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No picture of the woman of the West can be true which does not show her vigorous and successful and happy. She loves the West. She enjoys the life. She is always more a conqueror than she is a toiler. The women who have lived twenty years in the West stand side by side with the men as founders and makers of new communities. In the cities there are women who would stand high in the affairs of any community, understanding the ways of commerce and the affairs of cities. The work both of men and women in the West is bearing triumphantly the test of the sudden enormous growth of today.

The October number of the Pall Mall magazine has a very vivid and accurate description of fighting a prairie fire near Qu'Appelle. This is the work of Miss Georgina Binnie-Clark. Many readers will remember the sketch of her work in practical farming near Qu'Appelle which I gave in these pages just about a year ago.

Here is one paragraph from the sketch which I am sure will awaken a response in many hearts:—

"There was nothing more to be done.

We stood by the inadequately guarded corner, within twenty yards of the oat-straw stack, each armed with a sack and ready to do battle with the flame-wave if it challenged; but each of us knew in our heart that if the flame continued to get within fighting distance, the whole place was doomed."

Needless to say, Miss Binnie-Clark is writing from a personal experience, every line bears the ring of experience for as the old hymn says—

"What we have seen and heard  
With confidence we tell."

Miss Binnie-Clark more than any Englishwoman writer that I have encountered seems to have grasped the real situation of women in the West and has written understandingly and truthfully of it. The present sketch does not deal with the woman question but a number of articles which during the past winter have appeared in old country papers certainly have dealt with it fairly and truthfully and should be the means of bringing us desirable women immigrants.

## What to Wear and When to Wear it.

### Hats

Last month I began with hats and I am beginning in the same place for November also. But this time it is only a note and not a general dissertation on hats. It was suggested that fur would figure prominently in the hats later in the season and this has proved correct as fur of all kinds is being used in every variety of turban shape and is being combined with velvet, lace and beaver plush. There is a marked increase in the number of hats made of long fur such as dyed lynx and dyed rabbit and even dyed coon. I cannot say that I admire these hats, to me they are outre, but I think it well that women should know of these uses for the long furs as if may often help them out in the matter of making up furs which they already have.

### Small Furs.

The French women have conceived a sudden fancy for coon and very large quantities of it are being dyed and made up into what are technically called "small furs," but there is really no such thing as a small fur left. Stoles, ruffs and muffs are all of enormous size, many of the muffs looking positively uncouth.

### Black Furs.

There is a general rage for black furs of all kinds and among the smartest shown are the sets known as Persian Paw. This is really made from the legs of the Persian lamb and has the broad flat curl common to the legs of all lambs. It makes up effectively in the flat stoles and throws and the large muffs and is not very expensive and very good, selling at from \$12 to \$18 according to the size of the muff.

### A Good Time to Buy

Let me say to the woman who has to buy either small furs or a fur or fur-lined coat that this is an excellent season to buy furs and December will be even a better month than November. The explanation is this: With the prospect of plenty of money in the country from good crops the furriers and department stores laid in heavy stocks of good furs and up to the present time there has not only not been any weather to demand the wearing of furs but it has been so warm that even the people who ordinarily buy ahead have not made purchases and the consequence is that the large stocks are almost unbroken. It is a rule of the fur trade that the bulk of the stocks must be sold before Christmas if they are to be sold at all and I think that for the Christmas trade this season Winnipeg will see some of the finest bargains in furs that have ever been offered in the West.

During the month I have made a

round of the fur stores and the stocks of the various department stores and without hesitation I would pronounce the stocks the best all round I have ever seen offered in the West.

If any girl who reads this page has the opportunity of securing any ermine skins this winter, by all means do so. Not only is ermine very popular just at the present time but the indications are that it will be increasing in favor for another year or two at least.

Exclusive ermine sets are being worn more than they have ever been before. During the visit of the Vice-Regal party in Winnipeg at one of the receptions I counted, just in a few moments, no less than forty sets of ermine. These were in the form of large flat stoles many of them reaching almost to the floor and very large flat muffs.

Worn, as they were on this occasion, over handsome satin or velvet gowns with much rich lace and jewelled and sequined net the effect was gorgeous. Quite apart, however, from such occasions as these, ermine furs are extremely becoming to young girls. I know of several girls and women in Winnipeg who have friends in the Mounted Police who have received gifts of ermine skins during the past month and I would certainly advise any girl who has a friend who may be in the way of getting these skins to remind him promptly of her existence and it might not be a bad idea to mention casually that ermine furs are fashionable.

### Pockets.

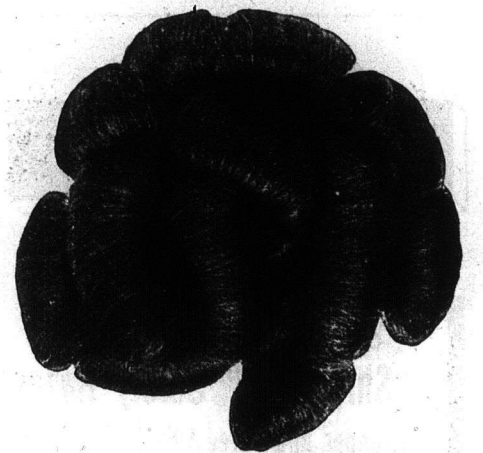
There is a growing tendency to have pockets in dresses and one of the recent designs seen in Winnipeg may be of use to some of the mothers making school suits for girls ranging in age from 12 to 15. A kilt of dark green starting just about half way between the hip and the knee. The upper portion of this dress was a princess tunic of grey and where tunic and kilt joined the tunic had the appearance of being turned up about five inches. This turn up was bound on the upper edge with green to match the kilt and was only caught to the tunic at the seams and in front or rather to the side the kind of pouches thus formed were utilized for pockets and very good pockets they made. For the guidance of anyone attempting to make one of these dresses I might say that the foundation is a lining that comes down about four inches longer than the tunic and to which the kilt is firmly stitched. This prevents all sagging. The sleeves and neck of the tunic were finished with green and the hat was a wide fluffy green beaver with grey wings and steel ornaments.

### Cashmere

The return of cashmere and cashmere satin, which is a soft satin with a weave of wool at the back,

is highly suggestive of the return of draped skirts and in the more advanced models considerable draping is noted. About the only advantage of this style is the fact that it gives a woman a chance to make one new gown out of two old ones and I saw this done with rather good effect the other day. The skirt was of plain old gold satin and over it was a Cuirass bodice effect of very fine black cashmere. The Cuirass was cut with a long wide square front panel piece that let loose would have reached to the hem of the skirt in front, but which was caught up in three pleats on the left side and fastened into the back seam of the skirt with large fancy gold and steel buttons. The sleeves had a seam down the centre and this was scalloped and bound with the satin each scallop being finished with a small button that matched the large ones on the skirt. The yoke was of old gold net with a hand darned pattern of black and was set in with folds of the satin and groups of the little buttons.

No casual observer would have imagined that this gown was constructed out of a last year's ball gown and an old black cashmere shawl that had had a dip to freshen the black, yet such was the case. It was a very artistic as well as a very handsome gown.



### JUST ARRIVED

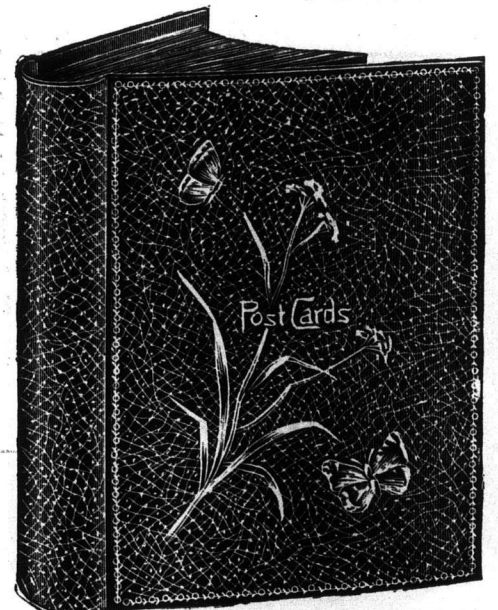
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