

**A BOER GIRL IN THE NATIONAL COSTUME.**



When young, Boer girls are handsome, tall and of good figure. Their eyes are blue, their hair light, their feet and hands large. Many Boer belles take 9s in men's shoes. They attire themselves as a rule in white muslin, gay with ribbon and brass jewelry.

**THE PEARL-BUTTON INDUSTRY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

PEARL buttons are made, for the most part, from freshwater mussel shells. In less than three years clam digging for this purpose in the upper reaches of the Mississippi River has developed from an occasional pursuit into a science. The hivalves taken up resemble the salt water article as much as a rhinoceros resembles an elephant. They are not fit to eat, they look raw, even when some adventurous tenderfoot boils them, and they have a taste weirdly compounded of catfish and musk. They are in reality mussels, and they are wanted not for their meat but for the beautiful mother-of-pearl linings of the shells, from which buttons and a hundred of fancy articles are made. A thousand men are engaged in this new industry, most of them working on

sort is apt to pay the searcher for his trouble. The pearls are common enough, but generally they are not larger than a mustard seed, and are



PEARL BUTTON SAWS AND SAW HOLDERS.



MUSSEL FISHING THROUGH THE ICE, MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

their own hook, and they make from \$40 to \$125 a month, according to their facilities and application. The shells when dried are sold by the ton to the local concerns that are known as button factories, though they do not often make buttons. They are in reality polishing shops and are fitted up with a vast number of steam driven wheels and brushes, emery circles, etc., for smoothing the interiors of the shells and grinding off the rough outer covering. This material is shipped East to factories where buttons are made, as well as hundreds of other useful and, in many cases, beautiful articles. Clam shells from the upper reaches of the Mississippi River are turned into shirt buttons, the big buttons, sometimes as big as a silver dollar, that are used on women's coats, cuff buttons, mother-of-pearl arabesques with which brushes and combs are to be inlaid, backs of pocket-knives, shirt studs, cheap scarf pins, buckles, ear rings, bracelets and even finger rings. It requires close examination by an expert to tell this mother-of-pearl from the genuine South Sea article, and there is practically no difference in structure or appearance. The most picturesque feature of the industry is the constant looking for pearls. Thousands upon thousands of clams are opened and examined carefully for every fair pearl that is discovered, yet a find of almost any

kinds of apparatus. Those which have been or are now in use are the hand rake, the tongs, the rake hauled by means of a windlass, the dredge operated by steam, and the bar with hooks. The last named, a very ingenious contrivance, came into use in 1897 and has largely superseded other appliances. It consists of a circular iron bar, six to eight feet long, with from thirty to fifty-four pronged wire hooks attached at regular intervals in strings of two or three hooks. This apparatus, which is used from a small boat and is hauled over the bottom by means of a rope, depends for its action on the habits of the mussels. They rest on the bottom, or partly buried in the mud or sand, with the free margin of their shells turned up stream and with their shells separated to admit the water, laden with oxygen and food. When touched they quickly close their shells, and if a foreign body is interposed between the valves, it is tightly grasped and retained. Anyone who has not witnessed the use of this apparatus can scarcely realize how remarkably effective it is. Often when the mussels are abundant, almost every prong will have a mussel on it, and two or three are sometimes caught on one prong. When the beds of mussels are compact, one man can take 800 to 1000 pounds in a day, and a case is reported where 2200 pounds were obtained by one man in ten hours. The average daily catch at present, however, is probably not over 500 pounds. After sufficient ice forms on the river, there is considerable mussel fishing through the ice with "shoulder rakes" and "scissor rakes." For the use of these appliances, under such circumstances, a hole two to six feet square is cut through the ice. Preparatory to being used, the mussel shells, as purchased from the fishermen, are sorted into sizes. Au-

other preliminary step is the soaking of the sorted shells in barrels of fresh water for three to six days to render them less brittle. Even when only a few hours out of the river the shells become dry and brittle, and crumble or split under the saw. The next step is the cutting or sawing of the rough blanks. The saws are of flat steel strips about two inches wide, and of various lengths corresponding to the sizes of the buttons. These strips after being provided with fine teeth along one of the sides, are accurately bent into a cylindrical form and fitted into heavy iron holders; the latter are adjusted to a lathe in which they revolve on a horizontal axis. As the blanks are cut they pass back into the saw and holder and drop into a box beneath the saw. After being polished, washed and dried, the buttons go to rooms where they are sorted into sizes and grades of quality, and then sewed on cards and packed in paste-board boxes.

**What a Little Girl Thought.**  
"A party of friends of the late Vice-President Hobart were visiting Washington, and of course spent an hour in the Senate chamber. Among them was a little girl of ten who paid close attention to the proceedings. Two days afterward he met the child, who presently asked:  
"Do you sit there every day listening to those old men talk?" "Yes, dear."  
"Do you have to?" "Yes."  
"I'm real sorry. It's an awful thing to be Vice-President, isn't it?"—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.



**How the Boers Hobble Horses.**  
This is the way Oom Paul's men hobble their horses to prevent them running away at night. Every one of the Boer soldiers now fighting the British in South Africa is mounted, and a camp scene showing the ponies grazing while tethered in this way is quite picturesque. The custom is said to be a cruel one, and no doubt the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will start a crusade against it in due time.

**Apparatus For Opening Difficult Doors.**  
In a new invention a single coil is made to open the most difficult of doors, even at a distance of fifty yards. The apparatus can be fixed either inside or outside the door. It will also lift or snoot strong bolts. It works with a single-pressure of a knob. It is especially adapted for asylums or jails, where emergencies requiring just such an appliance are likely to arise.

**Benefits of New Foods.**  
The introduction of new foods is an excellent plan for both the health and commercial prosperity of a nation. Nearly all of what are regarded as indigenous fruits and vegetables have been imported to us from other lands. Of the food plants now in use only pumpkins and a few grapes, plums and berries were originally found on the soil.

**An Appalling Fan:**  
"I see it stated," remarked the Horse Editor, "that the monarch of Abyssinia may make trouble for England in South Africa."  
"I don't think," added the Snake Editor, "that the Abyssinian Monarch will strike Menelik for the Boers."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.



A SEEMINGLY IMPEGNABLE POSITION THE BRITISH ASSAILED.  
It is against such impregnable positions as this that the British have to go. In the fight around Colenso a heavy naval gun had to be taken up this almost unscalable hill, and in the face of a murderous fire from the peaks of a berg, behind which the Boer marksmen lay. It took twenty-six oxen to drag the gun up the rocky slope.

**A HISTORIC FORTRESS.**

Imposing Ruins That the Italian Government Will Restore and Preserve. The imposing ruins of the famous Castello Carpineti near Reggio d'Emilia, the Canossa of once on a time, perched on precipitous rocks, were to



CANOSSA CASTLE.

have been sold by auction recently, but the Italian Government stepped in and informed the heirs of the late Count Valdrizzi, the present owners of the castello, of the intention of the State to purchase the property. It was within the now dilapidated walls of the castle that Emperor Henry IV. humbled himself before Pope Gregory VII. in 1077, by waiting three days, barefooted and in sack cloth, for the papal pardon. Referring to this remarkable incident, Bismarck gave utterance to the now proverbial words, in his struggle against the supremacy of the ultramontanes in 1872, "To Canossa we shall not go." The castle was partially destroyed by the revolutionary burghers of Reggio in 1255, and during the centuries which have since elapsed the touch of time has gnawed mercilessly at the once almost invincible stronghold. Several of the halls and chambers of the castle are still intact, and both the Italian and foreign archaeological associations which were prepared to bid for the historical ruins at the proposed auction are now most anxious that the Italian Government preserve the castle from further decay in default of restoring it to its pristine condition.

**Swapping Beasts in a Zoo.**  
Horse "swapping" is a dull and uneventful branch of industry compared with the gorgeous possibilities that are within reach of the animal men in Central Park in New York City. Who would be content with trading a spavined horse for a blind mare, when he hears of the trading that the folk in the employ of the city did during the last three months? They "swapped" a buck nyghau for two cassowaries, two zebras for five bald eagles, one buck nyghau for two llamas, and, final and crowning deed of all, they exchanged a hippopotamus for a select and valuable bunch of assorted beasts, consisting of one lioness, one tiger, two leopards, two pumas and two antelopes.

**Faraday's Sympathy For Newsboys.**  
A writer in the Century tells this new anecdote of Faraday: The great physicist and his friend Hoffman were walking one day together through the streets of London, when both were then professors, when Faraday stopped a newsboy and bought a paper. Hoffman asked him why, with his house supplied regularly with all the papers he needed, he stopped to buy a paper from a boy in the street. Faraday replied: "I was once a newsboy myself and sold papers on the street."

**NEW YORK FASHIONS.**

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City (Special).—The shape, material and trimming of jackets are the topics that are uppermost in the feminine mind to-day. Two popular novelties appear in the



JACKET NOVELTIES.

accompanying cut. One is in dark brown cloth, criss-crossed with narrow lines in white braiding bordered with yet narrower lines in black fur. These cover the sleeves, lattice fashion, as well as the jacket. The fronts are tight-fitting and have a line of scallops down the middle. The basque is scalloped as is the high, rolling collar with its finish of narrow black fur at the edge. The other jacket is in bright blue cloth and its front fastens over a narrow vest-like piece in scarlet cloth, stitched in dark blue. Continued upon the shoulders this vest expands into quite a shoulder cape. The foundation of stitched

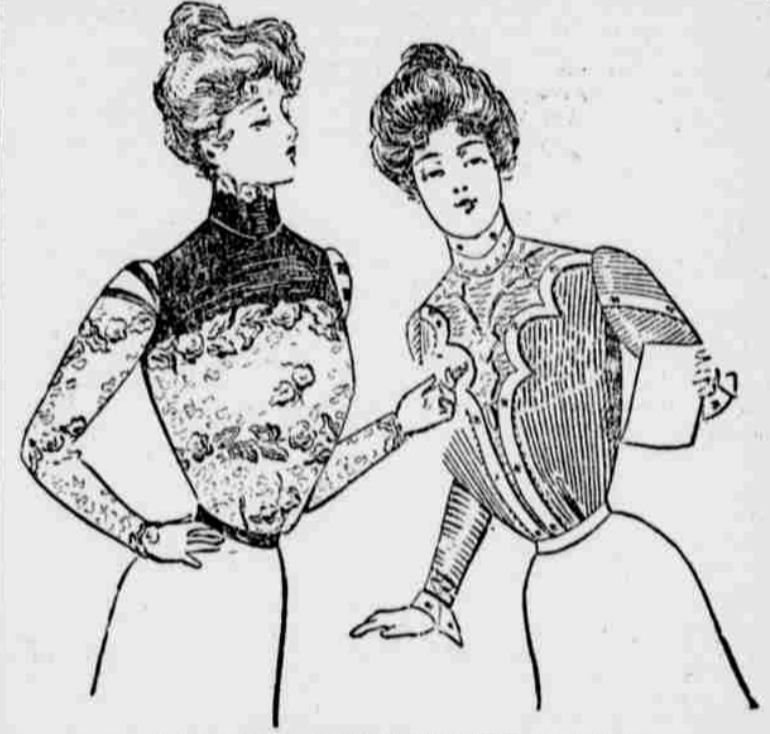
to run a couple of handsome pins through the brim at the back. Some of them are attached with a jeweled bar, which is both novel and effective. The large blue tarquoises, which are coming into fashion again, will look well upon these white hats.

**Plain Jewelry is the Fashion.**  
Many of the most expensive jewels are the most simple in effect. A big gold-brown diamond set with a few small white stones is a pendant for the neck and worn on a slender chain of platinum, which is hardly visible on the wearer, and which gives the ornament the effect of being a plain bit of jewelry, but its price is elaborate. The pins for chateaus watches when they are studded with gems have a platinum foundation, as in ornaments for the hair and corsage, and which is almost invisible.

**New Shirt Waists.**  
The newest shirt waists have three narrow box-plaits on either side of the front, each covered with lace or embroidery, and small tucks fill in the centre of the back. A yoke in the back is no longer considered indispensable, and the prettiest are made without this ugly feature.

**Tucking in High Favor.**  
Everything is tucked. Silk waists have long been tucked crosswise, lengthwise, on the bias and in the lattice-work pattern; cloth has been subjected to the same process, and so has flimsy chiffon and even velvet, though it is a pity to distort velvet with tucking.

**As Many Colors as Joseph's Coat.**  
There is no shade nor color which flannel may be dyed which is not made into shirt waists.



WAISTS APPROPRIATE TO THE WHITE SEASON.

cloth is fairly concealed, however, by the broad inner facing of ermine. Ermine forms the very high collar. The sleeves have cuffs in stitched red cloth. This mode of jacket is peculiarly chic and may be reproduced in any combination of colors or materials.

**Adaptable Waists.**  
The group of waists illustrated in the large engraving affords a good scope to the clever woman. Either of the ideas will serve for a cotton waist, and as the coming season promises to be a white season, these styles are particularly adaptable.

Any other material would serve for the severe shoulder yoke indicated in one of the models; tucked lawn with a dainty lace or embroidered edge would conceal the connecting line between yoke and bodice, and if properly made a waist could be produced at a moderate price that would greatly please the wearer.

There are two or three ideas which can be taken from this one model which the quick eye of the designer will recognize. The second model in this group would act well as a midsummer design. The insert in the front would be of allover embroidery or very fine lawn spaced with Valenciennes insertion.

The remainder of the waist could be closely tucked and the wide scallops that outline the insert would have a straight line of insertion banding the edge. It is not necessary to confine the design to single tucks. Narrow, that is, one-half inch box plaits, would produce a beautiful waist. Of course, fine shirring could be used in these soft waists, but shirring is so difficult to launder that such a garment is not favorably received.

**Capeline Hats in Felt.**  
White felt capelines are worn this season. The shape is very elegant if it is allowed to droop sufficiently over the eyes and at the back of the hair. The smartest of them will be trimmed with a twist of black panne around the crown and a large bow of the same silky material pieced somewhat on the brim in front, the ends curling toward the back. In order to make this hat rest well upon the hair it is necessary

**A Comfortable Chamber Robe.**  
Illustrated herewith is a chamber robe portraying just the right air of comfort without the negligee case which is so often too evident in garments that must serve for the breakfast room as well as the seclusion of one's room.

The feature that tends towards obviating this objectionable point with many, is the cape collar and high stock. French flannel builds the garment, which falls loosely from the neck and is drawn to the figure by a heavy cord of wool that encircles the



FRENCH FLANNEL CHAMBER ROBE.  
waist. The only trimming features are the blocks around the cape, cuffs and stock, which are bound with satin ribbon knotted by feather stitching.