

NEW BLOUSE HAS CALL FOR FAVOR

Peplum Model in the Limelight Among Many Designs Being Shown.

INDIAN TUNIC MADE OF KID

Pottery Ornamentation and Other Colors Add to Features of Garment—Fabrics That Have Never Been Considered.

New York.—The blouse is a sartorial rovia. It heralds the approach of spring. It is the kind of accessory to a costume that both pleases and irritates. That it is usually wrong is the verdict of most women. When it is right it is very, very right, and that is the best that can be said for it, observes a prominent fashion writer.

Its possibilities for evil are not limited. Those who recognize that the neckline governs the appearance of the face know full well the chances for good and evil that rest in the collar of a separate waist.

There is no end to the making of blouses, as of books. No one can cavil at the paucity of these garments. Any shop in any town, at any time, is



An American Indian blouse of dull blue kid embroidered in a pottery design of red and silver. The shaft of red satin is knotted in front.

apt to confuse a woman with the multiple offerings hurled at her across the counter the moment she asks to look at blouses.

These bits of the costume are the small change of the shopkeeper. They are taken in and out of stock, off and on the counter, throughout the different months of the year. They fill in spaces. They break the monotony of business which arrives between the periods of high pressure. It is not true that what a woman wants she can always get in this department of dress, but it is overwhelmingly true that whatever she wants she is answered by an avalanche of designs, offered to her as the best and the latest.

Evil Possibilities of Blouses.
Of course, there are new fashions in the blouses this spring. They have been shown to women; they have been purchased for the unusually large exodus to the South, and they will appeal to the majority of women during the next four weeks, when one's thoughts turn to the rehabilitation of the winter wardrobe, or the acquisition of a new one.

There is no more paucity of invention in blouses this year than last. France and America have both done their best—and it is in this vast variety that evil possibilities lie. If women could be trained to regard the blouse as something fatal, unless well chosen, they would go about the business of getting together a half dozen with the precaution and precision necessary when walking on ice. They would not buy georgette because it is fashionable, tomato-red because it was the style, nor would they choose galloon embroidery, shoe-lace braiding or brass buttons because the designers had chosen to exploit these caprices. They would go among all the masses of waists with the precision of a bird flying to its nest. They would take the nearest straight line to what they want. If they did not find it they would go elsewhere; if it was not to be found in the shops they would have it made by a specialist or a seamstress, from a well-considered pattern.

The part of a blouse that is very often fatal is the collar. There are few women who can stand more than two types of neckline. A woman should not rebel against this verdict. She should accept it and thus eliminate trouble. She should experiment with blouses that do not carry either one of these necklines. She must remember that no blouse is worth its price if it hasn't the kind of collar that offsets the neckline of her coat. She must also take well into consideration the difference between a blouse which is to be worn as a part of a costume topped by a fur or cloth coat, and one that is merely a shirt-waist and part of a tailored suit.

These are not all the requirements

for success in buying blouses. A woman must have, or must acquire, a true knowledge of the juxtaposition of fabrics. She must know what material in a blouse goes best with the material of her suit or her separate skirt and top coat. For instance, georgette, beaded in a bold design, does not go with a homespun or a cheviot suit. That is merely one example out of a dozen or two others that could easily be enumerated.

The truth about georgette—which is worth repeating because the fabric plays so dominant a role in separate blouses this year—is that it looks far better as part of a costume than as an addition to a coat suit. As a peplum blouse worn with a skirt of its own color, or in harmonious contrast to it, it is very good; not as good as satin or silk jersey, but commendable. It may be ornamental, if one can adopt that type of blouse, and even trimmed with beads, which is a debatable form of ornamentation on a separate garment, but not impossible for certain types of women.

Because of the adoption of uniforms through the war there is a strong recrudescence of the tailored linen shirtwaist for women, especially in horizon blue, shrimp pink and dead white edged with color. These have tucked fronts, long plain sleeves, regulation armholes, turnover cuffs with link buttons, and the collar of a French student of the Second Empire.

Women have found that a rolling collar with a slight bit of starch, worn with a cravat, is an attractive neckline. Only the very young woman with a slim, smooth neck can attempt the high turnover collar, either starched or soft. Below a face that shows the marks of time this collar is impossible.

Blouses as Part of Costumes.

When the French designers made the peplum blouse and then sat back in watchful waiting for its success, which took long to come, they created something that was very worth while. American women see the light today, and they grasp with eagerness the possibilities of this outside tunic blouse.

It is difficult to persuade a certain set of women that there are other types of blouses. Nothing could induce them to return to the kind that tucks in under the skirt belt. They feel they have eliminated this awkward line around the middle of the body, and they choose all their blouses after the tunic pattern, whether for railroad suits or for service with a separate skirt under a fur coat.

It is sometimes permitted to tuck the back of the blouse under the skirt, provided there is a front panel that drops, apron-wise, below the waist, and an ornamental belt which runs from each side of it to the back. This is the most ingenious compromise between the new and the old blouses.

Blouse Inspired by American Indian.
Fabrics are now chosen for these tunic-like garments that have never been considered in the making of short shirtwaists. Kid, for instance, that is a material unheard of among the weavers as part and parcel of women's apparel. Yet the new kid tunic blouses, sent from France and copied in this country, are exceedingly smart and better liked by certain well-dressed women than the hip blouses of caracol cloth worn during the midwinter.

These kid tunics make a woman look



Peplum blouse of heavy black satin with wide flat collar of fine cream lace. The hem is turned under to form a puff. It is tied at the waist with a narrow dull-silver cord.

amazingly like her Indian predecessors in this country. Colored skins are chosen, and on dark surfaces there is an ornamentation such as the Indians put on their pottery. Take a dark-blue kid tunic worn with a black velvet skirt, have it ornamented in a pottery design in yellow and black and a thread of dull red, and you get an exceedingly ingenious costume.

The milliners are quite willing to match up these kid tunics with turbans and the woman who likes to look like an Indian chooses a turban, not a kid, but in taffeta, with upstanding quills painted at the tips.

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TO SAVE MATERIAL

Negligees May Easily Be Made From Remnants.

Discarded Evening Gowns Also Offer Excellent Materials for the Fashioning of Such Garments.

When a few yards of material picked up at a very low figure on a remnant counter can be turned into a charming gown for home wear there seems to be no excuse for a woman disregarding the feelings of her own family by wearing something that is unbecoming, half worn or soiled. It is so easy for a woman to express her real individuality in these items of in-time apparel that the temptation to possess a number of them is strong with the average really feminine type of woman.

A couple of widths of rich brocade may be transformed into a lovely gown by the simple process of cutting an opening in the center so that the head may be slipped through, finishing this neatly, of course; catching the material together underneath the arms and allowing the front and back panels thus formed to flare as they will over a slip of soft chiffon or lace. Or two or three widths of chiffon in contrasting colors may be laid one over the other, the underneath section being full-figure length, the next one a trifle shorter, and so on, and



Negligee of Satin and Lace.

possibly a lace scarf topping the whole. A charming robe d'interior is the result.

The sketch shows a simple and graceful negligee made of lavender satin, with front and back panels laid in large tucks. An old-fashioned lace shawl draped about the shoulders completes the garment. Of course it is not essential that a shawl be used, and, instead of lace, a brocade or a figured silk voile may be used for the coat.

Discarded evening dresses often offer excellent materials for the fashioning of negligee garments and, regardless of the fact that we are no longer at war, fabric saving is advisable. There is no prospect of an immediate reduction in prices, and until France and Belgium are again able to produce textiles it is not likely that either prices or supply will return to normal.

FASHIONS IN BRIEF

The new fur coats are circular. Cord belts of gold are being worn. Evening wraps still blouse at the back.

The oval necks appear on tiny girls' party frocks. A graceful negligee of peach blossom satin has an odd silk-tinged hood.

A gown of mauve tulle is ornamented by a large orange rose at the girdle.

A perfect gown for a woman in the thirties is of gold cloth, veiled with black net.

Black tulle is often worn over gold lace, making a simple but excellent evening gown.

The long-waisted bodice of black jet starts many a frock of black velvet on its happy way.

A most beautiful cape is of sapphire-blue satin banded deeply with old-blue broadcloth.

Handkerchief linen frocks for morning wear in the South have nothing but hemstitching for decoration.

A traveling costume of green velours has a shawl collar of monkey fur and a silver-buckled leather belt.

A Little Advice From a Buyer.

Here is what experience has taught one buyer of coats and suits and dresses: First, get that which is becoming, for the really becoming frock is never out of style. At least, there are always occasions when the becoming garment can be worn, whether or not it is this season's or last year's. Seek the color that is most favorable to you, and avoid the one that is not especially so, no matter how smart you may think it appears. Then, in general, if you really must, get the odd and unusual garment.

Through the Looking Glass

By EVELYN NESBIT

Why does the farmer no longer dig up his fields with a spade? Why does the builder no longer make his own bricks of straw? Why don't we walk from New York to Washington?

Why? Because we have improved. Men are too clever to waste their time and energy making pins by hand or splitting rails with an ax the way Abraham Lincoln did. Labor saving machinery has been devised to release men's energies for better things. The men who used to pound out nails with a hammer, and turn out one nail in five minutes, are tending machines that produce thousands of nails in the time they could make one nail by hand.

So it is with everything in industry. That is why the modern farmer can cultivate thousands of acres of land in the time he used to spend on his tiny back yard; why the builder can construct skyscrapers instead of little houses, and why we travel from New York to Washington in speeding express trains.

That is why the women of today are learning and thinking.

Labor-saving machinery has crept into the home to make possible for every woman leisure hours in which to read and study. Any woman who does not avail herself of the new devices is as foolish as the carpenter who would be to cut down trees and saw them by hand into boards before he set to work to build a cottage.

Put a fireless cooker into your kitchen. Make use of electricity the way men do in industry, and see how much more you will be able to accomplish with less effort. Get vacuum cleaners to save your backs. Get an electric washing machine to save your hands for piano playing. Stop kneading dough and get a bread mixer. Electric irons, power sewing machines, were not invented as a luxury. They are here to help women. Use them. Be as progressive as the blacksmiths and the pin makers.

FINISHING OFF THE EDGES

Machine Zigzag Stitching, Battlement Effect, Ruffling or Plaiting, Add to the Decoration.

The edges of things, or rather the way those edges are finished, make such a difference. This is particularly true of bundles. And yet, when you stop to consider how little real time and trouble it takes to add a row of broken stitches in groups of three, as compared with the charming effectiveness of the finished garment, the wonder of it is that more attention isn't given to the "edges."

Here are but a few of the lovely things that can do duty as decoration, as well as finish: Machine hemstitching worked zigzag, hemstitching in battlement effect, ruffling or plaiting of net in white or color, easy stitches, and tinted laces.

It is an easy matter to pencil off an irregular line for the hemstitcher to follow; and that is perhaps the very easiest finish of all. But the tinted lace and net idea is quite the newest and most effective. Both are seen usually done in tiny, tiny plaits.

Among the easy stitches which are always effective and pretty nearly always within the vogue, come French knots worked in groups of three, alternating short and long blanket stitch, long horizontal stitches interspersed with squares or dots worked solid, and the aforementioned straight stitches worked in threes. These are especially decorative done on the slant, the stitches graduating or alternating in length.

ADVANCED SPRING STRAW HAT



This model, a winsome design, is of navy blue pineapple straw, and is cherry trimmed.

New Touches in Embroidery. The newest thing in children's dresses are those trimmed in hand embroidery, often in some figure or picture such as a flower pot or the popular Nesbette and Rintintin.

NEW YORK NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State.

Interesting News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points in the State and So Reduced in Size That It Will Appeal to All Classes of Readers.

Hornell reports an abundant ice harvest.

Wellsville railroad clerks have organized.

Fredonia's home defense has been mustered out.

Erle county supervisors want no more daylight saving.

Olean High school has the largest enrollment in its history.

Dundee will send a delegation to Albany to hurry road work.

Erle county's farm bureau plans to increase sheep production in that locality.

Former Food Administrator Stafford of Buffalo says food prices will be lower.

State Troopers have been detailed to stop raids on East Aurora hen-coops.

Rochester bird sharks discovered a gull from Iceland in one of the city's parks.

William E. Dana of Avon will head a milk survey ordered by Governor Smith.

Dundee citizens will conduct a campaign to raise funds for a new public library.

Hornell has finally abandoned all hope of saving the New York & Pennsylvania railroad.

Bath's lighting and power plant has been a success it will probably retire its own bonds.

Dunkirk's health board has authorized the leasing of a building for child welfare work in that city.

There is every indication that Bath will have a fusion ticket to vote upon at the next village election.

Falls women have formed a legislative committee to work for an eight-hour day for women of the state.

Chautauque county supervisors met in Dunkirk and selected a site for the new juvenile detention home.

All fuel restrictions have been removed in Rochester and the offices of the administrator has been closed.

Nearly 200 men will be re-employed in Geneva this week when the Summit Stove works resumes operations.

A commission form of government is the chief recommendation of an expert who has been examining Lockport.

War saving stamps to the extent of \$100,000 have been sold from the little bank built in Jamestown last summer.

Brigadier General Cornelius Vandenberg has been chosen chairman of Governor Smith's military advisory committee.

Earl F. Perry and Carl D. Smith have purchased a controlling interest in the Manchester Press, Inc., of Clifton Springs.

Canandaigua has started to boom itself and will make up a \$10,000 pool, it is explained, to induce industries to locate there.

Buffalo expects to have a large part in bringing about more cordial relations between producers and consumers of food.

Niagara county beekeepers met in Niagara Falls to discuss the disappearance of their swarms. Foulbrood is the cause.

Postmaster Staud of Rochester has sent out a lot of letters to get producers in contact with consumers and reduce the high cost of living.

Large milk companies in Buffalo announced a cent a quart drop in price. The new price is 15 cents for grade A and 14 cents for grade B.

Monroe county health officers report that 75 per cent of the tuberculosis cases which have developed in that county recently have been arrested.

Henry Solomon of New York was re-elected president of the state commission on prisons in Albany. Frank E. Wade of Buffalo was re-elected vice president.

Canandaigua Business Men's association special industries committee will start a drive this week to raise \$10,000 to be used in attracting new industries to the city.

Albert E. Hoyt, who for several years has been publicity director of the Democratic state committee, has been appointed chief deputy to the state superintendent of elections. The job pays \$4,000 a year.

The constitutionality of the state statute, which provides payment to state and municipal employees who entered military service at their differences between their salary and the government pay will be tested by the city of Mt. Vernon.

The annual meeting of the New York State Vegetable Growers' association will be held at Albany on Feb. 20 and 21. Growing and marketing problems will be presented by experts from the division of foods and markets, Cornell university men with broad practical experience. President S. J. Cook of Dunkirk will preside.

Nature outdid herself one day last week when the thermometer registered close to 70 in the sun in Penn Yan and apparently spring had arrived with all kinds of harbingers in evidence, among them being bees, robins and hawks, while the snow from maple trees that had been trapped, the earliest recorded locally, of the ice has left Keuka lake with the exception of a few acres in the vicinity of "The Pines," at this end of the lake, which is four inches thick and through which the albatrosses are catching hundreds of perch and muskellunge.

NEW YORK NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State.

Senator Knight has introduced a bill in relation to the salaries of stenographers in surrogate's courts. In counties having a population of 30,000 and not more than 60,000 the maximum salary to be paid is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200.

The taxpayers of Jamestown have voted down the proposition to appropriate \$150,000 to establish a city milk plant. At the same time they voted in favor of an appropriation of \$35,000 to buy the Governor Fenton home-stand for a soldiers' memorial park.

Approximately 5,200 persons met to vote on the annual report of the chief medical examiner, made public in New York city. There were 213 homicides and 773 suicides, a slight decrease compared with 1917.

A meeting between representatives of the federal and state governments and the Indian tribes of the state will be held this month to consider future government of reservations. Plans for the meeting are being made by the Indian Welfare society in Syracuse.

The state department of agriculture has asked Sanborn teachers to find through their pupils the names of farmers who want to sell their property. The purpose is to check up and list all farms for sale to aid the federal government in solving the returning soldier problem.

The Empire and the Acme Worsteds mills of Jamestown, which shut down indefinitely, have given notice to their employees that the mills will operate on a 48-hour-a-week basis, with time and a half for all overtime. For the present the plants will operate only four days a week.

Total savings bank deposits in New York city banks on Jan. 20 were \$1,465,781,232, an increase of \$75,161,633 over the total on Nov. 1, 1918, according to the statement issued by the savings bank section of the American Bankers' association. The average deposit was given as \$25.36.

Republicans in the legislature have decided to elect a Republican member of the board of regents instead of selecting John Moore of Elmira, whose term has expired. Accordingly, this week, when both houses meet in joint session, Thomas J. Magan of Southampton will be named to serve on the board.

To stimulate the sale of war saving stamps in New York state this year, four regional conferences will be held this month, it was announced in New York. Invitations have been sent to leading men and women representing every county. The first conference will be held in New York. The others in Troy, Syracuse and Buffalo.

Women workers in New York state have not been seriously affected by cessation of war work, declared Dr. George W. Kirchway, federal director of the United States employment service. The demand for women workers is in nearly every line of industry was in excess of the supply, he asserted, according to the latest reports from 80 branches of the service in the state.

Assemblyman John J. Cronin of New York introduced a bill permitting veterans of the world war residing in the state and who were residents at the time they went into the service, to conduct a news, fruit or confectionery stand or a stand for two or more such purposes in any city or any street or public place, under the terms of the bill there would be no charge for the license.

A complete census of all 16, 17 and 18-year-old boys in this state, with all information required by the bureau of technical military training for the enrolling of boys for military drill, will be made by the state bureau of vocational training. Frederick F. Moran, acting head of that bureau announced at the first meeting of the committee on education of the governor's reconstruction committee, in New York.

Word has reached Elmira announcing the death of L. Seymour Cogland at Lemon City, Fla. He was president of the Elmira Star-Gazette of Elmira and was one of the best-known publishers in the state and Northern Pennsylvania. He recently went to Florida to spend the winter. He was 70 years old and had been a newspaper publisher in Elmira since 1882.

There were 1,189 fatalities in the state due to automobile accidents during the year 1918, an increase of approximately 10 per cent over the figures for 1917, which were 837, it was announced by Col. E. S. Cornell of the National Highway Protective society. Previously announced figures had placed the fatalities for this year at 968. According to the new figures, 748 of the deaths occurred in New York city instead of the previously announced 528.

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