



Lace or net blouse vests beneath garcon de cafe or Eton jackets of satin or velvet are frequently seen among pretty autumn evening dresses. Skirts of satin, cloth or silk are worn with these jackets, and if they are in colors, the silk lining beneath the lace vest matches it. But the collar and folded girdle are of velvet, matching the jacket.

Shades in yellow are among the fashionable tints, rivaling the new beautiful pink dyes in favor. Sunset is a brilliant shade that appears in new necklaces, evening satins and soft bengalines. Aureole is an extremely delicate and lovely color; so also are the shades of chanelle and daffodil, and among chiffons and evening satins a new golden green is very popular with artistic French dress-makers.

The imitation jewels which dazzled the eyes a year ago will not be used in any such lavish way on toilets the coming season, although wholly new devices of the most elaborate nature in these jeweled effects still tempt the purchaser. For Venetian and other handsome chokers women are silk cord and Mignardise gimps with threads of gold or bronze, with buttons to match. But, if mock-gem trimmings are being somewhat overlooked, jet is not, and the importation this season is a fit study for an artist. There are also passementeries in which chenille with fine cut-jet sequins occur, the devices, in arabesque patterns, being shaped in diminutive shapes for skirt seams, bretelles, sleeve-length pieces, revers, decorations and jacket fronts of various prevailing shades.

The tendency most evident in all that fashion offers is still toward the sleek and clinging effects of the past season, with, however, simpler outlines, less of elaborate decoration, and a natural reaction in the matter of cutting up yards of expensive material into frills and furbelows.

Certain tailors of taste and experience in New York continue, in spite of opposition, to make autumn walking dresses of walking length—that is, just escaping the ground all around—declaring that there is really more grace in a well-cut, perfectly hung walking skirt of proper length than in a hem-trimmed one that is held up by being awkwardly grasped in one hand. The prevailing habit skirt loses all the beauty of its straight, flowing lines when caught up by the wearer. To look its best, it should be left to fall free from the waist, with none of its breadths elevated and dragged around to the front of the skirt.

Some very pretty repped wool fabrics appear among autumn fabrics, that are considerably less expensive than the wool bengalines, and will make stylish costumes. The greens, browns and blacks are particularly fine, and for dainty gowns for the house are soft, pretty shades in old rose, violet, gray fawn color, or antique, as it is now called, beech and cedar brown and pale silver blue. Persian red is another dye that is a shade between a damask rose and the long-favored dahlia red. It is prettier than either magenta, peunia or Italian red, and is very becoming to either blonde or brunette. The color is found also among ladies' cloths and vicunas. The soft reps mentioned above are of excellent quality, and one quality is repped like Bedford cord. The other is repped diagonally.

Black gullerpe flounces grow in favor for trimming silk and satin gowns for certain uses, and a noted Parisian atelier has the daring to drape them below a narrow band of fur on cloth tailor costumes, while some of the most famous Paris milliners are trimming fine French felt hats with the richest of lace, both black and white.

Besides the smart tailor costumes made with five-gored foundation skirts, a down-sweeping overdress quite as long as the underskirt on the sides and at the back, and a close-fitting jacket, its original robe-de-chamber effect is obliterated by the picturesque additions to the bodice portion and sleeves.

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Agriculture and Horticulture of California.

[By Edward J. Wickson, Professor of Agricultural Practice in the University of California and Horticulturist of the Agricultural Experiment Station, "Vegetables in Garden and Field," etc.]

California is not a new country. For more than a century livestock and grains and fruits have been grown and have yielded wealth and comfort to a farming population. It is true that until the discovery of gold about half a century ago the population of European blood was small, and farming methods were rude and were pursued with very little system and energy, but still under the control of the missionaries there were large herds accumulated, vineyards and orchards made productive and considerable quantities of animal products, wine and grains secured. Large land owners followed the example of the missionaries and possessed themselves of vast herds, trapped the produce with visiting ship Captains and became rich and prosperous and secured such degree of agricultural development and home comfort as seemed to them desirable.

Over fifty years ago the discovery of gold brought to California thousands of enterprising and energetic men and women of American and European birth, and intelligent and systematic agriculture was shown ere long to be on the average more profitable than mining. The experience and the materials of the preceding half century of rude agriculture were used to their fullest extent and they lie in the foundation of the California agriculture which is now the wonder and admiration of the world. But other elements in the foundation of California agriculture were the bright men of all the nations who came to California fifty years ago, brought the agricultural wisdom and methods of all parts of the world, and the tools, plants, seeds, improved animals and other materials which they knew to be the best in their own countries. They brought also energy and understanding and devotion. The result of a half century of agricultural progress secured by emigrants from all enlightened nations and their children is seen in the present eminence of California agricultural productions with a value of one hundred million dollars a year; cities and towns of grand size and industry; transportation companies of great mileage and capacity; nobler free universities and common schools than are possessed by many States of much greater population; agricultural machinery of wonderful capacity and effectiveness; a larger yield of such vegetables and fruits than any other State can grow, and, best of all, homes of comfort and wholesomeness for all classes of population—all these are features of California's industrial development.

There are a few facts about the California which is now sending her splendid products to all parts of the world and is, as never before, attracting the attention of investors and home seekers from all nations. It is important to remember that the State is not new. It is impossible to have such a tried and triumphantly successful agriculture in a new State or country. Such achievements are the result of experience and development, and they are the guarantee to those now wishing to make investments and homes that they are not proceeding upon prophecies or prospectuses, but upon the basis of facts.

Many women of leisure who are skilled in the art of fine embroidery are making satin vest fronts, wrought in delicate patterns in shaded silks, to be worn beneath open-fronted coats of velvet or cloth, finished with satin revers.

Countless pieces of tweed, English serge and chevrot were sold in a trice at a certain importing house this week. And black, brown—in several handsome shades—and two special dyes in blue proved the favored colors with purchasers. A good sale was made of Bedford Cord, or wool bengaline, and also some lustrous, heavy-grained poplins. Many women who select poplin are unanimous in their opinion that for wearing qualities, it is unsurpassed. Not only do Irish and other poplins and tweeds wear long and well, but they never wear shiny—a fault to which all silks are liable, no matter how rich in quality.

As soon as a change in the weather calls for heavier clothes, they will be made of cloth or other handsome wool material with long redingotes, open overskirts of matching fabric or of corded silk or "costume" satin. Machine-stitching finishes all the edges of these long graceful overdresses, the revers are similarly edged, but the turn-down collar is faced with black or dark velvet.

A stylish French model for costumes to be worn early next season has just reached America. It is formed of a very rich, beautiful shade of Roman blue cloth figured with raised lines of soft, rough camel's hair. It is fashioned in princess styles, but with one continuous length, for a closely fitted habit-like bodice is first made, that is long enough to reach well over the hips. To this are then applied the close princess breadths in demi-trained form at the back, and in slashed, pleated lengths on the front and sides, showing an underskirt of plain, rather heavy repped bengaline silk. The edge of each panel shows a narrow border of mink fur, and there are rolls of the same on the edges of the sleeves and on the shawl-pointed revers of the bodice. These fur-edged points also reaching to the back. The collar-shaped collar is of blue velvet, lined with bengaline of the same shape and edged with fur.

There is a decided trend this season to the use of the delightfully soft and clinging camel's hair fabrics which have been displaced by the heavier-faced cloths. The new goods at the importing houses are very delicate and fleecy; some of the expensive qualities are double-faced, but all are exceedingly warm-looking, yet light and comfortable to wear.

Ribbon velvet will remain very much in vogue as a smart and becoming style of garniture, easily applied and endless in its novel and enriching effects; but among other very fashionable decorative effects of every style and color, and Parisian manufacturers are sending out fancy plastrons, shoulder and sleeve-caps, and epaulettes formed of fringes. Elegant patterns are made to edge pointed overdresses, and graceful rich draperies on the bodice are worn in flouncing widths to be draped in graduated rups upon the close clinging sides of handsome princess overdresses or around the front and sides of dress skirts from below the hips.

There are no low temperatures to exclude and very little fuel suffices to bring the interior of a very lightly constructed building to a gratifying warmth even in the coldest weather. The same conditions naturally make less requirements in heavy clothing. All these things can be more readily realized by the distant reader if he remembers that the winter months are the chief growing season of field crops, and the ripening season of citrus fruits, in California.

Third—The division of the year into two seasons and the concentration of the rainfall into half the year is of decided advantage to the farmer as soon as he learns to adapt his methods to it. It can hardly be appreciated by one accustomed only to a humid climate. If, however, he will think of a winter always warm enough for plant growth, with the plant sending their roots far down into the rich, deep soil and with rain falling at intervals and sinking deeply, he can understand that the soil becomes a great reservoir of subterranean moisture which the plants can readily reach. Then the season changes, the rain ceases, the top growth of the plant increases under the greater warmth. Ample moisture rises by capillarity in the soil and by the action of the deep roots, and the plant perfects its crop in clear, dry air which largely prevents the growth of parasitic fungi and yields a great weight of heavy, bright grain. As the dry season is best to perfect the grain so is it best to harvest it, and the months of long clear days with hardly a drop of rain, from harvest all through the grain harvest, is a benefit and a blessing which it is hard to overestimate. The distant reader must remember that field crops sown at the proper time do not suffer by the long dry season; the preceding growth in a mild moist winter so establishes them that they do not lack moisture. The plump white wheat and the large bright brewing barley which California exports mainly to Europe and which have reached a valuation of thirty-six million dollars in a single year, could only be produced in their characteristic quality, in a country with a rainless summer.

The same is true of our peerless fruit products. Certain secure cultivation guards the moisture in the subsoil-reservoir from evaporation and holds it for the use of the trees and vines. The fruit reaches its marvelous perfection because it enjoys such a long period of unobstructed sunshine. Rain would seriously change its character. And the same bright dry air which perfects the fruit, and the long growing harvest in the best possible condition at the lowest cost and dry it in the open air with beauty and quality, which challenge comparison with the most elaborate and expensive evaporating processes. Here again an annual product of dried fruits and raisins valued at ten million dollars and a product of dried fruits and raisins, ment fresh and canned and for wine-making, valued at nine millions more, are largely dependent upon a rainless summer. It is then a fact, capable of the fullest demonstration that the dry summers of California, which the mistaken dwellers in humid climates are inclined to commiserate, are of incalculable advantage to the growers of them, and to the general wealth and prosperity of the State.

Fourth—Another advantage of the two-season year lies in the fact that the grower has the control of moisture for all his summer-growing crops. If the rainfall is adequate he controls moisture by constant summer irrigation which prevents evaporation. If the rainfall is inadequate he controls moisture by resorting to irrigation. In either case he is able to regulate moisture so that he escapes the extremes of drought or saturation, both of which do so much harm to crops in summer-rain countries.

WIDE AGRICULTURAL FITNESS OF THE STATE.
Many other incidental advantages of the naturally rich and deep soils of California and of the peculiarly favorable climate could be cited were it not for the command of brevity. The manifest conclusion from study of these characters and from knowledge of what is really being accomplished, is that California is fitted for all products of the temperate zone, and the country which means that it affords a welcoming home to all the useful vegetation of the world except that of a strictly tropical character. This fact is not so generally known as it should be. California's fame has extended so widely through the growth of semi-tropical fruits that her accomplishments in the products of upper regions of the temperate zone are apt to be overlooked and home-seekers sometimes choose locations in more northerly parts of the American continent because of the mistaken idea that California is only suited to semi-tropical cultures to which they are unaccustomed. This is the most unfortunate misconception.

The every staple product of the upper temperate zones is improved in character and yield by its introduction to California—if a proper location is chosen for it, and practice is modified to meet the new conditions as the intelligent farmer can readily do. Instead of California being, as is frequently thought, a country of a few great specialties, it is a country of the greatest possible range of products, and any man who can do any kind of farming well can find a place where his labor will yield him greater results than are possible under less favorable conditions. Therefore, a man understands the growing of animals and manufacture of animal products, he can here find mountain pastures like those of Switzerland or rich, low, reclaimed meadows like those of Holland and all the variations of pastureland which lie between these extremes. If he understands the growth of cereals he can find localities for all of them, from the rye and spelt of the north to the wheat of the Mediterranean. If he understands fruit growing he can grow the fruits of all Europe with a soil and climate which work as well as in any other country. He can largely forsake his laborious arts of protection and trust his trees and vines confidently to the kindly skies.

ADAPTION OF CALIFORNIA TO MIXED FARMING.
These few general statements ought to show that California is not a State of great specialty farming alone. We have, of course, our great grain fields with correspondingly great machinery for cultivation and harvesting, and our great fruit, dairy, vegetable and other farms chiefly given to a single crop and unique facilities for production at a minimum cost on a large scale, but these do not comprise our sole means of production. We have thousands of moderate sized and small holdings which are yielding their owners comfort and a competence by mixed farming. There is abundance of land to be had at a reasonable price which is waiting for development and improvement on the good old-fashioned plan of growing what is

needed for family use and surpluses of the same things for exchange or sale in small amounts. Soil and climate which favor a great diversity of products are an incalculable advantage in giving the family varied and wholesome food, and they open a wide field for an industrious and intelligent man to use his labor to the best advantage in producing crops which buyers desire to pay money for. He can surround himself with farm animals and poultry which will turn the food he grows for them into products which are in sharp demand. Owing to the large acreage given to special farming for export products, there is a fine opportunity in nearly all parts of the State for butchers' meats, for cured meats, for choice dairy and poultry products and for garden vegetables so that he who secures good land and works earnestly and intelligently to follow methods which suit the locality, is apt to find himself out of debt and with money in bank when his more venturesome neighbor may be struggling with some error or miscalculation in his larger operations.

California needs for the full employment of her resources and her advancement as a State, a larger population of thrifty, hardworking and close-calculating farmers. There are plenty of opportunities of investment of capital on a large scale, but this fact does not need urging. Large capitalists and syndicates are usually awake to their own opportunities and the fact that European capital is now being invested more freely than ever before in producing and exporting agricultural products is a demonstration of the chance in that line. The more there is done in such development the greater is the demand for labor and the greater the consumption of all home supplies. This opens more widely the opportunity for the farmer who comes to use moderate capital and simple energy and common sense in the various lines of agricultural production which he understands and along which he desires to train his family to self-respecting manhood and womanhood in a free and progressive country.

Conditions were never so favorable for beginning in California as they are now. The era of fictitious values and unreasonable expectations has passed away. Land values are nearer what the lands are actually worth. It is a good time to invest in improved properties for those who have ample capital and it is a good time also for those of moderate means to buy unimproved land and devote their labor and knowledge to its improvement. There is every prospect of success to those who merit it by diligence, intelligent effort and business-like thrift and economy. To pay high prices for land, without knowledge of its quality and adaptability, for the purpose of growing crops with which they had no practical acquaintance, has yielded loss and disappointment to some who have invested in California. Such undertakings are not wise speculative ventures; they are not even fair games of chance—they are traps for the unwary, and they who walk into them are not wise.

In all parts of the State, it is possible to buy land on the basis of what it may be reasonably expected to produce and so much has been learned by experience that it is now possible to select crops and locations with very little danger of mistakes which cannot be readily corrected. There is, of course, great variation in the price of land, not so much according to its quality as to its situation. In districts famed for special products higher values naturally rule, but just as good land, and in some cases better lands for other products, can be purchased for low prices. If one is willing to locate at a little distance from populous centers and thickly settled districts he can still obtain as good land as there is in California at a price which the land will soon repay if it is handled wisely and its earnings carefully husbanded.

Most Californians who are succeeding best in persuading the land to pay for itself are those of European birth. They have habits of constant labor and careful economy in expenditures which the Americans have not formed. The American counts much upon his shrewdness and ingenuity and shapes his activities to employ them, while the European loves the land and to own it is the end of his ambition. As a natural result the land responds liberally to his self-sacrificing effort and soon makes him his satisfied proprietor. At the present time there is a better demand for agricultural laborers in California than there has been for many years and the chance of earning something by working for others while getting some acquaintance with the State is very good. Still none should come empty handed. The laborer is compelled by local conditions and traditions to shift for himself more than in older countries and the experience is sometimes unpleasant. The one who comes prepared to buy his home, though it be a small one, or to provide himself with team and tools for a leased farm, is at once independent and can advance rapidly if he have the habits and purpose which have been described.

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