

## LONDON FASHIONS FOR MEN

by A. M. GALE

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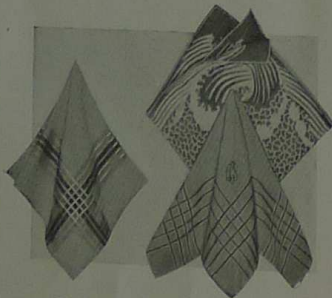
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THE well-dressed man in London sets the pace for men's fashions the world over. But to a nicety, he differentiates between the words *pace* and *speed*, for anything ultra is taboo. The Londoner is above all a conservative dresser. He has decided ideas upon the correct thing—tailoring must be faultless to a degree and the various accessories of dress are selected with fastidious taste. But with rare acumen, he escapes foppishness. He maintains a standard of rules which are a law unto himself and doubtless it is this rigid discipline, which marks him as the smart, clean-cut leader of fashion that he is.

Evening clothes demand attention now that the season is in full swing. The dress suit rarely gives way to the dinner jacket, except for the most informal occasions. Unless for a stag party *tails* are always worn for theatre, night-club and small dinners as well as larger functions.

The popular material remains a black coating with a black line in it as distinct from the old Barathea with, of course, the trouser material of a slightly heavier weight—milled once more as the tailors say—to make them hang better. These, although not approaching the width of Oxford Bags are still rather on the wide side to come well forward on the lacing of the shoe. The coat, with lapels fairly wide and short, faced, of course, with a dull ribbed silk, is cut rather square on the shoulders and more attention is paid to the shape at the waist in the front of the coat, to give it a *snap* rather than depending upon the line at the back.

A forecast for the exclusive, is that a few *elegants* are wearing silk-covered basket buttons although the bone button is still used. At most of the smartest dances this season, it is noticed that the double-breasted white waistcoat (with U or V opening) is still cut straight across, which has been popular here for some time. A few remain faithful to the pointed ones which are likely to return to favor. Without exception a diamond patterned pique is used and most often, the buttons (placed very closely together, almost touching) are the half porcelain buttons which, incidentally, are washable.

Some Canadians, who pride themselves upon their taste in dress and accordingly buy in Savile Row, Jermyn Street or the environs of Hanover Square, took back with them to Canada, this Autumn, shirts and ties to match their waistcoats—all of this diamond patterned pique. This, perhaps, is the newest deflection from the plain shirt, for the Englishman, as stated, is conservative and fashions for men undergo no radical change. While mentioning the tie, it may be remarked that the square shaped wing collar has quite a wide-setting V at the neck.

One article of dress has almost received its *conge*, for the opera hat is seldom worn—even to the theatre. But the *topper* prevails as the only hat worn in London at night. It certainly heightens the tone of dress, for it gives a finish of elegance to the swagger crowds of the world and his wife as they throng the haunts of fashion.

Following the lead of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the white carnation supplies the inevitable *boutonnere*. In

fact, it is indispensable nowadays at all dances, and the older men frequently affect colored ones, although these are more often chosen for daytime functions.

As for dinner jackets—they are slightly longer with waist accordingly shade lower and cut rather close to the hips, avoiding any skirt effect. A continental fashion has crept in here and a number of well-known men have been wearing for some time the dark blue dinner jacket suit, which they claim looks a better black at night than black itself. For this, the best blue material is a Barathea, making it distinct from a blue serge.

There is nothing new in the cut of the V shape vest with its collar traced around the edge with a row of straight or zig-zag Russian braid. The double-breasted dinner jacket is always in black and is still suitable for club, home, casino or kursaal on the continent. It looks very smart under these informal circumstances, but in London the dinner jacket is strictly *en famille*.

The town day-overcoat is used for evening wear when it is dark blue, in such cloths as Angola or soft Saxony. The town coat is worn about one inch and a half below the knee. Not in the blues, but in certain materials in dark browns and very dark grays, the plaids and belt in back are still used, when the former in centre of the back, begins high up between shoulder blades and con-



The morning coat, with striped trousers which is correct for formal wear until six o'clock in the evening