

## Women's Column

### New Trimmings and Change of Detail Make Old Things Look New

What a gorgeous gown! I remarked to a friend as I met her at one of the hotels the other day. But, how, I continued, can you afford to spend so much on your frock when everything is so expensive? And she smiled with a knowing little smile and then drew near to my ear and divulged the whole secret. Of course it was not a new frock; it was simply an old one of

A myriad of designs are being shown. Scroll designs and dots are favored by the majority, while the plain octagon mesh still holds favor. The most becoming one that I have seen was bordered with dots quite large, which diminished in size as they approached the center of the veil. This was really quite effective and looked awfully well over the small toque of feathers that it covered.

#### Unlimited Use of Lace

More expensive veils come in fine lace, and lucky indeed is she who may tuck away and smile thru one of these. And lace appears all over, as trimming and as entire dress. A thing of beauty is the gown of allover black Chantilly lace over a white satin underskirt. This creation was shown by one of the leading designers and made the biggest sensation of the entire showing.



Developed in Serge

last year's, and having had a liberal amount of material in it, she herself cut it and remodeled it into the smart affair that I saw on her.

This was a surprise at first, but soon I discovered that many of my friends were doing the same thing. It is quite a simple matter and with the aid of a good pattern, one has a charming new dress out of last season's. Illustrated here is an excellent idea for remodeling a dress. The coat is on simple straight lines and the skirt equally simple. The braid design immediately gives a touch of distinction to it, and the contrasting vest just finishes it off right.

#### Hide Behind a Veil

This seems to be the slogan of all smart women of today, for everywhere that one goes the sight of a bare face seems to be forbidden. Like the orientals, the women of New York are beginning to hold a look at their face at a premium. But one look at these charming things will totally efface and obliterate all blame from the fair ones who deign hide behind the soft folds of these attractive screens.



Smart Coat Suit

Another dress of lace that attracted attention was for a young girl still in her teens. It was a creamy stuff over apricot satin. The lines were simple and smart and the whole effect was one of unusual charm.

#### Vanity Boxes of Old

Back with us again are the vanity boxes—those old favorites that held so willingly all we held dear. They are back, but much larger and much prettier than ever before. They are developed in materials instead of just leather and suede. And they hold just pounds and pounds of everything that we need and a great deal that we don't need.

## ENGLAND NO LESS THAN U. S. HAS RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS

### Great Electrical Power Plants Near the Coal Pits is a Possibility of the Future.

Private ownership and public control are advocated by the British sub-committee on coal conservation. That foreign governments are giving careful attention to the problems of reconstruction is evidenced by the fact that this particular report was made in April, 1917, although it has but recently been made public. The report contains a discussion on the waste and inconveniences of the present system of power supply, of the importance of electrical power to the industries of the kingdom, and of the economies and incidental advantages of substituting a comprehensive system of generation and distribution of electric power for the present haphazard and peaceable methods. The report indicates that in these latter respects the conditions in England are no better than in the United States, and fuel is transported all over England in order that it may be burned in innumerable furnaces in every part of the kingdom. The electrical undertakings in England are described as being about the same as we have in the United States, inasmuch as most of the plants are small and relatively insufficient.

Reconstruction movements abroad and at home recognize the fact that the world's industries have been built on steam power, and that adoption of another form of energy, which will be more efficient, will nevertheless involve scrapping costly plants. This is a handicap to what would otherwise be recognized as an incentive to use electricity as a motive force.

The world is thinking and talking about coal, and in the reconstruction plans with reference to power that have been developed in England, give a good deal of attention to the need of electrical energy to supplant steam in industry, and in consequence cut down the consumption of coal. The best minds in the United are agreed that the transmission of power by electricity from central generating plants, will solve not only the coal mining problems, but the excessive demand for transportation will also be lessened thereby. England is actually perfecting plans which will supersede the present inefficient system of furnishing power through a comprehensive system which will divide the kingdom into sixteen districts, instead of six hundred, as at present; and in each of the districts there will be a recognized authority to deal with all the problems of generation and distribution. A similar process has been suggested by the Smithsonian Institution, and it will seek to create centers or sites in the United States suitable for electric generating purposes in order to simplify distribution. The plan is to develop electro-chemical processes in close proximity to power plants. If the new plans carry through it will not be many years before the greater part of the coal used for power purposes will be burned near where it is mined.

When private ownership adjusts itself to public control, as officially urged in England, it will be entirely possible to bring about an amalgamation of existing power companies. The British report defines how company and municipal plants can operate on entirely independent plans thru the aid of federal agencies that will be helpful to both of them.

### U. S. MUST HELP FEED POOR OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE

The people of Washington show loyalty by saving sugar. Consumption for last three months is below average in other states, says Mayfield.

A total of 4.32 pounds of sugar per capita per month for all purposes, including domestic and commercial canning, confectionery manufacturing, public bakers and retail grocers, was consumed in Washington state during the last three months.

Exclusive of domestic and commercial canning, consumption has been 7.76 pounds per capita for the three months. These figures show an average of 1.04 pounds per capita saving over similar figures covering the United States.

Max Mayfield, representative of the sugar division of the food administration, Washington, D. C., gave out the foregoing figures at a conference, with Food Administrator Charles Heberd and wholesale grocers in Spokane.

"I am making a tour of the United States with a view to standardizing the issuance of sugar certificates," said Mr. Mayfield. The form is already standardized, but has not yet been put into execution.

"Incidentally I will explain to the administration and those interested, including wholesale grocers, the further conservation of sugar and the reasons why we must continue our saving. It is on account of the condi-

tion of starving people on the borders of Germany, which are continually growing in number and are in need of further help.

"We also must make good our promises Mr. Hoover made to the allied food conference in London some time ago, that we would export to them this year 17,500,000 tons of food stuffs.

"Our own armies consume a great amount of food, including enormous amounts of sugar, as can be gauged from the knowledge that we have 2,010,000 troops overseas.

"The State of Washington is to be complimented for staying within the normal average on the consumption of sugar. Mr. Heberd and his associates have applied good judgment in handling the situation. I have visited 28 states and find 95 per cent of the people are conscientious and loyal. This is one of the reasons why we have not been placed on ration cards."

### AUTOMOBILES WILL BE HIGH FOR SEVERAL YEARS

The correspondent of the Echo was out at Detroit the other day, and availed himself of the opportunity to talk with some of the automobile manufacturers. "Most of us have been working at our full capacity on war orders," they explain, and no attempt is being made to fill the demand for new cars. The serious phase of the situation, from the manufacturers' standpoint, is that his agency force is being badly demoralized. I suggested that after the war the competition in automobiles would be keen. The answer to this was that thousands of prosperous citizens are driving their old cars, and even now they are impatient to get rid of them, so that they may have new models. The emphasis placed upon this phase of the industrial situation at Detroit apparently indicates that it is of almost equal importance to a part of our citizens as is the need of new styles in hats for spring and fall.

On top of this condition in the automobile market is the added surplus of orders that will come from the brand-new field of automobile purchasers, who form a good sized crop every season. "It will take us a long time to catch up," the automobile manufacturers agree; and the indications are that while they are "catching up" that their prices will be high, and that there will be considerable indifference as to whether they sell you your automobile or not. The important feature of the situation that may be accepted right now, is that keen competition in the automobile business will evidently not exist for a year or more after the war, or until the manufacturers get to the point where they will be looking for orders—instead of turning them down.

If this condition applied only to automobiles the world would likely survive—and merely swear about the delay. But what is true in this one industry must exist with reference to an endless amount of other industrial activities and necessities. The situation carries with it important relations to the processes of reconstruction which we are now facing.

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