

"Ma, and Pa" Looked Funny --- 51

Vivid Picture Given of Fancy Fashions Essayed in Full Dress of Those Days; Pantalettes Lent Dignity to Skirts; Beaver Hats Popular; Waists Held 'Way In

EIGHTY years of fashions makes an amusing parade, one which never fails to amuse and interest. A panorama of the styles from that worn by the readers of the first Statesman to those, who 80 years later pick up the anniversary edition, conjure all manner of amusing and tender memories on the part of the older people and stir keen interest on the part of the younger.

Just suppose this to be the evening of March 28, 1851. The weekly Statesman is being brought in by father as he comes home from business. Picture has as he comes along high hat of fawn colored beaver:

coat with rounded front and a bit inclined to be "swallow" tail; high stock collar with pointed tips that threaten the chin if it starts to droop; colored waistcoat, rather tight fitting trousers of lighter color than the coat; boots known as "congress" with side elastic to allow for drawing on and cut rather low and with low heels — this completes father's appearance as he swings jauntily along the wooden sidewalk and up the front steps of home where mother waits at the door.

Mother Very Stiff In Whalebone Skirt

Mother has to step aside to let father pass for her crinoline petticoat stiffened with whale bone just "takes" the doorway. And he has to bend carefully as he circles her tiny waist with his arm, a waist pinched in with the most desperate corsets, and made to appear all the smaller because of the tight fitting bodice with its high collar and tight sleeves.

If she is a bit old fashioned she has a frilly lace cap perched on hair parted in the middle and brought to a knot at the back with round finger curls escaping from beneath the knot. A huge brooch and earrings to match complete mother's appearance.

Such were the styles of 1850 to 1860. As is true today there were innovations. The young girls wore pantalettes to lend dignity to skirts thought so short as to be indecent. Modern woman left off the pantalettes when she came to the short skirt age in the ever returning cycle of style changes.

Beginning in 1855 to about 1863 there was a siege of hoop skirts. These were created on a frame of wire over which the cloth was draped.

Hoops Give way to Crinoline Petticoats

The period of 1860 to 1870 saw the last of the hoop skirts swinging along Salem streets and introduced the crinoline petticoat, the many flounces of which gave the desired spreading dimensions to the skirts. Hair during this 10 years was changed from curls to smooth sleekness under a mesh net. Ribbon bands tied about the head were not uncommon decorations. Hats were mostly poke bonnets and wide-brimmed leg-horns. Shoes were low boots with elastic inserts and slippers with very low heels. Some of these shoes as pictured in old Statesman advertisements are most amusing.

Men's clothes during this ten years changed very little, but in the period between 1860 and 1870 the stock collar disappeared and the low, turn-down collar took its place. The famous Prince Albert coat, frock coats, and other "long tail" varieties of coat were in vogue until about 1900.

White and grey felt hats continued in popularity into the 1900's, and the high hat in black, brown, and grey continued in popularity, with a change of brim, however from slightly

rolled to a very tightly rolled brim. The "sailor" straw hat made its appearance between 1890 and 1900.

Hirsute Adornments In Great Profusion

Pictures of men which appear in the old Statesmans show side whiskers, long flowing whiskers, mustaches of various cuts and flowing designs, hair parted in the middle and patted down—a little later the pompadour and "side part" came into vogue. Necks were not shaved as now and the present style of close-clipped hair over the ears would have started a riot even in the early 1900's.

Buttoned and lace shoes for men came into vogue with 1870. Advertisements by Wm. Brown and Co. show these new styles and they are very "swank". High 10 button shoes for women were shown in an advertisement by Brown's in an 1885 Statesman. The heel was low and "scooped" under—perhaps the first cousin to the present French heel.

Shortly after 1870 the bustle for women made its appearance. A style known as the Grecian bend came into effect. This was accomplished by a tight, gored bodice which pinched in at the waist meeting a skirt made very full and which bulged exceedingly across the hips because of a large bustle worn for that very purpose. The larger the extension and the more bend it gave the more stylish the lady.

In the 1880's the skirts began to be plain across the front and draped over the bustle. The drape was a sort of overskirt effect and created of mil' lady's back quite a similarity to a camel's back.

Leg o'Mutton Sleeves Make Appearance

It was in the 1880's that the large sleeves made an appearance and by the nineties they were almost flying away with the ladies. Leg o'mutton sleeves

with variations were a phase of this big sleeve craze.

A gown of 1888 shown in a Statesman of that year pictures a gored and fitted bodice, high collar, skirt plain in front and draped over a bustle in back, sleeves plain with long caps fastened at armhole and hanging free over sleeves like two drooping wings.

The short jacket was popular at that time and they are pictured not too unlike the jacket of today only they had stand-up collars and a flare that provided for a bustle.

A gown of 1890 shows plaid silk made with tight, fitted bodice, sleeves large and fitted at wrist, plain skirt with drapes in back over bustle, small hat set well back on head, high crown, banded with ribbon finished with a bow in front which flared gaily in high points above the crown.

Corseted Waists For Fashion's Sake

Corsets which helped to effect the "tiny" waist as pictured in the old Statesmans look like nothing more than an hour glass. They must have been like an hour glass too, counted the hours until they could be taken off.

An advertisement from C. P. Bishop's Woolen Mill store, showing what the well dressed man might be wearing in the 1900 to 1910 period appeared thus: striped trousers cut much like trousers of today—shoes with pointed toes, stiff bowler, and the top coat! Came half way to the knees, very small collar, buttoned under a lap so that no buttons were in sight and hung rather full!

A lady facing the gentleman in this picture wore a long polka dotted skirt, with a ruffle at the bottom, skirt fitted about the hips and over the bustle and flared very full at the bottom. Blouse of striped material, large sleeves with ruffles at wrists, a fancy "boa" about the neck, hair arranged in a high roll on her head and upon which was perched a flat, ribbon-decked hat! Her shoes were laced and such heels!

"Ready-Made" Takes Hand-maker Place

Between 1910 and 1931 — what has happened? Plenty insofar as women are concerned. Corsets have fallen into disfavor.

The "ready-made" has appeared and become so reasonable in price that most people buy their clothes in shops rather than bother with having materials made into clothes.

Dress accessories developed through the increased power of manufacturing have become so numerous that an array of them would leave our grandmothers gasping. Handbags are a product of the pocketless dresses of

clipped their hair close, and left nothing but a line of disdainful hair on the upper lip for face decorations, and are wearing soft collars to their shirts and soft hats for their heads.

Style life has been a deal more simple for the men than for the poor woman. Her's is the complicated lot in life it seems. What the future will be — no one but a pessimist would dare venture to guess.

IN THE GAY NINETIES



SOCIAL FUNCTION IN SALEM. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE LADIES!

the 1900's. The fur coat rage is a product of the present century.

Knitted clothing, sweaters, dresses and such like are also a product of the twentieth century. Low shoes—slipper, plain and fancy oxfords, and brogues came in after 1914.

With bobbed hair came a complete change in hats—close-fitting, small hats became the rage, and now with an attempt being made to make long hair fashionable the pendulum is swinging toward the large hat, a sister to the "merry widow" of 1908.

As one looks back over the styles there is an ever recurring cycle which with variations to make them new comes with regularity into the dress of women.

Style Note Prevails In Clothes for men

The men during the past 30 years have straightened out the fronts of their coats, pinched in the waistline a bit, pledged themselves to the use of oxford shoes, taken to wearing golf togs with sweaters, added splashes of color in ties, socks, and sport clothes.

14,000 ACRES IN SEED FLAX

Pioneer Oil Company Active Here in 1875; Fibre Flax was Talked

"Fourteen thousand acres of flax are sowed in Oregon the present year, mostly for seed to manufacture into oil, and the greater part of it to be shipped to California mills. The Pioneer Oil company of Salem has a contract for supplying the California company, and the same contract limits its own production.

"Raising flax for fiber is creating some interest, and experienced parties from near Troy, New York, have lately come here to develop the business, if possible. They consider this, so far as they can now judge, the very best flax growing country they know of anywhere, and have taken a contract to work up one hundred acres of Riga flax raised for fiber by farmers near Jefferson. This will give them experience to judge by, and will probably lead to establishing here factories for manufacture of shoe thread, twine and rope, which can be made an extensive business. This flax is now ready to pull and stands from three to four and a half feet high, averaging three and a half at least.

"Fruit drying companies are organizing in different parts of this valley."—Correspondence of S. A. Clarke, June 7, 1875.

GOOD COMPOSER LOST

"J. B. Horner has composed a piece of music. Some time ago he sent it to a musical friend of his for correction, and yesterday received it in complete form. The title of it is "Salem Quick Step", and its pleasant strains indicate a first class effort of this young man."—Statesman, Jan. 23, 1884.

BUSINESS IN BUGGIES

"Carload of Buggies—Last Friday C. W. Bowle received a carload of buggies from the Columbus Buggy Co. It is the first time that twenty-six new buggies were taken at one time into Salem." — Statesman, June 26, 1885.

HOPMEN'S BANQUET, ABOUT 1900



WAS HELD IN STRONG'S RESTAURANT, 175 NORTH COMMERCIAL. WHAT YOU SEE IS—CELERY.