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CHECKED GINGHAM SKIRT.



This pretty little skirt with its red and white checks on gingham makes the neat three-piece suit the hit of spring. The blouse is of the same kind of gingham, covered with red velvet, set off with a white flared collar. The blouse is straight in line and sleeveless, crossing in front and fastening under the arm.

CAPE'S NEWEST FASHION NOTE

Wraps Are Made for Actual and Unremitting Service, as Far as the Outer Coverings Are Concerned.

The ultra smart clothes that are worn at the playgrounds of the South are the straws that tell which way the wind is blowing in the world of fashion.

The cape is, really, the newest note of the season as far as outer coverings are concerned. It is making its appearance more and more frequently, observes a Palm Beach fashion correspondent. The most recent of traveling capes has two or three distinctive features which are worthy of detailed notice.

The new capes are made for actual and unremitting service, and, therefore, have points of interest all their own. They are, as a rule, cut circular—many yards, even as many as five around the hem, and a top that is cut exactly to meet the closely fitting collar at the neckline. The collar then is cut so that it rolls and folds about as one's mood wishes it to do, falling carelessly, gracefully, and broadly over the shoulders when the cape is unfastened.

Others of these traveling capes, while they are still cut on circular lines, have gathered at the neck, so that they float away in more graduated fold. But more often not, they are void of the yokes which are a striking feature of all the best winter capes.

One of these service capes was made of the most interesting variety of velours cloth, woven in a plum-colored plaid, with citron-colored stripes making the blocks. The cape had places cut in the sides for the hands to come through, provided with extra straight pieces set on to stimulate cuffs. Then, just underneath, on the cape, other straight pieces were set on to form

pockets. This slight divergence was the only departure from undiluted straight lines. With this cape its owner wore a purple velvet hat, soft and crushable in shape, touching one shoulder, and flaring from the face with a soft flange over the opposite eye.

SNAPSHOTS OF FASHION

Lingerie blouses will be very important for spring.

Silk poplin separate coats and suits are being developed for spring wear.

Jet bids fair to be popular for spring both for dress and millinery trimming.

Unique straw knitting bags to match South-west hats are being used at the Florida resorts.

Very smart are satin-striped habutai skirts and blouses, which form the latest blouse suit for summer.

The knitting activities of women and girls has revived an interest in aprons and many lovely models are to be seen.

Challis dresses are attracting the attention of dress buyers, so you may expect to see them in the shops very soon now.

Smart worsted plaids, with new, less brilliant colors combined, promise to be popular in separate skirts for spring wear.

Heavy silk embroidery does will play a strong part in hat garniture for spring and twice is also being used to make novelty flowers and other unique trimmings.

From Florida comes the report that stunning ostrich neckwear is seen. These new pieces are in the fat effect and add greatly to the effectiveness of South-west costumes.

City of the Dead in Czar's Home

"A CITY of the dead." "A living tomb." This is how Harry de Windt, the noted traveller, describes in the Manchester Guardian, the Siberian town of Tobolsk, to which Nicholas Romanoff, once Czar of all the Russias, and his family have been exiled. De Windt writes:

"Tobolsk is the ancient capital of Siberia, and contains 30,000 inhabitants, largely composed before the war of Germans engaged in the leather and tallow trades. It has been stated that the ex-Czar was conveyed to his place of exile by special train from Russia, which can hardly be correct, seeing that Tobolsk can be reached only by river. I had to travel there for five days from Moscow via Nijni-Novgorod, up the River Volga to Perm, thence across the Ural Mountains by rail to Timmen, and down the Irtysh river.

"The province of which Tobolsk is chief town is eight times the size of Great Britain, and is sparsely populated by Russians, Tartars, and fur-trading Ostiaks and Samoyeds, yet it was once of considerable commercial importance, which, owing to the Trans-Siberian Railway, has now greatly decreased.

"On approaching it from the river and viewed from a distance Tobolsk presents an imposing and picturesque appearance, which is quickly dispelled on closer acquaintance, for the place then assumes a listless, lifeless appearance which sinks into the soul. There is an upper and a lower town, the former being the citadel, which consists of a cluster of whitewashed buildings overlooking the river from the summit of a precipitous limestone cliff.

"It is approached by a steep carriage drive, and here the ex-imperial family will probably reside permanently, for the citadel comprises the governor's palace, government offices and a golden-domed cathedral, whence there is a fine view of the river and crescent-shaped city, which chiefly consist of drab-colored, weather-bleached wooden buildings in various stages of decay.

"Neither they nor the streets are kept in decent repair, and as the

latter are paved with rough planks which have rotted away in places it is somewhat risky to drive after dark, for the town is but dimly lit. The constant clatter of traffic along these wooden thoroughfares becomes maddening after a time, for it resembles the incessant rolling of thousands of drums, and is generally prolonged far into the night. The best hotel was old, dirty and comfortable, and permeated, like many of the streets, with an odor of sewage, for the drainage here is of a very primitive description.

"There was a theatre (generally closed) and a so-called cafe chautant, which was unpleasantly suggestive of some low-class dive in New York or San Francisco. Amusements there were none, by day or night, except the arrival or departure of a river steamer, which appeared to afford the inhabitants their only relaxation.

"Some of the shops were fairly good, especially those for the sale of antique jewelry and silver, where antique links, scarfpins, and other articles fashioned in the shape of a bell were constantly offered to me. For Tobolsk is as proud of its bell as Lucerne is of its horns or Bernese of its bears—the Bell of Ougitch, which for tolling the signal for an insurrection was banished here by a czar of the sixteenth century.

"In the Dark Ages Siberian exiles were deprived of their nostrils by means of red-hot pincers, but this being obviously impossible in the case of the metal offender, its suspenders were publicly removed in the presence of the Czar and a huge concourse of people, and this unique exile has now found a resting place in the local museum.

"Tobolsk presents at all seasons of the year a drab and desolate aspect, especially in summer, when the only trace of greenery is a public garden composed of stunted birch and cedar trees, dusty shrubs, and scanty flowers, intersected by weedy paths ankle deep in wet weather. A dilapidated and deserted bandstand occupies the centre, and near it is a stone obelisk with the inscription 'To Termak, the dauntless warrior who with a handful of Cossacks captured Western Siberia three centuries ago from a formidable Tartar force.'

"The prison here is the most dismal looking structure, inside and out, which I have ever beheld, yet it is well in keeping with its mournful surroundings. This, in short, is a city of the dead in more ways than one, for Tobolsk has the highest death rate of any town in Siberia, a fact partly attributable to defective drainage and partly to the extensive and stagnant marshes by which it is surrounded, and which are a fruitful source of every malarial disease.

"Look down from the citadel on a summer evening, and the town below you is invariably concealed by a lake of dense, fever-laden mist which has crept in at sunset from the neighboring swamp. Summer is a season of dull grey skies, incessant rain, and swarms of mosquitoes; winter of intense cold, combined with damp, a climatic combination unknown in other parts of Siberia, which elsewhere is invariably sunlit, dry, and bracing. Political exiles have told me that they would rather serve a five years' sentence in the depths of Russian Asia than reside here in comparative freedom for six months, although it is much nearer Europe."

The estimated national expenditure in Great Britain on education, natural science, and art for the forthcoming year—1917-18—is £21,412,175.

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In the Right Place.
"You seem at home here," remarked a man at the post office to the postmaster.
"Yes," replied the latter, "this is my stamping ground."

Contrary Evidence.
"The greater cannot go into the less."
"So they say. But how is it on these blowy days that half the dust in the world gets into my eyes?"

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He—How shabby those boats look.
She—Why should boats be shabby? I've often heard my brother talk about the painters they had on board.

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