

LOSE FAVOR FOR SERGE AND SATIN

Women Show Partiality to Fabrics That Are More Suitable to the Season.

SILK JERSEY IN LIMELIGHT

Popular Demand Will Be Met and Indications Are That the Material May Be Substituted for Serge.

New York.—The world seems to have made up its mind to wear in summer the clothes that are suggestive of summer.

This may sound like a familiar condition to women in those sectors of the country that prepare for the heat in April and do not think of warm clothes until November; but in the large majority of these United States, observes a fashion writer, there has been a tendency to dress in summer in a way that seems to defy the call



Foulard frock, with petticoat and plaited ruffles of taffeta.

endar. Hundreds of these women buy thin serge frocks and suits, gowns with strong silk linings, chiffon or satin bodices that do not wash, and there is always a bit of fur hanging in the closet ready to be used with or without excuse.

There was a time when even the women of the cooler states permitted themselves to look upon lingerie gowns with favor. This was done in Paris, where there has always been a tendency to avoid cool simplicity, even though July and August demand clothes that will give comfort. The average Paris woman, even though she may be a young girl working for her living, never appears in the street or at a shop in a separate white shirt-waist without a coat, and none of the Paris women go about the streets in muslin or linen frocks. It was this French custom in summer clothes that governed the American output for the last decade or so.

Be Warned in Time.
The woman who is watching out for her spring wardrobe and is being guided by the clothes going to pleasure resorts, which are, after all, forerunners of what we will adopt, had best be warned in time that she will regret it if she puts money into sweaters, separate skirts and plenty of shirt-waists. We are coming into a new phase of summer clothes. It is really an old, old one, and it has been brought back through the mental somersault we were compelled to turn during the war days. We have a yearning for clothes that are sensible. Non-essentials have rather wearied us. We think it especially silly to wear a serge gown on warm, moist days when we could be comfortable in taffeta, foulard, Shantung and printed chiffon. We know that muslin is not an easy fabric to possess, and cotton has been heeded for things more grim and serious than a woman's summer afternoon; but the other fabrics fall as thick as leaves in Vallambrosa. One can get them for the asking. A vast amount of them are American made, and one does not have to pay an import price on them. There is a certain quality of chiffon which has been put out by France and which we have not been able to achieve, but of the foulards, the Shantungs and the various types of Chinese crepe and silk our own markets supply our own needs.

The French designers inaugurated taffeta as far back as December, and the American importers offered Southern frocks of this material the first of January, but it was a taffeta that was a close rival to satin, even thinner and more comfortable for warm days. When the American women attempt the fashionable draping of the hour with taffeta that is not exquisitely supple, it may be that the fabric will have a setback, leaving the way clear

for Shantung, Chinese crepe, and foulard.

These are the materials that will come back to fashion, but they need not be twisted and turned into complex and expensive frocks unless the wearer so desires. Many of them are made up like muslins.

Insistence Upon Silk Jersey.

No summary of the fabrics that are to flash forth after the frost is over, is genuinely good unless one brings in Jersey. The worsted weave of this fabric is still used, but the heavy silk weave, plain or fanciful, is doing its best to come in ahead of the others on the race track of fashions. The American mills have turned out this French product with more or less success. There is the drop-stitch kind, another weave that has a thick and a thin square, and still another that has a twisted and a plain contrasting design.

This fabric has taken unto itself the air of a conqueror, for it aspires to a formal place in society. It appears in the guise of an evening gown, not for formal occasions, it is true, but for dinner at a restaurant and the theater afterwards. It is handled by the dress-makers in the same way as satin. It has long lace sleeves, sometimes a hip-scarf of Spanish lace with a deep, pendant panel in front; again, it has an upper bodice of white chiffon with square Spanish sleeves to match. It is used for coat suits and offers itself as a rival to Shantung, for it does not wrinkle easily. It comes in the majority of good colors, and in beige and biscuit it still flows along at high tide.

It is felt, more than said, that satin may have had its day as a spring fabric.

There is a strong tendency away from it, just as there is from serge. No one who dabbles among clothes can fail to notice this avoidance of the two fabrics in orders for new frocks. Satin is still good for evening, but it is draped with chiffon or tulle. When brilliant colors are used, as in one of the new gowns named after General Pershing, American beauty red satin is veiled in an oriental manner with long festoons of mauve chiffon, each corner weighted with an amethyst necklace that drops to the knees in front, outlines the sharply cut décolletage over the shoulders and drops in two straight lines below the waist at the back, each end finished with a tassel of the amethyst. This type of gown is chosen everywhere among smart people, when satin is used. It permits the orientalization of a gown, which is the dear desire of dressmakers.

As for serge, exactly what the public has against it, one cannot find out. Perhaps it is just weary of it and wants something that does not suggest the somber, conservative clothes of war-days. There is a very soft cloth that looks like serge which the tailors are using for coat suits, but even with the model as ordered women choose another material. They do not want even a semblance of serge.

Covert Cloth Worn Again.

It might be claimed that the leading fabric for coat suits, and even frocks,



Afternoon frock of blue and green foulard, with Chinese design. Girdle of green georgette, and green jade earrings.

is covert cloth. It came into fashion through its usage at Thanksgiving by a few very smart women in New York, and the same houses that introduced it then have put it forth as a novelty for early spring.

The American people know covert cloth quite well. They had much to do with it during a preceding generation. Its tone today is not as muddy and brown as then; there is a sparkling touch of tan about it which makes it quite becoming. Coat suits made of it, the new ones that are trailing along in genial climates, worn by women bent on amusing themselves, have the surface tucked in squares or lattice work, according to an ancient and honorable trick of ornamentation. The coats of these suits are left open after the fastening of three or four buttons at the neck; this is to show a frilled blouse, usually in a pale color.

By the way, these frilled, pastel-colored muslin blouses may be the forerunners of a wide revival of colored muslin frocks. (Copyright, 1915, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

STYLES ARE MANY

Clothes for Coming Season Marked by Diversity.

Various Periods Shown in Waistline or Sleeve; Skirts Are Long and Draped.

Great activity prevails in all the large dressmaking establishments and an interesting fashion display is promised for the openings, which will be held soon.

Shall we have a new silhouette? That is the important question. So far there is little if any indication of it, but one never knows what turn the invention of the leaders of fashion may take, now that their minds are relieved of the anxieties of war. History does not help us much. After Waterloo there were no sudden shifts in the modes, but a gradual development from the styles of 1815 through the seasons until a definite change was crystallized in the fashions of 1820. There was a marked change in fashion, including that of hairdressing, just preceding the French revolution.

The question of the silhouette is no longer so important as it used to be. Modern women are less obedient to the dictates of a few designers than were their mothers and grandmothers. The bustle mode returned, but not every woman adopted it, as was the case in the eighties. The majority preferred the tunic or short skirt, or the slightly barrel effect. This is an indication that women now have independent opinions on the subject of dress.

One sees today a variety of styles. There is in evidence at one and the same time the empire waistline, the moyenne or the oriental line dropped below the hips, and the so-called normal waistline. As for sleeves there is the long, tight sleeve, the sleeve of 1840, with its underpuff of lighter material; the Gregorian sleeve and the Eastern sleeve slit along its length and tied about the wrist. These are but a few of the varieties which one may see in every gathering of well-dressed women.

Then there is the realm of the skirt. There is the long, draped skirt, the narrow slit skirt, the narrow straight skirt, the slit skirt and the tunic skirt, either draped or plaited.

One sees a great diversity of style among the evening frocks.

There is an exceedingly attractive model of black velvet made in princess effect, draped in rather clinging lines and completed with a long train, the train beginning at the décolleté at the back and extending in panel effect. The right side of the bodice is of flesh-colored tulle. The left side is formed of the velvet, draped and crossing over and fastened at the waistline at the right side with a cluster of flowers.

MANY USES FOR PAPER YARN

Combined With Wool, Shoddy, Cotton and Waste, Enlarging Supply of Fabrics for Clothing.

The use of paper yarn has been largely extended during the past half year. The importance of the industry may be judged by the increased production now amounting to about 88,000,000 pounds a year, says the Frankfurter Zeitung.

The manufacturing processes are constantly being improved, and as the matter stands now paper yarn can be used successfully in the manufacture of various fabrics and garments, excepting only body linen and the better sorts of outside garments. Workmen's clothes, bed and table linen, curtains, sail cloth, imitation leather and many other articles of good quality can now be made.

In many fabrics the paper yarn is combined with wool, shoddy, cotton waste, etc., and the supply of fabrics for the clothing industry is thus enlarged. It is not to be supposed that all these articles will disappear immediately upon the return of peace. The demand for them will continue undiminished for some time, and some of them may retain their place in the market permanently.

The use of paper yarn for sewing thread is also increasing, owing chiefly to the scarcity of cotton and linen thread. The preparation, twisting, etc., have been improved to such an extent that the paper threads are strong and durable enough to be used in the manufacture of coarse clothing and sacks.

FASHION NOTES OF INTEREST

Fluted Rerette collars, some of them with scallops or points to relieve the roundness, are to be popular.

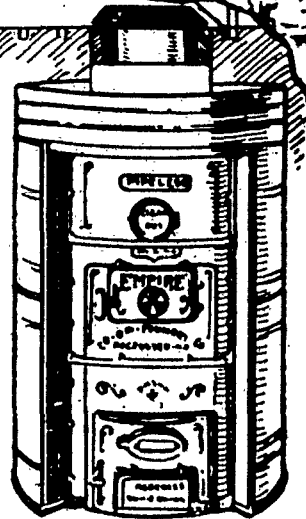
Flower toques, always charming, are being shown a bit this year. Most times they have a body of georgette or straw with just the top beveled.

A pretty little sport hat for southern winter is of bands of oyster white grosgrain ribbon a half-inch wide. A bit of long white fringe lounges over the side.

A gorgeous evening coat for warmer climates is of apricot crepe meteor, made in cape fashion with long points over the arms and widely banded about the bottom with chinchilla.

A dancing frock of yellow-green satin suits a slender style of maid by being made with light, old-fashioned bodice and ruffled, full tunic with just a peeping of narrow skirt beneath.

Many of the new, blue serges and tricoots have wool in gray, embroidered in large designs over part of the skirt.



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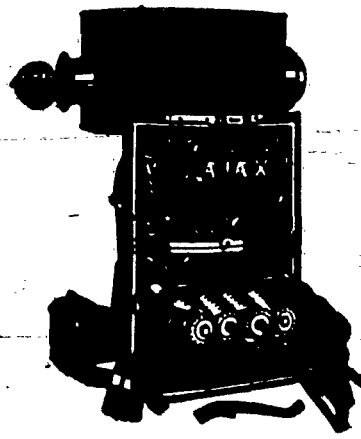
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AJAX

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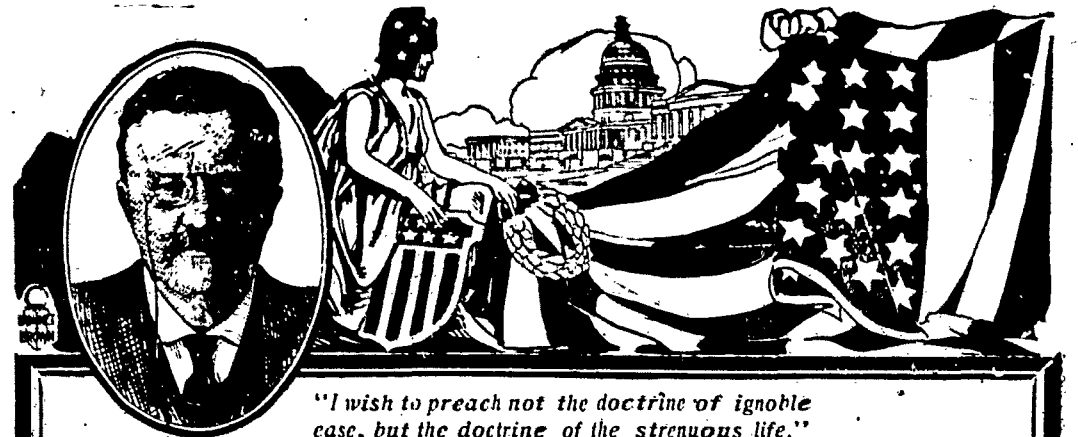


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