

AMERICAN FASHIONS

LAUNCHED BY AMERICAN WOMEN



Negligee by Thurn: Pink Chiffon with Silver Lace and White Satin Cap.



Evening Costume by Stauffer: Wine Colored Velvet and Chiffon, Train with Insert of Chiffon, Same Color, Black Net Drapes from One Shoulder; Beads Trim Neck and Sleeves.



Skating Costume by Thurn: Cerise Velvet and Russian Rat Fur.

Revelation in Style, Not Revolution in Design, Marked Creations Shown at the Big Home Fashion Fete Last Week

THE past week has seen a most interesting and unique event—the formal launching in New York of American fashions.

The occasion was the great Fashion Fete that was held in the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton, when all fashionable society turned out to view with great interest the exhibition of gowns and costumes designed and made in America.

From every angle the affair was a gratifying success. The ballroom was crowded afternoon and evening with brilliant gatherings, the stage settings and tableaux arranged by Mrs. Conde Nast proved most effective, the costumes exhibited excited much comment and frank admiration, and many dollars were resped for the relief of the war sufferers.

But more than all this is the lasting effect that this exhibition of American-designed gowns is expected to have upon the American woman. A great deal of speculation has been abroad as to what the results of these costumes originated in America would be. Would the creators follow the lead that Paris has always set and had set sufficiently before the war broke out to determine the trend of this season's styles? Or would they strike out on entirely new lines, independent of what had gone before? Would they accredit Paris with a natural superiority that New York could never hope to equal, or, on the contrary, regard this as an opportunity to so develop American fashions that they will lead the world?

Purpose of the Fete.
The purpose of the fete, in the minds of those who conceived it, has never been the intention of seizing the Paris market, nor even an attempt to make New York independent of Paris. All this has been clearly set forth by Mrs. Edna Woolman Chase, editor of Vogue, under whose auspices the fete was arranged.

"Never before has there been any reason for New York designers to attempt to enter the field of Paris," said Mrs. Chase just before the opening of the fete. "The temperament and talent of the French people and the fact that Paris has been the playground of the world have made it natural for Parisians to set the fashion. American women, seeking the loveliest wherever it can be found, have naturally been among the most eager Paris shoppers. They could never have been persuaded to choose, from a sense of patriotism, a costume less beautiful than some other that they might secure merely because it was made in America, or that about the world wearing an insignia of America embroidered on their gowns.

"Their allegiance to Paris has not now suddenly failed, but the situation has changed. Paris fashions are not to be had, or at least the models that creep through are so few as to be negligible. It is impossible to say whether or not anything new will be sent over for the Spring.

"With Vienna, Petrograd, London and Berlin equally disqualified for the role, New York is the only city in the world today in a position to attempt to meet this fashion situation. In this country our interest in the pleasures of life is only slightly affected by the war. Our social life is continuing much as usual. Women here must have new clothes, and their interest in fashion is practically as great as usual. This Fashion Fete, therefore, has been planned, and it will offer the first opportunity that the New York

dressmakers have ever had to exhibit models of their own designing directly to the fashionable women, whose favor alone can launch them into what is known as 'the style.' The conditions of this fete will be as artistic and favorable as the French designers have always enjoyed at the various society events in and near Paris.

"No one knows how great a talent the New York designers will display. Undoubtedly many of them have original ideas, new suggestions for color combinations, new possibilities in line, for they have long designed gowns for individual women. The designers themselves are as interested as any one else in seeing what they can do independent of the Paris inspiration. Several of them are going into the fete for only one reason, and that is its charitable purpose and the fact that the proceeds of it are to go to the Committee of Mercy and, through that committee, to the sufferers of Europe.

There are strong friendships between the designers here and those in Paris, and there is the greatest unwillingness on the part of those in New York to take unfair advantage of their friends who are struggling under so many difficulties abroad.

Not a Revolution.
"Certainly we shall not create nor attempt to create a revolution in fashion at this fete. Revolutions do not occur in fashion. The change from season to season is gradual and along lines that it is usually possible to prophesy, for a movement continues in one direction until it reaches one extreme and then swings back to the other. Every one is, however, very much interested to see just what will be done, and the general belief is that very lovely things will be exhibited."

Among the designers, too, great loyalty to Paris was evidenced. But it was interesting to note their varying opinions regarding the future of American fashions. Some were frankly and delightfully optimistic, while others shook their heads sadly and said that we never could get along without Paris.

One of these, Mme. Thurn, who has a sumptuous establishment on Fifty-second street, exhibited a beautiful skating costume in red which she called "Olga," and in which the model who wore the gown delighted the spectators when she ran out with the skates slung across her shoulders, then perched on the edge of the platform and threw snowballs out into the audience.

Paris Has the Leisure.
"But Paris will always be Paris," sighed Madame Thurn. "Paris has the resources and the time, and only Paris will take the infinite pains that are necessary in the creation of a beautiful

mode. They have the leisure there. People take two hours for luncheon. They have time to run in to the Louvre, the art galleries. The dressmakers here in New York work in a great fever; they haven't the time to get into an artistic atmosphere, and are so worn out at the end of the season that all they can do is to go off and recuperate to prepare for the strain of the coming season.

"No, we cannot hope for much from America for many, many years to come. We are too young yet, too raw. We have not done great things in any art. America has made wonderful strides in the commercial world, but we have not the centuries of art and culture back of us that exist in the very air in Europe."

On the other hand, Joseph, who created the striking street costume seen on this page, is looking forward expectantly to the great things New York can accomplish if it sets about hard enough to do it.

Can Accomplish Much.
"If New York should take it seriously enough," said Mr. Wolf, of Joseph, "it can accomplish so much in even two years that Paris will find it hard to compete successfully. We have a wonderful library, we have a splendid art museum, so there is no reason why that it will have a harmful effect—it may bring ill-fates to himself, financial

style is a matter of evolution. It is not created over night.

"Look—just look at these," and he dragged forth several large and musty volumes with many colored plates on

plying the fashions of the world, 'we can at least become a successful competitor. And only hard work and study will do it."

Madame E. Stauffer, who exhibited the exquisite wine-colored evening gown that appears in the center of this page, has for 23 years held a unique place in the world of New York fashions.

"I have always advocated individual independence of dress," said charming Madame Stauffer, who is a true artist not only in the matter of gowns. "Therefore while I have gone abroad regularly to visit the Parisian establishments and to bring back with me a few suggestions, I have not depended wholly upon Paris. I have never made two gowns alike—I couldn't do it. Each of my costumes is a 'creation' in the truest sense of the word. I study the person for whom the gown is to be made, get her lines, coloring, and the style that she should wear. Not only that, but I even make her corsets. No beautiful gown could be properly worn on a cheap, manufactured corset, so I make it for her, thereby creating the lines that are most advantageous to her figure.

Young People's Clothes.
"The trouble with most young people is that they will not take the time to

give the proper thought and attention to their clothes. It is part of the restlessness of the day and the big things that women are interested in. Consequently we find so many women that look exactly alike. I really think that the ready-made shops have demoralized dress. If women would even make their clothes themselves they would look better. They would at least be expressing themselves, instead of trying to look like every one else."

"Mollie O'Hara is a designer who is very unhappy over the sad state of Paris, and who avowed that she would not have entered into the fete had it not been for the fact that it was a means of helping the unfortunate victims of the war.

When Miss O'Hara was asked what she thought the chances were that New York could set a style and start a fashion for Spring, she said: "I am sure none of us realize how difficult it is going to be. We have ideas enough to carry us along for a year, perhaps, but where are we going to get new ones?"

The Paris dressmaker constantly has beautiful new materials brought in to her that give her ideas; and, besides, every one in a Paris shop, even to the youngest girl, is always looking for suggestions, new lines, new colors. They bring them to the designer, and are paid for them. Here the girls do not do that, for such talent is not inborn in Americans. We certainly have great deal to learn.

"And another thing, the French woman lends herself to the new fashions, makes herself over to suit a model, and likes the quick change in styles. But the New York woman wishes all her models and her own to be replaced by some other foodstuff, and the one that is presenting itself is the potato, the average crop of which is about 50,000,000 tons but this year we have as much as \$9,000,000 tons.

In the last years the art of preserving the potato has been a great problem in Germany. For a long time the military authorities had offered a premium for a good method of preserving potatoes. This premium has now been withdrawn, as the question can be considered as having been solved. There are various methods of preserving them in the first place they are being cut up in very small slices and dried, the same way as the California dried vegetables are offered in these markets. Then they have been converted into a most nutritious flour, which has heretofore been used to make cake and pastry, and this will now be added to the bread up to 20 per cent.

billion Club recently he had no difficulty in showing that the much-debated picture by Benjamin West of Penn making a treaty with the Indians, the original of which is in Independence Hall, is correct in every detail. The treaty was made and it was kept.

Iconoclasm has done a great deal of damage to our early history. We have had to give up Pocahontas saving the life of John Smith, Israel Putnam in the den of wolves, and the famous cherry-tree story; but the historical incident of William Penn and the Indians is unassailable. If you do not believe it, go down to the Penn Treaty Park and see where the tree once stood. For further evidence, if necessary, consult Governor Pennypacker, who has documents and dates.

How Germany Is Fed

THE main point will be, how is Germany to provide herself with breadstuffs, meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, the first two as necessities for life, the last as indispensable for the health of the people? Now, taking the average year, we can say, by replacing wheat and rye together (and as information for the Americans I must add that rye bread is "the" bread for Germany), there is a deficiency of 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 tons, which Germany does not raise herself, which is about 5 per cent of the total consumption. This will probably have to be replaced by some other foodstuff, and the one that is presenting itself is the potato, the average crop of which is about 50,000,000 tons but this year we have as much as \$9,000,000 tons.

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PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES OF THE WAR

BY MARTIN PETRY.
THAT prophecy is a lost art is again exemplified by the European war, which was not predicted by a single one of the numerous astrologers who are constantly studying the stars. The only prophet who came anywhere near it was a young mathematician of Rochester, E. L. Johndro, who early in June predicted that the relations between Austria, Servia and Russia would be very much strained in August. He added, however, that diplomacy would settle the difficulty and that no real European war would come until 1918, and would then last three years.

Madame Thebes, the much-talked-of Parisian prophet, some time ago said that this would be a bad year for the Kaiser and predicted that his death would occur on September 23 of this year, but nothing happened to the Kaiser. Madame Thebes announced that she had made a mistake in her calculation, and so put the date of his demise in November of this year. Why or how she does this is a mystery to anyone who knows anything about astrology.

Some English astrologers after the war started announced that it would last for a few months and that the allies would be victorious. German astrologers stated that Germany would win, and so it goes. With many of these prophets the wish is father to the thought.

However, despite all this there really is a germ of truth in astrology, as any student of it can testify. The fault is not so much with astrology as with astrologers, who often disagree in their interpretation of a horoscope just as physicians hold different opinions in their diagnosis of a case. The difficulty is that much of the ancient lore regarding astrology has been lost, and modern prophets are stumbling about in the dark hoping again to find the secret.

As it is, all that any astrologer can do is to point out fortunate or unfortunate periods, and that is all. For instance, when the malefic Saturn moves to an inharmonious aspect in an individual's chart it is absolutely certain that it will have a harmful effect—it may bring ill-fates to himself, financial

troubles or have other baneful effects—but no astrologer can definitely state what it will be, and any prophet who does so simply guesses at it. It is the same way with a benefic planet, which may bring sudden good fortune, increase in health and vitality, add to one's prestige, etc.

As with individuals, so with countries. The zodiacal sign Gemini rules the United States, and an evil planet in that sign has always brought some difficulty for this country. Since 1912, when Saturn entered that sign, the United States has been in a delicate position as regards Mexico, and in 1913, when Saturn was in Sagittarius, opposing Gemini, we had the war with Spain. In September Saturn passed out of Gemini and since then the Mexican question has gradually simmered down.

There are many aspects of the planets which it is known will positively produce certain results, but astrology has not yet risen to that point of efficiency and perfection where it can be definitely predicted when and what will take place. By taking the month an individual is born in, the disposition, temperament and general trend of his life can be stated with reasonable certainty. For instance, Leo persons are invariably light-hearted, luxury-loving persons who seldom have to resort to manual labor, while Scorpio persons are quiet, deep, secretive and carry out their plans in life with diplomatic skill. Thus the zodiacal signs run the gamut of every human emotion and trait of character, and these can be generally stated, but when it comes to figuring with mathematical accuracy when an event is to take place, that is as yet impossible, and any astrologer who attempts it deceives not only others but himself.

The character of the planets is also pretty well known. For instance, there is the ponderous Uranus, known as the celestial iconoclast, which tears down only to build up anew. In civil aspect this planet may cause serious chronic diseases, or it may change any individual's views of life, and he may suddenly become radical after years of conservative living and thinking, and vice versa. Calculated by the precession of the equinoxes, Uranus was in

the water sign Pisces—the fishes—when Christ was born and gave the world a new religion. A few years ago Uranus entered the airy sign Aquarius, where this planet will remain for 2009 years. While in this position as regards Mexico, and in 1913, predicted a new era which "will have something to do with the air." Wireless telegraphy and the coming of the aeroplane show how well they scented the matter.

Saturn affects the health principally when in bad aspect to the sun, and yet again it may bring financial loss. Jupiter rules wealth principally, while Mars is constantly associated with war. Yet a man may have Mars strong in his horoscope and have nothing at all to do with warfare; he will, however, be a fighter in whatever line of activity he may be engaged in during his life.

As for this European war, no astrologer can tell how long it will last, as the astrological signs are so complex that a Chinese puzzle is an easy task to solve in comparison. Jupiter just now is in Aquarius, which represents Prussia, but this planet will pass out of that sign within a few months. According to all known rules, Jupiter will assist Prussia's plans, but during the Winter his beneficent rays will no longer assist her. To properly study the whole matter the horoscopes of every ruler, general, army brigade, naval fleet and admiral would have to be worked out mathematically correct, and this data is hard to get, and even if obtained, the task would be too monumental for any human mind. However, time will solve the whole matter. Meanwhile, it is well to remember that no prophet can definitely tell the result; that, while there is something in astrology, it will take years of careful study by superior minds to put it on a correct and definite basis.

Penn's Bargain With the Indians.

(Philadelphia Inquirer.)
If it were needed to have the cause of William Penn in his relations to the Indians upheld at this late date, no better champion could have been secured than former Governor Pennypacker. At a meeting of the Philo-

son (Boston Transcript.)
He—Do you know I've called full a dozen times and not found you in.
She—Nor will you ever find me in if you call in that condition.