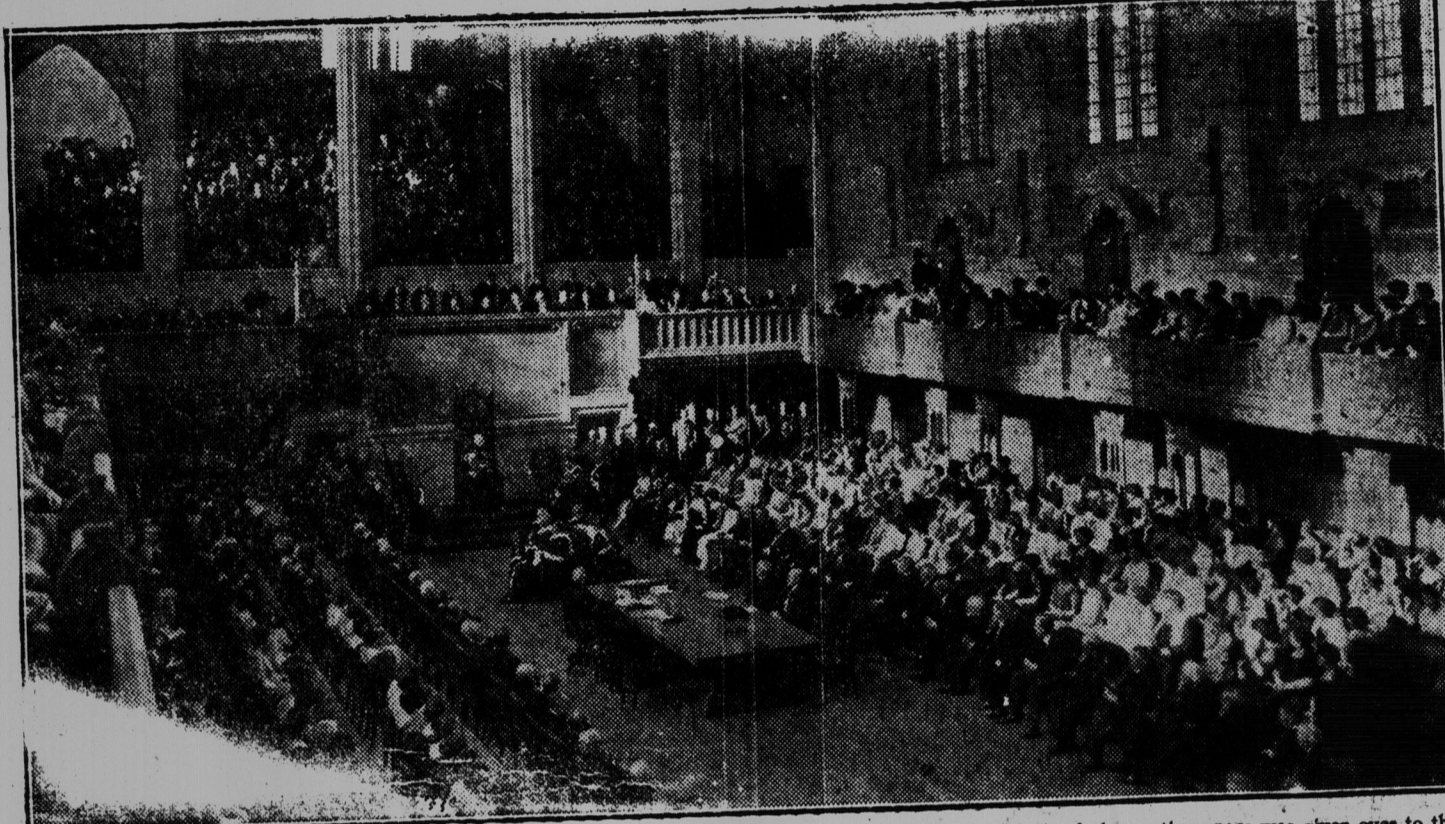


Sun Played Pranks On Women Guests

It Was Hard on Complexions and Clothes for Women to Wear Evening Dress at Opening of Canada's Parliament at Ottawa, Where Sun Replaced Artificial Light—Colorful Scene at the Opening Ceremonies.



Brilliant scene in the new Commons chamber as the governor-general read the speech from the throne. Much of the seating space was given over to the ladies.

(Toronto Telegram Staff Correspondent) Ottawa, Feb. 26—Discovered! Just why these many years our women-folk have dressed themselves in their gladdest evening raiment in the middle of the day to attend the opening of parliament.

They do it to match the men! You know how, from the period they are small boys to the time when you take him to a fancy dress party that the male species just balks at dress-up clothes. Of course some of the Mystic Shriner or Knights of So-Forth are the exceptions that prove the rule. But the rest of the masculine creation are shy, so shy.

But even before the time that one of their own sex first told them that it was clothes that make the man, men discovered that if they wanted to start out from the crowd they must wear something different or their envious fellows would say: "Why he's just a plain man like us!" So they dressed their leaders up, were they clerics, judges or government, in special clothes. To open a parliament, for instance, the governor wears a full state dress. We hope it is not less majestic to say it looks like an admiral in "Pinafore," but that's the quickest way to describe it. Then just to make him feel at home the Privy Counsellors wear Windsor dress. It's a fine black suit, with more gold embroidery on it than any vamp lady. For hats they carry cocked affairs with white feathers. Then, too, there are the Supreme Court judges in scarlet cloth and ermine.

Then, too, there are the Catholic dignitaries in the scarlet and blue of the salvation Army the clerical representatives give still more color. So what did the wily men do but say: "Let's command the women to put on their very giddiest clothes and we'll let them sit (for one short hour) in the very Senate Chamber and they will be so busy nobody will talk about our cockatoo clothes!"

So they did! What's more, the mean things sent men reporters to write the poor ladies up. They, the poor things, do not know the difference between a Paris creation they work themselves into a frenzy about and a dress that is violent enough to hit them in the eye. Give 'em color enough and they'll talk as if Parliament Hill had gone back to Nero or the excesses of the pre-French Revolution days.

Just what was the opening of parliament in the new buildings at Ottawa like yesterday? Some said it was the most brilliant since Confederation. It distinctly was not. To begin with, many of the people who used to spend small fortunes on frocks for opening festivities are now south with their jewels and fine raiment. There have been many more brilliant spectacles at Ottawa parliamentary festivities than this year's.

To begin with, the Senate Chamber, which they declare will be the most beautiful legislative hall in the world, was not finished. The opening ceremony took place in the less elaborate Commons Chamber. Then, too, the guests had to approach by the side entrance in the wing. Inside the marble corridors were flanked by bay trees, but it did not thrill as the noble big en-

trance will. Unlike the old square chamber, the new oblong Commons does not give the massed brilliant effect, for the side galleries are so narrow. Then again as the furniture was not yet installed the makeshifts from the museum, etc., gave a somewhat heterogeneous effect.

But it was a gorgeous study of color. From the high windows the February sun streamed in with the golden radiance of midsummer. Ladies lifted their huge invitation cards and ostrich feather fans to shield their gilded eyes. Malicious spectators said that some of their clothes and complexions had never been intended for a noon-day sun.

You see, when the men ordered evening dress for this year's opening they seemingly forgot that they were not to be lit by artificial light. But as the lights were not ready in the chamber both frocks and complexions had to be viewed in the garish sun and experts will tell you that you use a different kind of powder, and a color that may look ravishing under the electric light may make a man in the sunlight ask: "Who that common woman is that John married?"

Dull oaken galleries and richly carved white walls made an effective background for the brilliant color on the floor of the House and the galleries. Dowagers in rich velvets and brocades, accompanied by flower-like maidens in modish tulle, taffeta or satin frocks, began to take their places as early as half past one. Church dignitaries, foreign emissaries, senators and privy councillors arrived. Then, to the boom of cannon, came His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, led by Sir Thaddeus Foster and Sir James Loughheed in their Windsor bravery. Flanked at either side by military and naval officers was the governor-general as he took his seat. The entry of the supreme court judges was another stirring moment. Those who have never seen a supreme court judge in all his glory have a hilarious moment. The first sight of six grave, elderly men in monkish costumes and cowl effects of scarlet robes, with huge collars and cuffs, whispers a disrespectful one as the dignitaries take their places on the wool-sack in front of the Speaker. Then the gentleman of the Black Rod comes up in his little black velvet Lord Faunteroy suit and bows and bows at the Duke to start the party.

Who did wear the most costly raiment at the opening? We know it's not good form to talk about the cost of guests' clothes, but we could answer this by declaring, "It was a man!"

They tell us those Windsor uniforms would make most women take gas if she had to buy her dressmaker that for a costume. Down in Ottawa they point to one man who paid \$800 for his and then was afraid to wear it!

No tropical parrot ever glistened in such color as some of the frocks at the opening. Gold and silver still seems a favorite adornment to the richest colors. The black, however, was the most frequent choice, and blue in all its shades, if anything outvalued rose shades. Jade was worn in some of the smartest frocks and the new jayonica and orange tints were

of diamonds, and a wrap of ermine and seal completed a toilet which made people ask the inevitable, "Who is she?"

Taffeta was a favorite fabric for the debutante type. Particularly lovely was an exquisite rose with the modish apron tulle edged with lace and festooned with ruffles. A fairy frock was of palest pink taffeta embroidered in silver worn over flounces of white tulle. Still another taffeta of jade was worn, with a huge old rose fan. There were some magnificent brocades and velvets, the Empire-green and silver with silver bodice still persists. Chartreuse and gold tissue was another smart variation in the greens. Jet and lace adorned the shariest black gowns. The younger set seems to favor bouffancy, but many like the smart tulle trims go in for the narrow silhouette with draperies over the sheath skirts.

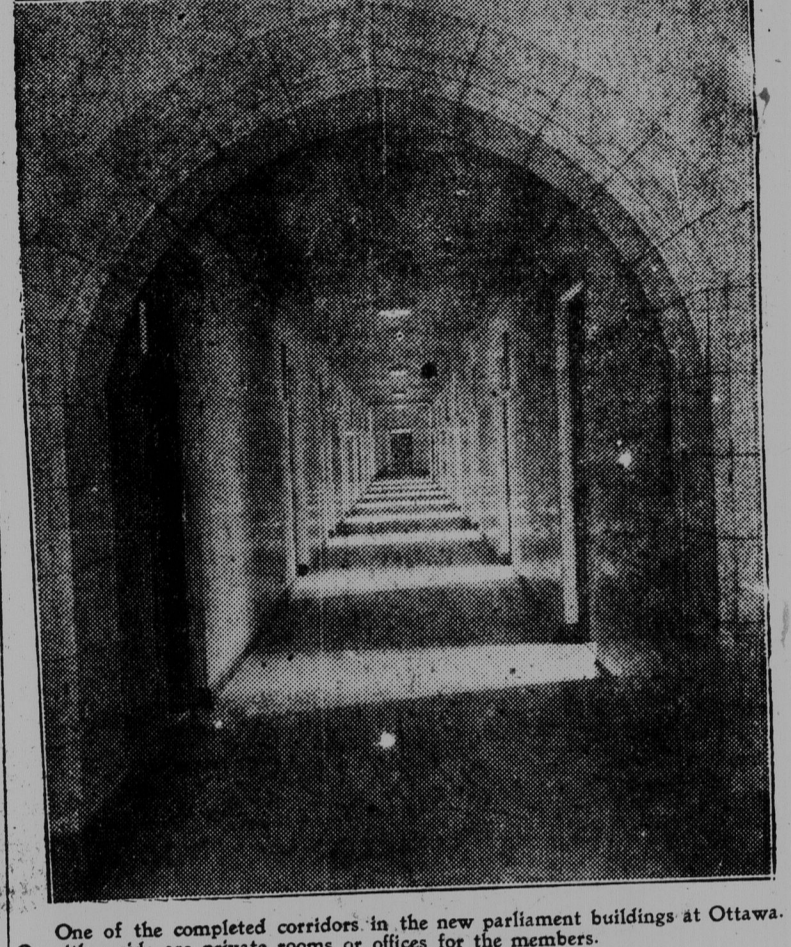
White was seen on some notable gowns, including that of a matron in a white charmeuse in a tanaga-like model, with opalescent bodice and narrowed skirt, which opened to reveal the pink lining.

Another was of white charmeuse with clouds of tulle, purple pinnies at the grade and a gold tissue band in the hair. Among the vivid color schemes was an American beauty taffeta with a strand of cornflowers from the shoulder.

After the commons had appeared at the great bar of the house and the parliament was thus fully assembled it was adjourned. Then after departing she a duke re-entered to hold a reception of all the guests from the floor or galleries. It

of the days of Pompadour and the Louis courts, and the Directoire influence again went back to Greece. Many of the gowns had trains from the shoulder or the side. Regal was a lady in a pailiered gown of white brocade with nosegays of pink flowers and a train that was lined with luscious rose color. A classic gown of white satin was worn with a magnificent platinum necklace and plaque

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One of the completed corridors in the new parliament buildings at Ottawa. On either side are private rooms or offices for the members.

marble and stone, with reseda green floor. Over its fine fireplace, bigger than even the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, has been installed a fine mural by Arthur Crisp, with the inscription, "The Spirit of the Printed Word!"

Palms and peoned flowers lined the walls, and the tea table was lovely with pink cyclamens. High lamps of Madonna blue and gold revealed the women's frocks as the sunlight had failed to do and the scene was an augury of the beauty of the building when it would be more fully complete next year.

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An unusual view of the commons chamber in Canada's new \$10,000,000 parliament buildings. The floor section was not finished when this photograph was taken a few days ago. The view was taken from the scaffolding near the ceiling, looking toward the Speaker's dais.