

# ARE ECONOMIZING ON DRESSMAKING

### Many Women Employing Seamstresses to Make New or Alter Old Garments.

## READY-TO-WEAR IN DEMAND

### French and American Designers Are Working in Harmony, With Gowns of the Latter Highly in Favor.

New York—A man who likes statistics has given out a statement that more spoons of Paris have been sold since America went into war than ever before in its history.

This is taken to indicate that there is an important revival of home dressmaking. It is difficult to prove that condition of affairs, a prominent fashion correspondent writes, but the spoons of thread are good enough evidence that the women on this continent are employing seamstresses to make new gowns for them or to alter old ones. And they are also doing their own sewing.

On the other hand the shops insist that the sale of ready-to-wear garments has been immensely stimulated by the war. Women who are giving their time to war relief work are willing and anxious to get economies with the least possible expenditure of vitality to themselves and this can be achieved through the ready-to-wear departments.

Those who keep shops also claim that women of small means are buying better materials and putting more for their clothes than they have ever done in the history of American commerce in apparel.

Those who think out the situation say that this is due to the employment of thousands of women in new ways. Instead of these women purchasing cheap, tawdry things, they add \$10 or \$15 to the price of a costume and buy a gown that gives steady service.

America Has Done Her Part. The one outstanding episode in the interesting and important movement of spring clothes, is the immense stride in designing that America has taken.

All that has gone before was experimental—but this spring the clothes are good. They make no pretension of changing the silhouette as laid down by the Paris designers; the only drastic revolution in silhouette which has been attempted by this country took place last summer, when the narrow woman first reverted to it. She wanted to appear in a simple but distinguished costume when she is in the street. The American tailoring is the best in the world and the American designer contrives to get the best effect out of tailored material, whether he is making a frock of a coat suit.

France does not care for such clothes; her women wear them only under protest, and there is always a sash or a piece of embroidery, or an unusual addition of lingerie, or a bizarre splash of something that changes the mannish severity of the American national costume into something with coquetry that melts into the personality of the French woman.

Seeing their opportunity and grasping it as they have never done before, the American tailoring establishments have worked wonders. They have kept to the governments request for the elimination of wool as far as possible, and they have achieved costumes that are eminently fitting and distinguished on the American figure, and for the personality of the American woman. More power to them!

The New French Draperies. The severity that America lays down for us in the morning is easily changed into a floating gracefulness as laid down by France for the late afternoon and evening.

It is yet to be seen whether America will go in extensively for afternoon gowns, according to the French custom, but there is one thing of which a note is certain: if the American woman likes an afternoon gown, she will wear it through the evening, unless some formality of entertainment demands a more ornamental frock.

France has cut her silhouette as slim as the American designer has cut it for tailored costumes, but France gives a note of the First Empire in the seductive way in which she drapes this narrow foundation with floating transparent material.

The trick is not confined to house costumes; it plays a good role in street gowns also, in a modified and demure manner. A tunic of Georgette crepe, for example, will be dropped over a slim undergarment of silk or satin, and the sleeves will float away from the arms and come back suddenly to the wrists, where they are tightly caught in. But this gown will not be accepted by the American woman for the street.

French Clothes Allow Economy. There is a strong note of economy struck in these new French clothes, which is heard by the woman who is hiring a seamstress to build up her spring wardrobe at home. It shows the way to alter old gowns into new ones. The majority of women own evening frocks that have good foundations, the skirts a trifle too full, it is true, but otherwise ready to serve as the beginning of a new frock. The alteration in the skirt is a simple one. It consists of straightening out all the seams, so that there is no flare from the hips down.

This season the two countries go hand in hand. The silhouette is the same—narrow, with floating draperies. Take that one condition as the foundation stone and then build as you please is the slogan given to every woman.

American Designs Preferred. One is immensely proud of Ameri-

have had the courage to show them in connection with the French gowns, and it is easily proved that in several important instances the American woman chooses to follow the spring fashion from America designs, rather than French ones.

One of the reasons for this is that Paris has not had unusual stress upon the tailored costume, and the Ameri-



Bias tunic is a chosen drapery. It is shown in this gown by Premet of Paris, in biscuit-colored gaberdine with deep collar of brown faille. It is accented with brown braid.

can woman find comfort to it. She wants to appear in a simple but distinguished costume when she is in the street. The American tailoring is the best in the world and the American designer contrives to get the best effect out of tailored material, whether he is making a frock of a coat suit.

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## IN SMART CLOTHES

### Women Given Chance in American-Made Cloth Costume.

### Milady, If Rushed for Time, and Dresses Carelessly, Cannot Adopt, Without Working Injury to Herself

The American woman is given a chance to look extremely significant in American-made cloth costume. If she has the ability to live up to the part assigned her by the designers, they ever observe a national after a gown on a spring morning after having it a few dozens of kilometers past the red tracks and sits down to rest, her hair is blown by the wind, and she is a woman who is rushing. The designers are anxious to make the most of the situation.

Those who do not care to go to a tailor, and who do not wish to be bothered with the details of dressmaking, are in luck. The ready-to-wear department of the store is full of the latest in fashion. The women who are in a hurry to get ready for the day will find a wide variety of styles to choose from.

It is not especially comforting to the dressmaker, however, that the women who are in a hurry to get ready for the day are not buying the best quality of materials. They are buying the cheap, tawdry things that are sold in the ready-to-wear departments.

It is said that all the corsets and lingerie had to be changed to correspond with the new costumes, and one can well believe it. If one's outer garment is to be cut after the silhouette of a pencil there can be no comfort to the wearer unless the corset and the lingerie are correspondingly cut. There must be no gathers at the hips, no rough lines in the waist, no flanges across the bust, no bulging at the ankles caused by undershirts or chemises.

The woman who is about to step into one of these new and accepted tailored suits or gowns must be as shipshape as a race horse going to the track. There must not be one unnecessary ounce of clothing on her, nor a single curve or bulge or bit of unneeded material from neck to heels. Unless she learns that lesson, and learns it thoroughly, she may as well pass by the new American and French clothes and wear the loose full ones of a year ago.

## EXERCISE OF GREAT VALUE

### Twisting Motions, Accompanied by Massaging, Will Help to Gain That Coveted Shapeliness.

How many of us sigh over our unshapely figures? Yet if the trouble is not caused by misshapen bones we can do a great deal to alter what distresses us, states an authority.

Exercise and massage will accomplish miracles if adhered to regularly and faithfully.

In routine, rather than in spasmodic treatment, lies the secret of success in any beautifying method.

The same exercises that reduce flesh will increase it provided that they are done severely in the former case and lightly in the latter.

For flesh is to be pulled off in one instance and in the other developed.

Remove the shoes and stockings and, sitting down, cross the knees so that one foot is raised from the floor with no support beneath it.

Move this foot with a twisting motion from the ankle and then slowly bend it up and down, letting all the work be done from the ankle bone.

When one foot grows tired, repeat it with the other.

Then standing and bearing the weight upon the heels, turn the feet from side to side and slowly rise up and down upon the toes.

After the ordinary work change the feet and ankles into a comfortably hot bath and leave them there for five to ten minutes.

## HAS KNITTING POCKETS

### LONG SPRING COAT



Patriotism and fashion are going hand in hand this spring. In this dress a chance to combine a roomy knitting pocket with the new barrel silhouette effect is given. The dress is a two-piece creation of pussy-willow taffeta. The long fold around the neck extends down the pannelled front of the frock. The pannelled front gives added charm to the white net vest. The original design is in red, blue, yellow and green.

## SPRING DRESSES IN PARIS

### Two Materials Are Still Used to Make One Frock—Embroidery Is Much Used for Trimming.

At a place where about one hundred and fifty frocks were shown every one was marked by that hallmark of French taste in clothes—simplicity, observes a Paris correspondent. Tailor-made little dresses, dinner gowns, were all simple, exaggerations were not to be found. Black silk jersey was much used for tailor-made with long waists of an embroidered linen, the neatest of these being a white one finely embroidered in jet beads. Skirts are short and slim, cuts are either redingote or short, the three-quarter coat being nowhere. There are pockets and buttons, but the pockets do not bulge, they are flat and have buttoned back flaps.

Collars are no longer important for size, but there are some well cut shawl collars on the coats, some of which run off into a waistband and button behind. Beige and color gray navy blue and black are the colors for tailored suits; some show practically no trimming except in the waistcoat, or in pockets and buttons. Baguettes show a slight fullness on the hips, and skirts look even narrower than they are, as they often have a deep hidden plait.

Little dresses of all kinds are shown this season, from the most simple of country frocks in linen to the most elaborate town dress in taffetas, crepe de chine, silk crepons and mousseline de soie. Two materials are still used to make one frock, and embroidery is much used for trimming. A favorite embroidery is gray Angora-mixed with white or blue and there are some good little dresses in black crepe de chine with down and gray embroideries or impressions. The sleeveless pinafore tunic with wide shoulders and loose waist belt is general. Sashes, loose belts and girdles are common. Short sleeves are as general as long ones, especially for the young.

## SOME DRESSY COAT BLOUSES

### Peplum Models Chosen by French Women in Preference to All Others, Paris Correspondent Writes.

Blouse designers continue to use peplum models but many insist they be called "coat" blouses, inasmuch as the word peplum has not proved itself a sales maker during the past two or three seasons. French women prefer the peplum model to all others, says a Paris writer, and there is no denying that a blouse that extends below the waistline is more dressy than the conventional model that reaches just to the waist and must depend upon some sort of belt, matching either the skirt, of which it is the proper companion piece, or matching the blouse itself to finish it off.

Peplum or coat blouses have a better chance of life during the warm months because in cold weather they are seldom worn except as accompaniment pieces for suits. In summer a blouse and a separate skirt make up a correct outfit, and if the skirt has a matching coat it is more often than not merely an "incidental" and is swung over the arm.

## SUEDE AND LEATHER COATS

Suede and leather are the best materials for sport clothes, because they are both look and wear so well. Suits of suede in gray or tan have three-quarter coats, a skirt which buttons down the front, and can be made into a cape. The coats are Norfolk, either unlined or lined with silk. For motoring are the leather coats, lined in flannel, in three-quarter lengths. Trench coats in dark worsteds are also very much in demand.

The deprivations and hardships of war, in so far as they apply to clothes for womanhood, may be regarded as purely imaginary as long as designers offer styles as attractive as those for the coming spring and summer. The rigid economy necessary in the use of wool fabrics has not been found an inconvenience worth speaking of, as dealers in silks quickly come to the rescue, and in the variety of weaves offered suitable materials for all lines of garments may be found.

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## LONG SPRING COAT

### Silk and Wool Fabrics Are Often Used in Combination.

### Full Length Garment Will Vie With Short Sports or "Chappie," Popular With Young Women.

The accepted rule for the long spring coat is 45 to 48 inches. This 3-inch leeway is due to the fact that fashion has decreed that at least 3 inches of the underneath garment, whether it be frock or separate skirt, shall be visible.

There is a very determined leaning, when wool is used, to straight, scant lines, but where silks are employed more generous use of material is permissible, and the silk coats are generally rather full.

Two fabric combinations are noted in some of the coats, and, of course, silk and wool fabrics are often combined.

The coat shown in the sketch is a good example of the two fabric long coat developed for spring. As designed here the coat proper is made of a light material, with waist and sleeves of plush serge or other wool fabric. The rest of the garment is cut on the same general lines as the front, and the deep shawl or cape collar is so arranged that it may be drawn high about the throat if desired.

Double-faced satins are in high favor in the development of spring coats, and the two sides of these satins are usually in contrasting colors. They



Smart Long Coat for Spring.

are favored for two-fabric or two-color garments. Some charming little mangles or capes made for evening or dressy afternoon wear are finished so that either side may be worn out—that is, the cape may be turned at will and its owner then to all intents and purposes has two garments.

The short sports coat, christened the "Chappie" coat, will undoubtedly be very popular with young women and those who possess slight, youthful figures; but regardless of the fabric conservation demand, full-length coats will have their adherents.

## NARROW BELTS THIS SUMMER

### Hatbands Also Made of Materials to Match, Fastening on One Side With a Large Button.

Belts are to have an important place in the spring wardrobe. One firm is showing no sweaters without belts and another the reverse side of the coin.

The newest are extremely narrow, scarcely an inch wide, and have long, narrow buckles of brass or steel, flaring a little at the end. Initial buckles are again in vogue and are worn on black or tan leather belts.

A new wash belt for the white-plique, poplin or linen skirt appears with a fascinating wool stitchery, hand-made, in bright Japanese colors, coral, blues, purple, green, tan, delightfully intermingled. The belts are of cotton poplin and are long enough to encircle the waist twice and to be knotted at the side, where they fall in sash ends fringed deeply with the bright colored wools.

Hatbands of the same sort are made to go with these, fastening on one side with a huge button, repeating the bright stitches and ready to slip over the crown of the sport sailor. Hand-some collars are also made from this stitchery. The belts and collars can be worn with sweaters.

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## NOTES FOR THOSE WHO SEW

### Way to Avoid Pricking Finger—Guards for Knitting Needles—Darning Stockings and Gloves.

One reason that some women do not like to sew is because they are continually pricking the first finger of the left hand. A way to avoid this is to place a thimble on that finger. Another is worn, of course, on the usual thumb finger.

The various kinds of guards for the ends of knitting needles are interesting. Funny and quaint are the little wooden softeners sold for the purpose, "guards" in truth. They slip nicely over the points and prevent their puncturing either one's anatomy or sweater bag.

All stockings, irrespective of material, should be darned with darning silk. Not only does it make a neater darn, but it wears better and does not hurt the foot.

To mend a glove that is split at the thumb or near a seam, buttonhole the kid either side of the split and then sew the buttonhole edges together. The result will be a new firm seam that will never tear again. When buttonholing take a good hold, otherwise the stitches will pull out from the kid.

## SASH THE CROWNING GLORY

### Colorful Addition to Little Girl's Dress Is Pleasing, Appropriate and Decorative.

The frock itself was very pretty, just the thing for a little girl to wear to a party. It was made of a soft yellow silk or georgette crepe, a straight, full, high-waisted little gown, with short, full sleeves. The round neck and the sleeves were finished off with a soft frill about two inches wide, of delicate, filmy lace. But it was the sash that gave the crowning glory to the dress. It reminded one of a rainbow, even though it did not show all the rainbow colors. Soft satin ribbon was the material, put together in folds, measuring one-half, or perhaps, three-quarters of an inch in width. The upper was a dainty pink, next came an old rose, after that light blue, canary yellow and, lastly, a lovely shade of lavender. Altogether these five delicate colors in the soft, satin ribbons made just the right sort of a sash to set off such a simple, dainty little gown and the ends of the vari-colored ribbons, flying loose, reminded one of the quaint old May day festivities of "Merrie England."

## WORTH-WHILE FASHION TIPS

### Hints About Colors, Hats, Blouses, Fabrics, Lingerie, and Styles of Interest to Women.

The latest lingerie is the simplest. French tan is one of the new colors. Brims turn up on many of the spring hats.

Black jet is effectively used on blue serge. Kiddies will wear small hats in the spring. Lingerie blouses will be very important for spring.

Rather stiff ornaments are used on the new millinery. Smart wraps are actually being made of jersey cloth. Dull and brilliant black are combined in smart frocks.

Poinsettia scarlet is one of the shades used for children. It is to be a season of sports clothes for young women. Pompadour silks for evening are made up with tight skirts.

## MOLSKIN AND SILK JERSEY

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