LITTLE TUCKS WORN

BIG BOX PLAITS ARE ALSO IN STYLE NOW.

Some of the Ways Which They Effect Feminine Happiness—Blue and Violet Combined in Millinery—Rice Throwing at Weddings.

Tiny tucks continue to be of large import in feminine horoscope. The stars and the dressmakers require only that they go up and down. It is tucks which are being used generously to carry us over from the old tight skirt effect to that of the one which is coming and has come, the looser skirt. I have seen a distinguished gown in the popular fawn-colored face cloth, which has five tucks or tiny plaits from belt

to hem, that illustrates the new fashion attractively. The waist is done from the same cloth, and in the back continues the plaits to the collar. The front of the bodice is plaited on both sides of the fastening with tiny steel buttons. For a coat there is a border of brown velvet stitched in waving lines. A fichu of brown velvet is a rather odd note in rich fabrics. Fichus in wash materials are commonly in favor, and likely to be more so, as the season advances. Rather, as the spring comes in.

Following the Modes.

One accustomed to following the modes finds that the fashions in choice fabric of one season become the cachet in the less expensive weaves of the period which follows. A brown velvet hat in shepherdess shape, but trimmed in fine lady fashion, with three great ostrich tips, completes a visiting costume of latest design. There are women who feel unhappy to be without decoration of some sort at the back of their skirts. So quickly have the modes veered from those of the mermaid model of the summer and fall. At a fashionable church last Sunday I noticed an heroic attempt on the part of a woman sensitive to changes in the styles to bring her back drapery quite up to date. The effort was not precisely successful, or the means would not have been apparent.

A moss green cloth gown, made originally with habit black, had a box plait added from belt to hem of a cloth in a lighter shade of green. An appliqued box plait of the same color as the body of the skirt probably would have given the desired touch of ornamentation at the back without calling carping attention to it. Tucks so small that they are hardly more than stitchings appear in five clusters of five each up and down a dress of smoke gray face cloth. Two clusters are in front, either side of the belt centre, and spreading as they progress down the skirt. One cluster is directly in the middle of the skirt back, and one on either hip, at the back. A pretty garment, indeed, with the lines spreading at the feet, in the popular mode of the moment. And it is a charming fashion, which one should say would be pleasing at any time, did she not recall the somewhat sad fact that the idea's of one season are the despair of those much later. And the time may come when it no longer is graceful, but ugly, to have our skirts toss and tumble about our feet. A knot of black panne, faced with white, gives cachet to the bodice of the smoke gray gown. There is a narrow yoke from tucked white China crape, and this yoke is outlined with the inevitable Renaissance lace. A toque from black panne, in shape like nothing so much as three huge bowknots, is completed with an upstanding white ostrich plume. Women are showing the white feather in their millinery frequently this winter.

The Box Plaits.

A variety of the box plait, which will delight the heart of the thin woman is shown in a skirt constructed with a box-plait on either hip. The material is petunia face-cloth, and the buttons are modish combinations of jet and cut steel. Appliques of white satin on the waist revers, and two hanging ends of fringed white liberty satin, give vogue to the cloth gown. And, by the way, the hour of fringe is shortening. Unless used in original ways, it already fails to please women of the most fastidious tastes. It has been adopted rather commonly by such ill-dressed ones as like the long automobile coat for promenading. But individuality in employment still saves fringe for tasteful use. In hats, no nothing smarter has come out than those which tip down over the face. One sees this style in trimming emphasized too often. But moderate examples of it engagingly top a pretty face. Brims are from plaited small when they are not built of fur. A new notion in combining, after the French style, turquoise blue and purple, is worked out by the help of violets at the corsage. The toque is from black velvet, the fluffy brim of many folds of turquoise blue tulle, and the paradise plume is dyed in the same gay tone.

Shall Rice Throwing Stop?

Rice throwing at weddings—at least at those performed in churches—probably soon will be a thing of the past. A clergyman in Springfield, Mass., recently raised the first objection when a number of the friends of the bride and bridegroom scandalized him by throwing rice in the "sacred edifice." He threatens to stop the custom, even though it should be necessary to invoke the law to do so.

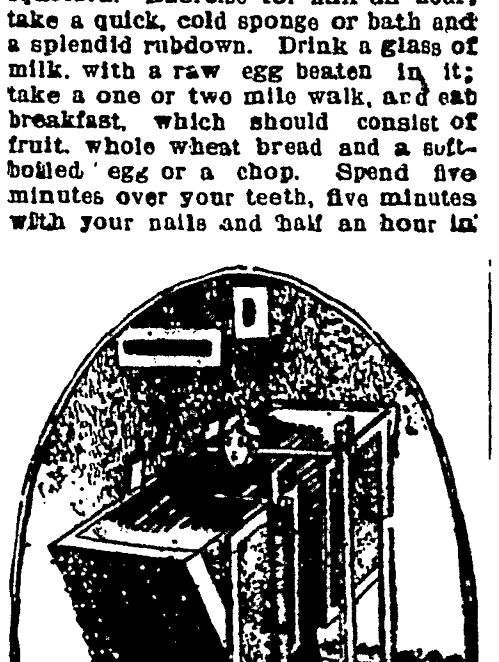
Other clergymen heartily commend the stand he has taken. "The throwing of rice at weddings," they say, "is a heathen custom, probably having its origin in India, for among the Hindoos the throwing of rice is expressive of the hope that the bride will in time be a happy mother of children. During the marriage ceremony the bridegroom throws three handfuls of rice over the bride and the bride does the same over the bridegroom. A preliminary rite is to place an earthen vessel filled with water on a heap of rice. The Brahmins then repeat over the vessel several invocations, calling on Varuna, the god of waters, to sanctify the contents, which are then poured over the head of the bridegroom.

"In the next stage of the ceremony three female relatives wash the feet of the young couple three times over in milk, while they are seated within the pandal in a swing. They are then swung, while the women chant the praises of Krishna, the lover of shepherdesses. Balls of saffron, mixed with rice, are then thrown toward the four points of the compass. This is an offering to the gods and the manes, all of whom are supposed to be present as invited guests. Saffron among the Hindoos is regarded as auspicious, and is as indipensable on wedding occasion as are orange blossoms among Europeans. As the father gives the bride away he presents to the bridegroom grains of rice tinged with red, along with betel leaves. At the end of the ceremony grains of parched rice are eaten. Somewhat as Europeans send out wedding cakes and cards to friends on hymeneal occasions the Hindoos distribute betel leaves, with the nut of the Areca palm and grains of rice, colored red."

For Beauty Seekers.

Englishwomen whose soft, white hands are a delight recommend the following almond and honey paste: Take one-quarter of a pound of bitter almonds, blanched and pounded half a pound of honey the yolkes of four eggs half a pound of almond oil and a quarter ounce of essence of violet or other flower. Rub the honey and eggs together, add the oil gradually, then the almonds and perfume.

Here is a luxurious beauty programme: Rise at 6 o'clock and drink a glass of hot water, into which the juice of an orange or lemon has been squeezed. Exercise for half an hour, take a quick, cold sponge or bath and a splendid rubdown. Drink a glass of milk, with a raw egg beaten in it; take a one or two mile walk, and eat breakfast, which should consist of fruit, whole wheat bread and a soft-boiled egg or a chop. Spend five minutes over your teeth, five minutes with your nails and half an hour in



The Figure Register—A Machine That Takes a Women's Exact Measurements.

brushing your hair. Your beauty duties are then over until night, when you should take a quick warm bath and retire at 10.

Always put a few drops of ammonia and a few of benzoin in your bath. The ammonia is cleansing and the benzoin, as an astringent, prevents the skin from becoming flabby. Blackheads are impossible when it is used.

Apples, apples, apples should be eaten by the beauty seeker. Drink hot water about an hour before each meal, too, unless you are too slim.

The Vainest of Birds.

"Do you know," said the observant gentleman, "that, with the exception of a peacock, I believe a canary bird is the vainest of all creatures?" Both my wife and myself are very fond of pets, and we keep several of these little songsters always in the house.

"One of the cages was very old, having been in the family for years, and was used as much for tradition's as for economy's sake.

"I had frequently remarked to my wife that I believed the occupant of this cage was ashamed of his shabby dwelling place, and observed with envious eyes the fact that the other songsters were more artistically lodged.

"Eventually the old cage collapsed, and it became necessary to purchase a new one. In order to test my belief in the intelligence of my feathered friend I made it a point to get him the prettiest little brass house that I could find.

"The effect was magical. No sooner was he turned into his new home than he began to sing as he had never sung before, completely drowning out the music of the other birds, and behaving otherwise in a manner altogether becoming his sudden rise in life.

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE TALK OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

The Agricultural Department—The Fight for Pure Meat—The Seed Distribution—A General Subsidy System Proposed—Financial Legislation in the Senate.

It is generally conceded that the candidates of both parties are already virtually nominated, although the conventions will go through the formality of placing their names on the ticket. Nothing is left therefore for the correspondents but to discuss the several candidates for vice-President. Lieut.-Governor Woodruff and Secretary Root have already been mentioned in connection with the Republican nomination, and attention is now turning to the Democratic candidate. Congressman Sulzer, Elliot Danforth and O. H. P. Belmont are all "mentioned." Mr. Sulzer is a very earnest Bryan man, and Mr. Danforth is also understood to be on his list of confidential Eastern friends. Mr.

Elliot Danforth.

Belmont is becoming an important factor in National politics through the medium of a political magazine which he owns. He is a very wealthy man and believes that he can reconcile man and believes that he can reconcile the Eastern Democracy to Bryan's nomination. But Mr. Danforth is chairman of the New York Democratic committee and may be more potent in securing the delegation to the National convention than Mr. Belmont, especially so, as his friends count on the assistance of former Senator David B. Hill.

In another direction also Mr. Danforth is looming up into National prominence, and that is in the talk now going the rounds that he is to have Senator Jones' place at the head of the National Democratic Committee. There is no doubt that in this capacity Mr. Danforth would fulfill the highest expectations of his friends.

The Agricultural Department.

No department of the general Government comes into as close touch with the everyday citizen as the Department of Agriculture. Be that citizen a farmer or a resident of a city, he lives the better, though maybe unconscious of the blessing, for the aid given to him directly or indirectly by the department. The food he eats is pronounced good by the department; that which was designed for him, and is bad, never comes within his sight. The clothes he wears, cotton or wool, are cheaper to him because the department aided the cotton grower and the sheep herder in producing the best and the most that is possible. That this department helps only the farmer is a mistaken idea. Does farmer or city dweller set out on a journey? The department warns him, or those who transport him, of approaching storms, and it helps to build good roads so he can travel comfortably and speedily. In a thousand ways help is extended to the individual through this department. Secretary Wilson, in his annual report says:

For Pure Meat.

In more than two score cities agents of the Bureau of Animal Industry inspect the meat we eat. The total number of inspections of live animals last year was 58,223,176. The number rejected upon this examination was 156,539. The total number of inspections of dressed meat was 34,163,155. The number of hog carcasses examined microscopically was 2,227,740. Of this number, 2,160,230 were free from all appearance of trichinae, and 25,913 contained only trichinae-like bodies, while 41,597, or 1.87 per cent., contained living trichinae.

Not only in detecting diseased meat, but preventing disease from ravaging animals, the department is useful. The annual loss of cattle from blackleg, or symptomatic anthrax, in the districts principally affected has ranged from 5 to 35 per cent. The Bureau of Animal Industry has been distributing for some time a vaccine for the prevention of this disease, and this, it is estimated, has reduced the loss .54 per cent. among the animals treated. As it is known that a large percentage of this loss was due to careless operators, it is believed that with more care in the use of the vaccine future investigations will show a still further reduction.

Seed Distribution.

One of the humors of Uncle Sam's early and fairly honest efforts to help folk along was the "scatteration" of seeds. The Representative from the city, like his country fellow, was entitled to so many packages of seed each year furnished by the Department of Agriculture. Sometimes the city fellow commuted his seeds into something more valuable for his constituent and oftener not. The country Representative sent his small quota to the poor and deserving farmers in his district, and all the good done was to save those few farmers from buying their seed for a season. But, says Secretary Wilson, "the original intention of Congress. Quite a ing for the distribution of seed undoubtedly was to do for the producers a class of work they could not do themselves—to search the various localities of the old world for seeds and plants and distribute them in the United States to the several regions where they would be most likely to succeed. The department at present is endeavoring to bring back the practice, as much as possible, to the original intention of Congress. Quite a large percentage of the $130,000 appropriated is now spent in finding, purchasing, importing and distributing rare seeds and plants.

The department is in receipt of letters from seedsmen throughout the country urging the discontinuance of this work, and there is an uneducated sentiment here and there co-operating with the seedsmen along this line, which prompts ill-informed individuals to concur with these representations. I am well satisfied that the introduction and distribution during the last two years of seeds and plants rare or not found at all in the United States has been worth more money to the people of the country than all the expenditures of Congress for seed distribution to date. To the extent to which the distribution by the Department competes with the sales of seedsmen and others distributing precisely the same kinds of seed, with no experimental feature and no intelligent direction regarding the use of the seeds beyond that which is provided by dealers, the practice is questionable.

A Subsidy System.

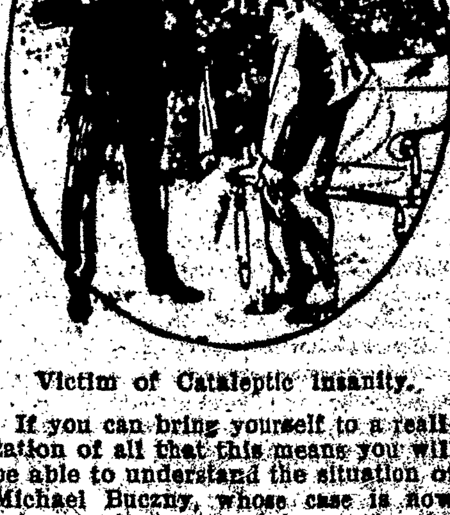
Representative Payne, of New York, who has reintroduced at this session the bill providing for a general subsidy system for the American merchant marine, says he expects this bill to be brought before the House for consideration early in January. Mr. Payne is no longer chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine, he having become chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The chairman of the Merchant Marine Committee is Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, and on the committee are such leading members as Hopkins, of Illinois, Young, of Pennsylvania, Green, of Massachusetts and others. It is noteworthy that Speaker Henderson in the creation of this committee has selected its membership from all sections of the country extending from the Atlantic Coast and the South through the Middle Western States to the Pacific. Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, States in which large trans-continental shipping interests have exhibited special concern in regard to transportation facilities from the seaboard to foreign countries, are well represented on the committee. Several of the Atlantic Coast States are represented on the committee.

The Financial Bill.

The Senate is devoting its time to consideration of the Financial bill. In the Committee on Foreign Relations, however, attention will be promptly given to the new reciprocity treaties. Senator Davis, chairman of that committee, says it is his purpose to have the treaties first considered by the full committee, and Special Commissioner Kasson, who represented the United States in the negotiations, will be invited before the committee to give an opinion respecting the probable influences upon American interests by the proposed reduction in customs rates under these treaties.

Strange Case of Cataleptic Insanity.

Imagine, if you can, that your brain has suddenly lost its power to initiate thought or action while retaining its receptive faculties. You can see and hear, but you cannot speak. If a person asks, "What is your name?" you cannot answer, although you know perfectly well what you should answer. If you are placed upon your back with your heels in the air you remain in this position until you are moved to another one. If you are left standing in the middle of a room you are powerless to move one step in any direction. You are transformed into a human automation. In short, while you understand everything that goes on about you, it is impossible for you to take part in these activities. It is as though the lines of communication along which the brain ordinarily sends its impulses were severed. The mind is hopelessly imprisoned.



Victim of Cataleptic Insanity.

If you can bring yourself to a realization of all that this means you will be able to understand the situation of Michael Buczny, whose case is now being studied with interest by the physicians of the State Institution for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan.

Buczny is the young Hungarian who was employed in one of the Brooklyn sugar refineries, and who on September 18 murdered his sweetheart, Rosina Klein, in New York city. He was immediately arrested, and it was while in the Tombs awaiting trial on the murder charge that he passed into his present condition.

He became unable to eat; he could not speak; and his muscles passed into a state of rigidity which made him exactly like one of the jointed dolls sold in toy shops, so far as the movement of his limbs was concerned. If his arm was extended it remained in that position until the keeper replaced it by his side. If one leg was moved out at right angles to the body it remained fixed there. As a test the keepers on several occasions raised the man's arms aloft and let them remain in this one position for forty-five minutes. Not once did they move, or even waver. This alone was sufficient evidence that Buczny was not shamming, as any man will be ready to believe if he tries to hold his arms extended above his head and without moving for three-quarters of an hour.

FINEST IN THE WORLD

A SECOND CANADA CONTINGENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Law and Order Maintained by the Corps—Jaunty Caps and Jingling Spurs—Almost Every Letter in the Northwest Visited by Police.

England's acceptance of Canada's offer to send a second contingent to the aid of British arms in South Africa has caused tremendous enthusiasm throughout the Dominion, and the volunteers to enlist exceed ten times the number that will be sent. The second contingent will be composed of cavalry and artillery amounting to about one thousand strong. The artillery will consist of two batteries of 160 men each, exclusive of officers, and 131 horses. The major portion of the cavalry will consist of drafts from the Rural Canadian Dragoons and the Northwest mounted Police. The balance of the corps will be made up of

Northwest Mounted Police.

volunteers from the militia, and "cow punchers," "bronco busters," mountaineers and a few Indian scouts from the Northwest. Canadians are particularly desirous that a strong detachment of the police should be sent. While it would greatly hamper the force to withdraw more than two hundred men for foreign service, there are many former policemen living on the prairies and in the mountains who are anxious to go. Since the formation of the corps some thirty-four hundred men have passed through the ranks. No finer men for service in South Africa could be found in the British Empire.

Law and Order Maintained.

Throughout a territory seven times greater than the whole of France law and order are maintained by a corps of only some eight hundred men, officially known as the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada, but familiarly as the "Riders of the Plains." The corps combines the features of a military force with those of a constabulary. Its duties are as varied as the country patrolled. Essentially the riders are soldiers, but they act as magistrates, sheriffs, detectives, town constables, customs officers, license inspectors, fire wardens, court clerks, Crown timber agents, health officers, hide inspectors, game wardens, relief officers, Crown prosecutors, food inspectors and mail carriers. By their discipline and proficiency, by their valor and impartiality, by their hardihood and discretion, and by their soldierly and gentlemanly bearing they have not only won the respect of all the classes they daily come in contact with, but they have acquired abroad the reputation of being one of the finest forces in the world. And they live up to it. Romance and hard work ride side by side in the service. It is the stamping ground of adventurous spirits drawn from many countries, and the passwords are intelligence, stamina and pluck.

With jaunty cap and jingling spurs the riders saunter on the sun baked streets of frontier towns. With prairie hat and bandolier they "ride the line" or cattle ranges. On pack ponies they climb the mountain passes. In moccasins and buffalo boots they follow the winter trails, and in snowshoes and caribou capots they patrol the northern morasses. While working out their duties they ride enormous distances over plain and prairie.

Follow the Trails.

They follow the mountain trails. By railroad train or steamboat they go from town to village. They follow the shores of lake and river. They penetrate snow mantled forests, and to make accessible some new found Eldorado they cut their way through an unexplored wilderness. Like the meshes of a gigantic net their patrol trails cover a country that measures a thousand miles from east to west and two thousand miles from north to south. In fact, one patrol alone—that from Fort Saskatchewan, in Alberta, to Fort Resolution, on Great Slave Lake, thence to Fort Simpson, on the Mackenzie river, and return via Lesser Slave Lake—covers a distance of 1172 miles. The patrolling party runs the greater part of the distance on snow shoes and covers the remainder with canoe and paddle. To give an idea of the tremendous distances traveled by members of the force I cite an instance of an officer who in the course of his regular duties as assistant commissioner during but a single year traveled a total distance of 15,181 miles, 10,461 miles of which were by rail, 900 miles by water, 3,420 miles with horses and 200 miles on snowshoes. By a splendid system of connecting patrols almost every settler in the Northwest Territory is periodically visited by the police.

Settlers' Woes Investigated.

If he has any complaints he makes them in writing, and signs the constable's patrol report, which at the end of the beat is turned over to the non-com. officer in charge of the detachment. It is then forwarded with the non-com.'s weekly report to the officer in charge of the division. Complaints are promptly investigated. In this way the force keeps constantly in touch with the scattered population, which, in return, readily give every assistance to the police. It is principally owing to this strong spirit of cordiality existing between settler and trooper that a mere handful of men can enforce law and order in a country three-fourths the size of Russia.

[illegible]

It would be difficult to find in [illegible]

[illegible] men with [illegible] wear Mounted Police [illegible] and present [illegible] names of [illegible] Lords, "river [illegible]" whackers, lawyers, [illegible] prables, packers, [illegible] government clerks, [illegible] and Cambridge graduates, [illegible] mirals, generals, [illegible] men; former officers of the [illegible] volunteers of Canada [illegible] ain, as well as former [illegible] armies of England, France [illegible] many. About seventy [illegible] the men are gentlemen by [illegible] well as education. Some of them [illegible] a private income in addition to [illegible] pay. Fully five per cent. once [illegible] in the imperial army of Great Britain, some having seen service in Egypt, Afghanistan and India. [illegible] police claim to be the best [illegible] and wealthiest force in the world. [illegible] force is armed with Lee-Metford [illegible] Winchester repeating carbines [illegible] Enfield revolvers. The principal [illegible] tions are supplied with [illegible] tars and seven and nine pounder [illegible] pieces. In the Yukon district they [illegible] provided with Maxim guns.

The saddle horses used by the police are all Western bred, being a cross between Indian cayuse mares and thoroughbred English sires. They average 15.2 hands in height. They have immense powers of endurance and are extremely hardy. The record ride of the corps was made by Sergeant-Major Spicer while carrying despatches during last Riel rebellion. He rode a pony—a little over 14.1 hands in height—from Fort Macleod to Calgary and return, a distance of [illegible] miles, in two days, and, strange to say, [illegible] the morning of the third day [illegible] horse and rider went on duty. [illegible] police horses are equipped with Mexican stock saddles and head [illegible] with Whitman bits, which [illegible] only a single rein. The [illegible] carried balanced across the saddle [illegible] strapped to its horn.

The present average of the [illegible] —Height, 5 feet 10½ inches; [illegible] 167 pounds; chest [illegible] inches; age, 31 years.

TO BREAK OCEAN RECORD.

[illegible]

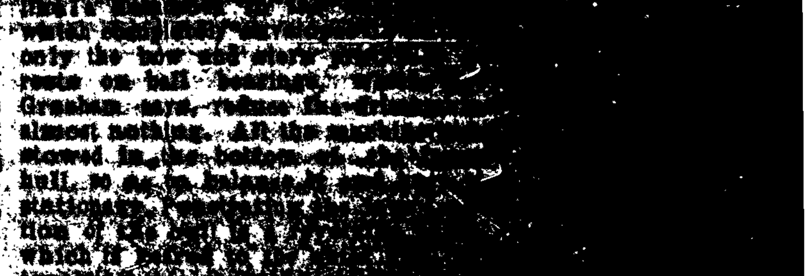
James Graham, of Brooklyn, is preparing to build the first of [illegible] line boats for the syndicate [illegible] W. J. Arkell.

It is expected that this type of [illegible] will cross the ocean in less than [illegible] days, driving itself like a [illegible] through the water at the rate of [illegible] miles an hour and it is the intention of the syndicate to try to procure a contract for carrying the [illegible] mails. Mr. Graham believes [illegible] boat which is to be built [illegible] News, will be ready for [illegible] in about six months.

The Graham [illegible] the strangest [illegible] sailed the seas. [illegible] a sea serpent [illegible] a body like an elongated [illegible] hull and a pointed stern [illegible] into the air like the [illegible] cient galley. Around the [illegible] the big spiral flange [illegible] to it its forward motion [illegible] shell of the ship revolve [illegible]

[illegible]

The boat will consist of [illegible] tions, one within the other [illegible] ner shell will be shaped like [illegible] round in the middle and tapering [illegible] point at each end. A round [illegible] extend from it fore and aft [illegible] upward and outward like a [illegible] neck. It will terminate in [illegible] mouth which will be the [illegible] of the ship. Around the [illegible] be a gallery. This will be [illegible] the ship, the only [illegible] whole vessel. The [illegible] be used [illegible] forward [illegible] While [illegible]



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