

# McCall's Magazine

New York

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## The Effects of War on Dress

It seems strange that such a thing as women's fashions in dress should be effected by war, but it is a fact which has to be allowed for in considering both the styles and the materials that will be offered during a war or after it is over. Although Japan and Russia are a long way from America, the fighting between the two countries will be felt by every woman and child throughout the United States. They will not lose fathers or husbands or brothers in battle, but they will find presently a difference in prices of things they need—food, clothing, luxuries and another difference in the styles of garments as the seasons come around. The hat which

has been most fashionable this summer is a modification of the form of a torpedo boat, such a boat as is being used by each of the fighting powers in the east. The Russian blouse, always a pretty garment, will be more than usually to the fore and some Japanese fancy will probably develop in accessories of dress.

There will be, however, an increase in the cost of Japanese materials of all sorts and this will effect the fashions as it will direct attention to things nearer home, or to European wares. Japanese wash silks have been so much liked that we should not be pleased to have to do without them, and it is probable that American manufacturers will supply the markets with something that will take their place.

As winter comes on furs will be effected by the war, for from Russia and Siberia come quantities of the furs that are sold in this country. Not only the more expensive kind, but the cheaper qualities will become scarce. There will not be a chance to get the skins, for Russia is calling on all the men she can command to join the army, and military service is compulsory, so that men are obliged to become soldiers when summoned to fight for "the Czar and Holy Russia."

This will leave the fur trade without many of its skillful trappers and hunters. Then, too, the sending out of the country what can be got will be difficult as the means of transportation are being used to carry men, arms and provisions. Russian lace and Russian jewels will also be scarce and proportionally dear.

## Making a Bathing Suit

MANY women prefer to make their own bathing suit; this for obvious reasons. In the first place it is frequently difficult to procure in a ready-made bathing suit the exact design desired; then again it may not be the color or the quality of material which one would wish to select; furthermore, the price is usually very high if one would possess a suit of good material with even slight ornamentation. I would always advise the woman who has time, to make her bathing suit, since the work-

manship will be better and she may have it as ornate or as plain as she pleases, and she can so model it that it will please her in every particular.

Brilliantine, mohair and sicilienne are the favorite materials for bathing costumes. Light weight serges are sometimes employed and among the extravagant models are found those of taffeta, China silk and surah. Pongee in the natural shade is gaining favor, although many object to the color. Blue and black are the predominant



NO. 1.—BATHING SUIT, PATTERN  
No. 8475

colors with red as an occasional choice. The old-time flannel bathing suit is rarely seen these days.

To be properly gowned one should have stockings to match the dress; these may be plain color, or polka dot or a fancy design to accord with the remaining color scheme. Black, however, is always in good taste. White canvas bathing slippers are the neatest and most serviceable and at some resorts are quite a necessity in consequence of the pebbles and stony beach. The fad for wearing high-heel kid slippers, which are in reality dancing slippers, is I trust a short lived one, as they are not only out of place but most uncomfortable, as one can imagine when they bring to mind the sensation of the wet leather drawing the feet. And the water is not only outside the shoe but inside as well. It is needless to say that swimmers never wear them.

A very fashionable and at the same time simply constructed bathing suit is illustrated on this page. It is developed from pattern No. 8475, and embodies in its lines many of the salient points of the fashionable gown. The panel effect in the front of the skirt accompanied by the tucks arranged as a hip yoke are pleasing and attractive features. To correspond with this, tucks are arranged at the upper part of the blouse.

The drop-yoke is a novel feature for a bathing suit, but since it is fashionable and becoming there is no reason why one should not wear it on a water gown as well as one to be donned for a walk on dry land. The sleeves carry out the same effect in tucking as the bodice.

In making this and similar bathing suits, the seams are joined like the French seams in lingerie. Join an ordinary seam on the right side



NO. 2.—METHOD AND WIDTH OF FRENCH SEAM

of the gown, trim off quite close and run another seam on the wrong side fully encasing the first seam. However, this seam may be much wider than the same seam in lingerie; in fact it is desirable, for the material is heavier and as there is a likelihood that it might fray it is well not to cut the edge too close after the first stitching. Illustration No. 2 depicts the method of stitching and the width of the seam.

In making the bodice portion adjust and stitch the tucks at the top of the blouse. After fitting the drop-yoke, stitch the



strappings which may be of white or other braid but preferably bias bands of white brilliantine or taffeta. These bands are cut an even width and both edges turned over as illustrated at No. 3. One side pictures the band ready for stitching, while the reverse side simply displays the edges which are turned over and pressed.

Where the trimming is to be applied in a circular manner as here illustrated, a braid would be difficult to fit unless held very full on the inner curve, and this would be almost impossible unless a very soft braid were chosen. The bias band may be



No. 3.—RIGHT SIDE AND REVERSE OF BIAS BAND

stretched on the outer curve and thus compelled to accommodate itself to the shaping. Turn over the material at the edge of the neck and baste; now place the first row of trimming to the edge of the neck, stretching slightly on the outer curve, at the same time holding it a little "easy" at the neck edge. When this is

accomplished stitch by machine on both edges. Allowing a space the same width as the band, adjust a second band below the first (Illustration No. 4), and as many as required at these stated intervals. The lower band covers the seam which joins the yoke to the blouse and is therefore not adjusted until the sleeves are finished and sewed in the armhole and to the drop-yoke.

Now tuck the sleeves to correspond with the blouse and gather the lower edge. This may either be finished with an elastic or a band cuff. Illustration No. 5 pictures the lower portion of the sleeve with the band adjusted and stitched. The band is cut double; that is folded in half, after which both edges are turned in. The gathered edge of the sleeve is slipped between the edges of the cuff and all are basted together. If correctly adjusted, stitch on the machine.

If an elastic be desired the lower edge of the sleeve is simply folded over in a narrow hem and an elastic of suitable width run through. After the sleeves are stitched in the armhole the final band which covers the seam is adjusted and stitched on each edge.

This is a very simple method of making this charming bathing suit as it dispenses with the extra labor of making collars and unnecessary frills. Should the design be desired with a sailor collar as pictured in the smaller illustration, No. 6 shows how the collar should be lined with taffeta or sateen. Join the sailor collar to the neck of the frock in an ordinary seam but do not include the lining. Press the seam over on the material collar and hem the lining over, covering the raw edges and the stitching.

A collar could be applied without a lining by taking a very deep seam from the neck of the collar allowing the surplus to form a flat fell seam over the neck of the gown. This method,



No. 4.—BIAS BANDS STITCHED ON THE DROP-YOKE

however, is never advised. There is quite a strain about the neck when a collar of this kind is worn and the required stability is given by the accompanying lining.

The bloomers are joined at the seams as explained for illustration No. 2. The lower edge may be finished either with a band cuff as explained for No. 5, with the exception of making these adjustable. Buttons and button-holes should be worked so as to

allow them to fit the knees snugly. If preferred an elastic may be run through a hem instead. Fancy canvas belts with buckles more or less ornate are among the novelties worn with bathing costumes. The new

crush leather belts in red, tan, blue, black, and, in fact, almost any color to match the costume will be given high favor since they are a novelty of the season and will greatly enhance the appearance of the bathing suit.

A. L. GORMAN.

## Something About Belts

As for leather girdles to go with all sorts of gowns they may be said to be one of the fads of the moment. They are

usually from three to five inches broad and perfectly soft and flexible. They are, in fact, constructed in kid, calf or suede, and when drawn tightly around the waist form natural folds.

Others are covered with a series of very narrow stitched tucks standing upright or not. Toward their closing point, which is indiscriminately back or front, the belt by means of a few folds becomes narrower and is joined on to a piece of stiff leather having metallic eyelet holes, the other end being armed with a prong. This sort of fastening replaces the buckle for leather belts.

Another type of belt is of pleated leather of two or more colors cut in narrow strips and passed in and out of one another. This is of the same width (about three inches) all around and has the same sort of fastening.

Washable duck belts are this season embroidered in most beautiful designs and combinations of colorings. And so surprisingly cheap some of them are, too. As an example, there is one kind which measures two inches in back, is embroidered in assorted colors of silk and ornamented with gilt harness buckle, yet can be bought for twenty-five cents.

At the same price come bound white Madras belts with wide borders of contrasting color. These are made in various widths, the widest ones costing fifty cents.

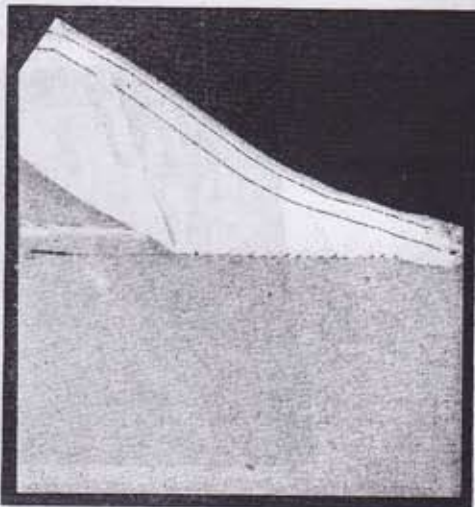
In the higher grades of summer belts, however, the popular material is warp prints in Dresden and pompadour designs. Some of these girdles are as wide as ten inches, but will crush into soft folds to fit the form. This is one of the most swagger summer belts imaginable, yet it is by no means high priced, as its appearance would lead one to suppose. It is ornamented with a beautiful oblong buckle of colonial design and costs less than two dollars.

In these warp prints, too, there are a number of crush belts, ranging in width from four to six inches, that can be found at from fifty cents to one dollar. All these are lined and have gilt harness buckle.

Another popular novelty is the gold belt, and the fact that many cheap gold belts are worn does not seem in any way to interfere with the more elegant article. The very wide military gilt braids are also used sometimes in two rows stitched together and fastened by gilt or jeweled buckles.



No. 5.—BAND OF CUFF ATTACHED TO SLEEVE



No. 6.—METHOD OF APPLYING SAILOR COLLAR