flowers.

Notable among the new flowers are the pom-poms in new shades with rose centres, clusters of wild roses, small fruit, wreaths of roses, violets and roses in pastel shades, shaded and tinted foliage, and autumn leaf tints.

BROCK & PATERSON.

On Tuesday over two hundred and fifty milliners visited the large four story premises of Brock & Paterson and half as many on the less important day, Wednesday. Everybody expressed themselves as highly delighted with the gorgeous array of imported hats, flowers, ornaments, trimmings, childrens goods etc. On the second floor the large show room was ablaze with these wares, which included about 150 imported and St. John made hats. A description of some of these was given the writer by Miss Pentold, a Toronto young lady in charge of the manufacturing department of this firm and are found in the following paragraphs.

Messrs. Brock & Paterson never had such a large and varied stock of trimmings, hats, hat shapes, hat frames, braids, jets, sequins, laces, ostrich feathers, ornaments, ospreys, silks etc., as they have this year.

Some Dainty Creations.

(1) A small shape rolled up at the left side, and close fitting. Made of old rose fancy straw and crepe of the same popular shade. Trimmings consist of one single huge rosette of old rose silk and an under rosette of black velvet on a small band close to the hair. Indeed a rosy looking hat.

(2) Large hat of tuscan fancy straw, drooping in front and slightly rolling on one side. Trimmed with drapes of tucked chifon, two Prince of Wales feathers, bands of black velvet on crown and faced with folded chifon. Jet ornaments and bunch of black roses under the brim.

(3) A large roseta green turban of fancy straw with two large silken rosettes in the two shades of the same color—a handsome effect.

(4) Something new in the line of English walking hats this year is a shape something like the popular shepherds of last season. One of this style is shown covered entirely with tucked black chifon with two large tucked rosettes of chifon and two Prince of Wales feathers. Tea roses under the brim.

(5) Leghorns for summer will as usual vary little in shape. The one mentioned at the top of this page will, however have one new feature, the mushroom effect.

(6) A large black hat which drew forth a lot of expressions of delight was made of jetted net and pink roses.

The crown being composed of shirred net, and trimming, black ostrich feathers, also two large net rosettes.



Toques made of fancy straw brim, and trimmings of roses and tulle silk. Faced with pink roses.

SKINNER LE BLANC & CO.

Like the other establishments already mentioned Messrs Skinner, LeBlanc & Co's big wholesale premises were crowded all day Tuesday and snugly filled on Wednesday and Thursday a visit to the show rooms would lead the visitor to believe a cyclone had struck the place. Only a "thin variegated line" of show hats, the real French ones, were left, and as for the gaudy, busy silks, laces, chifons, mousseline de soie, tulle, etc. they were pretty well exhausted. The onslaught of milliners had been unprecedented in the several years history of the enterprising firm, who naturally feel not a little gratified. In the large stock shown were the daintest colors in the materials just in on time, almost a faded-out effect on the whole and Mr. LeBlanc, the expert member for the firm, says next year a step to eard even paler tints will be taken, and white and cream will rule in the color realm wings and chifon.

The oyster brown, a brand new color, was featured in this store and looks like the color of cocoa when all ready to drink. It is a very pretty, subdued color.

Among the imported trimmings the following were prominently pretty:

1. A light tinted mauve hat, drooping in back and front, trimmed with shaded mauve ribbon with fringed ends, pom-poms in front.

2. A pure white hat with a wreath of white roses, interlaced with chifon puffings and large soft rosette of the same material in front. Ospreys.

3. Another white hat with tucked silk entirely covering it. Flowers, chifon and feathers.

4. Bonnet with steel and black trimmings.

5. Pastel blue straw hat with chifon and braid of the same color, a profusion of flowers.

6. Soft green Gainsborough hat turned up at the side, filled in with roses and lace ribbon to match.

"Silver Plate that Wears."

"1847 Rogers Bros."

Spoons, Forks, Knives, etc., always combine the desirable features of silver plate—artistic designs, carefully finished with highest grade of plate. Remember "1847"—the mark of the genuine Rogers.



Straw toque with Louis XVI bow of velvet ribbon, and wreath of small roses at one side.



Round sailor hat, faced with flowers and trimmed with Empire wreath and clou of ribbon.



Toque with crown of lace over chifon, finishing in front with bow and two curving quills.



Walking hat made of fancy straw with narrow ribbon velvet inserted. Trimming of chifon rosettes.



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