

# FASHION'S LATEST WORD IN SMART CREATIONS

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## Anent Coat Suits, Small Waist, Tiny Hats and Fashionable Colors

In spite of the fact that fashion prognosticators have been predicting the downfall of the coat suit and, in its place, the one-piece frock, the suit is still much in evidence. Wherever fashionable women foregather in the daytime, there, too, fashionable suits may be seen in abundance.

The American woman has mastered the coat suit. Physically, hers is the type to wear it to perfection. It fits her psychologically, too. There is an independence and freedom about it that appeal to her. However, it took the American woman several years to wear the coat suit as she wears it now. And after all her work of learning to wear it to perfection, she was disheartened at the suggestion that she must discard it this winter in favor of a one-piece frock and a separate coat. So she disregarded the verdict of Paris and went on with her old-fashioned one-piece frocks and separate coats—at least to the extent of including one smart coat suit in her winter wardrobe.

Be it said that in spite of the thousands and thousands of coat suits in the shops that seem all to be made on the same lines, there is variety in the winter suits. The type

coat is made with high collar, of fur or velours or velvet or plush, with full skirt, equally long all around, with long sleeves, rather snug at the wrist, and with a plain, single or double-breasted front. But there are variations in the way of pleats and yokes in this plain front.

Then there are a very few smart suits with something more like the old tailor-made lines than we have seen for years. These boast no fur. They are made with regular notched collars, rather wider than they used to be, and lapels, faced with satin or with the fabric of the coat. These suits are made up in gabardine, and checked and mixed mannish suitings. Some of them show cutaway lines, some suggest an empire cut, with a fitted, double-breasted front, and a flaring skirt at sides and back.

It would be well worth any woman's while to put a good deal of money into one of these conservative suits, made by a good tailor. It is distinctive enough to wear for two seasons, and at the same time its first season will be unusually satisfactory; for this winter when everybody is wearing the heavy, voluminous coat, high at the throat, long of sleeve, full

in skirt, loaded with fur, it is distinctly refreshing to see a smart, trim model of the strictly tailored sort.

### Wearing Green.

In spite of the fact that those who know assert that there is as much brown in Mrs. Galt's trousseau as there is green, an added interest in the so-called Bolling green has been aroused by the fact that it is supposedly a favorite shade of the future first lady of the land. Doubtless many stock suits that have been called simply "dark green" will be rechristened Bolling green in stores all over the country and sold without difficulty.

The fashionable dark shades of green, Bolling or otherwise, are really a wise choice for street clothes this winter. Navy blue and black are much worn; but they are always worn. So in a season like this, when two substantial colors beside black and navy—brown and green—are in fashion, it is a good plan to wear them. You will be all the more ready to return to navy and black later on.

### Is the Small Waist Coming?

History—sartorial history—has shown that a very full skirt is far more attractive when it is worn with a rather snug bodice—one that really outlines and emphasizes the waistline. So when the present fashion for full skirts came in, predictions were made that our waists would shrink and decrease in size to a most remarkable degree.

These predictions have hardly been fulfilled.

True it is that there is an effort to show our one-time waistlines in many of the new frocks. But in almost as many of them the location of the waistline is necessarily still a matter of guesswork. The new corset models have a slight "nip-in," as the corsetiers put it, at the waistline. But it is slight, indeed. The change consists rather in a slightly curving line at the side over the hips, instead of the perfectly flat and straight lines of the last few years.

Nobody knows what is coming in the matter of waists. The Paris dressmakers may think they know; already, of course, they are planning their spring openings. But the combination of war and public opinion may do almost anything to their decisions. Public opinion alone is usually strong enough to set such of them aside as women do not like.

It is not a matter of health—this insistence of fashionable women on a loose waist. Women don't think of health when they accept or reject styles. It is a matter, rather, of comfort. The fashionable woman of today likes comfort. Her clothes are luxurious. She will submit to almost any oddity, so long as she is physically comfortable. Even the shoe of the moment, high-heeled, rather pointed, is remarkably comfortable. The

shoemakers deserve high credit for the way they have handled the problem of giving us a shoe that is at once the last word in daintiness and almost the last word in comfort.

But in spite of its slow coming, the rather snug waist is probably on its way. It seems to be a logical outcome of present tendencies in the world of clothes. And in spite of the fact that as yet the tight bodice is seldom seen, even on the stage—we look to the stage, even in this country, now, to emphasize coming fashions—we must nevertheless expect it.

The tiny hat that persists in staying in fashion is in keeping with the small-waisted, full-skirted frock. It is strange that as skirts grow wide, hats grow narrow. But it is true. And although there are some decidedly striking wide-brimmed hats this year, there are more smart small ones.



Wide brimmed hat of plum velvet with two tall gray feathers to make it as tall as it is wide.



Tiny hat of cerise velvet, well veiled with a loose-meshed net, fur bordered at top and bottom.



A towering white plume accentuates the narrowness of this tiny hat of black velvet.



Black velvet suit, made with yoke and modified Norfolk pleats, and trimmed with white fur.



That the small waist is not yet established is proved by two views of this novel evening gown.



Smart suit of African brown broadcloth, bordered, collared and cuffed with seal.

