



Refinement is Reflected in Men's Spring Clothes

by Otto A. Engel

Unsettled conditions, due to the readjustment through which the clothing industry is passing, had its effect upon the styles for spring and summer wear. For many weeks during the fall and winter season many factories were either closed or working on short schedules.

After four bountiful years, during which all concerned with the clothing trade enjoyed the height of prosperity, a reaction set in—a reaction so severe that many manufacturers lost nearly all they had gained during the prosperous era.

Not Many Style Changes

As a result the leaders of fashion didn't have much time to devote to new style changes. Financial affairs were absorbing most of their time. Consequently this spring will see less change in styles for men than during any season in the last decade.

Of course younger men will always lean toward some novelty ideas, but the general style trend will follow the more conservative lines. What may be lost in style will be more than compensated for in better woollens and better tailoring.

Conditions Changed Today

During the period that followed the war and the return of the soldiers from abroad the clothing industry was running at top speed. Mills turned out fabrics at break-neck speed and journeymen didn't put the finer touches into the garments.

Today conditions are reversed. That is there was more time to think about better and finer woollens and workmen have proved more efficient.

Reject Radical Ideas

The fanciful styles of the last two years will not be so noticeable this spring. Designers were quick to sense the acceptance or rejection of their ideas and men's clothes cannot be forced to the degree that is possible with men's modes. Hence we will see a more conventional note in the spring clothing—a note that is truly in accord with the tastes of refined dressers.

Young men simply wore the radical styles because they were the vogue but accepted them with a notable reluctance. And as time passed the average man's idea of what style should be in clothes swung with the pendulum.

Wide Shaped Trousers

The only important change in men's suits will be in the shaping of the trousers. These will be slightly fuller—a bit more English, but not quite as extreme as the London idea.

In the making of the coats young men will still continue to find the full chested effect, but not quite as pronounced as last season. The skirt although continued long, will not have the perceptible flare.

Belted Effects Now Here

During the last year there has been a gradual retirement of the belted effects and there also has been a discontinuance to a degree of the pleated and panel back effects. They will not be used extensively in the spring clothes, but with greater frequency in the summer clothes, in which the sports feature will predominate.

Patch and plain pockets will be the vogue, while the crescent-shaped pockets will be discarded almost entirely. Four button models will be seen a great deal more than heretofore and double-breasted will remain in good taste.

Little Trimming in Vests

Vests will remain collarless; of the single-breasted sort, with hardly any trimmings. Such things as pleats and pocket buttons will rarely be seen.

Some pleats and panels will be shown in lounge suits, but not nearly as much as last season. What novelty effects remain will be shown in the button treatments on pockets and cuffs.

Suits for business and general wear for the coming season are shown in fancy silk worsteds herringbones, in gray, brown and blue mixture. Prominent among the newer styles are the so-called Mayflower stripes in shades

of gray, oxford, blue and brown. These are made of pure, worsted yarn, of good weight for year-round service.

Checks Remain in Favor

Shepherd checks, herringbones in blue, brown and gray stripes. Glen Urquhart and Tartan checks and overplaids will continue in favor. Men's models are made with either full or half lining, while young men's styles are constructed with French facings and silk piping.

Trousers for outing wear are made of duck, navy, drill, flannel gingham, doekin and serge cloth. Palm Beach and mohair fabrics also will be favored.

Smaller Effects Now

There are no particular lines or patterns prescribed as fashionable, but small effects will be more noted than the larger plaids. Narrow stripes, club checks, small mixtures, small overplaids and irridescent will be worn by the majority of good dressers.

Flannels, unusually popular for many seasons, will share the honors again. They are for the most part in dark rich tones in dark blues, dark greens, purples, myrtles. Various shades of brown and gray, olive greens

and tans, with pin stripes, pencil stripes and two-toned effects.

Palm Beach the Vogue

Among the mid-summer fabrics Palm Beach again will rule supreme. Mohairs, hosierys, light weight flannels, tropical worsteds, crashes, rich ponzes, shantung and habitual silks will offer every man and young man a choice variety from which to make selection. The styles for these suits will follow the lines of last season with several new color innovations.

Styles in topcoats will adhere closely to the lines of the new spring suits. This refers to shoulders, waistline and chest. Some are form-fitting, others are slightly body tracing and still others are of the regulation Chesterfield effect, now in vogue for ten or more years. A few belted coats are shown, but in a lesser degree than ever.

Leather Coats Popular

Leather reversible coats with leather on one side and gabardine or tweed on the other, probably will be worn as extensively this spring as during the past two years. In addition to the customary brown shades there will be some blacks and mole tone effects.



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