

Editor Mary F. Seymour's Idea of a Costume That Any Woman Could Wear.

The resolution in regard to suggestions for a business costume for women, adopted by the recent national council of women at Washington, has created a deal of discussion among women in all parts of the country.

Miss Mary F. Seymour, editor of The Business Woman's Journal, in an interview with a reporter of the New York Sun, expressed herself on the subject as follows:

"Laying aside the question whether such a costume would be advisable or not, there is no doubt that women who are engaged in business are greatly hampered by the style of dress now in vogue. It takes twice as much exertion in a woman to walk as in a man, and you know when women are compelled to work for their living they cannot afford to expend their strength recklessly. The greatest difficulty which business women have today is to select the right kind of dress. Now my suggestion would be, in the first place, to wear a short skirt, one that would reach to the tops of the shoes. One of the greatest drawbacks of the long skirt which business women wear at present, next to its weight and clumsiness, is its tendency to drag in and catch hold of the mud in the streets and the dust on the floor. The short skirt would do away with this.

"A woman with both arms full of papers or packages could step boldly across a street, no matter how wet or dirty it might be, without being compelled to stop, transfer her burden to one arm, or hold some of it between her teeth in order to lift her skirts. This skirt should not be of heavy material; cashmere or silk is preferable to heavy woolen goods. The weight of heavy garments, distributed as it is in the skirts of woman's dress today, exhausts the vitality. Instead of having the many undershirts women are wont to have, I would suggest heavy Turkish trousers. These would be a great deal lighter than the number of skirts which would be necessary to give the same warmth, and, besides, would leave the limbs free to move. The skirt would then do nothing but conceal these trousers.

"The objection will probably be raised that such a short skirt will expose the foot in an undesirable way. It is true that women have big feet, and nothing makes them look bigger than a skirt which exposes the entire shoe and nothing more. To remedy this I would suggest that fancy leggings be worn, which extend from just above the toes to three or four inches above the shoe tops. These would conceal the line between the shoe and the stocking, and, besides having a pretty effect, would make the foot look smaller than it really is.

"So much for the lower part. The waist should be as simple and as comfortable as the dressmaker's skill can make it. I once designed a dress for myself which embodied all my ideas of comfort and convenience. The waist consisted of a jacket and a vest in one piece. The jacket was in reality nothing but two long lapels which covered a part of the body of the waist. In the vest were four pockets arranged just as they are in a man's waistcoat, two in the upper and two in the lower part. On the outside of the two lapels were two pockets similar to those on a man's coat. In the back drapery were inserted two oblong pockets, the openings of which were drawn together by elastic cord. Under one of the panels, on the right and the left sides, I had long pockets."

The reporter next asked Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake what she thought of the idea of a business woman's costume.

"I think," she said, "that one of the greatest strains that business women could put themselves under would be to dress out of the fashion of the day. I shrink from any suggestion of a dress for women that would make the wearer conspicuous and an object of ridicule. Business women, more than all others, are dependent upon the favor of the public, and for them to wear a garment that would make them ridiculous would be almost suicidal.

"I believe that comfortable dresses can be made within the lines of fashion. They should be perfectly loose and easy, and not too long—three or four inches above the ground would be plenty. The most disagreeable and uncomfortable part of a woman's dress is the band around the waist. This can be obviated in a degree by wearing the waist and the skirt of one piece. That is, the lining of the dress is all one piece, and the drapery is put on that according to the fashion of the day or the taste of the wearer."

Mrs. Roscoe Conkling.

The reappearance of Mrs. Roscoe Conkling on the streets of New York brings back to the thousands of friends of her lamented husband, who were familiar with her face only at rare intervals, recollections of her earlier beauty. Mrs. Conkling must be more than sixty now. She is unusually tall looking, being so erect, and in her mourning garments seems actually taller than her real height, which can't be less than 5 feet 6. Her eyes are blue and her features finely hirselled. Seen side by side with Mrs. Grant, the contrast between her stately proportions and the shorter, stouter figure of her companion, whose complexion is much darker, is noticeable. Mrs. Conkling's married daughter, Mrs. Oakman, was the companion of these two ladies on their visit to the Conkling sitting in the Hoffman House.—New York World.

The Chatelaine Bouquet.

The chatelaine bouquet is quite the rage. It is long stemmed and is suspended from the waist by a chatelaine of handsome ribbon, and usually consists of roses and foliage or carnations and lilies of the valley. The chatelaine bouquet is, however, appropriate only to the bridal or dancing toilets.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

In England celery is much used as a last course at dinner, dipped in grated cheese—that is, the cheese is passed with it and the celery dipped as it is eaten.

In Rome 30,000 are idle. India has 12 year old weavers. Nashville bricklayers have organized. Scotch railroaders want a ten hour day.

Water power runs a Quebec electric plant. Nashville bakers want night work abolished.

A refrigerator syndicate is the latest Boston scheme. An Iowa, Mich., concern is shipping corn cob pipes to England.

Profit sharing is winning favor in mercantile circles in New York. The Texas cotton crop in 1890 is estimated to be worth over \$85,000,000.

A 10,000 ice machine is being erected in a Pottsville, Pa., brewery. The output of silver in this country is about 58,000,000 ounces per year.

Only 5 per cent of the shoemakers' patrons have their shoes made to order. There are said to be 15,000 brass bands in this country, with 150,000 performers.

Last season nearly 40,000 net tons of copper were dug out of northern Michigan.

Minneapolis has a macaroni mill. It also has a painters' union of colored men.

A Hummelstown, Pa., farmer has invented a trap which caught 78 rats in 10 hours.

Paris publishes 12 more dailies than London, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston combined.

The largest peach orchard in the world is at Brownwood, Texas, which contains 11,000 trees.

Over 100 new electric roads are to be built, several of which represent an outlay of \$1,000,000 apiece.

London is the great fur market of the world, and Alaska seal skins are taken there to be sold as well as dressed.

Ohio oleomargarine men want natural butter inspected, claiming that three-fourths of it isn't as good as oleomargarine.

During the last year the Calumet and Hecla Copper Mining Company, of Michigan, disbursed \$2,000,000 in dividends.

The "Consolidated Fireworks Company of America," with a capital of \$2,500,000, is the latest in the field of trusts.

A syndicate has recently been formed in Brazil for the purpose of controlling the rubber and other products of that country.

Kansas produces a little of everything. In 1890 the cotton crop amounted to 1,700 bales, and it was not a bad year for peanuts.

Jay Gould has reduced the salaries of officers and the wages of workers on the Union Pacific Railroad from 15 to 20 per cent.

Peterson cigarmakers claim that if union men smoked only union cigars that city alone would employ 500 additional hands.

The most disastrous period in the history of American business affairs was in 1857, when "wreckage" footed up \$392,000,000.

New Hampshire, with a population of 375,827, has 159,782 depositors in its 72 savings banks, with deposits aggregating \$65,727,019.04.

The Equinox toll seals to them by lying down on the ice and whistling. If there are any seals near they will approach, and are then captured.

About 500 veterinary surgeons in Great Britain signed a paper condemning overhead check reins as painful to horses and productive of disease.

Half a million of dollars is estimated as the sum derived in New York city and its suburbs from the sale of flowering plants for the adornment of windows.

New Jersey wants its abandoned farms occupied, and is working among farmers who have got disgusted with the West and are longing to come back to the East.

"Sixteen years ago," says a Kansas contemporary, "a man in Reno county paid \$15 for trees, which he planted on his farm. A few years ago he was offered \$10,000 for them. They are black walnuts."

The Government Labor Bureau is a part of the Department of the Interior. It was established in 1884. The head of it is known as Commissioner of Labor, and his pay is \$5,000 a year.

"A Carinna farmer," notes the Augusta (Me.) Journal, "recently sold 1,600 bushels of potatoes, of his own raising, for 85 cents per bushel. This means \$1,360, and would indicate that farming must pay in Penobscot county."

The annual statement of the pie industry in New York city shows that there are 20 establishments that bake pies exclusively. Of these, one company turns out 8,500 pies a day, or 2,650,500 pies a year, not counting Sundays, and another averages 7,000 a day, 2,101,000 a year.

The Fastest Mile Yet Made. The following items will prove of interest to little folk:

The fastest mile run by a railroad train was made in 40 1/2 seconds.

The record for the fastest mile made on skates is 2 minutes 12 3/5 seconds.

The fastest mile made in rowing in a single boat took 5 minutes 1 second.

The fastest mile ever made by a running horse was run in 1 minute 35 seconds.

The fastest mile by a man on a bicycle was made in 2 minutes 49 2/5 seconds.

The fastest time on snow shoes for a mile is recorded as 5 minutes 30 1/2 seconds.

The best time for a mile by a man on a bicycle is recorded as 2 minutes 29 4/5 seconds.

The fastest mile ever made by a man swimming was done in 26 minutes 52 seconds.

The fastest mile ever accomplished by a man walking was made in 6 minutes 23 seconds.

In running, the fastest mile made by a man was accomplished in 4 minutes 12 1/2 seconds.



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