

“Masquerades” and Male Attire



Canada, women and “masculine” clothing
1851 – 1923

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Cover image: Hat-swapping in early 20th century Canada (c. 1900-1920).
Anonymous photograph in the curator’s collection.

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A song for the times¹ (Canada West, 1851)

The glorious day is dawning, girls,
When woman shall be free—
When gowns and bonnets, capes and shawls,
No longer we shall see!
Miss Weber² – bless her heart, sweet girls!
Has put the scheme on foot;
She leads the trump of male attire,
And we must follow suit.

We'll dress in real “bifurcates,” girls,
With glossy beaver hats;
And don the most bewitching coats,
And Brummel-tied cravats.
We'll wear superb gilt buttons, girls,
Upon our vests of buff—
Bright, extra rich, plain, treble gilt,
Flat surface – that's enough!

Oh! won't we look bewitching, girls,
When we're so trimly drest?
No mortal man can brave our charms,
Though he may strive his best.
Bewhisker'd folk may envy, girls,
Our manly garb and airs;
But let them fret until they tire—
Poor fellows! no one cares.

Perhaps a few may “cut” us, girls,
And lay us on the shelves;
But, what of that? we'll crook our arms,
And act as beaux ourselves!
And if they won't say *marry*, girls,
We'll call them sad gallants;
But, come what will – float, sink or swim—
We'll [never] yield our pants!

¹ From Sproat, E. L. (1851, June 24). A SONG FOR THE TIMES. *Western Planet* (Chatham), p. 1.

² Helene Marie Weber (b. 1824), a Belgian advocate of women's rights.

Qualms and Practical Concerns

“What a glorious time the women would have”³ (Winnipeg, 1896)

One of our pastors said last Sunday, “Man is a reasonable being,” and the temptation was very strong to rise up in meeting and shout, “He ain’t, he ain’t, so there.”

The weather came up for discussion with a male friend the other day, and I ventured an opinion favorable to the woman who had adopted short skirts and gaiters for our disgustingly muddy streets. Oh, if you could have heard the storm⁴ I raised. They were immodest and indecent, and if women only heard the things men on street corners said of them, they would not do such things, etc., and as a parting thrust “men had better take to wearing skirts and let the women wear pants, if they are so anxious to show their legs.” So far from being crushed by this sally I rejoined [that I] “only wish the men would wear skirts for a while; the whole question would be settled directly.”

I do wish our legislature would pass an act compelling all the men in Winnipeg to wear women’s attire for a week in muddy weather. What a glorious time the women would have. Picture to yourself a stout male citizen, in a seven-gored skirt and frilled petticoat with two or three parcels under his arm, clutching frantically for the back of his skirt as he crossed⁵ Portage Avenue or boarded a Broadway car. Think of the gilded youths who now stride by you in thick-soled boots with pants well turned up from the bottom, or smart gaiters to the knee, sitting at home evenings, patiently sponging dragged skirts and soggy boot tops, in readiness for the morrow’s campaign. The mere thought is delightful. Such an act would have two drawbacks. It is doubtful if there are men and arms enough in the balance of Canada to enforce such a measure

³ From A lady correspondent. (1896, April 16). SHORT SKIRTS AND GAITERS. *Winnipeg Free Press Home Journal*, p. 4.

⁴ “While man sighs for the intellectual latitude in woman which would afford to him a fruitful source of joy and of enlightenment, there is a point in her development to which he strenuously objects. When woman attains to that intellectual eminence, the expressed symptom of which takes the [form of an] uncontrollable penchant for pants, man feels that he is confronted with an usurpation as superfluous to feminine enfranchisement as it is inimical to his prerogative as one of the ‘lords of creation’. In this respect he has no mind to divide honors. Pants are his peculiar property. Indeed, he is unable to understand how it comes about that lovely woman should desire to ape the ways of ‘horrid men.’” WOMEN AND PANTS. (1890, August 13). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 4.

⁵ A similar situation involving snow faced Victoria’s women in 1916: “Women had great difficulty in getting downtown [due to snow], although the sidewalks in the centre of the city offered few difficulties to them. Many women donned trousers and abandoned skirts for the day. One of the first girls to make her appearance garbed in male attire passed down Yates Street at 1:15 o’clock wearing a dashing red jacket and blue trousers with natty cuffs turned up above her ankles. At Douglas Street she attracted a crowd, amongst which were two aldermen who gazed until she had turned into Broad Street. In other parts of the city she caused quite a disturbance, so much so that it is unlikely she will again make a public appearance in the same clothes.” LOCAL DEALERS FACED BY DELIVERY PROBLEM. (1916, February 4). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 7.

even for a week, and should they succeed in enforcing it the morals of the entire juvenile community would be imperiled by the increase of profanity.

To come back to the starting point, that men are unreasonable, ever since I can remember (and that is longer than I care to admit in public) men have been talking and writing about the absurdity of women's clothes, how they scavenge the street with their skirts, wear paper-soled shoes, break their backs and deform themselves externally and internally with the weight and length of their clothing and very much more to the same effect, whole masculine attire has been vaunted to the skies for its comfort and utility. The literature on this subject would fill a library. It would therefore be natural to assume that any attempt upon the part of women to adopt a more rational style of dress would be hailed with delight and encouraged in every manner possible. Such has not been the case, however.

When two or three years ago shirt waists and blazer coats came in style, the papers were full of allusions to the "girl who tried to be a man from the waist up."⁶ Yet this was a most comfortable, convenient and healthy style of dress for women, especially those engaged in business. For months past the same papers have been directing their wit – Heaven save the mark – against the short skirts, bloomers and gaiters adopted by sensible women when they ride a bike or need to go out in the rain and mud.

It does not get over the question to say that the man who makes such remarks is a fool. The man I have in mind is not a fool; he is a practical, level-headed fellow enough on most subjects. The kind of man who thinks the world of his wife and quotes his mother's way of doing things in a manner that warms your heart. But his mother never wore short skirts, and therefore it must be wrong. Questioned as to why he thought them immodest he said, "Well they are," which of course commends itself as a good solid argument. Asked if he objected to what is known as "full dress" for women he said "No." But when begged to point out why bare shoulders were modest and gaitered legs the reverse, [he] could or would only say "that's a different thing." When I tried to point out to him that it was a crime for any woman to run the risk of ruining her health by sitting in damp skirts the only reply I got was, "Well you women, who are trying to do good, should not do things that make loafers in street corners make remarks about you." Now, did anyone ever hear anything funnier than that? If women are to spend their lives avoiding the remarks of street corner men, they had better go home, sit with hands folded and blinds drawn down and never stir again into the light of day, and I doubt if they would escape the remarks of the loafers even then. Will anybody dare to say that a man who can talk like this is "a reasonable being?"

It is to be hoped that the women who have taken this matter of dress reform up will stick to their guns, or more properly their gaiters, and not pay the slightest attention to such remarks. The increase of self-respect experienced from the absence of wet skirts flapping at heel will more than compensate for all adverse criticism. Just

⁶ From a newspaper's joke column, 1891: "Well, she may be nice and all that but I don't think she is very ladylike.' 'What! Not ladylike! Miss Debonair not ladylike! Why, you astonish me!' 'It is true, nevertheless. When I saw her she was not at all ladylike, for from the waist up she was dressed like a gentleman.'" FALL FUN. (1891, October 27). *Regina Leader*, p. 3.

as soon as men get used to this style of dress they will like it, because it commends itself to their love of cleanliness and neatness, and in the meantime let me suggest that after all is said and done, how a woman is dressed is exclusively her own business.

“A generation of young amazons”⁷ (Halifax, 1907)

A gentleman remarked recently upon the ungainly walk which the present day young women are acquiring, and likened it to a Dutch roll: from side to side, arms swinging in pugilistic fashion. “It looks,” said he, “as if we were raising a generation of young amazons.”

It is the outward expression of the trend of the period – emancipation. The business woman of to-day feels her supreme importance, her every fibre tingles with it – hence her independent swagger, said I, laughing.

“I don’t like it,” said he, shaking his head in disapproving fashion. “I like a woman to be a woman, don’t you know! Once she evolves into that phenomenon, known as a ‘freak,’ I have no use for her; for instance, that!”

One of them passed us, like a gale; she wore a long, loose coat which was unfastened, so that both fronts flapped before the wind like sails, as she walked – so much on the zig-zag that we were compelled to give her a wide margin on the pavement, or we should have collided with her. While she walked both her arms worked like pump handles.

“If a man walked along the public streets with that gait, we would say he had a ‘jag on,’” said he, smiling grimly.

If you told her that, she would be pretty mad at you, said I, regarding him seriously. Most girls think the swagger and the manner that belongs to it “trappy” in the extreme. It gives the official “hall mark” to their calling.

“Hm,” was all he said, but it conveyed a lot. “If this is the hall mark of your twentieth century girl, I shall stick to the old nineteenth, if you please.”

Yes, I answered, this is the very latest and most up-to-date specimen of the period.

“You may guy [sic.] me as much as you like,” he answered, “but I tell you once [and] for all, I don’t admire this kind of woman. She lacks the touch of feminine that makes the whole world kin.

“You needn’t think that I am the only man on the pavement who objects to her,” he continued. “Nearly all the men down town disapprove of her, and I prophesy she isn’t going to be the success she thinks she is.

“Let me give you one instance of what I mean: I was in the office of a friend of mine, one day last week, when a girl from a firm, a couple of blocks distant, came in with a message. She had no hat on. My friend looked at her. ‘Go back and put on your hat and I will take your message,’ said he, bluntly. When she had gone he remarked, ‘I want no girls of that stamp around my office,’ and he isn’t the only man in town

⁷ Joan. (1907, January 12). JOAN’S WEEKLY LETTER. *Evening Mail* (Halifax), p. 1.

who has no use for – suppose we call it – the latest freak in business girl styles!” With which parting shot he left me.

But I was not quite so much turned down as he perhaps thought, for though I hadn’t let him see it, through loyalty to my own side of the house, yet I think I am more down on this hoydenish class of girl than he is, himself – especially if she is earning her living in a calling which brings her in contact with men.

She ought to have the good sense to know that the most obvious qualification for the business woman, as for the society woman, is care for her manner and deportment, and people are often disliked more for a bad manner than a bad heart. One is their private possession, the other they obtrude broadcast [of].

She ought to know that the ladylike girl of good address stands ten chances ahead of the masculine girl in an office, as well as in any other walk of life.

She ought to know that personal appearance and a good address are a big factor towards creating a good impression in society; she ought to remember that a woman should value her self-respect above and beyond every other consideration.

No woman should allow ambition to blunt her self-respect. When it does this, it is the most deadly foe she has – to character, I mean. Little by little it will draw her away from her true place in life, and will make her cold, unloved and unhelpful. Not that a woman needs to annihilate ambition, but let her keep it in bounds; so keep it under control that it holds a just proportion in her life.

In these days when utility is the test of a good education it is difficult to draw the line at proportion, when a girls’ education in all walks of life has in view its practical use, and its utility is looked down upon by the majority of parents, not from choice, but from necessity.

Once a girl gets a business position she is established in the home circle as an independent member; this latter feeling she well knows carries weight; it also spurs her on and gives a spirit and zest to her work. Let us suppose it is what Burns calls, “the glorious privilege of being independent.” All honor to the woman who seeks to be independent. Let her lay hold of her work and duties with heart and soul; but, at the same time, let her not forget the tenderness that belongs to them. Whether stenographer, teacher, artist, doctor – or just, a daughter, or a mother of her own household, if she is not dainty in dress, gentle in manner and beautiful in soul, as every true woman ought to be, the world will feel that the one thing needful is lacking – vivid, tender womanliness.

As has been well said – “it is better for a woman to fill a human part lovingly, better for her to be sympathetic in trouble, and to whisper a comforting message into but one grieving ear, than that she should make a path to Egypt and lecture to thousands on ancient Thebes.”

The woman who probably commands the largest income made by any of her sex in the city, is one who is loved and admired, as much for her charm of manner, as for her brain power, which has placed her on the highest intellectual pedestal in our midst. As Matthew Arnold said of George Eliot, “culture and taste pervade her like a perfume.”

“The woman and her pocket”⁸ (Vancouver, 1907)

Pocketless woman, by sad necessity, has for so many long years been compelled to outwit her cruel modistes as best she may that she has become a past mistress in the art of concealing her belongings.

Her hat, her shoes, her stockings, her belt, her cuffs, her gloves, even her pompadour, have all been forced into service to take the place, or try to, of that offending pocket that a malign clique of dressmakers has discountenanced.

As for her shirtwaist, such a successful rival to the old-time pocket did it prove that the vengeful beings who prescribe our wearing apparel, not to be outdone, promptly decreed blouses buttoned up the back.

And what did woman do?

Was she at last driven to fierce revolt and open defiance?⁹

Did she firmly, but politely, say: “This is too much! My pockets you may place under the ban; my shirt-waist front – a poor thing, but mine own – you shall not have.”

Not she!

Though that shirtwaist front had beaten a regular May day “flitting” van as a carrier of parcels; though in it were borne everything from a powder puff to an orange and apple or two for a midday meal – not to speak of being a formidable rival to the department store’s delivery wagon – she meekly consented to forego it even for everyday, workaday wear.

True, she may have known her revenge would come, for since man (or at least, French men) is the great arbiter of woman’s fashions, on helpless brothers and husbands has fallen the delightful task of fastening, with clumsy fingers, those shirtwaists buttoned up the back.

No wonder she elects to use the tiniest buttons and smallest hooks to be found!

But the shirtwaist gone, the pocketless sex must seek out another makeshift – [to call it a] substitute is paying it undue honor. Sidebags! The very thing!

Once more did woman breathe freely, and stop losing every thing she owned a dozen times a day.

Straightaway every woman wore attached to her belt a convenient hold-all in leather, or velvet, or beads, plain or jeweled, gold or silver topped – a costly but delightful luxury for the pocketless. What cared she that thereby the nap was worn off her best broadcloth skirts; her silk ones rubbed into holes; each step was marked

⁸ From *The Woman and Her Pocket*. (1907, November 9). *The World*, p. 28.

⁹ “I wonder how much farther we can go in imitation of masculine dress, in which, by the way, I see nothing worthy of imitation, unless it is pockets. Yes, I certainly do envy men the number and convenience of their pockets. They certainly have an advantage over us there. But as for beauty, why I see nothing in it which could possibly induce a sane woman to copy it, and yet yesterday on board the train I saw a young lady, evidently in full possession of her senses, dressed in a trimmed black silk skirt, with a tight-fitting black broadcloth jacket of masculine cut, which she presently opened and disclosed a white *pique* vest in make and fashion exactly as we see on many a portly elderly gentleman. The effect was neither pretty nor graceful, and certainly could not have been comfortable.” L. (1884, August 9). FEMININE FANCIES. *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

by a pendulum-like swaying of a bag, and a premium was put on highway robbery; it was, at least, a receptacle for handkerchief, keys, purse, and other trifles too numerous for one pair of hands; therefore, to be enjoyed as long as fashion tolerated it.

Alas! All too soon did that contrary personage – who would never dare interfere with man’s pocket privileges – become aware that woman was once more making herself comparatively comfortable – if pocketless. The sidebag’s fate was sealed, and into the limbo of yesterday’s styles it passed.

The handbag, we were told, was just as convenient. Perhaps so for that paragon of her sex, the woman who never loses anything; but, alas for that scatter-brain – and her name is legion – [that] being who is unable to keep in her possession anything that is not absolutely fastened to her! With her the handbag goes the way of all her other belongings, with a sad aftermath of paid notices in the lost and found column¹⁰.

So, though she uses the handbag, she does it under protest, with many a sigh for the good old days when pockets were permissible, even if they did bulge seams, gap and present a general effect of human deformity.

Even those other deformities, the hoop skirt and bustle, loom in memory with a rosy light as of a halcyon period. Did they not make possible pockets? Good substantial ones, too; large enough for all ordinary needs, and extraordinary as well, as was discovered by the boarding school girl of a generation back, who safely carried to her hungry, feast-craving roommates a small cooked turkey concealed in the pocket of her long, swinging bustle.

But a new era is dawning, at last, for the pocketless. Woman is “spunking up” sufficiently to throw off her shackles; she is breathing open defiance to the modistes who sternly say, “thou must not,” and proudly says, “I will – if I have to sneak them.”

She is keeping her word, too – even to the last clause. Not yet has she courage enough to demand her rights – a pocket in every dress, even a filmy ball gown. But she has begun on the “sneaking” tactics.

The petticoat pocket has become quite a matter of course.

True, it necessitates some inconvenience and an occasional retirement to privacy – but petticoat pockets are much better than none at all, and a paradise to the woman who has known what it is to be stranded in a crowded street car in a strange city, with her purse empty and all her extra cash safely concealed in the front of a shirtwaist that was firmly buttoned up the back.

No woman should be without a pocket in her petticoat. Even the silk skirt can stand a small one directly above the flounce – just the thing to hold [a] bank book, keys, an extra handkerchief or two, a pair of gloves, and other small belongings that are unsafe, or unwieldy carried in the hands.

The more substantial satin skirt affords much greater opportunity. It can easily stand a substantial pocket a quarter of a yard or more long, and proportionately

¹⁰ A contemporary Vancouver newspaper had two in a row: “LOST – Leather handbag, containing gold watch, glasses, money. Please leave Province office, get reward.” “LOST – Lady’s handbag containing two wallets, glasses, \$9 and silver. Reward. Province office.” *Lost*. (1907, December 20). *The Province* (Vancouver), p. 34.

deep, into which a bundle-hating woman may slip many a small parcel – or even her sandals, or overshoes, should she fear to be overtaken by a storm.

A pocket such as this should be made of the skirt material, if it is heavy enough; otherwise, of some firm stuff of the same color as the skirt. The top should be held by a tight elastic – this prevents bulging, and must be fastened securely under a flap, which comes down like the top of an envelope, and is held by buttons and buttonholes.

The woman who knows how to make herself comfortable on her travels always wears in addition to her petticoat pocket a special traveling pocket, suspended from a belt around her waist.

This should be long, shallow and fastened with a flap, and should be made tight to the belt by three tapes long enough to drop the pocket below the line of the hips and thus avoid wrinkles. These tapes should be stitched several times on the machine, so that they are perfectly secure.

A small jewel pocket to be worn around the neck on a ribbon or else pinned inside the corset is another convenience by which daring woman outwits tyrant fashion. Such a bag should be made of chamois skin, and covered with an outer envelope of linen, which can be easily removed and laundered.

Though we are not yet sufficiently emancipated to insist on pockets in all our outer skirts, there are faint prospects of better days ahead.

Flounced skirts either triple or double may have a regular old-fashioned pocket in the foundation skirt, and occasionally, very occasionally, a smaller pocket may be inserted very neatly under a pleat in a pleated skirt.

The plain tailor skirt, however, is as yet pocket-proof, with reason, as it is practically impossible to insert one that does not pull the skirt out of shape.

Coats and waists are beginning to be supplied with pockets.

Most of the plain cutaway cloth coats have from one to four; and strictly morning waists, especially those for athletic wear, have a small pocket on the left side, into which a handkerchief, or even a golf ball, may be slipped.

The woman whose tailor has absolutely refused her the solace of a pocket in her tailor suit can often supply the omission by having a small flat pocket put under a deep turned-back cuff, provided the suit is so trimmed.

Around the house a pocketless condition may be remedied by wearing when at work a small apron which is well supplied with the soul-satisfying place to stow away one's personal goods and chattels.

After all, why despair, since there is this hope of better things? By and by in millennial dawn woman may have her rights once more. Till that day she should make the most of the consolatory half loaf, and slip in a pocket at every point her ingenuity can suggest.

“The return of the pocket”¹¹ (Alberta, 1910)

According to a cynic, the real equality of woman with man will never be established until the wife seeks the same number of pockets as her husband, for the lack of a convenient place in her frock or coat for her handkerchief, her purse, her hundred and one odds and ends places her at once at an immense disadvantage with the man who possesses three or four pockets in his garments.

For so long a period has the pocket been out of fashion that many women declare that they can scarcely remember its existence as a joint entity with their gowns, and certainly many of the young girls of the present time may claim that they have never even known what it is to have a pocket in their dresses.

And although the absurdity of possessing no pocket appeals irresistibly as a somewhat trying piece of humor to every sensible woman, yet as most women are followers of fashion, and fashion seldom cares anything for the laws of common sense, the pocketless frock remains in vogue season after season, and the chatelaine or wrist bag, which has usurped its place, grows more and more gigantic in proportion.

But at last the moment has arrived for the reappearance of the pocket. In one of the latest models of the new fashions no fewer than two pockets are seen, placed low on the tunic, but at a convenient distance from the hem of the gown, so that the hand can easily dive into their recesses.

The new pockets are of a sensible width, so that they will accommodate more than the fashionable doll’s handkerchief of fine lawn or linen, and though they are not intended to be filled with all the “vanity” accessories beloved to the modern women, they will at least allow their wearer to dispense with the wrist bag in her own house. The reappearance of the pocket marks a new era in fashions for women and brings them at once on real equality with their husbands and brothers.

“Useful, but the men don’t like them”¹² (Ottawa, 1916)

The new skirts with the large pockets, one at each side, have not made the impression that the designer intended. They may be useful, but the men don’t like them, and we fear they will have to go. Men have so long had the monopoly of these convenient accessories to apparent ease and indolence, it is a shame to deprive them now of the hitherto undisputed possession. Has the tendency for women to don male attire been the underlying influence?

Seriously, the pockets possess no charm. They are much too large for ordinary or necessary use. The small pocket of the past half century, inserted unnoticeably in the skirt, was common sense. These are nonsense.

¹¹ From THE RETURN OF THE POCKET. (1910, September 10). *Saturday News*, p. 4.

¹² From IT’S WHAT SHE SAYS. (1916, May 20). *Ottawa Journal*, p. 5.

“Overalls for women”¹³ (Winnipeg, 1918)

There are several reasons why I simply can't help writing to you again. One of them is that I must hold up my pen in favor of overalls for women.

I don't like to hear them getting abused because I think they deserve a very high place in the opinion of all working women and a very prominent one in our wardrobes.

I can see nothing indecent in overalls when worn by a decent woman, and my opinion is that the indecent woman will be indecent in the daintiest dress made. The overalls shown in the catalogues are made on generous lines, and when fastened at either the knee or ankle are certainly no worse than skirts which come only half way to the ankle and not nearly so hard to manage in a wind.

For ordinary work the “dear little housedress” is just all right, but when one has to wade in mud nearly to their knees with a milk pail in one hand and a stool in the other, or perhaps a pail of milk in each hand, as I had to do last summer, then the “dear little housedress” becomes a disgusting nuisance. Somehow my third hand never would hold my skirts up. No wonder my thoughts flew to overalls tucked snugly into long rubber boots.

If my outside work is as disagreeable in the coming year as it was last summer I shall certainly wear overalls, for, believe me, sisters, I am heartily sick of washing mud and manure out of six inches of dress and underskirt. It is not because it is something new that women are wearing them; the idea is old, and women who really do dirty work have been wanting them and dreaming about them for years, even wearing their husbands' overalls when they thought no one would see them. It is simply because they can wear them openly now without being thought indecent by everybody. My menfolk think they are just the proper thing, and I believe most men think so too. Ask your men folk how they would like to wear skirts at their work and tell me what they say.

I wonder if the sister who quoted the Bible to show us why we should not wear male attire read all of the chapter. How about leaving a fringe on the four quarters of our garments, wearing a mixture of woolen and linen, stoning the immoral woman, etc., etc.? Why are none of those laws kept? And why should one be kept even though it has been proved most out of place and the others ignored? Queer, isn't it? There is a verse which says: “Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”

I'm quite sure that if I ever wear overalls I will be able to bend my overall clad knee before Him and send up my little cry for patience, courage and strength and be just as sure of an answer as though I were wearing a “dear little housedress”.

After all, dresses will always be strictly feminine, and trousers will be masculine.

¹³ From FUNNY. (1918, February 13). Home-Loving Hearts. *Free Press Prairie Farmer*, p. 14.



In later years, children's dolls presented overalls as appropriate attire.
Pictured: A doll purchased in Canada, c. 1960 – 1980. Curator's collection.
Photograph by C. Willmore, 2022, subject to the same CC license as the sourcebook.

Work in male attire

“They are a degraded set”¹⁴ (William’s Creek, 1862)

The prostitutes on the creek – nine in number – put on great airs. They dress in male attire and swagger through the saloons and mining camps with cigars or huge quids of tobacco in their mouths, cursing and swearing, and look like anything but the angels in petticoats heaven intended they should be. Each has a revolver or a bowie-knife attached to her waist, and it is quite a common occurrence to see one or more women dressed in male attire playing poker in the saloons, or drinking whisky at the bars. They are a degraded set, and all good men in the vicinity wish them hundreds of miles away.

“She went by the name of Frank Chambers”¹⁵ (Windsor, 1883)

Several weeks ago a young girl dressed in male attire was arrested in Windsor, Ont., for drunkenness, and Magistrate Bartlett sent her to Sandwich Jail for 21 days. She said she had discarded dresses over four years ago, and that she was an engineer and had followed the lakes for a living. She stated that she went by the name of Frank Chambers, but refused to say anything about her antecedents. Some one paid her fine before her sentence expired.

“Supporting her sister’s family”¹⁶ (Montreal, 1895)

A young woman in Montreal was charged on Saturday with masquerading in male attire. She lived with her sister, and had worked as a man for several years, by this means supporting her sister’s family. The Recorder sentenced her to one month’s imprisonment and a fine of \$10.

“No one suspects that I am a woman”¹⁷ (Rossland, 1897)

Sir! I am a constant reader of your paper and last night I noticed an article entitled “A Lone Chinese Woman.” In this you stated¹⁸ that no Chinese were employed in Rossland except as cooks and in running washhouses. Through personal

¹⁴ From News from Williams Creek. (1862, September 10). *The British Colonist*, p. 2.

¹⁵ From A Girl Who Would Rather be a Man. (1883, March 29). *The Transcript* (Glencoe, Ont.), p. 3.

¹⁶ From THE HAPPENINGS OF A WEEK. (1895, November 14). *Aylmer Express*, p. 5.

¹⁷ From A WORKING GIRL. (1897, September 23). A Girl Who Dons Male Attire. *Rossland Weekly Miner*, p. 5.

¹⁸ “The two hundred and odd Chinese in Rossland are employed as cooks, several run washhouses, and a few Chinese merchandise stores. There are none employed in any other capacity.” A LONE CHINESE WOMAN. (1897, September 23). *Rossland Weekly Miner*, p. 7. The citation is correct. The article – or more likely, a reprint of it – appears in the same issue as the letter, two pages later.

experience I know this to be not the exact situation, for they are employed in Rossland also as house servants.

On May 10th of the present year I arrived in Rossland from Toronto looking for work as a house servant. I went to one of the second class hotels and found a Chinese doing the chamber work. The next morning I saw another Chinese at another hotel and was informed that he, too, was doing chamber work. I asked if there were no girls doing house work in Rossland and was informed that there was but little employment for girls, although there were a number of them out of work. But some were willing to work for the smallest of wages in order to get funds to get out of town, and were unable to find employment. I asked why it was that Chinese were given work in preference to white girls¹⁹, and was told that the people preferred the Mongolians to women of their own race. I looked for work in private families, and found that in many instances they too kept Chinese. After seeking employment for a week I became disheartened and came to Nelson. Once here I learned that Nelson was full²⁰, and that it would be some time before I could secure a situation.

Then I learned that there was a big demand for men. I conceived the idea that I should don male attire and masquerade as a man. I weigh 165 pounds, am tall and have been used to hard work all my life. With the exercise of a little caution I secured a suit of men's clothes, and then I had my long hair cut off by pretending that I was afflicted with headache. In these days after I had donned male attire I had secured a job at \$2.50 per day, and have a steady engagement. I have my own clothes locked up in my trunk, and will resume the wearing of them when I return to Toronto with a stake. I have saved near \$200 since I assumed men's attire in the beginning of June. I have had one glass of beer in a saloon for the sake of seeing what a saloon is like. I feel quite happy. My advice to other young girls, who are strong, hearty, and young is to do as I have done if they wish to get on in life. No one suspects that I am a woman.

“It will be quite an ordeal”²¹ (Vancouver, 1898)

The icy hearts of Dawson City gold hunters will be stirred into a genial warmth by the presence this spring of Mrs. Gladys Egerton, a charming young English widow,

¹⁹ “A few days since in one of Rossland's principal hotels I am quite well acquainted with a young lady [who] had to quit in order to make room for a Chinaman, who was employed to do chamber work. Quite a number of working women have left Rossland who were crowded out”. ANOTHER WORKING GIRL. (1897, October 7). Chinese Continue to Crowd Out Whites. *Rossland Weekly Miner*, p. 5.

²⁰ “Much indignation has been aroused among the ladies of Nelson by the wide publicity given a letter published lately in the *Rossland Miner*. It was signed “from a working girl,” the writer stating that she found the citizens of Rossland and Nelson unwilling to employ a white girl as [a] servant, preferring the Chinese as servants. She had been forced to don male attire in order to get work. Good girls are very scarce and even the poorest apology for a servant girl is hard indeed to obtain. Wages are on an average \$30 per month, room and board, etc.; \$25 is generally the very lowest notch.” SERVANT GIRLS. (1897, October 28). *Rossland Weekly Miner*, p. 1.

²¹ From A BRAVE LITTLE WOMAN. (1898, March 28). *The Province*, p. 2.

who reached here [Vancouver] the other day en route to the New Eldorado, and who is at present a guest at the Commercial Hotel.

Mrs. Egerton is a woman of refinement and culture, and she has had an experience as a professional nurse, such as has fallen to the lot of few women in modern times. She has followed her noble vocation in Egypt and South Africa, and in the latter place won golden opinions from the British authorities, by the time and attention she devoted to the sufferers from the Jamieson raid, at Johannesburg.

The present intention of this adventurous daughter of Albion's Isle, is to enter the gold country by way of the Stickine river. She will travel with a party of English nugget seekers. [...] When Mrs. Egerton reaches Dawson City she will prospect for gold, and if she is fortunate enough to strike a good claim, she says she will work it herself. If, on the other hand, she finds when she reaches the northern metropolis that there is no need for her services as a trained nurse, she will abandon her gold hunting expedition, and will probably found a hospital.

A representative of the Province called on Mrs. Egerton to-day and was given a pleasant half hour interview, in which the young lady outlined her plans for the northern trip.

The reporter was introduced to a lady still under thirty in appearance, tall, active-looking, and decidedly handsome. She has a wealth of dark, brown hair, dressed a la Princess of Wales, large brown eyes, and a bright, intelligent face. She wore a dark navy blue walking suit, rather severe in style, but relieved by a touch of bright colors skillfully distributed. In manner Mrs. Egerton is direct and business-like, but very courteous. If enthusiasm and a splendid constitution will carry a lady over the dangerous trails to the gold country, Mrs. Egerton will, as she confidently expects, be a resident of Dawson City next June.

"Yes, my undertaking is considered rather a daring one," said Mrs. Egerton, in reply to a question. "My friends in England looked upon me as one already dead, when I told them of my intention. Some, however, bade me good-bye as though I was about to take a pleasure trip across the channel."

"What kind of an outfit are you taking?"

"As regards provisions, I will take in simply what is absolutely necessary, tinned meats, evaporated vegetables, flour, salt, tea and sugar."

"How do you intend to dress on your journey and while in the north?"

"Well, I will entirely dispense with skirts in the first place, and will substitute heavy corduroy bloomers, lined with chamois leather. My coat will also be of corduroy, canvas lined, and reversible, and will come down about to my knees. It will have a large collar, the top of which will be above my ears when up. I am having it made to button down the side instead of the front. In addition I have a short heavy fur coat, with an immense fur collar. My caps are similar to those worn by the miners in the north, made of fur, and completely covering the head and part of the face.

"My principal footwear will be long leather boots with thick, heavy rubber soles, although I am taking in as well half a dozen pairs of strong moccasins. I will take to the north three complete suits, and most of my underclothing is made of chamois and silk, which I think will defy the cold in any country.

“Yes, I expect it will be quite an ordeal donning masculine attire, but necessity knows no law and I really think it is necessary. When I reach Wrangel, I will probably make my first appearance as the new woman. I dread it not a little, but I am determined to reach Dawson in June, and will suffer any inconvenience to get there.”

“Do you intend to do any prospecting?”

“Yes, I will probably join in any rushes there may be to new fields of discovery. If I strike a good claim, I intend to do the work on it myself, as I can’t afford to hire men.”

“Can [you] stand the strain of such work?”

“Yes, I think so. If I can stand the trip up, which is described to me as terrible, I will be in good condition for any kind of work. I believe that a strong determined woman has as good a chance as a man in the Klondike. A woman will as a rule take better care of herself, and anything she makes she will save. Then, too, we don’t drink or gamble, and I am told that men lose fortunes at a single sitting in Dawson.”

“If you do not succeed in your mining enterprises, will you return to civilization?”

“No, not for a year at least. From what I can hear of the Klondike district, there will no doubt be much sickness there this spring, and my experience as a professional nurse will be of great value to me and to others. If there is any great sickness, I will try to open a hospital by contributions from the miners. In Johannesburg, I founded the Rhodes Nursing Home, named after Cecil Rhodes by his special permission. Many of the victims of the Jamieson raids were cared for by me at this institution. I am, I might say, taking in a large supply of medicines, with this object in view.”

“In regard to your trip over the Stickine, are you going with the party or merely as a passenger?”

“No, I expect to walk the whole distance to Teslin Lake, and will take a hand at the paddles when we reach the water route. If it is necessary to pull the sleds, I feel that I will be equal to even this work. What I do draw the line at, however, is packing my own supplies over the trail, and I have made arrangements for having this done. In every particular I will take my share of the regular camp work, and do not think I will be an encumbrance to the party.

“I have no doubt that I will be able to stand the weary tramps. I can walk twenty miles without feeling much fatigue, and I will get much stronger as we proceed.”

“Do you not dread being shut out of civilization for a year or two?”

“No, I am fond of an adventurous life, and am accustomed to roughing it, having done much of it in the course of my professional duties. Since the death of my husband, after a brief wedded life, I have nothing special to attach me to any one place, so I think I may as well take the chances that Klondike offers to a woman who is willing to brave dangers and work hard.”

Mrs. Egerton has seen a great deal of mining camps in South Africa. She has followed her profession for about seven years, having been trained in the city of Dublin Hospital, under Miss Beresford. Her father is a doctor in South Africa, where for several years she studied medicine under him. She converses fluently in several

languages. [...] [One]²² mentally pictures her sphere as restricted to the drawing room, or at least following the hound over the hills and dales of “Merrie England,” rather than as a gold hunter among uncongenial surroundings in the frozen north. [...]

The other members of the party are energetic athletic looking young Englishmen, bent on making their fortunes in the golden north, and eager to start. Their outfits, which they purchased in Vancouver, mainly from the Hudson’s Bay Co., are most complete, and they have made arrangements to stay in the north at least two years. They leave for the golden north on the steamer Ning Chow this evening. The Province wishes them God speed and bon voyage.

“Women on the Yukon trails”²³ (Klondike, 1898)

Ottawa, April 28. – Mr. J. D. Fraser has received a letter from Frank Johnston, one of the Grant party, who are on their way to the Klondike in search of glittering metal. Among other things, Mr. Johnston says that he has seen scores of women along the trail attired in all the costumes under the sun. Some wear the regulation bloomers, with or without skirts, while others don the male attire throughout.

“To support herself”²⁴ (Niagara Falls, 1902)

It has just been brought to light that a supposed young man employed at one of the local barber shops was a woman masquerading in male attire. The attention of the chief of police was brought to the matter by the woman of the house where the supposed boy boarded. The woman was taken to police headquarters on Sunday last and confessed that she had been wearing male attire for the past two weeks, she having assumed the name of Percy Studer.

She stated that when a child her parents had died and she was adopted by a Chicago family. Two weeks ago she came to this city and attempted to secure work. Being unsuccessful, she decided to don male attire, being of the opinion that in this way she would be able to support herself.

She secured a position as a brush boy in one of the local barber shops and many of the residents of the city have had their shoes polished by the young woman without suspicion that she was otherwise than she appeared to be.

She was much frightened when taken to police headquarters and stated that if allowed to leave the city she would change her clothing. This was satisfactory to the chief of police, and after resuming her skirts she was allowed to go.

²² My source is missing a line here.

²³ From WOMEN ON THE YUKON TRAILS. (1898, April 28). *The London Advertiser*, p. 5.

²⁴ From SHE WORE MALE ATTIRE. (1902, October 30). *Ingersoll Chronicle*, p. 1.

“Reluctantly quit the job”²⁵ (Kamloops, 1904)

Something of a sensation was caused by the wife of a local contractor appearing in male attire with a regulation carpenter’s apron and outfit for work on a dwelling house for which her husband had the contract. Barely had she started laying shingles when a master mechanic appeared on the scene, and at his request the woman reluctantly quit the job. Labor circles are now agitating the question as to the rights of the fair sex to invade the heretofore exclusive realm of this branch of the building trade.

“She needed the money at once”²⁶ (Winnipeg, 1907)

A dispatch from Crook City, S. D., says: Miss Ethel McNeil, a Winnipeg school teacher, has donned male attire and searched the wildest western mining districts for gold. She found it and made her fortune, all for the purpose of saving her sweetheart from consumption by marrying him and taking him to a more favorable climate.

Miss McNeil met Wilson McWhorter at a Canadian teachers’ convention, and their engagement followed. It scarcely had been announced when the white plague laid such hold on McWhorter that he no longer could work. It seemed inevitable he would die, unaided and in poverty. His loyal young sweetheart disappeared one day. When she reappeared suddenly in the mining camps of Idaho, Montana and South Dakota, she was so disguised that none suspected that she was other than Kingsley Malcome, a prospector. She went about fearlessly among the rough characters, and was unmolested. Long search ended here with a “strike.”

This she has sold, she says, for more than she ever expected, and with the sale she has made known her sex. She could have made money by holding the mine, but she needed the money at once if she were to save her lover. She is now on her way to Winnipeg, and despite the contagious nature of the disease, will marry McWhorter and take him to New Mexico, in the hope that the climate there will restore his health.

“She has been a street laborer”²⁷ (Montreal, 1910)

When William Dubois was sent down for vagrancy, he gave his age as 65, and unmarried. When he was led toward the bath he exhibited such objections that a second guard had to be called, and then [Dubois] appealed to the guards:

“My name is not William.”

“Don’t care ——.”

“But it is Adeline.”

²⁵ From Municipal Affairs At Kamloops. (1904, December 3). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 2.

²⁶ From WINNIPEG GIRL MAKES A STRIKE. (1907, April 1). *London Advertiser*, p. 9.

²⁷ From Woman lived as a man. (1910, January 13). *Aylmer Express*, p. 17.

The guards dropped the prisoner's arms and stared. Then they sent for the governor. He came, the matron was called, [and] the prisoner was sent to the female jail. She had been working on a barge at the age of thirty, and found male attire more convenient. She adopted it, and now at the age of sixty-five she still wears it. She has been a street laborer for the past few years.

“Working in a department store”²⁸ (Toronto, 1913)

Benedictine Wiseman, aged 17, came here from Montreal three months ago and has been masquerading as a boy, working in a department store in the daytime and singing in picture theatres at night. She was arrested last night and will be sent back home. Miss Wiseman says she made a runaway marriage a short time ago, but afterwards left her husband, and to avoid [being] accosted and molested on the streets adopted male attire.

“Better chances to make money”²⁹ (Ottawa, 1913)

Elsie Whitman and Margaret Johnson, until about three o'clock yesterday afternoon “Jack” Whitman and “Roy” Johnson, respectively, who had for about a month masqueraded as C. P. R. telegraph boys, and who for some weeks prior to that had worked in J. R. Booth's mills, sat in the parlor of a local charitable institution last night and recited some of their experiences and impressions since they became “boys” on October 29. The story of the arrest of the “boys” is told in another column.

“It was the happiest six weeks we ever had in our lives,” they told a reporter of *The Citizen*. They were both attired in well-made male attire. As they were telling their story they sat and jingled some money and keys in their pockets, toyed with their watch chains and behaved pretty much as the average boy does.

Elsie, or “Jack,” is a tall blonde, blue-eyed, rosy-cheeked girl, rather slender and masculine in appearance. Margaret, or “Roy,” is a short, dark, black-haired, chubby-cheeked girl, with a rather more masculine face than her companion, but with unmistakable feminine hands and figure. They are both English girls who, as far as can be learned – for they would not tell much of their real history – came to Canada over two years ago. They did not know each other in England, for one comes from the extreme north of England and the other from the extreme north-east.

MET IN MONTREAL

It was in the Grand Union Hotel, Montreal, that they first met each other. Both were employed there as chambermaids. Each gives the other credit for conceiving the idea of becoming “boys.” Whether the names they went under at the C. P. R. office and at their rooming house, 115 Besserer Street, are their correct names, they will not say, nor will the Dominion police officials give any information on this point.

²⁸ From *Masqueraded as a Boy and Arrested*. (1913, September 13). *Sault Daily Star*, p. 1.

²⁹ From *NOVEL EXPERIENCES OF TWO ENGLISH GIRLS WHO POSED AS BOYS FOR MONTH IN CITY*. (1913, December 18). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 1.

“What made you want to be boys?” asked the reporter.

“Because we couldn’t make enough money as girls. We had found that a boy has better chances to make money, to get along in many ways better than a girl. We became tired of working long hours for a mere pittance with limited freedom. It was not that we were or are ashamed of being girls that we decided to be ‘boys,’ and we have done nothing very seriously wrong.”

“Yes you have,” interposed the superintendent of the institution who was present. “You have insulted your womanliness; you have practically declared that you are ashamed of being women, ashamed of being as God made you, and no true woman should be ashamed of being a woman: rather should they be proud of the fact.”

GREAT TO BE BOY

For a moment there was a watery gleam in the girls’ eyes and they made a pretence to whisk a whisp of hair out of their eyes. Then they continued.

“It’s great to be a boy, though. We like boys; they are more square to one another than girls are; they are not so jealous of one another and a boy can earn so much more money than a girl and have a much better time in earning it.

“Do you know that I have passed scores of people in Ottawa whom I knew quite well when I was here about two years ago working as a girl?” said Elsie, or “Jack.” “Never mind for whom I worked or any other particulars, but not one of the people who used to know me as a girl recognized me as a ‘boy’ until yesterday afternoon when the policeman in the Woods building got wise. I have been into peoples’ offices who used to know me quite well and have even passed some relatives of mine on the street who didn’t recognize me.”

DID HEAVY WORK

Then Margaret, or “Roy,” took up the story.

“We were not so surprised after all when we were caught, for we had an idea that the police were on the track. Oh, we haven’t been taking telegrams to police and other officials for a month and not getting wise to what was in the air,” she said.

“I tell you, we have shown some of the boys how to work, and some men, too,” she continued. “When we worked at Booth’s mills we rolled logs and did all kinds of heavy work as well as the men; the foreman said we did the work better and only the other day, when he met us on the street, he asked us to come back and work for him in the spring.”

OFTEN IN CITIZEN OFFICE

Then the story was told in turn. First one, then the other, would recite a chapter of their exciting experiences.

“Didn’t you find it embarrassing sometimes to mix with men and boys?” queried the reporter.

“Quite frequently, and many times we felt ashamed of ourselves. However, boys are not so bad after all. We have seen you in The Citizen office and several times you have signed our tickets,” they said to the reporter. “You never guessed we were girls, though, did you?”

When they decided to be “boys” one cut the other’s hair short. Then they both went out and bought a complete boy’s wardrobe. Their proper clothes they put in a

couple of trunks and brought [them] to Ottawa with them, but [they] didn't trouble about these trunks until last night, when they learned they had gone to the lost property office in Toronto. Until those trunks are found the girls will have to be dressed as boys unless other girls loan them some clothes.

THEY OVERDID IT

It was their over-zealousness to act as boys that led to their sex being disclosed. They had pipes in their mouths much more than even an inveterate boy smoker would, and their fondness for putting their hands in their pockets was overdone, and they certainly took too short steps for a boy.

"Just before I commenced to wear pants I wore a tight hobble skirt," said "Jack," or Elsie.

"And I had one, too," shipped in "Roy," or Margaret.

There is a story going the rounds that the Dominion policeman who arrested "Jack" yesterday afternoon in the Woods building recognized in "him" the girl whom he had frequently taken for a walk about two years ago.

Last night at the institution the two young women were the center of a great deal of interest from the other inmates. They were questioned and cross-questioned.

"Do tell us what it feels like to be a boy?" was a common question.

ONE IS MARRIED

Col. Sherwood learned yesterday that Margaret, or "Jac," is married and has a girl in England, and it was to earn enough money to bring her mother and little girl to Canada that she pretended she was a boy. She said she does not want her girl to have such a hard time as she, the mother, had.

The girls refused to give the reporter the names of the places from where they came originally, nor would they say much about their parents. It is obvious that the older of the two is the better educated, but neither is by any means well educated, though they are both bright and remarkably intelligent.

What they intend to do now is yet to be decided. It is likely that positions will be found for them where their story is not likely to leak out.

WHAT BOYS THINK

"Do you know, I had my suspicions about them two guys ever since they came here about a month ago," declared Ed. Shanks, one of the best known telegraph boys employed at the local C. P. R. office, when told that "Jack" Whitman and "Roy" Johnson, or known officially as "No. 12" and "No. 6," were in reality girls.

"Say, I have often looked at them guys' hands and eyes and thought they were kind of strange for boys to have. Them guys always seemed to have mee guessing, for they never had voices like any of us boys. Now I know why it was I always felt kind of attracted to them. They wouldn't talk much to us, but they got rather friendly with me because I had a mouth organ and they liked to hear me play it. They knew lots of tunes."

Here Shanks paused a moment and then he said:

"I'll say this for them, you never heard any bad talk from them. They didn't seem as if they liked to mix with the rest of us very much. Many's the time I have piped them over and thought they were kind of built funny for a boy. They were great

kids to work [with] though, and wore good clothes. Why, say, they must have had three or four suits of clothes, which is going some for a telegraph boy – ain't it, now?"

DID IT PRETTY WELL

Shanks took a fresh draw at the cigarette he was smoking and then submitted quizzically:

"Say, wouldn't that jar you to think them guys was girls after all? They certainly got away with the boy bluff pretty good. The other day they were saying they would like to go to England for Christmas and I said, 'Why don't you work your way home?' but they said they wouldn't care to do that.

"You couldn't get them to talk much about themselves. They told me once that they had worked as bell boys at the Grand Union Hotel in Montreal and had been in Canada about two years, coming from London, England. The other day I met them coming out from Woolworth's with their arms filled with frying pans and other things and when I asked them what they had bought that truck for they said, 'Just for fun.'

"Several times I asked them if they ever shaved and they always said 'yes.' Once I felt their faces and said they felt pretty smooth and then they said they shaved the day before. But, say, I always had my suspicions about them guys being boys," concluded Shanks as he hurried away to deliver a bundle of telegrams he had in his hand.

WAS MUCH SURPRISED

When Mrs. Margaret Binchon, of 115 Besserer street, was told last night by a reporter of The Citizen that her two roomers were girls and not boys as she had supposed she gave vent to a loud scream of surprise.

Mrs. Binchon said the couple came to the house on the night of October 29th in company with a girl who passed off as their sister. The girl stayed a week and then went to Montreal. She occupied another room while "Jack" Whitman and "Roy" Johnson roomed together.

"We thought they were rather strange boys," said Mrs. Binchon, "because of several things which came under our notice. However, they certainly did their best to impersonate boys. 'Roy' said he was married and had a girl baby and used to show us pictures. The boys, as we thought they were, were well behaved around the house and gave us little trouble. We used to let them use our kitchen to do their cooking. They told us they came here from Montreal but their home was in England."

ALL BOYS' THINGS

The room which the couple occupied was in a topsy-turvy state last night. In a suit case there was a plentiful supply of boys' clothes and other articles used by a young man, such as razors, shaving brushes, etc., all as new as the day they were bought. Under the bed were frying pans, saucepans, crockery and other cooking and table articles. In the drawers of the dressing table were two loaves of bread, some butter, currant rolls and several more palatable edibles. Tobacco dust was littered here and there around the room.

Mrs. Binchon said "Roy" used to write letters to "Alice Baker," whom "Roy" claimed was "his" wife. "I said to him one day that I thought it was strange his wife

did not go under the name of Johnson, but I never got any satisfactory answer to this.”

When the superintendent of the local institution called for the “boys” last night she did not disclose their true sex, and it was not until a reporter of *The Citizen* happened along that Mrs. Binchon learned the story.

“In the guise of a boy”³⁰ (Ottawa, 1913)

It was learned this afternoon that “Jack” Whitman and “Roy” Johnson, the two girls who were arrested yesterday afternoon by Dominion Policeman William Colbert for impersonating telegraph boys, worked in Ottawa in a Slater street boarding house about two years ago, under the names of Edith Wade and Ada Johnson.

At the boarding house in question the proprietress said that Edith Wade, who masqueraded as “Jack” Whitman, came to work for her about two years ago and stayed six months. Then she went away to Montreal, presumably to get married. The proprietress of this boarding house knows nothing of Miss Johnson.

Amongst those who used to eat at the Slater street house two years ago was Policeman Colbert, and when he saw “Jack Whitman” or Edith Wade enter the Woods building yesterday afternoon in the guise of a boy, he thought he had seen that face before somewhere. He let the girl go upstairs and deliver the telegrams, and when she came down again he looked to see if she had a scar similar to that which he remembered Edith Wade had borne. The scar was there all right, and when he challenged her she admitted she was not a boy. It was then an easy matter to get her companion. She was found at her rooming house, 115 Besserer Street.

Ada Johnson, it is understood, has a husband and child still living in England. Edith Wade is said to be a widow. The former had not been in Ottawa before she came here six weeks ago.

“A well-built mechanic”³¹ (Montreal, 1918)

At the Acme Glove Works Limited this morning a well-built mechanic answering to the name of Joseph Tanguay, was arrested. Once at headquarters, everything changed for the prisoner. Instead of being Joseph Tanguay, the prisoner gave the name of Jeanie De Menteur³², a young woman 22 years of age, dressed in male attire and who had been masquerading as a man ever since she came to Montreal from St. Boniface two months ago. She proved herself able to handle the work at the factory, where her strength disarmed any suspicion of her sex.

³⁰ From ONE “BOY” WORKED HERE TWO YEARS AGO. (1913, December 18). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 1.

³¹ From ST. BONIFACE WOMAN PASSED OFF AS MAN. (1918, August 20). *The Edmonton Bulletin (City Edition)*, p. 1.

³² Roughly, French for “Jean the (male) liar”. I suspect this is an assumed name.

“I came here looking for work”³³ (Montreal, 1923)

Charged with stealing a ride on a freight train from Brockville to Montreal, Ruby Rathwell, 18 years of age, of Brockville, Ont., appeared before Judge Monet in the Arraignment Court on Saturday morning. With her bobbed hair drawn tightly down about her head to give a masculine appearance, and wearing boys' clothing, she had been apprehended on the preceding night in the Turcot Yards of the Canadian National Railway by Special Constable A. Crowe.

Defiant and resentful, attired in feminine clothes again, and wearing her bobbed hair in the customary manner, Ruby Rathwell appeared in the court looking much younger than the age of 18 years which she gave, and offered no apology for what she had done.

“I came here looking for work; there was no work in Brockville,” she said.

Constable Crowe told the court that he had first seen the prisoner on the preceding afternoon on the platform of a van attached to a freight train, which had just pulled into Turcot Yards of the Canadian National Railway. She had been accompanied by a man, and was herself dressed in male attire including a pair of knickers and a shirt, with her bobbed hair covered by a net that gave it the appearance of being short cut.

Constable Crowe testified that he had given chase, when the couple had run away, eventually overtaking them in a nearby field. A tussle had followed with the man resulting in both man and girl getting away. Later that night, the girl had returned to the yards looking for clothes she had evidently thrown off the train at this place. On this expedition she was accompanied by F. Fournier, of 105 St. Phillipe street, whose wife the girl knew, and had come to stay with during her quest for work. The constable had then arrested her.

“Why were you coming to Montreal?” Judge Monet asked the prisoner.

NO MONEY TO PAY FARE

“I came here looking for work; there was no work in Brockville,” Ruby Rathwell replied. “I had no money to pay train fare, so I traveled by the freight.”

“Were you running away from home?” was the next question.

“I was not running away from home,” the girl stoutly maintained. “My mother is dead. My father is ill. There are five in our family. It is seven years since I lived with my father. I lived in Montreal for five years, and later I have been living with my aunt. I told her I was coming to Montreal to look for work.”

“What kind of work do you want here?” asked Judge Monet.

“I am ready to take anything I can do,” was the answer.

“Why were you traveling with this man, and what was his name?” queried the judge.

“His name is Clarence Gardner; I don't know him very well. He was coming on to Montreal, and I came along with him. I don't know where he is now.”

³³ From GIRL IN MALE DRESS RODE ON FREIGHT. (1923, July 23). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

“Yesterday afternoon she had a wedding ring on her finger; last night she did not wear it,” put in Constable Crowe.

“It was not a wedding ring,” denied the prisoner.

Mrs. F. Fournier, to whom Ruby Rathwell had come in the city, testified that she had known the prisoner both in Brockville and in Montreal; that she was willing Ruby should stay with her until work had been found, and that there was a possibility of work being obtained that afternoon.

Judge Monet permitted the prisoner to go free on the understanding that she would appear before him in court tomorrow morning, endeavors to be made in the meantime to obtain work.



Preparing for an outing, c. 1905 (Probably near Tavistock, ON).
Anonymous photograph in the curator's collection.

Outings and Escapades

“Who is she?”³⁴ (Vancouver Island, 1862)

The mysterious female who delights to exhibit her fair proportions in male attire and rejoices in her ability to ride in public straddle of a horse, is reported to have been seen again on the Esquimalt road yesterday. She was attired in a light cassimere coat, knee-breeches and a high black hat. Her long hair was very neatly turned under. Accompanying the mysterious female was another feminine, who seemed to possess a little more modesty – not to mention decency – than her companion, and sported a lady’s black riding habit. The pair visited the camels, and it was while they were inspecting the little stranger which came to town the other night that the gait and earrings of the disguised female betrayed her sex to several bystanders. After spending a few minutes with the camels they re-mounted their steeds and rode leisurely into town. Who they were, or where they came from is a mystery, but the one in breeches is said to be the lady who astonished the Esquimalters by her appearance among them in a similar costume about two weeks ago.

“A queer wind-up to a picnic”³⁵ (Manotick, ON, 1874)

A few days ago a picnic party was held in a grove on Johnson’s Farm, near Manotick, at which a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. Among the festive throng was a young lady, a resident of the locality, who walked from her father’s house along the railroad track to the spot where the festivities were going on. The day was spent in the usual manner; dancing, swinging, flirting, &c., was rife, until the hour of their departure for the city arrived. The young lady alluded to, after seeing her friends off by the train, started on her way home with her brother.

They had not proceeded far when two roughs came out of the woods and, seizing her, attempted to drag her into the bush. Her brother stood by and made no effort to rescue her, afterwards giving as a reason that he “had no firearms, and would rather risk the damage to his sister than hazard his own life.”

The girl screamed and fainted, and on coming to her senses again, she was told it was all a trick, and that the two supposed roughs were two friends of her own, dressed in male attire. If this be the case they deserve to be punished. Frightening a girl and possibly a male relative half to death is no joke.

³⁴ From WHO IS SHE? (1862, April 25). *The British Colonist*, p. 2.

³⁵ From ATTACKED BY ROUGHTS – A Queer Wind-up to a Picnic. (1874, September 5). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 4.

“Napanee girls”³⁶ (Napanee, 1879)

Napanee girls smoke, chew gum, ring door bells, and are the terror of bank clerks. – *Kingston Whig*. We blush to admit it, but some of them occasionally appear on the streets in male attire. – *Napanee Standard*. And we really believe Napanee girls would be bad enough to get married, if they get the chance.

“Out on a lark”³⁷ (Montreal, 1886)

The habitues of Montreal’s recorder’s court were treated to a more interesting case the other morning than the usual run of offences there brought up. A dashing English woman of thirty, named Margaret Jane Davis, wife of James Sennett, was up on the charge³⁸ of dressing in male attire. When the name of the prisoner was called she stepped promptly to the front and removed the large broad-brimmed hat which hid her features. Her appearance was the signal for a general roar of laughter, even the court being compelled to share in the mirth, when it was observed that the pretty prisoner was decked in male attire. A pair of tight fitting trousers worthy the admiration of any Halifax dude encased her lower limbs, while a coat which had evidently seen better days was closely buttoned around her waist. The regulation stand-up collar and a smile that would have melted the most hardened heart completed the prisoner’s attire.

Sub-constable McDonnell, who made the arrest, stated that he was on Notre Dame street east last night when he was attracted by the peculiar gait of a supposed young man who was wending his footsteps towards the wharf. Closer investigation and a peep at the face of the anxious pedestrian led him to believe the occupant of the male attire was a woman. The constable immediately arrested the person who had caused him so much speculation, and on reaching the station his doubts were speedily dissipated. The prisoner gave her name, and said she had a relative on board one of the steamers in port, and always entertaining a great love for the sea, had determined to quietly leave her husband and follow the adventurous life of a sailor.

Her husband appeared in court and was apparently much displeased to learn of the masquerading of his wife. It was shown that the former had been drunk the previous night. His wife admitted to taking advantage of his condition to quietly disappear. After lengthy evidence, including many interesting points, had been heard, his honor decided to dismiss the case, as it was shown that this was the first offence of the prisoner.

³⁶ From Napanee girls. (1879, November 27). *Ingersoll Chronicle*, p. 2.

³⁷ From OUT ON A LARK. (1886, April 24). *The Gleaner* (Fredericton, N.B.), p. 2.

³⁸ Apparently not for the first time: “The wife of James Sinnott was arrested at Montreal for masquerading on the streets in male attire. She accounted for her escapade by the statement that she was tired of her husband and wanted to go to sea. The court let her off.” DOMINION DASHES. (1884, November 14). *The Toronto World*, p. 1.

When leaving the box she proceeded about ten feet through the court room, but being exposed to the curious gaze of the court, turned and made a precipitate flight to the other prisoners in the waiting room. She was driven home in a cab.

“To see the sights”³⁹ (Toronto, 1885)

Two ladies respectably connected, one of whom is married, undertook to see the sights on Thursday night in male attire. Accordingly they procured two suits of clothes, and accompanied by a gentleman friend proceeded to King street, where they entered several saloons and cigar stores, partaking liberally of “pop” and cigarettes. The cigarettes they smoked on the way home, and seemed highly delighted with the result of their frolic.

The same evening a young man holding a good position procured some female clothing, and having had his face liberally powdered undertook to make “mashes” on Front and York streets. He was threatened with arrest by one gentleman whom he accosted, and speedily took to his heels.

“The unsuspecting yeoman”⁴⁰ (North Arm, BC, 1888)

A couple of apparently well-dressed young men called at the house of one of the farmers of the North Arm, Westminster district, a few evenings since, and made enquiries concerning the right road to Mr. Y’s. The unsuspecting yeoman good-naturedly and courteously took special pains to give the desired information, but on learning a few days after that his “callers” were a couple of young ladies in male attire, his surprise and chagrin can easily be imagined, and he has ever since been very suspicious of strangers.

“The Dempsey-Fitzsimmons fight”⁴¹ (Toronto, 1891)

It is said that several women witnessed the Dempsey-Fitzsimmons [boxing] fight. They were dressed in male attire. One woman – an actress – was arrested.

“Going to Gibson”⁴² (Moncton, 1891)

A young woman in male attire, who stated she was going to Gibson, boarded the cars at Caribou a few days ago, and was pointed out to conductor Burpee by one of the passengers. The pseudo man, the latter said, was wanted on a charge of stealing horses. No steps were taken to arrest her and she left the train at Newburg junction.

³⁹ From In Male Attire. (1885, March 21). *The Toronto World*, p. 1.

⁴⁰ From In Male Attire. (1888, December 21). *Victoria Weekly Colonist*, p. 3.

⁴¹ From SPORT OF EVERY SORT. (1891, January 19). *The Toronto World*, p. 3.

⁴² From IN MALE ATTIRE. (1891, February 26). *The Herald* (Moncton, N.B.), p. 3.

“Putting the intruders to flight”⁴³ (Plattsville, ON, 1895)

Some interesting stories are in circulation about a certain pair of young ladies at the south end of the village, says the Plattsville [Ontario] Echo, who, clad in male attire, set out to call on one of their lady friends. When they arrived at the house, their friend greeted them at the door, but was horrified to see what appeared to her to be two ugly-looking tramps. Her terror and alarm became intense, but just then a bright thought crossed her mind that she would call her gentleman friend who was calling upon her that evening, and with his timely aid they succeeded in putting the intruders to flight across gardens, fields and fences till they discovered by their waddling that they were no more than a couple of girls who were bent on enjoying an outing in their papa's pants. Now, some may think this singular conduct for young ladies to be indulging in [sic.], but we quite approve of their foresight and prudence in trying on a long pair of trousers before they adopt the bloomer costume, which may be the attire of the “new woman” we read so much about. However, pants or no pants, our sympathy is with the ladies.

“Seen perambulating the streets”⁴⁴ (Newcastle, NB, 1898)

There are many adherents of the feminine sex who believe in bloomers, and in some sections of the world they walk about dressed in clothing which smack of masculine tastes, but to find any such exponent in Newcastle, the shire town of the county, which is and ought to continue the sociological [sic.] centre, as proved by the many successful dances the past few weeks, is something *mirabile dictu*. Yet it is true, for even admitting we do not know the names of the fair one or ones, last Wednesday night, although the storm was anything but propitious for the feminine member or members to venture forth in the cold, dreary, snowy town, that a young lady or ladies dressed in male attire was or were seen perambulating the streets, and it is needless to say that those who saw her or them were in duty bound to smile at the peculiar appearance she or they presented as she or they passed along and called at a house or houses. Our information is meagre, but it can truly be said that the chaperone was also one of the fair ones, and if some of our dignified, strict-living people had seen her or them, there is no doubt but what consternation and disapproval would have been plainly stamped on their benign countenances at this most uncommon spectacle of bold effrontery.

⁴³ From Masqueraded as Men. (1895, December 5). *Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman*, p. 10.

⁴⁴ From The New Woman or Women. (1898, February 23). *Union Advocate* (Newcastle, N.B.), p. 2.

“Unusual and enjoyable”⁴⁵ (London, ON, 1898)

When walking up Talbot street the other evening, and just as I had arrived near Albert street, I had a rather unusual and enjoyable experience. It is not often that ladies are seen in male attire, especially on the public streets. On this occasion there were two couples under the glare of the electric light. It was plainly noticeable that two of the four persons were females clad in men’s suits. They were, however, unable to conceal all of their hair under their hats. As I caught up to them and having discovered what has just been related, I politely said “Good evening, boys.” It was laughable to see those four fair damsels scamper off at a lively rate towards their home, which, by the way, was not far distant. It was a good piece of fun for all concerned.

“Great was her surprise”⁴⁶ (Hull, 1898)

A remarkable case came before Recorder Champagne, of Hull yesterday. A charge of assault was proffered by Miss Rose Anna Gervais against Mrs. John Fortin and Miss Ledia Paradis. The complainant stated that on Saturday night, while strolling down Wellington street he was approached by two persons who used insulting language and assaulted her. At first she thought that she had fallen into the hands of some ruffians but great was her surprise when she recognized the voices of the accused, who were dressed in male attire. The alleged assailants were arrested and taken to the station. Yesterday they were not ready to go on and a remand was granted.

“Two very gay girls”⁴⁷ (Ottawa, 1898)

It is not often, in a staid city like Ottawa, that we find members of the weaker sex masquerading about in male attire. But this was the unusual spectacle that greeted residents in Somerset street on Saturday night. Two bright, happy-faced, good-looking girls – full of life and spirit and joy – were out for a lark. One was attired in garments of sombre hue and Christy, while the other wore white flannels with a cap to match. One was, in the disguise, a Dr. Harris from London, don’t you know; her companion was a Mr. Arthurs. And arm in arm they walked with elastic step down the street, unobserved by some, noted by many. On the way they flirted with the girls and jollied the old boys [as] to the manner born. Someone who penetrated the disguise warned them that they were liable to arrest. This slightly perturbed their otherwise nonchalant air. Meeting a prominent alderman, well known in that neighborhood, they said they expected him to go to their rescue if they got into trouble. But nothing embarrassing happened, and they were seen shortly afterwards,

⁴⁵ From THE MAN ABOUT TOWN. (1898, July 8). *The London (Ontario) Advertiser*, p. 4.

⁴⁶ From A DROWNING FATALITY. (1898, August 2). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 7.

⁴⁷ From TWO VERY GAY GIRLS. (1898, August 8). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 5.

clad in ordinary habiliments and radiantly happy. They had created a slight sensation – provided the locality with considerable amusement – and were consequently well pleased. Girls, have a care!

“Celebration of Hallowe’en”⁴⁸ (Winnipeg, 1905)

There is a phase of Hallowe’en fun that prevails in Winnipeg and probably nowhere else that was much indulged in last night in neighborly disregard of conventionality. Many young girls and more mature maidens sought the license supposedly given on the eve of All Saints’ day and dressed themselves in the male attire of their brothers, and there could be seen flitting from house to house numbers of these youthful fun-makers emancipated from the thralldom of skirts, disporting themselves in the homes of intimate friends. Some, more daring, ventured farther afield and one of the not the least surprising features of Winnipeg’s Hallowe’en was the occasional glimpse of quaintly dressed figures hurriedly passing along the street in costumes that from the muffled laughter and the evident awkwardness of the young people so dressed was a party of young girls, on innocent mischief bent, chaperoned by brother or cousin en route to a neighbor’s hom for Hallowe’en fun.

“Dressed as male mashers”⁴⁹ (Chatham, 1906)

Dressed as male mashers, and with their hair hidden under closely fitted caps, two well-known local young women have been having a high time masquerading [on] some of the principal city streets the past few nights. They apparently thought that no one was wise to their little escapade, and after their first night’s fun they decided to try it again.

The young ladies who took part in the masquerade are very pretty, and they did indeed make a handsome pair of young men in their false, but becoming attire. Perhaps, though, they were unaware that their coats did not fit as well as they might have around the chest. It was this peculiar feature of their attire that led to them being found out.

The first masquerade was made Thursday evening, when they did up the southern portion of the city.

One of the young ladies resides on Lacroix St. and the other on Gray, and they both belong to good families. They probably were not aware that their little escapade might have ended seriously. A girl masquerading in a man’s clothes, would be liable to find herself in a rather embarrassing position if unscrupulous young men were to become aware of the fact.

The young ladies, so it is reported, intend to try the stunt again, but they would do well to desist, as there is a very heavy penalty for masquerading. The offense comes

⁴⁸ From CELEBRATION OF HALLOWE’EN. (1905, November 1). *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1.

⁴⁹ From MASQUERADE AS YOUNG MEN. (1906, September 24). *Chatham Daily Planet*, p. 8.

under the criminal code, and is punishable by a heavy fine, not to speak about the scandal such an affair would create if ventilated in the Police Court.

The young ladies simply took part in the affair for the fun they got out of it, but they should have thought of the consequences had they been caught. They started out arm in arm, and first paraded Queen St. and did up many of the adjacent thoroughfares. They had a swell time flirting with all the other pretty girls they met with, and it was their intention to make a “catch” the next time they went out and have some fun, just to find out what it was like to be a man and pay court to ladies.

The fact that the young ladies were masquerading became known to a number of persons, who greatly enjoyed watching their maneuvers.

“The ultra-masculine woman”⁵⁰ (Alberta, 1907)

She jumped on the car while it was still moving and plumped herself down heavily into a side seat, so that her feet extended half across the aisle. When the conductor came for her fare she pulled a ticket out of her pocket and, regardless of the attention she was attracting, nonchalantly asked how near the car went to Pemberton street. When her street was reached she jumped off the car as she had jumped on and walked away with a pronounced stride.

Her dress conformed entirely to her actions. The only part of her attire which could not have been worn with perfect propriety by a man was her skirt, and that was as short as possible. Her coat was an ordinary man’s raglan, in a light tan; her hat a man’s gray crush hat, whose only concession to custom was one very small and inconspicuous hatpin. Her hair was parted and gathered into a tight knot at the back. Her white shirtwaist was as near to a shirt as it could possibly be and still remain a shirtwaist. She wore a high white linen stock, and from one pocket of her coat produced a large handkerchief; from the other a pair of heavy dogskin [sic.] gauntlets. Her shoes were thick, and the soles extended half an inch all around. And, to crown it all, she wore a seal ring on her little finger.

Fortunately, this woman is by no means typical; it would be lamentable indeed if she were.

“Won gloves”⁵¹ (Hamilton, 1909)

Miss Clare Romaine, the popular actress, who is playing at Bennett’s this week in male attire, made a bet of a box of cigars against a box of gloves with Manager Jack Apleton that she could walk around the streets of Hamilton dressed in her stage costume without anyone discovering her sex. The trial was planned to come off this morning, and about 9 o’clock Miss Romaine walked into the theatre, fitted up in her masculine duds, and asked Jack if he was ready. “Sure,” he replied, and the story told to the reporters of the adventure follows:

⁵⁰ From *The Ultra-Masculine Woman*. (1907, September 20). *Didsbury Pioneer*, p. 5.

⁵¹ From *WON GLOVES*. (1909, February 18). *Hamilton Times*, p. 10.

“Well, I looked her over as soon as she stepped into the office, and, says I to myself, it’s a cinch. I might as well go out and buy those gloves now, for she sure did look the part, with a cane in her hand and an unlighted cigar in her mouth. I proposed walking to the Royal Hotel and playing a game of billiards. She consented and we started off up King Street and turned down James towards the Royal. Everything went lovely. She got a start, though, as we were turning the corner, for one of the news kids yelled: ‘Hey! Pipe de spoit wit de kangaroo walk.’ Well, to make a long story short, we walked into the hotel, played billiards for about a quarter of an hour, and then walked back to the theatre, without anybody getting wise.”

True to his promise, Jack made out an order on R. McKay & Co. for six pairs of gloves, which he presented to Miss Romaine, with his compliments.

Perceptions of mental health

“An unfortunate”⁵² (Kingston, 1863)

On Sunday last, a young woman who gave her name as Mary Marner, and said she belonged to Mallorytown, was found sitting on the lake shore at the west end of the city, dressed in full male attire, and surrounded by a crowd of idlers. The rain was falling heavily at the time, and the unfortunate girl, who proved to be of unsound mind, was drenched to the skin. The Mayor happened to be in that direction, discovered her condition, and kindly offered her food and shelter if she would accompany him to his residence, but she refused to go with him. She was subsequently conveyed to the local hospital, whence she was taken in the evening to the Police cells, and was yesterday morning sent to gaol for fourteen days, in the hope that in the meantime some information might be obtained as to the whereabouts of her friends.

“Lost their mental faculties”⁵³ (Victoria, 1896)

The city police station received two new inmates yesterday whose only offence is that they have lost their mental faculties. One of the two, a highly respectable woman resident of Victoria, has become possessed of the fancy that she has been changed into a man and when taken into custody for her own protection was walking the street in complete male attire.

“The unfortunate woman”⁵⁴ (Victoria, 1896)

The unfortunate woman who was arrested on Government street on Wednesday evening, while clothed in a man's apparel, is still held at the city police station until a decision shall have been reached as to whether it will be absolutely necessary to send her to the asylum. Dr. George Duncan made an examination yesterday into her mental condition, but no definite step in regard to the final disposition of the patient will be made for a day or so.

A strange coincidence in connection with this distressing case is disclosed in the appended special dispatch to the COLONIST from Vancouver, received yesterday evening. The circumstances of the two cases, it will be noted, are in many respects exactly parallel:

“A respectable woman, who recently arrived in Victoria, appeared on the street here to-day in male attire and was at once taken in charge by the authorities. Medical investigation disclosed the fact that the poor woman was temporarily insane from illness, her chief hallucination being that she was of the male sex.”

⁵² From AN UNFORTUNATE. (1863, August 21). *Ingersoll Chronicle*, p. 2.

⁵³ From PERSONAL. (1896, March 5). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 8.

⁵⁴ From The unfortunate woman. (1896, March 9). *Victoria Semi-Weekly Colonist*, p. 8.



Borrowing a hat, c. 1905 (Probably near Tavistock, ON.)
Anonymous photograph in the curator's collection.

Wives and Husbands

“A woman scorned”⁵⁵ (Hamilton, 1880)

A few days ago Waterdown witnessed one of the most exciting scenes that has taken place there for some time. About four years since Eliza Gibbs, a young girl living in the neighborhood, accused Patrick Carson, of that place, of having seduced her, and wanted him to marry her to save the character of both. Pat refused to do so, claiming he was not the guilty party, whereupon Eliza became enraged, and instead of shooting herself shot him in the thigh. She aimed higher, but Pat caught her hand while in the act of shooting, and thus frustrated her aim. She left the place and went to Hamilton, where she has been residing ever since.

On Wednesday she received a note written by Pat, or some fellow wishing to have a joke, asking her to meet him at Rock Bay in the afternoon. Eliza, accompanied by one of her pals, went over to Rock Bay, but to their surprise Pat was not on the grounds at all. They looked for him until they became tired and mad with their exercise and disappointment and Eliza said unto her friend, “I will arise and go unto my lover and say unto him, I have been over to Rock Bay but you was not there; I will shoot you again.”

They went back to Hamilton where her friend engaged a rig while Eliza clothed herself in male attire wearing also a large black moustache. When all was ready they drove for Waterdown, stopping at several hotels on the road and imbibing too much for their own good.

On arriving in town they chanced to see Carson and asked him to have a ride. He thought the request rather strange, but accepted the invitation, nevertheless. To his surprise he found that the fine looking driver was no other than Eliza Gibbs, and he soon jumped out and disappeared.

The girls, baffled, in their project, concluded to go to his house and have a jamboree. They accordingly visited Pat’s domicile, and getting inside, they proceeded to make things lively, paying very little respect to the rights of property.

A crowd soon gathered round to see the fun, and in a short time Constable Graham was summoned. He took both the unruly females into custody and brought them before Magistrates Sealey and Stock, who on hearing the evidence fined each of them \$4 and costs. There was considerable excitement over the affair, and it was not till three o’clock in the morning that normal quietness was restored.

⁵⁵ From A WOMAN SCORNED. (1880, July 29). *Hamilton Spectator*, p. 5.

“Determined to gain access to him”⁵⁶ (Victoria, 1885)

Considerable excitement was caused in police circles recently by the discovery that one of the prisoners in the city jail, who was attired as a man, was a female. The name of the prisoner is Henrietta Hix. Her husband deserted her in Boston a few months ago. Learning that he had come to Richmond, the wife donned male attire and shipped on board of a vessel [from] Boston as a cook about two weeks ago. Upon reaching here Mrs. Hix discovered that her husband had been arrested and committed to jail for robbery. Determined to gain access to him, and share his prison cell, the woman stole an amount of money. She was arrested, and without arousing the suspicion of the authorities as to her sex she was placed in the same cell with him. The ruse was discovered today, and the husband and wife placed in separate cells. Hix confirms the woman's story, and says they were married in Boston about two years ago. It is possible that Mrs. Hix will be pardoned by the governor. She is young and good looking.

“To join her husband”⁵⁷ (Sarnia, 1900)

A mild sensation was caused here today upon a report being circulated that a woman attired in male clothing was a passenger on the steamer *Monarch* from Windsor. As near as could be learned the facts are as follows:-

The young woman, probably thirty years of age, had left New York some days ago to join her husband in Duluth. In order to elude the vigilance of her parents, who, it appears, were opposed to her leaving them, she had put on male attire and reached Windsor before her identity was revealed. She had purchased her ticket for Duluth at Windsor, and on arriving at Sarnia it was intimated to her that her masquerade was illegal, and she forthwith donned her own clothing.

She stated that she was recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, and would give no information with reference to her reason for assuming the costume she did; who she was, where she came from, or where she intended going. She was traveling second class, and the officers of the *Monarch* made her as comfortable as possible in the steerage of that vessel, for the trip to Duluth, which she undertook this afternoon. To the agent selling the tickets she simply gave the name of Mrs. Card, and though she appeared to be a little nervous and constrained when questioned, there was nothing to indicate that anything serious was the matter, and her nervousness could be attributed very readily to the unusual character of her position and costume during the trip. Provincial Detective Yorrell interviewed her, thinking she might be an escaped lunatic or a fugitive from justice, but did not consider it necessary to detain her.

⁵⁶ From IN MALE ATTIRE. (1885, September 12). *Victoria Daily Standard*, p. 3.

⁵⁷ From Masqueraded as a Man. (1900, July 28). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 9.

“By George, it’s a woman”⁵⁸ (Victoria, 1908)

It was a dainty picture she made in her male attire, and had it not been for a stray wisp of unruly golden hair which floated jauntily from beneath her boy’s cap over her shoulder, it is very doubtful if she would have been discovered. Her masquerade, however, proved insufficient to elude the keen glance of a Government street cigar store proprietor, and later brought the police upon her track.

About 9.30 o’clock last night the cigar man was standing behind his counter attending to his usual duties when, what at first appeared to him as a remarkably handsome youth, passed and entered a saloon, the entrance to which was a few feet away. At first he paid little attention to the other until his startled gaze encountered a long wisp of fair hair floating from beneath the cap.

“By George, it’s a woman,” he ejaculated and without a moment’s hesitation dodged around the end of the counter and followed the “youth” into the saloon. The latter, however, had apparently passed straight through the thirst emporium without delay and though the cigar man hurried there was no sign of the other who seemingly had vanished into thin air.

The whole occurrence smacked of mystery, and having but lately finished the complete series of Raffles and his exploits, the proprietor of the cigar store felt sure that the police ought to be put upon the trail of the fair, but perhaps dangerous, incognito.

Police are proverbially inquisitive, and within an hour the two plainclothes men in search of the would-be male found their quarry. Then it was that what appeared to contain all the elements of a joke, or possibly even a hint of crime, proved to be pathetic in the extreme.

At first the woman, when confronted by the officer and asked where she was going, endeavored to escape by gruffly asserting that she was minding her own business, but seeing that she would have to confess her identity she stopped. Her story, told with a certain defiant air, convinced the officers that, however unusual was her conduct, she was justified therein. She stated that of late her husband had been drinking heavily, that he was under the ban and not allowed to buy liquor, but in some manner he succeeded in getting it, and plenty of it, and helpless as most women would have been in like circumstances, she determined to find out who it was who supplied her husband with drink. As she could hardly enter saloons in her proper attire, she hit upon the scheme of disguising herself in male clothing, and when first seen by the cigar man she was making her round of the saloons in search of the erring husband. She told the police officers that she had visited some twenty saloons and that she was determined to visit them all before she gave up the search. She was allowed to proceed on her way with the assurance that should the officers hear anything of the sought-for husband they would aid her in getting him to return to his own home and family.

⁵⁸ From IN MALE ATTIRE WIFE SEARCHES FOR HUSBAND. (1908, May 30). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 11.

Crimes and Punishments

“Puss in Pantaloons”⁵⁹ (Port Hope, 1858)

Yesterday a young girl who gave her name as Zilla Scoble, was brought before His Worship the Mayor, and John Might, Esq., on the charge of habitually appearing in male attire, and leading a dissolute life. She acknowledged the charge and was fined \$10, and in default of payment to be committed to jail for thirty days. She is about seventeen years of age, has led a wandering life for about three years and hails from the neighbourhood of Peterborough.

“Mary Bell”⁶⁰ (Guelph, 1883)

GUELPH, Nov. 26. – On Saturday afternoon a well dressed young man drove into town with a horse and buggy, which he put up at a hotel stable and, after making enquiries, went to see a horse dealer, who was thought likely to purchase the animal. The price asked was reasonable enough, but the dealer declined to buy. The animal was offered to several others, and finally at such a low figure as to arouse suspicion as to the young man being the owner of the rig.

The chief of police got word of the affair, and after interviewing the young man, decided to detain him until he could ascertain something further about the matter. The young man gave his name as James Murray and stated that Dr. Wynn from near Acton owned the rig and commissioned him to take it to Guelph and dispose of it to the best advantage, as he was about removing to Manitoba.

The chief was about to let the individual go when it struck him he was rather robust about the chest. The chief took him into his private office and in answer to questions he said that he had to wrap up well because of an affection of the lungs. Finally the chief accused the alleged young man of being a woman in man’s clothes. The prisoner then owned up and, bursting into tears, acknowledged the truth.

Her name was Mary Bell. She said she lived in Toronto and had run a knitting machine over Corrigan’s gentlemen’s furnishing store at the corner of Yonge and Adelaide streets for the past five years. She dressed in men’s clothes last Friday morning and left Toronto on the noon train for Acton. She stopped at a farmer’s house over night and going into the village in the morning hired a horse and buggy, telling the livery keeper that she was going a few miles into the country, instead of doing which she drove to Guelph, and here endeavored to dispose of the rig.

The horse and rig have been identified by the owner and taken home. The girl was detained in custody and appeared before the police magistrate this morning. She was still dressed in male attire and had her hair parted at one side. That she felt her position keenly was apparent. She gave as her reason for trying to sell the horse and rig that a mortgage on some sewing machines fell due on Saturday, and she wished

⁵⁹ From “PUSS IN PANTALOONS!” (1858, April 9). *Ingersoll Chronicle*, p. 2.

⁶⁰ From FOOLISH MARY BELL. (1883, November 27). *Toronto World*, p. 1.

to raise money to pay it off. She said she wished to be punished but did not want her family to know of it. The magistrate committed her for trial. As she was conducted from the court she cried bitterly.

When this dispatch arrived last night Mr. Corrigan's store was closed, but enquiry of some near residents revealed the fact that Miss Bell was a young lady of about 20, who with another young lady rented a room over Mr. Corrigan's store and there carried on the knitting business. At one time Mr. Corrigan proposed to take Miss Bell into partnership, but subsequently abandoned the idea. Those who knew her say Miss Bell was a decent, well-behaved girl, and would never have been suspected of the hair-brained trick of which she has been guilty.

She was about 20 years of age and decidedly good-looking. Unfortunately, her business had not paid so well as it might, she having lost several hundred dollars. It is supposed she concocted this way of raising money in order to pay off the mortgage on her sewing machines and then intended to return to Toronto and carry on business as usual. She had only been missed from her usual haunts for a week or so, having given out that she intended to visit her parents, who live a short way from the city. The poor girl had always been honest – as far as her dealings in Toronto were concerned – and industrious, and was much respected by those with whom she did business.

“Further particulars”⁶¹ (Guelph, 1883)

The Guelph papers of yesterday evening contain some further particulars concerning miss Mary Bell and her remarkable adventure. The girl told Dr. McPhatter, who had been her school teacher in Nassagaweya township, that she was owing \$216 on machines, \$25 for rent and some other debts which she could not meet. The doctor says she always appeared to be a clever girl at school. She was of a most sensitive disposition, and he supposes [she] resorted to the extraordinary means of getting out of the difficulty for which she has been arrested, rather than admit her inability to pay her liabilities. She admitted to him that she was engaged to be married to a well-to-do young man in Toronto, who would have come to her assistance had he known her trouble. She asked the doctor on leaving to telegraph for this young man now.

Miss Bell is a daughter of the late James Bell, who lived on 5th and 6th concessions of Nassagaweya, Halton county. Mr. Bell died about seven years ago from the effects of taking poison in mistake for medicine. His family still live on the farm and are reported to be in comfortable circumstances and highly respectable.

⁶¹ From MARY'S MASQUERADE. (1883, November 28). *Toronto World*, p. 1.

“Ordered to leave the city”⁶² (Toronto, 1887)

May Foster and Lucy Burly were arrested early on Saturday morning while coming out of men’s apartments in Richmond street, London, in male attire. They were ordered to leave the city, which they did, going to Port Huron.

“Twenty-three months”⁶³ (Guelph, 1888)

Lillie Davey, an 18-year-old girl who has been masquerading in male attire, was arrested last night, and the Police Magistrate to-day sent her to the Mercer Reformatory for twenty-three months on a charge of vagrancy.

“A bold, bad young man”⁶⁴ (Madoc, ON, 1889)

Miss Sybil Smith is evidently a bold, bad young man. She came from Belleville on Monday and put up at Moon’s hotel. Tuesday she engaged a horse and buggy from Alexander Allt to go to Trenton, via Marmora, and would be gone several days. On Tuesday Charles Caverly and Frank Morrell came in from Millbridge and casually mentioned to Mr. Allt that they had seen his rig at the latter place, going through to Rathbun, in charge of a young man.

Suspicious were at once aroused, and Mr. Allt and Constable Huff drove to Rathbun, where they found the horse and buggy, and learned that the naughty Miss Smith was safely in bed at Stanlick’s hotel, having reached that place in male attire and passing herself off as a young man. She was returned to Madoc and charged with fraudulently obtaining the horse and rig.

The magistrate committed her to stand her trial. She appeared before the magistrate in male attire, her feminine gear being packed in a valise, as when arrested. It is not known where she comes from. She was brought before Judge Lazier and elected to be tried without a jury. She says she was born in Renfrew county, and that her home is in Troy, N. Y. It is believed that the girl is a prostitute and was going into the lumber camps for the winter.

“A well known character”⁶⁵ (Halifax, 1894)

Sergeant Dillon found what were apparently two man-of-war sailors having a jollification on one of the upper streets. A second glance convinced the wily old sergeant that one of the “tars” was a woman masquerading in male attire. He arrested her and took her to the station. She is a well known character. The suit she wore was a Buzzard sailor’s uniform.

⁶² From OUR OWN COUNTRY. (1887, April 12). *The Toronto World*, p. 2.

⁶³ From Train-Robbers Jailed at Hamilton. (1888, May 8). *Guelph Daily Mercury*, p. 4.

⁶⁴ From A NAUGHTY GIRL. (1889, November 14). *The Weekly British Whig*, p. 3.

⁶⁵ From THIS MORNING’S NEWS. (1894, May 17). *The Evening Mail* (Halifax, N.S.), p. 6.

“There is no law”⁶⁶ (Halifax, 1894)

Ida McDonald, a sixteen year old girl, was arrested at Halifax, for being on the street in a sailor’s suit, and was subsequently fined \$20 on the quiet. J. T. Bulmer, a lawyer who has been consulted, says there is no law against a woman appearing on the street in male attire, despite Stipendiary Motton’s decision.

“Stole a brother’s clothes”⁶⁷ (Montreal, 1895)

It is seldom that the Police Court has so sad a case as the one on the list today, when a father appeared as prosecutor against his daughter, whom he charged with the theft of a quantity of clothing belonging to her brothers. The girl, whose name was Marie Louise Duchesne, daughter of Mr. Louis Duchesne, wept bitterly, but her tears had little effect, as it is not her first offence of this nature, and she served six months for masquerading in male attire.

The father stated that the girl went to his home at No. 83 Aylmer street, while he was engaged in his store, and stole the clothes, which she pawned. The girl pleaded not guilty, and will be tried on Wednesday.

“The wages of sin”⁶⁸ (Rossland, 1899)

On Monday evening Alice Gordon donned male attire, and with three companions, started out to have a jolly time. The flowery path of pleasure traversed at an express train rate, and towards midnight the pace was furious, with Alice acting as the pace-maker. Chief Ingram appeared upon the scene and saw the situation at a glance. Accordingly he gathered the masquerader Gordon in. She was in the police court yesterday to answer the charge of appearing in public with men’s attire, which is contrary to the statutes. She pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 by Judge Boulton, which sum she paid.

“Of female sex and male attire”⁶⁹ (Vancouver, 1906)

Nell Pickerell, of female sex and male attire fame, is in Vancouver. Her stay here is indefinite, as the police are looking for her, and if they find her she will probably be requested to forthwith shake the mud of Vancouver from her feet and return to the customary haunts at the lower end of Puget Sound.

Miss Pickerell or Mr. Pickerell, whichever you like best, and depending on which way you look at her, came in yesterday on the Ramona. She made her way to

⁶⁶ From AROUND THE WORLD. (1894, May 19). *The Herald* (Fredericton, N.B.), p. 2.

⁶⁷ From STOLE A BROTHER’S CLOTHES. (1895, June 28). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

⁶⁸ From THE WAGES OF SIN. (1899, November 9). *Rossland Miner*, p. 1.

⁶⁹ From Of Female Sex And Male Attire. (1906, February 19). *Nanaimo Free Press*, p. 1.

the police station immediately on landing here and inquired for Chief North. Being ushered into his private office, she presented a letter of introduction from the sheriff of King county, Wash., the county which contains the noted city of Seattle, and which city this well known personage calls her home.

Chief North turned her over to Sergeant Mulhern of the detective force, and to him she confided that she was here looking for a man. She did not say what she wanted of the man after she found him, neither did she say who it was she wanted.

She was allowed to go, but later, when the officers got to thinking about her, Chief North decided that she ought not to be allowed to run loose in the streets of Vancouver, so he gave orders to his men to pick her up. It is understood that she will be requested to go home.

Nell is an old offender in Seattle. Years have passed since she discarded female attire. She is the mother of one child. A young girl of Seattle committed suicide two years ago when she discovered that the young man, as she thought, with whom she had fallen in love, was Nell Pickerell.

“Harry Livingston, alias Nell Pickerell”⁷⁰ (Vancouver, 1906)

Harry Livingston, alias Nell Pickerell, a woman dressed in male attire, is held at the Police Station on a charge of vagrancy. Nell is a woman with a history, and a great dissatisfaction with her sex. She has a fondness for masquerading in male attire, which fondness has often led her into strange experiences. She will be deported to-day.

“His customer was a woman”⁷¹ (Montreal, 1906)

Marie Louise Labelle, forty-two years of age, was arrested last night in a saloon in Commissioner’s street by Patrolman Guyon of the Central Police Station for masquerading in male attire. The garb of the woman attracted the attention of the bartender who served a glass of beer to her. At first he thought she was a Chinaman, but it suddenly dawned on him that his customer was a woman. The bartender called in Patrolman Guyon, who took the woman to police headquarters. She would give no information to Lieut. Holland concerning herself, or how long she had been wearing male attire. She gave her name as Marie Louise Labelle, and her age as forty-five, but beyond that would furnish no information to the police.

⁷⁰ From DISTRICT AND LOCAL NEWS. (1906, February 20). *News-Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 10.

⁷¹ From CITY AND DISTRICT. (1906, February 21). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

“Regard their arrest as a joke”⁷² (Montreal, 1907)

Two sisters, Elzina and Corinne Forgue, 23 and 27 years of age, were arrested in Montcal street at 11.45 o'clock last night by Constable Laverdrieux of the East Craig street police station, for masquerading in male attire, and being under the influence of liquor.

When brought to the East Craig street station they gave their address as 167 Montcal street, and Elzina, the younger, said she was the wife of Emile Trudel. When they were first brought into the presence of Lieut. Sullivan, he thought they were Chinamen.

The women seemed to regard their arrest as a joke, and told the police that they had been so very good for the first half of Lent that they “just had to go out on a good time.”

They were sent to police headquarters to be put in the women's ward, and will be arraigned this morning before the Recorder's Court.

Unless friends come to their rescue this morning and bring their proper attire to police headquarters before the court opens, they will appear in the garb which led to their arrest.

“Female hold-up artist”⁷³ (New Westminster, 1907)

New Westminster, B.C., Aug. 23 – Annie Hooly, a negress arrested in Winnipeg a few days ago for holding up people on the streets, has a local record, and is well known to the police of Vancouver, Seattle, Spokane and several other cities. The woman is supposed to be the most dangerous colored female crook on the continent. She is at present waiting trial in Winnipeg.

In company with two men, one of whom claimed to be her husband, the woman, then known as Mary Turner, came to this city about three months ago from Montana, and was rushed out of town by the police. The party went over to Vancouver, where they soon got into trouble for stealing. The two men were convicted, but the woman became insane about this time, and was removed to the provincial asylum, where she remained until the day after her husband was liberated from the jail, when she escaped from the women's quarters, receiving outside assistance.

The occurrence book at the asylum gives the following details of her movements since her escape on May 28. Seen at Cloverdale at 5.45 a.m. the following morning, at Blaine on May 30, in Seattle the following day. Later she turned up at Spokane, where she served a month in jail for robbery, being sentenced on June 22. After her release she made her way to Winnipeg.

The negress had been operating in the prairie capital several weeks before she was capture, the police refusing to credit the stories of a female hold-up artist.

⁷² From CITY AND DISTRICT. (1907, March 8). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

⁷³ From FEMALE HOLD-UP ARTIST HAD RECORD ON COAST. (1907, August 24). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 5.

Sometimes the woman wore male attire while conducting her operations, on other occasions she disguised herself by wearing a thick fringe of false hair. In case any of her victims resisted, Annie Hooly would flash a murderous knife as an incentive to separating from the roll of greenbacks.

She is credited with having held up nearly fifty citizens in less than three weeks. She was formerly a snake charmer.

“Girls played footpads”⁷⁴ (Montreal, 1907)

In the Recorder’s Court on Thursday a young man named Hugh Reid was tried on a charge of assault, preferred against him by three young lady friends. On Thanksgiving night these three dressed in male attire, blackened their faces, and started out for a frolic. Seeing Reid coming up a dark street they decided to make him believe they were holding him up. They grabbed him, but he did not catch on to the joke, and started defending himself with his fists, and gave one of the girls a black eye. The girls then started to explain who they were, but the damage was done. Reid pleaded not guilty to the charge. Reid admits that the girls were acquaintances of his, but claims they did the hold-up business so well that he did not recognize them.

⁷⁴ From GIRLS PLAYED FOOTPADS. (1907, November 14). *Glencoe Transcript*, p. 3.

Clara Wortman

“Salisbury’s missing girl”⁷⁵ (New Brunswick, 1891)

Moncton, N. B., June 15 – Clara Wortman, Salisbury’s missing girl, has been found, dressed in boy’s clothing, working as a farm hand in Kings county. Reports have been in circulation for some days that a strange looking boy dressed in ill-fitting clothes and with hair roughly cut had been seen at various points along the Intercolonial railway, between Salisbury and Sussex. Yesterday morning J. E. Foster, of Salisbury, drove to Penobsquis and about two miles below the station found Clara working as a farm hand with Byron McLeod. She had been there a week. She did not say much, but alleged that she was dissatisfied with things at home. She was dressed in a pair of pants and [a] coat belonging to her brother. Her own clothing, a pair of scissors and a looking-glass were found near her home in the woods, where she had cut her own hair and changed her make-up. The first day she worked on the farm at Penobsquis she helped to load twenty loads of manure and was afterwards set to hoeing potatoes.

“The mystery unveiled”⁷⁶ (New Brunswick, 1891)

A Moncton despatch of yesterday states that Clara Wortman, the missing Salisbury girl, has been found, but not in the woods. Between 200 and 300 men have been tramping the woods around her home for over a week without getting the slightest trace of her, and latterly suspicions have been around that she was not in the woods at all, but had run away from home. This proves correct, though it is said the girl had no reason for going away.

It has been learned that a boy dressed in ill-fitting clothes stopped a few days ago at the house of Byron Freeze of Penobsquis, a relative of the Wortman family. Mr. Freeze did not know at the time that Clara was missing, but since hearing of the fact, this suspicion was aroused on account of some enquiries made by the boy in regard to the Wortman family.

The clue was followed up and Clara was found working as a farm laborer on the farm of Byron McLeod, near Penobsquis. She was wearing her brother’s clothes and the name she gave was that of a hero of a story she took with her when she started for school on Monday of last week. It is supposed the girl’s head was turned by reading trashy stories. There is great indignation among the hundreds of men who have been searching the woods for her, large parties having gone from Moncton, Petitcodiac and other places to assist the residents of the district.

⁷⁵ From In Male Attire. (1891, June 19). *The Listowel Banner*, p. 1.

⁷⁶ From THE MYSTERY UNVEILED. (1891, June 13). *The Herald* (Moncton, N.B.), p. 2.

“The exploit”⁷⁷ (New Brunswick, 1891)

The exploit of the Salisbury, N. B. girl, Clara Wortman, who was supposed to be lost in the woods, and had between two and three hundred men searching for her for a week, must have proved very trying to the tempers of her friends.

The young woman was not lost, but had donned male attire and hired out as a laborer on the farm of Byron McLeod, near Penobsquis. She had been reading trashy stories, which excited her mind, and she assumed the name of the hero of one of the books. Miss Wortman appears to stand badly in need of correction – a sound spanking would be likely to remove all further desire for romance of the kind she has just been indulging in.

The rage of the searchers must have been unbounded when the girl turned up all right. Parents should have some oversight over the literature allowed their children, but in many cases the mothers at least, if not the fathers, are just as fond of sensational stories as the children are.

⁷⁷ From The exploit. (1891, June 19). *The Critic* (Halifax, N.S.), p. 4.

Clara Ford

“Is she Frank Westwood’s slayer”?⁷⁸ (Toronto, 1894)

Clara Ford, a mulatto, who has been employed as a tailoress with Samuel Barnett, 154 York-street, off and on for the past eight months, and who has boarded for that period in the adjoining house, 152 York-street, with Mrs. John Dorsay, was arrested last evening on a charge of being the murderess of Frank Westwood, who was shot down at the door of his father’s house, at the foot of Jameson Avenue, on Saturday night, Oct. 6.

The girl gives her age as 33 years, but looks more like 25. She is best described as a “yaller” girl, and would almost pass for a white woman. She was born and raised in this city, and until two years ago lived with Mrs. McKay, a white woman, in a cottage in rear of the Salvation Army Industrial Home, which immediately adjoins the Westwood residence on the north. Early in 1892 the cottage was converted into a stable, and Mrs. McKay and Clara went to live at 107 Fern Avenue. Mrs. McKay was removed to the Home for Incurables, where she died, and Clara continued to live in the house alone, and rumor did not give her a good reputation. Even then she is supposed to have been addicted to parading in male attire and carrying a revolver, as frequent complaints were made to the police that a colored girl in male garb had stopped different young women in the streets. About this time Clara disappeared, and it has been ascertained that she went to Manitoba, returning about eight months ago, when she went to board at Mrs. Dorsay’s, 152 York Street, where she has resided ever since, working at her trade as a tailoress in the various Hebrew tailor shops in the vicinity. When her room was searched, after her arrest, a suit of men’s clothing, several men’s white shirts and a 38-calibre revolver, with two empty chambers, were found.

THE FIRST CLUE

Detectives Slemin and Porter never ceased working on the case since the shot was fired. Three weeks ago a pointer was obtained through words dropped in conversation by a woman. Then the officers went on a still-hunt for Clara Ford, but not until yesterday did they succeed in locating her.

THE ARREST

At 4.30 yesterday afternoon Detectives Slemin and Porter entered the store of Samuel Barnett, 154 York Street, and enquired the name of a young girl who was working at a sewing machine. When told it was Clara Ford, one of the detectives said:

“The Inspector of Detectives wishes to see you at headquarters.”

“All right,” replied Clara, “I will go with you. Wait till I go upstairs and get my things on.”

“No; we will go with you,” was the reply, and Clara, accompanied by the detectives, went upstairs to the room occupied by the girl in Mrs. Dorsay’s boarding

⁷⁸ From IS SHE FRANK WESTWOOD’S SLAYER. (1894, November 21). *Toronto World*, p. 1.

house adjoining. There they found a 38-calibre revolver with two chambers discharged and a full suit of men's clothing, besides two men's shirts.

They escorted the girl to Headquarters, where she was told the charge upon which she had been arrested. She received the intelligence very coolly. She was afterwards interviewed by Inspector Stark, and as a result of the interview was locked up and a charge of murder registered against her.

MRS. DORSAY'S STORY

When The World saw Mrs. Dorsay at an early hour this morning she was not aware upon what charge Clara had been arrested. She was told that it was upon suspicion of murdering Frank Westwood.

"Oh! My God!" she cried, "It's not true! It can't be. She was an industrious, hard-working girl, and never went out at nights."

Mrs. Dorsay knew very little of the antecedents of Clara, except that she was an orphan with one sister. She was born and raised in Toronto, but both her parents have been dead for some years. Some time ago she went to Manitoba, returning eight months ago. Since her return she has boarded with Mrs. Dorsay, working for the greater part of that time with Mr. Barnett. Mrs. Dorsay could not tell from memory what time of night Clara returned to her boarding house on Saturday, October 6, the evening Frank Westwood was shot, but was sure she couldn't have been out till 11.30 o'clock.

"I don't give my boarders latch keys," said Mrs. Dorsay emphatically, "but let them in myself. Clara always came in between 9 and 10 o'clock, and if she came in that night late, I certainly would have remembered it."

ALWAYS CARRIED A REVOLVER

"There's nothing in the finding of the revolver," continued Mrs. Dorsay. "Clara owned that revolver. I've seen it often. She always carried it when she went out nights to protect herself, and slept with it under her pillow."

She also wore men's clothes sometimes. She was very masculine, and frequently went out in male attire, often wearing a pair of men's pants under her dress.

"During the eight months she has been with me she has worked for different Hebrew tailors in York St. I have never heard her talk much about the Westwood case, but of course she discussed it, as the rest of us did."

HER EMPLOYER

Samuel Barnett, the girl's employer, also said that Clara was steady and industrious.

"She had worked for me on three different occasions during the past eight months," said Mr. Barnett, "coming here the last time on Saturday, Sept. 15. Since then she has been working continuously, often until 9 and 10 o'clock at night. I am sure she worked on the day of the Westwood shooting, and also the Monday following, because I remember her remarking that morning, when we were reading the account of the shooting, that 'it wouldn't be safe for anyone to go to the door after this.' She never spoke much to the other girls, but attended to her work. Her little 14-year-old sister used to come and see her occasionally; and once when she came at night Clara

told her never to do it again, that it was not safe to go along York Street nights, and always to come in the day-time. We have been very busy of late, working nights, and Clara has always been here. Only this afternoon she said, 'I guess we'll have to work on Thanksgiving Day and try to catch up, but I don't mind.'"

When the detectives took Clara away they did not inform Barnett as to the crime with which she was charged, and he knew nothing of the suspicion against her that she was the murderess of Frank Westwood until told by *The World*. There were several tailoresses in the shop at the time, and they were dumbfounded. The girl had certainly made no confidant of any of them, nor let drop anything that would lead them to suspect her in connection with the tragedy.

FRANK KNEW THE GIRL

Ed. Lennox, poor Frank Westwood's chum, told *The World* last night that he used to live about two years ago at the rear of the Clarks' home, on Jameson Avenue. He believed Frank Westwood knew her also by sight, but he could not say whether Frank had an intimate acquaintance with her.

THE EVIDENCE TO DATE

The evidence upon which the young mulatto was arrested is briefly as follows:

The girl lived for a long time in the immediate vicinity of the Westwood place, and was consequently familiar with that locality. She is known to have been acquainted with Frank Westwood; two witnesses swear to having seen her on more than one occasion prowling in Jameson Avenue in male attire, and her landlady says she was in the habit of going on the streets dressed in men's clothes; a 38-calibre revolver, the same sized weapon with which Frank Westwood was killed, was found in her room with two chambers discharged, and it is known that she carried it with her when she went out, as she said, "to protect herself."

THE THEORY OF THE TRAGEDY

The theory of the detectives is that the girl deliberately killed young Westwood for revenge. That it is the old story, but with a different ending. They were working on the hypothesis that when Clara Ford lived in Mrs. McKay's cottage, which was only a few yards distant from the Westwood house, she and Frank were intimate. Then the girl disappeared, and according to the story told to Mrs. Dorsay she had been in Manitoba until she arrived at the York Street boarding house eight months ago. Since then, they believe, she has been plotting the crime which was carried into effect on Oct. 6.

She has short curly hair, and, dressed in men's clothes, would readily pass for a young man, as she has a masculine walk and carriage. Her presence in the vicinity of the Westwood home thus attired would indicate that she was watching for a favorable opportunity to carry her design into effect, and finally hit upon the expedient of calling the young man to the door, having first watched the family retire upstairs.

Her escape is easily accounted for. Familiar with the locality, she could readily have run from the front door across the Westwood lawn to Hawthorne Street, a fence a foot high alone dividing the street from the grounds. She would emerge just about

the spot where Mrs. McKay's cottage stood, and could cut across the vacant land to Victoria Crescent and easily escape.

Whether or not Frank Westwood knew who it was who shot him, and went to the grave with the secret locked in his breast is, of course, unknown. If he did, and Clara Ford shot him, this may explain his remarks in his ante-mortem statement that "Mum's the word," and "You can't pump me."

"Immediately changed it"⁷⁹ (Toronto, 1894)

TORONTO, November 21. – Clara Ford, arrested last night on the suspicion of being the slayer of Frank Westwood, was arraigned in the Police court this morning. When asked what she pleaded she said, to the astonishment of all around her, "Guilty," but immediately changed it, as if she had made a slip, to one of "Not guilty." The case was remanded for a week at the request of the Crown.

Clara Ford is probably a mulatto, though she has herself claimed to be of Spanish extraction, and her age is given as thirty-two years. She was apprehended yesterday afternoon at a quarter to 4 o'clock by Detectives Slein and Porter in the shop of a Jewish tailor named Samuel Barnett, at 154 York street. She made no attempt at resistance, and quietly walked over with Slein and Porter to the offices of the detective department, where she was detained for several hours before she was finally and formally charged with the awful crime of murder.

During this time she was questioned upon many of the points bearing upon the case, and further steps were taken to verify or disprove the belief that it was she who shot down Westwood. The officers found that she had been working in the capacity of tailoress with Barnett, and that she had rented, and was occupying, a room in the upper storey of the same premises. This was searched, and two most remarkable discoveries made. In the first place a "bull-dog" revolver, a six-shooter of 38 calibre, was found there with two chambers empty and four loaded. It was with a 38-calibre revolver that young Westwood was shot. And in the second place a suit of male attire was also found, and it must be admitted that, taken in conjunction with the information gathered by the detectives, these form exceedingly startling features of the case, although the prisoner may be able to give a satisfactory account of why she possessed both.

The strangest part of the case is that pertaining to the motive which impelled the woman, as it is alleged, to commit the crime. She had been masquerading in male attire in Parkdale during the summer, and knew young Westwood well. It was simply a passing acquaintance, and he, no doubt, recognized her in her strange garb. Some time before the shooting a paragraph appeared in the newspapers stating that a young woman had been seen in Parkdale masquerading in man's clothing, and a description was given, which to some extent corresponded with the clothing worn by the prisoner. It is said that she accused young Westwood of giving her away, and was very indignant over the affair. If the police theory of the crime be correct this is the

⁷⁹ From IS SHE WESTWOOD'S SLAYER. (1894, November 22). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

only motive for the deed. Many doubted the story told by young Westwood to the effect that he did not recognize the assailant in the darkness, but if the woman Ford is, as the police claim, guilty, his story will bear the closest scrutiny.

Edward Lennox, who was Frank Westwood's bosom chum, was asked last evening if he knew anything of the girl, and replied that he had known her some time ago, but only slightly, and he was quite sure Frank was not intimately acquainted, or had ever had anything to do with her, though he had probably just known her to speak to.

That the police attach the greatest importance to the arrest goes without saying, and that it appears to justify their original theory, to which they have tenaciously held from the start, viz., that there was a woman at the bottom of the mystery, is also evident. It will be noticed that the ante-mortem statement of the murdered youth, that his assailant wore a black fedora hat and dark clothes, but that he did not recognize him, fits the conditions of the present case.

“Clara has confessed”⁸⁰ (Toronto, 1894)

Clara Ford, the mulatto tailoress, murdered Frank Westwood. To Inspector Stark and to Sergeant Detective Reburn she made a full confession of her guilt.

The extent and nature of the confession will be made public when the preliminary trial takes place on the 29th inst.

INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS

There were some interesting developments yesterday. The girl was arraigned in the Police Court and pleaded guilty, but subsequently withdrew the plea and entered one of not guilty.

The World also learned some facts which show the murder to have been premeditated, and found at least two witnesses who saw Clara in the vicinity of the Westwood place the day before that of the murder.

It was also learned that for two years the girl masqueraded as a man in Chicago, where she was employed in a livery stable, that she was a choir boy in an Anglican church there and was confirmed as a boy, her sex subsequently being revealed to the minister by a former Toronto lady.

The motive of the crime has not transpired, for the reason that the detectives have not yet established by evidence corroboration of the prisoner's story in that respect. It certainly did not arise from any liaison that had existed between the murdered boy and his slayer. This theory has been indisputably refuted. Everything points to the fact that the murderess was suffering from what is called sexual perversion, and that she shot down young Westwood simply because of some remark he had made to her respecting her appearance.

The discovery of the perpetrator of the crime came about in this way. Gus Clark said to his mother that he believed Clara Ford shot Frank Westwood. Mrs. Clark

⁸⁰ From CLARA HAS CONFESSED. (1894, November 22). *The Toronto World*, p. 1.

repeated it to a neighbor, who informed the detectives, which neighbor will probably receive the \$500 reward offered by the Ontario Government.

SEXUAL PERVERSION

The World is not yet in a position to give a definite motive for Clara Ford's crime, and the police refuse, so far, to divulge anything of which they may be possessed. But from the facts that have come out so far, there is considerable reason for believing that this young woman is a sufferer from what the medical authorities call homo-sexuality – in other words, that she was suffering from what is called sexual perversion. The books which are the authorities on the subject cite any number of cases of men who thought themselves women, or wished to be thought women, and women who desired to be considered as men.

Women who are affected this way show an intense desire to be considered masculine. There is no doubt as to the sex physically, but the perversion is on the mental condition. Such women go about in male clothing. They prefer masculine work, and show an unusual skill in it. They eschew female occupations, and often show a weakness for smoking and spirits. With this perverted condition there often go pronounced outbreaks of passion and jealousy, which drive the unfortunate victim at times to crime. This girl, Clara Ford, had all this desire to be considered a man, to possess men's clothes and to wear them, and to follow men's occupations. She was also possessed with this intense feeling of hatred or jealousy which manifested itself from the interview published above on the day previous to the perpetration of the crime.

It may be mentioned that it is a coincidence borne out by the authorities that sexual crimes are progressively increasing, and within the last week the people of Canada have had brought to their notice the murder of Jessie Keith by Chattelle⁸¹, who seems to have been suffering from this sexual perversion, and the murder of young Westwood by Clara Ford, who also seems to have been similarly perverted.

A medical man stated last night that if it was so that young Westwood had in any way interfered with Clara Ford in her masquerading as a man, to her, sexually perverted as it appears to be, it would be an interference with what she considered one of her dearest pleasures, and it would create in her a feeling of jealousy and rage sufficient to instigate the murder of the young man of itself and requiring no other incentive whatever.

IN THE POLICE COURT

Clara Ford was arraigned at the Police Court yesterday morning and formally charged with having on Saturday, Oct. 6, wilfully shot and killed Frank Westwood. When asked to plead, the girl in a low voice said "guilty." She quickly changed the plea, however, to one of "not guilty," and at the request of the crown the case was charged for a week.

There was an immense crowd in court when the girl was arraigned and she was to all appearances the most unconcerned person in the room. She wore a black

⁸¹ Almede Chattelle, referred to as male in the press, was hanged in 1895 for the Jack-the-Ripper-style murder of Jessie Kieth. It was considered a 'lust murder'.

dress, a black coat trimmed with beaver, [a] black fedora hat with duck's feathers and [a] bow of bones [sic.] on the side. Her strong masculine face indicated how readily she could pass for a man if attired in man's clothes. During the reading of the indictment charging her with the murder, she fixed her gaze on the magistrate, and there was no sign of nervousness. Her plea of not guilty was given in a firm, clear, unfaltering voice.

Mr. W. G. Murdoch has been retained to defend the girl.

JUSTICE TO THE WESTWOOD FAMILY

In the light of these developments, it is clear that the surmises which obtained a certain amount of credence that members of the Westwood family knew something about the cause of the tragedy, are thoroughly foundationless. These developments also exonerate young Westwood from any suspicion that he had in any way committed himself as to supply the girl with a motive for her crime. The sympathy which has already been so generally shown the Westwood family, will be augmented in view of the above statements, which have every appearance of being a true explanation of the murder. Frank Westwood was cut off in his youthful prime by a sexually perverted girl.

A WOMAN WITH A HISTORY

Woman's dress seems to have been ever distasteful to Clara Ford. Her first experience as a man is one which was impelled by force of circumstances, and since then male attire has apparently had an irresistible fascination for her.

Her life story is one that has been full of romance and unknown history. Adopted by Miss McKay while yet a child, she did not know who her parents were. Thrown on the world, her ideas hardened by her own rough contact with the thorns of existence, she speedily struck out for herself a path. Life in prosaic measure was not for her, and like a knight errant of old she started looking for adventure.

Her kind benefactor, Miss McKay, tried to reason with her, but Clara was determined to see the world. Chicago was her first objective point. In 1888 she reached the big city on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Work was looked for in vain. Colored girls were not especially in demand outside of the regions [sic.] of Polk Street. Driven to desperation, she donned male attire and searched for a situation at anything. A livery stable had a vacancy and the good-looking mulatto boy secured a place as hostler and man-of-all-work. Her manly form was such that there was not the slightest suspicion of her sex. Gradually the new man rose to the position of hack driver, and frequently clad in coachman's attire, she answered the call for a cab, and soon was completely assimilated to her position.

A CHOIR BOY IN AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Her color was not noticeable and her voice was so extraordinary that she was sought for as a choir boy. The Anglican Church, which she attended, secured the supposed young man, and, clad in [a] surplice, the soi-distant girl helped to sing the praise of the Lord. The minister asked her to be confirmed and Clara consented. She attended confirmation class regularly and was to all appearances a model young man. Soon the time came for confirmation and Clara was to be one of the class.

Then a Toronto woman, Mrs. Stole, living in Chicago, recognized Clara and told the pastor that his supposed young man was a woman in disguise. The pastor was naturally astonished and called the candidate for confirmation to him. He told what he had learned and Clara frankly admitted her sex. She said that being unable to obtain employment as a woman she had donned man's apparel and had been successful in getting work. Since that time she had continued to wear male attire and had conducted herself exactly as one of the superior sex.

WHY SHE DONNED MALE ATTIRE

She did not attempt to excuse her masquerade, thinking it was completely justified by two circumstances. Her experience of two years as a man was not flattering to the males, and she declared that she had no use for men. Her close communion with them had destroyed all illusions and she considered that men were not necessary in the scheme of nature. As she expressed to the minister, she "had no use for men."

Her experience in Chicago was no doubt a precedent for the donning of the trousers in this city. Her masculine manner could not be hidden by petticoats, and she was frequently seen on the streets wearing a stand-up collar and white shirt and disporting herself much as the advanced woman.

Mr. Samuel Shaw, general insurance agent at 9 Toronto Street, who lives in Jameson Avenue and who had often noted her masculine appearance, as he passed by his house, is well acquainted with the woman's history, and confirmed the story of her Chicago experience.

SAW CLARA THE DAY BEFORE THE MURDER

It has now been proven that Clara Ford was in the vicinity of the Westwood house the day before that on which the murder was perpetrated. She was seen on the Friday afternoon by the little daughters of Arthur M. Rice, who lives at 17 Starr Avenue.

The Misses Rice, bright, intelligent little girls, about 11 and 13 years of age, were seen by The World last night. Their story is that on the afternoon in question they were walking home along with Mrs. Westwood and her little daughter Emily, who was a friend of theirs, when they saw in front of them a colored woman, whom they knew by the name of Clara, and a girl of about 14 years of age. They overtook these people, and as they passed the woman cast an angry glance at Mrs. Westwood and muttered some remark.

Prior to this, when the children were playing ball, they had seen this colored person and her girl companion sitting under a tree in a vacant lot, eating lunch. Emily Westwood told them that they had better keep away, as she had heard that the woman carried a revolver.

The description that the little girls gave of the colored woman tallies with the appearance of Clara Ford in every particular. "She had big feet and walked exactly like a man," said one of the little girls. "I should know her again if I saw her," she added.

With considerable pride, the youngsters shoed the reporter a plan of the places where they had first seen the colored woman and subsequently passed her in company with Mrs. Westwood.

“I shot Frank Westwood”⁸² (Toronto, 1894)

Ford said [to this reporter]: “There is no use my misleading you any longer in the matter.” I asked what she meant and [...] cautioned her. “I don’t care,” she said, “If you had a sister and she was treated in the way I was treated you would do the same. I shot Frank Westwood.”

I asked her the reason and she replied:

“About the end of July or the first of August he caught hold of me on Jameson Avenue and tried to knock me down and take improper liberties with me. The boys in the neighborhood were always teasing me. I was in the habit of sitting at the boat home reading, and you know the way these people call you names.”

“Clara Ford not guilty”⁸³ (Toronto, 1895)

Toronto, Ont., May 5. – The Clara Ford murder trial concluded shortly after 9 o’clock and resulted in a verdict of “not guilty.” In last October young Frank Westwood was shot on his father’s doorstep, in Parkdale, and a mystery resulted as to the author of the fatal wound. The detectives followed with a clue which led to the arrest of Clara Ford, who was said to have disguised herself as a man, and shot Westwood out of jealousy.

W. C. Murdoch, the eminent criminal lawyer, who had the conduct of the case, brought forward evidence to-day showing that on the night of the murder Clara Ford was at the Toronto opera house. The jury, after a long absence, brought in a verdict of not guilty, and Clara Ford was given her freedom.

In giving evidence in her own behalf Clara Ford declared she was bulldozed into making a confession by Detective Reburn, and denied the confession made at the time of her arrest.

⁸² From I SHOT FRANK WESTWOOD. (1894, November 29). *Toronto World*, p. 1.

⁸³ From CLARA FORD NOT GUILTY. (1895, May 9). *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 2.

Sacket

Had she lived in the twenty-first century, Sacket would probably be considered a transgender woman. She was assigned male at birth, and initially self-identified as a boy. One night, a powerful spirit appeared to her in a dream and told her that from that moment on, she was a woman. Sacket self-identified as a woman after that dream, and her nation accepted her as such. Victoria's legal authorities had more difficulty understanding the situation.

“Thou art a woman”⁸⁴ (Victoria, 1895)

Among the witnesses brought down from Quatsino on the steamer *Mischief* to give evidence against the Japanese whisky pirates who were convicted in the provincial police court Thursday⁸⁵, was a [woman] named Sacket. Dressed in a blue figured print dress, a bright colored shawl over her shoulders, and her long hair dangling down her back in a couple of pig tails, Sacket was, from her towzled head to her pigeon-toed brown feet, an ordinary looking every day [woman]⁸⁶ of apparently 23 or 24 years old. Yesterday, however, it was discovered to the surprise of everyone that Sacket was not a [woman] at all but a man. At first the supposed woman protested vigorously, but at length owned up to the fact that though a man, for years [she] had posed as a woman, and among the tribe at Quatsino had associated with the [woman] and acted as if [she] were one of them.

Sacket told [her] story yesterday. [She] is a member of the Quatsino tribe, [she] says, and an orphan.

“Many years ago, when I was a little boy,” [she] related, “I fell into a deep sleep. And to me as I slept there came a mighty voice. I looked and was afraid, for before me appeared the Saghalie Tyee (God).

“Sacket,’ said the mighty voice, from this night thou art a woman. Never shalt thou appear but in a woman’s dress and with long hair after the fashion of women.’

“Then I promised the Saghalie Tyee that I would obey his words, and hid my face. Again when I looked he had gone and I was alone. From that day to this I have been a woman wearing women’s clothes and letting my hair grow long.”

Sacket, though apparently quite sane, seems to thoroughly believe that the “Saghalie Tyee” did appear to [her] and that his orders had to be carried out. On this point Sacket appears to have a hallucination. Sacket will likely be examined as to [her] sanity. In the meantime [she] says [she] will consent to disobey [her] spiritual orders and get [her] hair cut if [she] is furnished with a man’s clothes.

⁸⁴ From A “MAN-WOMAN.” (1895, March 23). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 5.

⁸⁵ “When the steamer *Mischief* reached port yesterday she brought as deck cargo a fine new sloop, seized with its Japanese crew for peddling whiskey to the Indians in Quatsino sound.” THEIR SLOOP SEIZED. (1895, March 22). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 5.

⁸⁶ The original article used a now-offensive term for ‘Indigenous woman’. Below, I have also corrected the misgendering of Sacket by the original reporter.

“Strange and romantic career”⁸⁷ (Victoria, 1895)

A foreign article based on ‘a Victoria B.C. telegram’ includes details not in the original Colonist report.

The strange and romantic career of “Sacket the woman priestess of the Quatsinos,” has been brought to a sensational close by Supt. Hussey⁸⁸, of the provincial police, and Sacket now awaits the sailing of the first coasting steamer in order to return to the tribe, says a Victoria, B. C., telegram. For years this person has been held as little short of a tribal deity along the west coast[,] has rendered great assistance to missionaries, and has held the unique distinction of being the “only woman ever admitted to the councils of tribe.” It now turns out that Sacket is not a woman, although passing as one among both whites and Indians for a quarter of a century. Sacket was among the witnesses brought down from Quatsino Sound to give evidence against a party of whisky pirates convicted here yesterday. Dressed in a blue-figured white dress, with bright-colored shawl over [her] shoulders, and [her] long hair dangling down [her] back in two neatly braided “pigtailed,” Sacket was, from towseled head to pigeontoed brown feet, an ordinary-looking woman of apparently thirty odd years of age. The bogus woman was, during the necessary detention prior to the trial, given a room in the Provincial police station, and it was there that the detection of her sex came, because “she” had no opportunity to shave, and in the course of two days a stubby beard made its appearance. Sacket, when accused of masquerading in false attire, at first protested indignantly in shrill soprano voice, and then burst into truly feminine tears.

Afterward [she] explained that, though a man, [she] had always lived as a woman, and been accepted as such, assuming [her] role of religious guide and mentor partly because the “Saghalie T[y]hee” (God) had commanded, and because it facilitated the masquerade by permitting [her] to separate [herself] from the tribe, as [she] otherwise could not have done. [She] is a good-looking S——⁸⁹, an orphan of the Quatsino tribe, and tells the following remarkable story in explanation of [her] life-long masquerade:

“Many years ago,” [she] relates, “when I was a very little boy, I fell into sleep by the side of the great water, and to me, as I slept, there came a mighty voice which instantly awoke me. It was not of the wind, nor of the sea, nor of the thunder. I looked and was afraid, for before me appeared the Saghalie Tyhee. ‘Sacket,’ said the mighty voice, ‘from this night thou art a woman and my priestess, to do my service and mine alone. Never shall thou appear but in a woman’s dress and with thy hair uncut, after the fashion of woman.’ Then I promised the Saghalie Tyhee that I would obey and hid

⁸⁷ From PRIESTESS IS A MAN. (1895, May 31). *The Pontiac Gazette Supplement*, p. 1. I have again corrected the article’s mis-gendering of Sacket. My alterations are in [square brackets].

⁸⁸ Frederick S. Hussey, born in 1852. As of the 1901 census, he lived in Victoria with his wife Eleanor (b. 1875) and ‘Ah Chin’ (b. 1881), a Chinese cook. Superintendent Hussey reported income of \$1,800 in 1900. Ah Chin earned \$260 in the same year.

⁸⁹ An offensive term for an Indigenous person.

my face in the sand. And I slept, and when I awoke once more I was alone. From that day I have been a woman and the 'good worker' of the Quatsinos."

Sacket, though apparently sane, seems to thoroughly believe that the Saghalie Tyhee did appear to [her] and that his⁹⁰ wish had been carried out. On this point all arguments were useless and an examination as to [her] sanity will in consequence be made.

In the meantime the police have overruled the great spirit command and cut the "priestess" hair, besides insisting on [her] donning man's attire. [She] has submitted to the change, but says [she] will surely die of shame if compelled to go out among men in such garments."

"Now dressed in male attire"⁹¹ (Victoria, 1895)

Sacket, who was suddenly transformed from a [woman] into a man on Friday, is now dressed in male attire, and yesterday his long flowing locks were cropped off close to his head. When told at the provincial police station that he would not be allowed to masquerade in woman's clothes any longer he gave in with good grace, and as he somewhat mournfully gazed upon his shorn tresses and made them up in a little bundle he remarked that though he would have to suffer in the next world for turning to a man again he would take his chances.

⁹⁰ The Saghalie Tyhee's

⁹¹ From THE CITY. (1895, March 24). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 2. I have given the article the benefit of the doubt and retained the original pronouns referring to Sacket, as the report suggests that at this point he was a man, by his own account.

Louisa Ford

“A peculiar condition of affairs”⁹² (Toronto, 1907)

Toronto, Dec. 6. – A peculiar condition of affairs was brought to light by the police tonight, when the police arrested John Ford in the street on a charge of drunkenness.

Mrs. Ford was attired in men’s clothes, and the policeman who made the arrest was not aware of her sex until she disclosed it at the police station.

It has developed that Mrs. Ford works in the brickyards at the Humber as a laborer, doing the hard kind of manual labor, and always wears male attire.

Her fellow workers are aware of her sex, but it has ceased to be a matter of wonder among them.

“A strange man”⁹³ (Toronto, 1907)

Just as Jim McCaffery was closing his grill room at the Bay Tree Hotel, Adelaide and Bay streets, shortly before 9 o’clock last night his attention was called by one of the waitresses who said, “There is a strange man going upstairs.”

“Here, old man,” called the Boniface, “you can’t go up there.”

The short squat figure turned itself around. It was clad in a dark, gray, tweed suit. The trousers were a trifle lengthy and fell in wrinkles over a pair of stout gaiter boots. The head was topped by a mud splashed driving cap pulled well down over the ears, and the peak shrouded a flat, masculine German face. The hand upon the bannister was short and square, but the voice that asked, “What’s the matter?” was a woman’s, and when requested to leave, the visitor insisted that her husband was upstairs and she was to meet him there.

On the street a policeman took charge. At the station Inspector Davis was for some time puzzled as to the sex.

The tales that she told at the police station were weird. Her first was that she was a Russian spy. Then she declared that her husband had gone off with all the money and another woman to the theatre, wherefore she had collared his clothes to follow.

She is Mrs. John Ford and works in male attire as a common laborer at Butwell’s brickyard, a quarter of a mile west of the Humber. She and her husband recently moved to Ontario Street.

She is charged with being drunk.

⁹² From DRESSES LIKE A MAN. (1907, December 7). *London Advertiser*, p. 9.

⁹³ From DRESSED AS A MAN. (1907, December 7). *Toronto World*, p. 7.

“She had a perfect right”⁹⁴ (Toronto, 1907)

Mrs. Louisa Ford, who was arrested Friday night while masquerading in male attire, was remanded until Friday next. Her husband wants her examined as to her sanity, though the woman declared she was “distinctly sensible.”

The Fords are said to be respectable people. A daughter is a nurse. Mrs. Ford has been in the habit of working at Butwell’s brick yards, dressed as a man.

Once when expostulated with, she stated that she had a perfect right to wear any kind of clothes she chose. At one time she lived in Leslieville, where her father still is. It is said that she was once a school teacher.

“Do you know?”⁹⁵ (Edmonton, 1914)

Who gives the orders as to whom the police should arrest?
The other night they stopped a girl, whose “crime” was that she dressed
In male attire, and just for fun, went out upon parade,
And just for this, locked up all night, within a cell she stayed.

Last Monday morning, as I walked down Jasper Avenue,
Near the east end, a sick’ning sight was thrust upon my view.
Supported by a lamp post, and surrounded by a crowd,
A “lady” (?) stood, with painted face, and costume known as “loud.”

‘Twas evident she had imbibed much more than she could stand,
But, she was not arrested, tho’ a patrol was at hand.
She staggered up towards the west, and it grieves me to tell,
That policeman looked on, whilst she, reeled into an hotel.

Why should one man arrest a girl, for just a harmless jest,
And why should one make no attempt to stop a shameless pest?
These are two questions which I asked, without any replies,
Which makes me wonder if police are paid to close their eyes.

⁹⁴ From *Wants to Wear Man’s Clothes*. (1907, December 8). *Toronto World*, p. 4.

⁹⁵ From TOUCHANDGO. (1914, April 7). “DO YOU KNOW?” *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4.

Eugénie “Venus” Côté, *alias* Xavier

“A sturdy lass”⁹⁶ (Quebec, 1918)

“Venus” Cote, a sturdy lass, living at Rimouski, Que., is today in the toils because she posed as a man, had her hair cut in military style, and went as far as donning man’s attire, and worked in the log driving bee for the Chaleur Bay Pulp Company at Restigouche.

“Venus” was in jail at Rimouski when she escaped last week. After a widespread search for her through the bush and open country, a posse of sheriff’s deputies and volunteers located her half starved in a barn at Ste. Angele de Merci, and she was brought back to Rimouski where she will serve her term on a charge of vagrancy and of impersonating a man.

She is 23 years old. She says she drove logs all spring in men’s clothing, and was not detected till she was given away by a comrade on a spree, when the gang struck the civilized world after the log driving season.

“Indignation is expressed”⁹⁷ (Kingston, 1918)

“Venus” Cote, the sturdy Rimouski, Que., lass of twenty-three who was a few days ago sentenced to a term of two years in penitentiary because she posed as a man, had her hair cut in military style and went as far as donning man’s attire and working in the log driving bee for the Chaleur Bay Pulp Company at Restigouche, is now in the Portsmouth penitentiary women’s ward. She was brought here in male attire and the prison authorities did not know with whom they were dealing until they read the commitment. The young woman escaped from the jail at Rimouski and was finally located, half-starved, by a sheriff’s posse.

Indignation is expressed at the treatment accorded this [person] over breaking an old law which says it is an offence for a woman to don male garments. The war has made changes and women are everywhere wearing male attire at work. The general opinion is that the penitentiary is no place for “Venus” Cote, who showed bravery and enterprise in helping in a national industry.

If the women’s organizations of Kingston and other places do not secure her immediate release and give her aid, the Whig will be much surprised.

“Outraged public sentiment”⁹⁸ (Toronto, 1918)

If the facts are as represented in Press despatches from Kingston, the case of Miss Cote demands immediate action from the Minister of Justice. This young woman, whose home is in Rimouski, Quebec, is twenty-three years of age. According

⁹⁶ From GIRL MASQUERADED AS MAN; DROVE LOGS. (1918, May 29). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 9.

⁹⁷ ARRIVES AT PENITENTIARY. (1918, June 6). *Weekly British Whig*, p. 4.

⁹⁸ From COTE CASE CALLS FOR ACTION. (1918, June 10). *The Globe*, p. 4.

to published reports she responded to patriotic appeals for workers to take the places of men called to the colors by donning male attire in order to do her bit at a logging bee for the Chaleur Bay Pulp Company at Restigouche. In so doing she apparently contravened some old statute which makes it an offence for a woman to wear male garments. Some busybody took action, and some court sentenced her to two years' imprisonment in Kingston Penitentiary for her heinous offence! Her arrival at Kingston to serve this term is said to have occasioned amazement at the big prison, and, the despatch states, "the opinion is that the penitentiary is no place for this sturdy young girl who showed such enterprise in endeavoring to help her country."

This is no case in which the slow methodical process of judicial procedure should be permitted to crawl its course. It is a case for prompt investigation and immediate action. If the facts are as published, twenty-four hours should not elapse before this girl is honorably freed, recompensed for the injury done, and publicly commended for the spirit which found expression in her action. If a cruel injustice has been done, the Minister of Justice should deem it his peremptory duty to do everything in his power to right the wrong and deal with those responsible for its perpetration. An effort is already being made by earnest and enterprising women's organizations in Kingston to secure the girl's release. But the Minister should not wait until the humanity and patriotism of womanhood have to force his hand. In this case, called to his attention by publicity, he should act at once on his own initiative.

An outraged public sentiment wants to hear promptly from Hon. C. J. Doherty.

"Application made for girl's release"⁹⁹ (Ottawa, 1918)

An application for the release of Venus Cote from Kingston Penitentiary, where she is now under sentence for two years for posing as a man while working as a driver on the Restigouche River, was received by the Department of Justice this afternoon. The case has been turned over to Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Solicitor-General, to investigate. A report from the trial Judge as to the evidence on which sentence was imposed will be secured at once. Pending the receipt of this and of all the particulars in the case, no opinion as to the probability of extending executive clemency is forthcoming. It is intimated, however, that the facts in connection with the case indicate that sentence was not imposed solely because the girl masqueraded as a man, and that possibly some of the sympathy which her case has aroused may be misplaced.

"Sent to prison for theft"¹⁰⁰ (Kingston, 1918)

It transpires that the Cote woman, popularly known as "Venus" Cote, is not serving two years in Portsmouth penitentiary for wearing male attire, as was first reported. The story was that she was sent to the penitentiary for two years for posing

⁹⁹ APPLICATION MADE FOR GIRL'S RELEASE. (1918, June 11). *The Globe*, p. 16.

¹⁰⁰ "VENUS" COTE SENT TO PRISON FOR THEFT. (1918, June 12). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 3.

as a man while working as a log driver on the Restigouche river and, on the strength of this, application has been made to the Department of Justice for her release.

The facts of the case are that the woman was sent up for five years for theft, she having broken into a house and stolen “silverware, clothing, etc.” In addition she broke jail after her arrest and was not captured for several days. At present she is confined to the women’s prison at the penitentiary and seems to be very quiet for one of her peculiar disposition. She will be taught to sew and do other feminine work, but at the present time she scarcely knows what a thimble is for.

“A very harsh sentence”¹⁰¹ (Kingston, 1918)

Even if “Venus” Cote, the Rimouski, Que., young woman, did break into some cottages and also escape from jail, besides being guilty of concealing her identity by donning male attire, is a five-year¹⁰² term in penitentiary justifiable? Is there no such thing as giving an unfortunate young woman a chance? It is said that “Venus” Cote is one of a very large family. Possibly she drifted and was not given the helping hand or the chance to make good, that all of us would like if we were in a similar position. In these days in Canada, have we advanced no further in reform than in deciding one guilty and then casting the stones?

Five years in prison may make “Venus” Cote a saint, and perhaps it will make her bitter against society, as harsh imprisonment does to so many. In Kingston police court, persons who did perhaps quite as much as “Venus” Cote have been sent to jail or to reformatory for a few months. But a five-year sentence appears devoid of all mercy.

“The King versus Eugénie”¹⁰³ (House of Commons, 1919)

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Maison-neuve): Mr. Speaker, [...] I now desire to direct the attention of the House to the case of the King versus Eugenie alias “Venus” Coté. I bring this question before the house because an inquiry was urgently asked by the Toronto Globe into the case. The facts are very simple. On June 8, 1918, the Toronto Globe published under flaring headlines the following:

“Young girl posed as man. Outrageous stence upon her rouses a storm of indignation. Two years in Prison! Trying to help country. She contravenes some old statute.”

The despatch is supposed to be sent from Kingston, and is dated June 7:

“Kingston, June 7. – Because she posed as a man, had her hair cut in military style, and went so far as donning a man’s attire in order to do her bit in a log-driving bee for the Chaleur Bay Pulp Co., at Restigouche, “Venus” Cote, Rimouski, Quebec,

¹⁰¹ THE COTE CASE. (1918, June 14). *Daily British Whig*, p. 4.

¹⁰² See the last article in this section for details. The five year sentence was for theft.

¹⁰³ From Dominion of Canada. (1919). Official Report of the Debates of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada Second Session – Thirteenth Parliament, Volume CXXXVI. Ottawa: J. de Labroquerie Taché. The extracts are from May 26, 1919.

aged twenty-three, is now a prisoner in the women's ward at the penitentiary here, having been sentenced to two years for this awful crime. The girl was brought here in male attire, and the authorities at the big prison did not know whom they were dealing with till they read the commitment presented by the officers who had her in charge. As a result of the bringing of the girl to the penitentiary, there has been a storm of indignation over the treatment given her. There is an old law which states that it is an offence for a woman to wear male garments, but the opinion is that the penitentiary is no place for this sturdy young girl who showed such enterprise in endeavouring to help her country."

There is a further despatch supposed to be sent to the Globe and dated Kingston, June 7:-

"An effort will be made by women's organizations to have "Venus" Coté, of Rimouski, Quebec, released from Portsmouth penitentiary. Miss Coté arrived here yesterday to serve two years for posing as a man and wearing male attire while she worked at log driving."

The facts are thus very clear: A young girl, who, according to the Toronto Globe, in the month of June last was doing her bit in a camp on the Baie des Chaleurs, was arrested because she was posing in male attire. For the terrible offence of thus appearing in public, and at a lumber camp, she was cruelly sentenced by a Quebec judge to Kingston penitentiary for two years. Then the Globe said that an effort was being made by the women's organizations to have "Vnus" Coté released from the penitentiary. The Globe was not satisfied, and the editor, apparently to serve the end of justice, on June 10, published as a leading editorial [an article transcribed above as "Outraged public sentiment"].

As you will see, Mr. Speaker, this is a very strong indictment. First against the "busybody" who caused this unfortunate young lady to be arrested because posing in male attire, she was nevertheless doing her bit and taking the place of slackers; second, it is also a very strong arraignment of that judge in Rimouski who dared sentence a girl to two years in the penitentiary; and third, this article contains a very broad hint of disapproval to the Minister of Justice because forsooth he might not act promptly enough in dealing with the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Was it a judge of the county court, or a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec who imposed the sentence in this case?

Mr. LEMIEUX: It was a magistrate, but I am not myself passing judgment on the magistrate. I am drawing an inference from the article in the Globe. Not only is there an implied charge against the busybody who brought this young lady to justice, not only is there an implied charge against the judiciary, but there is an implied charge against the whole population of the district of Rimouski.

As I read the despatches published in the Globe, and the editorial comment on them, I became somewhat nervous, because you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that during the month of June last, war conditions seemed to call for unity in this country. We had reached a very serious period of the great conflict, and I did not think it was a proper thing that a young girl should be sent to the penitentiary for two years because, forsooth, she was "doing her bit," when according to the Globe there were so

many slackers in the district of Rimouski. So I followed up on this case. I thought the request for an investigation should not be delayed at all and so I waited, waited and waited until finally, nothing having been heard from the Department of Justice, and no investigation having taken place, I said to myself, "It is in my duty as a loyal citizen of the province of Quebec to inquire into this matter." So I wrote to the Assistant Attorney General of the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I must confess my surprise when I found that instead of this young lady "doing her bit" and being cruelly sent to the penitentiary for contravening an old statute, information which had been laid before the magistrate at Rimouski showed that the circumstances were altogether different. First of all, the editor of the Globe should have understood at once that any girl named Eugenie alias "Venus" Côté must have something dubious in her record, and should have made a little inquiry before publishing all these innuendoes against the judiciary and the people of Quebec.

As I stated a moment ago, I wrote to the Assistant Attorney General of the province of Quebec, who sent me by the next mail the record of the case, and here is what I read in that record:

Copy.

Canada.

Province of Quebec, District of Rimouski
Justice of the Peace Office, Rimouski

Frederic Joseph Astle, Hotelkeeper in the village of Little Metis,
district of Rimouski, Plaintiff.

Vs.

Eugénie Côté, spinster, from the parish of St. Angèle de Merici, Accused.

Be it publicly known that on the eighteenth day of May, 1918, at Rimouski, in the district of Rimouski, the said Eugénie Côté (and having consented that I would proceed with a summary examination and without a jury), has been found guilty by the undersigned for having malignantly, illegally and criminally, in the district of Rimouski, on or about the 14th of May, 1918—

You will notice, Mr. Speaker, that the very accurate special press despatch published in the Globe in June had reference to a case which had been made in the month of May previous. It shows how diligent and well informed the press of Canada is, and how honestly it always presents the facts to its readers.

—stolen, taken and removed the following articles from the dwelling, a summer residence, of Mrs. John Thomas Molson, viz: 25 silver forks, 22 silver spoons, a butter knife with a bone handle, opera glasses and case, 50 pieces of household lingerie, marked "J. T. Molson;" a package of playing cards, a small case containing a pair of scissors and a tooth brush, two playing balls, two linen table-cloths, all being the

property and in possession of the said J. T. Molson, and estimated to [be worth] at least fifty dollars.

Eugénie Côté was sentenced on the 18th of March, for the said offence, for internment during five years in the authorized penitentiary in the province of Quebec.

Given under my signature and seal on the day, month and year hereabove first mentioned, at Rimouski, in the above-mentioned district.

(Sgd.) H. R. Fiset

True Copy.

(Sgd.) Arthur Chamberland,
Clerk of the Crown and Peace

Therefore, Venus Côté was not sent to the penitentiary because she had donned male attire and had “done her bit.” She had “done her bit,” but at the expense of the summer residents of Little Metis. She was a burglar and was condemned for burglary; she was “doing her bit”. Now, perhaps there are persons who may be surprised that Venus Côté should get such a long sentence, but she had been “doing her bit” before. According to a report received by the Attorney General from the Judge, the following may be gathered:

Rimouski, June 12, 1918

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Quebec.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to convey you the information asked for re the prisoner Eugénie Côté, presently detained in Kingston Penitentiary.

Eugénie Côté was sentenced on the 18th of March, 1918, for having stolen goods from Mrs. J. T. Molson’s residence, at Little Metis.

The list of goods mentioned in the accusation contains only a portion of the valuable articles taken by the prisoner in that case.

The accused is a repeater: she having been sentenced by me on the 21st November, 1916, to serve five months in jail for house-breaking in the residence of a Mrs. Moise Habib, at Mont Joli.

The question of she being dressed in male attire, when arrested and convicted, has nothing to do with the penalty imposed on her.

Two days after her incarceration in the common jail, at Rimouski, she escaped and would be subject for that offence to a further punishment.

So the dear little lady, the protégée of the Globe, was rather known to the police authorities, and evidently she knew all the tricks of the trade, for on being interned she managed to escape, and then donned male attire. [Continuing the report:]

That girl is completely out of any moral sense. She smokes, chews, curses, blasphemous and runs about the streets and highways like a real vagrant, and her

case is still aggravated by the fact that for some months, she had dressed herself with male attire, because under such a disguise she could go round anywhere without being noticed and thus become a real cause of disorder.

Should you request more information about her whereabouts and moral condition, you might communicate with the parish priests of Mont Joli and St. Joseph de Lepage, and they will be able to furnish you with surprising facts.

When arrested, she was wearing masculine garments. She gave her name as being Xavier Coté, 19 years old. She had her hair cut and was so unclean in every way that I could not recognize her at first; and it was only when we arrived at Mont Joli I found out that we had again to deal with Eugénie Côté.

Besides all her other vices, she is an inveterate burglar, for whom no correction would seem possible.

(Signed): H. R. Fiset.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Toronto Globe was well informed indeed by its correspondent. But in the month of June last year it paid that paper better to preach Unionism than Unity and to be particular about the facts of this case. I imagine the Globe will at least make an apology to the magistrate and to the people of that district and also to its readers. And it should not omit to make an apology to the Minister of Justice, because unhappily he was a pretty bitter pill, and from the language used by the Globe we know, of course, that he was persona non grata with a section of the Cabinet. That is the case I wish to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker. It shows how the press of Canada, subsidized for its news, informed the public as to the real facts in this particular instance.

Motion agreed to, and the House went into Committee of Supply.

Appendix: The Press and Miss Jack May

“The admiration of the countryside”¹⁰⁴ (April, 1906)

The appearance as a witness of a young woman dressed in boy’s clothing created a surprise in the Bromley (Kent) police court recently.

Her name is Isabel May. Her hair is cut short, and she wears leggings and a cap. The only exception to the male costume is a sort of smock reaching almost to the knees.

Miss May, or, as she prefers to be called, “Jack,” is a most interesting young woman. Her ambition is to be a farmer, and with this end in view she has taken service with Mr. Smith at St. Mary Cray. She is handsome and stalwart, and in her farming garb presents quite a picture of strength.

Her experience in South Africa when she was a nurse stands her in good stead. For some time after her return from South Africa she attended Swanley Horticultural College, but found the work there devoted more to flowers, vegetables, and fruit culture, while she wanted regular farm work. She determined to get acquainted at first hand with the labor of the soil.

She “hired” to Mr. Smith for six months, but remained on much longer. She has done very well, and is spoken of in the highest terms by her employer. She does not go out to evening parties because she is working for her living. Even when at home in London she longs for the country.

Miss May is certain that women can succeed on a farm if they try, and it is much healthier than ordinary occupations. “Jack” is the admiration of the countryside, and no one there doubts her ability as a mower, reaper, or plougher.

“Attired in male costume”¹⁰⁵ (April, 1911)

St. John, N.B., April 14. – The C.P.R. liner *Empress of Britain* arrived shortly after noon today with 1,480 passengers – 180 cabin, 453 second cabin, and 847 steerage. Included were two special parties of farmers and ninety-four boys from the Fagon Home, London, bound for the home in Toronto. These latter were a fine-looking lot, ranging in age from 12 to 15 years. One of the parties of farmers, fifty in number, were for the C.P.R. ready-made farms in Alberta, and they were in charge of Mr. Jelte, of the colonization department of the C.P.R. A party of 115 were for New Brunswick, and were in charge of A. Bowder, provincial government agent in London.

A female second-cabin passenger, who gave her name as “Miss Jack May,” was detained by the Canadian immigration officials, she being attired in male costume. She readily admitted that she was of the opposite sex, and said that she and her male companion worked on a farm in England. She had her hair cropped short, wore leggings and tan boots, and a short skirt that was not visible below a man’s overcoat.

¹⁰⁴ WOMAN FARMER. (1906, April 6). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 7.

¹⁰⁵ From MANY ON THE EMPRESS. (1911, April 15). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

Her age was about 30, and she was rather good looking. They had about eleven pieces of baggage, including a rifle, and were bound for the Canadian West.

“Within an ace of being enrolled”¹⁰⁶ (April, 1911)

(St. John Standard.) With hair cut short, leather leggings over tan boots, and a short skirt that was not visible below a man’s overcoat, Miss “Jack” May, a second cabin passenger on the Empress of Britain arrived at Sand Point yesterday, and came within an ace of being enrolled among Canada’s new male citizens. Her handsome face, however, attracted the attention of one of the immigration officials, who came to the conclusion that it seemed rather incongruous above her man’s attire, and after watching her for some time decided to send her in to the matron for closer inspection.

Miss Jack, when she was informed that there was a suspicion that she was masquerading, readily admitted that her garb belied her sex. She said she and her male companion who accompanied her on the voyage had worked on a farm in England. Miss “Jack” is about 30 years of age, and rather good looking. She and her companion had about eleven pieces of baggage, including a rifle. They were bound to the west. The immigration officials decided to detain Miss Jack.

“I should think”¹⁰⁷ (April, 1911)

Miss Jack May arrived at St. John’s Newfoundland by the “Empress of India,” attired (Miss Jack – not the Empress) in “male costume, consisting of leggings and tan boots and a short skirt that was not visible under a man’s overcoat.” So says a contemporary – but it seems a curiously inadequate set of garments for the ordinary male bird. Where were the tr – never mind – she was stopped. The report says, she looked like a man, – but you don’t often see a man walking around in the costume described, I believe. Pretty cold this weather without the – oh! Well, it’s nothing to do with me. But:-

I should think a man would need ‘em when ‘tis cold as it is now,
Were they only of the pattern known as “harem,”
I know, at least, if I had but one single pair of tour-
Sers I should wear ‘em – most distinctly I should wear ‘em.

“Muscle, grit and ambition”¹⁰⁸ (April, 1911)

[Wetawiskin.] Miss Jack May and a traveling companion, Miss Wittrick, of Norfolk, Eng., passed through the city on Tuesday on her way to accompany one of the ready-made farms in the Sedgewick district. Miss May is a large property owner in the old country, and some six years ago adopted the male attire as a convenience

¹⁰⁶ From WOMAN DRESSED IN MAN’S GARB. (1911, April 16). *The Daily Gleaner*, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ From CASUAL COMMENT. (1911, April 23). *The Toronto World*, p. 3.

¹⁰⁸ From DISTRICT NEWS. (1911, April 27). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 16.

in her duties of managing her large holdings. When they reach their new home, Miss Wittrick will do the housekeeping and Miss May will do the farming. It is said that she is thoroughly proficient, and can ride a horse or handle a plow like an expert. She also knows live stock, and she has plenty of muscle, grit and ambition.

“At first mistaken for a man and wife”¹⁰⁹ (May, 1911)

Miss Jack May, a young farmer of Norfolk, England, who has purchased a big farm near Sedgewick from the C.P.R. company, arrived in Calgary last night. She was accompanied by Miss J. M. Wittrick, who will be her housekeeper on the farm. They will remain here for two days. At the Arlington hotel, where they are registered, they were at first mistaken for a man and wife, Miss May being dressed in a three-quarter-length overcoat, tweed cap, and leggings. Under her coat she wore a knee length tweed skirt jumper. She is about five feet four, and rather muscular. Any impression of mannishness is at once dispelled when she speaks, her voice being low and soft. She is the first woman to undertake farming on an extensive scale in the west. She is well connected, being the daughter of Admiral May, and has been engaged in every kind of farm work, having occupied the position of manager of a large farm in Norfolk. Certificates from farmers with whom she has been employed show that she has made a study of all branches, and is well equipped to make a success in this country.

“A decided acquisition to any country”¹¹⁰ (May, 1911)

Jack May, a very prominent agriculturalist from Norfolk, England, will arrive in the city with the next party of C.P.R. ready made farmers, and will take up a farm in the Sedgewick district. For be it known that it is Miss Jack May.

A few days ago, an item appeared in one of the local papers, that the immigration authorities in St. John had held up a young lady who, garbed in male attire, had come over from Canada, and her name was Miss Jack May. This quite shocked the sober, solemn immigration agents, who had heard of no such thing in this part of the world, where there are no suffragettes or anything of that kind.

However, the immigration authorities waited a bit for further explanations, which they received, and then allowed Miss May to proceed. She is a lady farmer who dresses as a man, and is thoroughly efficient and practical. She is well connected, being the daughter of Admiral May, and has been engaged in every kind of farm work. She occupied the position of farm bailiff or manager of a large farm in Norfolk.

In the course of her labor she found that the dress of a woman was most inconvenient, and about ten years ago abandoned it for the more convenient form of male attire. And it was the use of that male attire that caused all the trouble with the good immigration agent in St. John.

¹⁰⁹ From Celeste. (1911, May 2). OF INTEREST TO WOMEN. *The Edmonton Evening Journal*, p. 4.

¹¹⁰ Provincial Notes. (1911, May 4). *The Gleichen Call*, p. 5.

Miss May produced certificates from farmers with whom she has been employed, which proved that she has made a study of farming in all its details, and that she is capable of making a success in Western Canada.

Accompanying Miss May is [another] lady farmer, who is also thoroughly efficient, but who retains her female attire. Both have sufficient means to enable them to commence farming operations on a considerable scale.

A woman with energy to study the science of farming and to work at it as Miss May has done, would be a decided acquisition to any country, and the fact that she adapts her attire to her work shows her good sense. The sight of a woman in man's attire and doing man's work may be novel; but it does not make her any the less a lady.

“The woman who never looks back”¹¹¹ (July, 1911)

“We speak of the man who has opened the door
Of the great teeming West, that he brought to the fore
The wealth of the prairies – so vast and so wide,
But how many think of the one at his side,
The one who has made him a home in the shack,
His comrade – the woman who never looks back.”

-Mary I. S. Schaeffer

When No. 1 pulled up panting at the station in Calgary, a turbulent mass of passengers avalanched on to the platform. And amongst them was “The woman who never looks back.” She was smart and well proportioned, and might have been taken for a college youth. Her face was pleasant, deeply bronzed, inclined to be square with a broad mouth and forehead, over which a thick mass of auburn hair struggled from beneath her tweed cap. Brown eyes twinkled at you. Probably five feet three or four inches in height, she gave the impression of strength and endurance. Her costume – about which so much publicity has ensued – was certainly unique. A cloth jumper over a shirt waist, a cloth skirt, knee length, brown leather leggings and a three-quarter overcoat completed it. And as she strode across the platform with a grip in each hand and her cap set jauntily on the back of her head, one certainly would have thought, “A jolly good-looking young fellow.” I did.

A good deal has been written about “The man in the shack,” but little about the woman – the strong, courageous, hard-working wife of the early homesteader, who in pioneer days, accompanied and roughed it with her husband, forty miles from nowhere. And in addition, there are hundreds of wives scattered across the broad prairies of the west, who have left comfortable, even luxurious, homes in the old country, “Down East,” and across the border, who do more than a man's work, cultivating and improving the farms on which they live. But as yet, with the exception

¹¹¹ From Rankin, N. S. (1911, July 29). The Woman Who Never Looks Back. *Canadian Courier*, p. 16.

of the heroine of this article, Miss May, I have not heard of the out-and-out professional woman farmer.

And yet that's what Miss May is. Undoubtedly. And what is more, she is an expert at it. For the past ten years she has been following it, and has properly certified documents from farmers with whom she has been employed, which not only prove that she has made a serious study of farming in all its branches, but it eminently fitted to take it up in the west and make a success. And when the customs officials who held her up at St. John upon her arrival recently, on account of her male costume, learned this, they swept their gold-embroidered caps from their heads and bowed low.

Amongst the many applications received at the London office of the Canadian Pacific railway this past winter for Alberta's "ready-made" farms was one from Miss Jack May, of Norfolk. Miss May wrote that she had occupied every kind of farm position, from that of ordinary farm hand to bailiff, or manager, and that she wished to try her luck in western Canada. Her application was considered, her claims as a successful agriculturalist investigated, and a farm at Sedgewick allotted her.

Miss May is the daughter of Admiral May, and farms because she wants to. Also, she wears masculine garb because she wants to. One might wonder why she wants to, but it wouldn't do him any good, or bring him any nearer a solution. There's no argument open. She finds farming congenial, and male costume much more fitted to the work she does than woman's. And that's enough. Accompanying her is Miss I. M. Wittrick, a lady friend, also from Norfolk. Miss Wittrick will attend to the "housekeeping" end of the farm while Miss May superintends the farming.

"Conventions are not without meaning"¹¹² (August, 1911)

As most readers are aware, the C. P. R. has prepared for settlers a number of ready made farms in Alberta. A writer in the Canadian Courier says that one of the lately arrived applicants for a farm in this fertile district is Miss May, the daughter of a British Admiral. This young lady has chosen farming for an occupation and has occupied many positions at home, from that of a farm hand to a manager. The C. P. R. land office considered her credentials good enough to warrant her being entrusted with a farm. Miss May is accompanied by a friend, Miss J. M. Whittrick.

Most women would rather not have read that this handsome and enterprising young lady considered it expedient to travel in men's costume. If, at her work, Miss May found it necessary to dress as a man, she was certainly under no such compulsion while traveling. Few people consider it necessary to wear the uniform of the workshop on the street, but "Jack" May, wearing "a cloth jumper over a shirtwaist, a cloth skirt, knee length, brown leather leggings, and a three-quarter overcoat" may be a picturesque figure on a railway platform and make a good story for a reporter, but most women would prefer to see their daughters dressed less conspicuously. Conventions are not without meaning and no woman should lightly disregard them.

¹¹² From *In Woman's Realm*. (1911, August 4). *The Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 8.

“Her application was successful”¹¹³ (September, 1911)

News comes from Canada that Miss “Jack” May, about whose farm training and gardening exploits in England accounts have been published in this paper, is now getting in her first harvest on her own farm at Sedgewick, near Calgary, in Alberta, says the London Daily Mail. Miss May has adopted male clothing, or at any rate a compromise approach to male dress. A cloth “jumper” over a blouse, a short cloth skirt reaching to her knees, sometimes supplemented by a man’s long overcoat, is her usual costume on her farm.

Before taking up a farm in Western Canada Miss May, who was a nurse in South Africa during the Boer war, always followed a business-like outdoor life, attended the Swanley Horticultural College for some time, but her ambition was real farming. In 1906 she took service with a farmer in Kent, and there did mowing, reaping, ploughing, and every kind of farm work. In 1907 Miss May worked a large flower and vegetable garden of several acres in Norfolk. Here, finding it impossible to work among plants and flowers in skirts, she adopted trousers and leggings.

Last winter Miss May, convinced that a woman farmer could be successful in western Canada, applied to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for one of their “ready-made” farms in Alberta, stating that she had done every kind of farm work, from that of ordinary farm hand to bailiff or manager. Her application was successful and she was allotted a farm.

“Farmer-Boy ‘Jack’”¹¹⁴ (November, 1911)

Though not a suffragette, Miss Jack May, an Englishwoman who has come to Canada to farm her own lands, is an example of what the twentieth century woman can accomplish, alone and unassisted.

Miss May, who is the daughter of Admiral May, of the British Navy, went through the South African war as a nurse, and on her return to England, decided to go in for scientific agriculture. She trained for two years at Swanley, the big horticultural college for women in Kent, and at the conclusion of her course, she secured a position as a manager of a dairy farm, where she looked after the cows, delivered milk, and did all the rough work incidental to such a situation.

After eight years of this, Miss May became working manager of a farm in Kent, where she took charge of all the work, grain-growing, vegetable garden, and stock. This position she held for three years, until her attention was attracted to the Canadian Pacific Railway propaganda for “ready-made farms in Canada.” She investigated this proposition and decided that it offered her opportunities to own her property and be absolutely independent, such as she could never obtain in England.

¹¹³ WOMAN FARMER. (1911, September 18). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 14.

¹¹⁴ From Love, C. (1911, November). Farmer-Boy “Jack”. *The Lady’s Realm*, XXXI(181), 101- 103. Written by Irene Currie Love (1881-1945).

In the early spring of this year, Miss May and her friend, companion and housekeeper, Miss Louie Wittrick, also of Kent, combined their resources and emigrated to Canada to take up a 160-acre holding near Sedgewick, in Alberta.

On a “ready-made” farm, a house and barn are erected, a well drilled, and sixty acres broken and sown to a crop before the British settler leaves his native land, so the two girls – for they are little more than girls – did not have any pioneering hardships to face, but were enabled to go straight to their own home.

Miss May is the first woman to take up a “ready-made” farm in her own right, and the authorities at Sedgewick say she is one of the best “men” they ever had on the land. The man in charge of the colony says: “Miss May isn’t wasting any time talking about the difference between England and Canada. She’s started right in to farm, with the result that she has everything in splendid shape, and her farm promises to be one of the best in the whole district.”

Both Miss May and Miss Wittrick are most enthusiastic about their new home. Indeed, one month after they had arrived, Miss May began negotiations for the purchase of the quarter section immediately adjoining hers, with the result that to-day she is the owner of a 320-acre farm, on which she is doing all the outdoor seeding, reaping, and binding. She grooms her own horses, and Miss Wittrick looks after the cows and poultry as well as all the indoor work, which includes churning and butter making, and very excellent butter it is, too!

Miss May is a shrewd business woman as well as a good farmer. She knows the value of a horse or cow, how much she ought to pay for farm implements, and how much her winter wheat is worth in the market. She does all her own buying and selling, and she can drive as good a bargain as any man.

Out in the field, indeed, you would think her a man from her costume, which consists of riding breeches, stout boots and puttees, a man’s shirt, and over all, a peasant’s smock of blue denim, coming just to her knees. Her hair is cropped short and worn like a man’s, and it is only when you hear her soft, cultivated voice that you realize you are talking to a woman of birth and education.

The two women live quite alone on their farm, and they are afraid of nothing. Why should they be, when all their neighbours thoroughly respect them, and do all in their power to be of service to them? The pretty farm house, which Miss May says is far above their expectations in comforts and conveniences, is the Mecca of a constant stream of visitors anxious to see the two women who have come thousands of miles from home to make a success of farming in Canada.

And when they see the sleek, well-fed cows and horses and the winter wheat which promises to produce thirty to forty bushels to the acre, they are filled with admiration for Miss Jack May, farmer, and her works.

“How Shocking! Woman Farmer Wears Trousers!”¹¹⁵ (February, 1912)

“Jack,” as a name, is generally found attached to a boy, but in Edmonton to-day, is a young woman whose name is “Jack” – Miss Jack May, farmer. One feels like saying “gentleman farmer.”

Miss May created quite a flutter among the girls in the Y.W.C.A. this morning, because, attired as she was in something very similar to a man’s “outfit,” and, with her [hair] clipped as close as any of the girls’ brothers, she unwittingly led them to think that a member of the sterner sex had suddenly invaded the sacred precincts, and when, with jaunty cap in hand, she inquired for one of the feminine boarders, to whose boudoir she requested to be ushered, the last straw snapped. There was a general sound of alarm through the corridors until it was learned that the visitor was no less a personage than Miss Jack May, who has been the subject of many an illustrated article in the magazines.

TROUSERS AND LEGGINGS

Miss May’s costume was very unusual; in spite of the fact that she herself declared it to be “oh quite ordinary!” in a very English voice and accent. She wears knickerbockers, overshoes, felt leggings to the knee and a sort of Norfolk jacket – belted of course – the skirt of which meets the leggings at the knee. The coat is made of stout serviceable tweed in mixed green shades. Her cap is very like a man’s, topping light brown hair, cropped close and parted at the side, and her skin is bronzed as a mounted policeman’s. She is below the ordinary height of a woman, perhaps about 5 feet 2 inches.

Miss May, in partnership with another Englishwoman, Miss Wittrick, is running a farm near Sedgewick; these two young women coming out to Canada last spring. Miss May had been farming in England for ten years, having taken a thorough course at the horticultural college in Kent. She says her costume there was not at all noticeable, 80 other women in her class adopting a similar uniform.

CLEANER THAN SKIRTS

“Spending half one’s time in cowsheds, and around horses is not very conducive to cleanliness,” said Miss May, laughing, and if a woman should wear a long skirt, she wouldn’t be fit to mingle with other folks until she had changed her clothes.”

These two plucky farmer-girls have 320 acres, and are carrying on mixed farming. Besides plowing and sowing and all that sort of thing, they have cows, horses, pigs and chickens.

¹¹⁵ From Oh, Dear Me Girls! How Shocking! Woman Farmer Wears Trousers! (1912, February 13). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 16.

“The most efficient farmers”¹¹⁶ (April, 1912)

In the preparation of the home-made farms for the 1912 contingent not a square inch of inferior work has been permitted to pass. But the colonists least able and least willing to fulfil their share of the contract were exactly those who were exigent in the claim of their pound of flesh; and in most careful and detailed examination of the results of this season it is apparent that the most efficient farmers, including the two lady farmers, Miss Jack May and Miss May Whittrick, have made the best of it¹¹⁷, and that those colonists with little intention and little knowledge – including some of those who, when they found their wheat was frozen, neglected to gather their valuable crop of potatoes – made the worst of it.

“The happiest girl in all the world!”¹¹⁸ (December, 1912)

“The happiest girl in all the world!” That is the distinction claimed by Miss Jack May, a slender bit of femininity, who owns and operates a farm in the wilds of Canada. Not many years ago Miss May, who is the daughter of Admiral May, of the British navy, was a frilly, frothy society belle, to whom the theatre, balls and card parties represented all that was worth living for. When the Boer war broke out and, along with scores of other aristocratic young English women, she went to the front as nurse, her eyes were opened to the smallness of the butterfly existence she had been leading. Upon her return home she at once entered the Swanley Agricultural College at Kent, and at the conclusion of her course amazed her former fashionable friends by becoming manager of a dairy farm. After a time she became working manager of another farm in Kent, where she took active charge of all the work, grain growing, vegetable gardening, and live stock. She went direct from that farm to the Canadian west, to a ranch of 320 acres near the Canadian Pacific Railway, and now all English society is interested in watching her career. Not a man is employed on Miss May’s entire farm. Her only companion and helper is a Canadian girl of 18.

“Go back to society again? Not for worlds,” declares this former London favorite. “I would rather plow than go to the opera. I would rather plant corn than attend a pink tea, and I much prefer currying my horses to arraying myself in an evening gown. What’s a butterfly social life in damp and foggy England compared to real life in bright sunshine and bracing cold?” Miss May’s success had made her views on agriculture much sought after, especially among the English immigrants.

Although this little English woman has sacrificed conventional feminine garb and has given up social life completely, she has lost none of the charm that made her

¹¹⁶ From HAVING TROUBLE ON READY-MADE FARMS. (1912, April 16). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 9.

¹¹⁷ “While at Sedgewick Miss Meining called on ‘Jack’ May, the lady farmer and found her prospering marvellously. ‘Instead of grumbling and finding fault with conditions, as many do, she went right ahead and farmed, and that is the secret of her success,’ said Miss Meining.” READY-MADE POULTRY FARMS VERY PROMISING. (1911, June 19). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 15.

¹¹⁸ From WORLD’S HAPPIEST GIRL. (1912, December 13). *Redcliff Review*, p. 4.

a leader in British society circles. Her everyday costume consists of stout leather boots and leather puttees, riding breeches of heavy blue serge, a man's shirt, and a short khaki coat. When she desires to really "dress up" for special occasions, she wears a soft collar and tie, and a peasant smock of navy blue denim, which comes to her knees and is loosely belted around her waist. She is delightfully picturesque and her happy carefree laugh is a sure cure for the blues.

"I love the freedom of the life and the bigness of things here on the western prairies," she said, recently. "In England one is bound by conventions, as one's fields are girt with hedges. Here I can do as I choose. I would not go back to stay under any consideration."

"I would rather plow than go to the theatre"¹¹⁹ (January, 1912)

A slightly different report of the same interview.

Edmonton, Alta., Jan. 13. – "I would rather plow than go to the theatre. I would rather plant corn than attend a pink tea. I much prefer currying my horses to arraying myself in an evening gown. What's a butterfly social life in damp and foggy England compared to real life in bright sunshine and bracing cold?"

These are the views of no less a personage than Miss Jack May, a slender and most charming young lady who owns and operates a farm in the "wilds" of Canada. She is a daughter of Admiral May, of the British navy, and has seen life in the highest English social circles from the inside. When the Boer war broke out she went to the front as a nurse, and there she awoke to the fact that there was something more in life than card parties and pink teas and theatres.

MANAGED DAIRY FARM

Upon her return home she at once entered the Swanley Agricultural College, at Kent, and at the conclusion of her course she amazed her friends by becoming manager of a dairy farm. After a time she became manager of another farm in Kent devoted to general purposes of agriculture, from which place she came to the Canadian West. She bought a ranch of 320 acres in Northern Alberta, near a railroad, and now English society is watching her venture with interest. Not a man is employed on Miss May's farm. Her only companion and helper is a Canadian girl of 18.

LIKES THE FREE LIFE

"Go back to society again? Not for worlds," she declared emphatically.

Although this little Englishwoman has sacrificed conventional garb and has given up social life completely, she has lost none of the charm that made her a favorite in select circles in the old land. Her everyday costume consists of stout leather boots and leather puttees, riding breeches of heavy blue serge, a man's shirt and a short khaki coat. When she desires to really "dress up" she wears a soft collar and tie and a peasant's smock of navy blue denim, which comes to her knees and is loosely belted

¹¹⁹ From PREFERS PLOWING TO THE THEATRE. (1912, January 13). *The London Advertiser*, p. 10.

around the waist. She is delightfully picturesque, and her happy, care-free laugh is a sure cure for the blues.

“I love the freedom of the life and the bigness of things out here on the prairies,” she said recently. “In England one is bound by conventions as one’s fields are girt with hedges. Here I can do as I choose. I wouldn’t go back to stay under any consideration.”

“A home of their own”¹²⁰ (1912)

I made up my mind to go and see the lady settler, Miss Jack May. Miss May did a little farming in Norfolk before she came out here and took up her half-section.

As we drove up to the door we received a hearty welcome from Miss Jack and her lady friend. It must be admitted that her home was natty. The most had been made of the furniture. There were flowers arranged on the tables. Inquiries showed that Miss Jack liked her farm very much. She had cut plenty of hay, and without doubt she had the finest dairy cow that I had seen in that part of the country. She brought out a fine lot of butter, but I was surprised to hear that she could obtain only 7½ cents per lb. for it. (Later I learnt that this state of affairs was because they had not co-operated, thereby finding a distant and more remunerative market.) A tragedy has nearly occurred the day before, as during the storm the electric fluid had struck the windmill, and running down had found a metallic clothes-line, from which it had flashed into the hen-coop, killing twenty-two chickens and blinding the old hen. As to the coyotes, one of these had fallen to Miss Jack’s steady aim, and she hoped to enjoy some sport in the fall when the crops were in.

By this time the rain was descending in waterfalls, and a drive over mere prairie trails under such circumstances was something to be remembered. Through miniature lakes knee-deep the sturdy horses splashed. One would have thought that such water on such roads would have lasted for weeks, but by next morning it was nearly gone; in fact, it is truly remarkable how these prairies absorb the moisture. The skill of the farmer is shown in assisting them to retain it. I had heard of the life of the Wild West, but it did not look as though life was so very wild when these two girls could make a home of their own all alone out on the open prairie.

“Ontario girl enquires for Miss Jack May”¹²¹ (August, 1913)

Ethel Heyman¹²², of 14 Victoria street, Stratford, Ontario, anxiously inquires of Acting-Postmaster Cairns the address of that charming young lady, Miss Jack May, who is located on a farm somewhere in the Edmonton district.

¹²⁰ From Walker, E. G. F. (1912). *Canadian Trails: Hither and Thither in the Great Dominion*. Toronto: Musson Book Co., 1912.

¹²¹ From ONTARIO GIRL ENQUIRES FOR MISS JACK MAY. (1913, August 28). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 15.

¹²² From the 1911 census: Ethel Hayman was 17 years old, and lived at 40 Victoria Street, Stratford with her parents and siblings. Baptist, born in Ontario in January 1894. Her parents were Edward

“Haymaking with Jack May”¹²³ (1914)

“Oh, yes,” said the Sedgewick liveryman, “everybody hereabouts knows Miss May. Her farm is just about six miles south, and if you can wait till the boy gets breakfast he’ll drive you out.”

It was in Sedgewick, Alberta, and we had arrived on a very early train – before seven in the morning – and were anxious to get to our objective point, the farm of Miss Jack May, so immediately after the “boy” had had breakfast, we started off through the pretty, park-like country, with its wealth of underbrush and its abundance of prairie chicken and wild duck, three things which endear it to the hearts of British settlers.

“It was just a year ago,” informed my companion, “that Miss May and her friend, Miss Wittrick, took up one of the C.P.R. ‘ready-made’ farms, and were so delighted with their purchase that they doubled their original quarter-section, and now they have 320 acres of as fine land as there is in the country. Miss May is a daughter of Admiral May, of the British Navy. She was one of that band of self-sacrificing British women who nursed throughout the South African War, and she returned from that experience with a distaste for ordinary social affairs which drove her into more practical lines of work. She took a course at the Swanley Horticultural College, Kent, and at its conclusion became manager of a dairy farm, where she looked after the cows, delivered the milk, and did all the rough work incidental to such a position. After eight years of this Miss May became working manager of a farm in Kent, where she took charge of all the work – grain-growing, vegetable garden and stock. It was direct from this farm that she came to Canada.

The brief sketch of the woman we were about to see aroused one’s interest, and as we turned in at the gate of the neat little house of which Miss May is mistress, one saw a boyish-looking figure come forward to greet us. Miss May’s ordinary costume consists of stout leather boots, leather puttees, riding breeches of heavy blue serge, a man’s shirt, and a short khaki coat. When she is “dressed up” she wears a soft collar and tie, and a peasant’s smock of navy blue denim, which comes to her knees and is loosely belted around the waist.

She doesn’t possess a skirt. “Can’t be bothered with the things,” she says. “Besides, women’s fashions change every minute, and I can’t afford to keep pace with them. My first reason for adopting men’s clothing is that they are comfortable and sensible, and the only safe costume for farm work. Imagine me on a plough in a hobble skirt! Wouldn’t I be a fine sight? You’re liable to be thrown off a plough every twenty

Hayman (46, born February 1865 in England, emigrated 1874) and Clara (44, born in December 1867 in the U.S., emigrated 1877). Edward was a machinist at the railway shops, and in 1910 had earned \$550 after working 52 hours a week, 46 weeks a year. He had a \$1,250 life insurance policy, for which he paid \$21. Ethel’s siblings were Harold (12, born October 1911) and Olive (8, born February 1903). Both were born in Ontario.

¹²³ From Love, C. (1914). HAYMAKING WITH JACK MAY. *Quiver*, 49(11), 1075-1078. Written by Irene Currie Love (1881 – 1945).

minutes or so, and a skirt would be absolutely dangerous under those circumstances. From wearing men's clothes to work, I gradually adopted them for everyday wear, and now I should be most uncomfortable in conventional feminine garb."

A charming little eighteen-year-old English girl, Miss Grace Hanson, who is assisting on the farm, also wears men's clothes, and heartily corroborates Miss May's views on the safety and comfort of masculine dress for farm work. She occasionally dons skirts for social purposes, but corsets, never! The very idea of a corset makes her shudder with disgust.

"Nasty, stiff things," she says: "I wouldn't wear them for anything."

She looks like a small boy in her breeches and coat, and one has to look twice to be sure that she is indeed a girl.

"We were just about to start for the hay-field," suggests Miss May.. "Would you care to come with us?"

"Would we, indeed!" Nothing could please us better, so we climbed on to the great, rumbling hay wagon and started off to the fields. A big hay-rick testified to the activity of the previous days, and within a few minutes of our arrival, Miss May and Miss Hanson began with mower and rake to cut and gather the fragrant prairie grass.

At noon Miss Wittrick and Miss May's sister, who is on a visit to Canada, arrived with steaming tea, delicious sandwiches and cake, and we all sat down to consume a fine lunch, after which, much refreshed, the haymakers again started to work. But it was a windy day, and everyone knows that haymaking on a windy day is both irritating and futile, so at five o'clock we stopped, and, seated on top of a wagon-load of the sweet-scented stuff, we drove back to the house, stopping, on the way, to feed Plutarch, the bull, whose classic name and registered pedigree do not detract from a plebeian appetite.

Once back in the farmyard, we must inspect the stock, and an excellent stock it is. Six cows yielded 73 pounds of cream a week, together with unlimited milk for household use, and four pounds of butter for the house. Miss Wittrick sends her cream to the Sedgewick Creamery twice a week and gets 11½d. a pound¹²⁴ for it – practically three guineas¹²⁵ a week for cream alone. The cows are beautifully fat and sleek, and give evidence of care and attention, as do all the stock on Miss May's farm.

Six strong horses, three of the mares in foal, do the farm work. Miss May is proud of her horses, and with reason. She grooms and attends to them herself, and they respond to her least word of command. Six calves, seven cows, seventeen pigs, two dogs, a litter of puppies and some hens form the rest of the farmyard family, and a happy family it is, calves and puppies playing together with great friendliness. Miss Hanson has taught one of the calves to stand on his hind legs, and he follows her about like a dog.

One asked Miss May if she had formulated any farming theories for Western Canada, and she replied that it was hardly necessary, because with such rich, virgin

¹²⁴ There are 240 pence (d.) in a pound (£), and 73 lb. x £(11.5/240) = £3.50. Adjusting for U.K. inflation, £3.50 is about £415 in 2021, or about \$725 CAD in March, 2021.

¹²⁵ A guinea was worth 1*l.* 1*s.* (one pound, one shilling). There are twenty shillings in a pound, so this works out to £1.05 per guinea, making three guineas £3.15.

soil one did not need artificial fertilizers, as in England, but that if she were beginning again, she would put more of her money into stock and less into grain. She has now 150 acres in barley, wheat, and oats, and though at the time of writing the grain is standing and it is therefore impossible to tell what it will yield to the acre, it looks in splendid shape, and a couple of weeks of Alberta sunshine is all that is needed to make a bumper crop.

Miss May believes in fairly deep ploughing, and if prevented from ploughing in the fall, she would plough at the earliest possible moment in the spring. Mixed farming is, she avers, the solution of all farming problems. With plenty of good stock, crops may freeze and still be excellent food, and, moreover, stock is less trouble and less worth than grain cultivation. The dairy business is exceedingly profitable in Alberta; poultry yields a good income, and a good stock of pigs is enough to lift the mortgage off the most involved farm.

Miss May does all of her own work, ploughs, seeds, reaps, binds and sells her own grain; buys, sells and looks after her own stock. Last spring she not only did her ploughing, but was engaged by one of her neighbours to do some of his, for which work she received ten shillings an acre. She figured that while this work lasted she made about £1 16s.¹²⁶ a day.

The day before our arrival she and Miss Hanson had been working on the road allowance in front of the farm, and each of the two women do a man's work any day in the week. Brown and healthy as they look, you begin to wonder if farming is not an ideal occupation for women; but it requires physical strength, untiring energy, and business ability to run a farm as Miss May runs hers, and few women would be capable of the sacrifice of the conventionally feminine pleasures. There is little social pleasure possible for the woman who does her own field work. She must be up early in the morning, therefore she must go to bed at night. If she is not busy in the fields or with her stock there are any number of odd jobs to which she may turn her hand about the house. During the winter, which, by the way, these two Englishwomen thoroughly enjoyed, Miss May completed an excellent set of shelves for the living room, and built a barn and pigsty out of saplings from her own farm, planks and straw. She found the Canadian winter delightful, and the long days of bright sunshine and clear, bracing cold, so different from the damp fog of England, left her in the best of conditions.

"We had expected," she laughed, "to find an Alberta winter a terrible experience, but we liked it even better than the summer. Both climate and soil are excellent here, and if one goes in for mixed farming, works hard, and does not expect too much in the beginning, three years should find one on the way to a comfortable living, and to an independence which is not possible in the old country."

"You would not go back to England, then?"

"Not I," came the sturdy answer. "For a visit, yes. To see my people at home, but not to say. I like the freedom of life here – the bigness of things.

"No, I wouldn't go back to stay. I don't believe that Canada is a wonderland. I know you can't pick up gold off the streets, as some of the old-country people believe.

¹²⁶ £1.80, or about £213 (roughly \$375 CAD) in 2021 after adjusting for U.K. inflation.

I don't think the climate is the best in the world, or that anyone who comes here is bound to become wealthy in a year. It has its drawbacks and its hardships just like any other country.

"But I do believe that Canada offers the greatest opportunity I know of to a man or woman with a little capital who is not afraid to work. I don't advise anyone to begin farming here on a capital of less than £500, unless they are prepared to wait a long time for returns. In farming, as in any other business, the man with the most capital will win out first, as long as he knows how to expend that capital judiciously. I don't advise people to come to the Canadian prairie if they want society, big cities, theatres and card parties. We have no time for these things. But if you want to work hard, have beautiful soil, your own farm and house, be your own landlord, and have a free, independent life, Canada is the place."

Jack's Legacy¹²⁷ (1923)

Jack May left Alberta about a year after arriving, but her story was still being used as an example in the 1920s.

A slim, youthful figure clad in riding breeches, leather leggings, a three-quarter coat, and a boyish cap set jauntily on the back of the head came round the corner of the barn whistling merrily. A boy? No, a girl! A girl farmer of Southern Alberta. When the Canadian Pacific Railway established its ready-made farm colony in Southern Alberta the officials encountered a situation they had made no provision for, when Miss Jack May, daughter of Admiral May, of Norfolk, England, applied for one of the farms. When they came to investigate her claim, however, as they did that of all applicants to judge as to their likelihood of fulfilling conditions and making good, they found they could not consistently refuse her claim, as she had farmed for many years in England and occupied every agricultural position from that of labourer to manager. She was accordingly allotted a little homestead near Sedgewick, and settled there with a friend, Miss I. M. Wittrick.

The arrangement between the two was an admirable one, and one which might commend itself to bachelors of the other sex similarly circumstanced. True to her name, Miss May was essentially the man about the place, whilst Miss Wittrick contributed the distinctively feminine element to the partnership and did the cooking and housework and presumably sewed on buttons and repaired the rents of her partner's garments. "Jack" wore man's garb, because she liked it, she said.

¹²⁷ From Chicanot, E. L. (1923, November 1). Women Pioneers in the Canadian West Have Made Good in Many Varied Lines of Endeavor, Involving Even "Hard Labor". *MacLean's Magazine*, p. 61.

Appendix: Clothing from the 1908 Simpson's Catalog

Women's Dresses

Stock sizes and particulars same as given on page 3



G-704
\$1750

G700. WHITE LAWN DRESS, waist is made with back opening, $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves, front, back and sleeves trimmed with guipure lace, Valenciennes insertion and tucks, the skirt is made with deep embroidered flounce, trimmed with fine tucks and lace insertion to match waist **\$12.50**

G701. DRESS OF SILK MESSALINE, black, ivory, sky, pink, and champagne, made over a drop skirt and waist lining of Japanese silk, V yoke back and front of Oriental lace and guipure insertion, front and back of waist finished with fine tucking, Oriental insertion and Chantilly lace, pleated skirt, finished with folds. **\$22.50**

G703. WHITE JAPANESE SILK DRESS, yoke made of embroidered panels and fine tucking, front of waist and sleeves finished with rows of tucking and trimmed with Valenciennes insertion, back of waist trimmed to match, pleated skirt finished with fold and trimmed with Valenciennes insertion. **\$10.00**

G704. HANDSOME DRESS of Japanese silk, in black, sky and white, the waist is trimmed with pretty embroidered panels, Valenciennes insertion and clusters of tucks, the skirt is made with deep flounce, which is shirred at top, and trimmed to match waist. **\$17.50**

G706. WHITE POINT D'ESPRIT DRESS over Japanese silk, broad shoulder effect is formed with Oriental lace and insertion, tucked yoke, trimmed with Oriental insertion, back and front of waist trimmed to match, the skirt is shirred at waist, finished with folds of self and trimmed with Oriental insertion **\$20.00**

G708. FILLET NETT DRESS, in ecru and white over ecru, sky or white Japanese silk, yoke, front and back of waist and sleeves made with fine tucking and Cluny lace insertion, skirt is shirred at waist and elaborately trimmed with Cluny lace insertion and folds of self. **\$22.00**



G-701
\$2250



G-700
\$1250



G-703
\$1000



G-706
\$2000



G-708 \$2200



G-5003
\$ 15.00
G-5035
\$ 10.00

Women's and Misses' Suits

Stock sizes and particulars same as on page 3.

- G5003. *WOMAN'S SUIT* of fancy herringbone weave worsted, in solid colors of brown, navy and green, semi-fitted coat trimmed with silk braid and lined with mercerized sateen, thirteen-gore pleated skirt trimmed with fold. **\$15.00**
- G5023. *SUIT OF FRENCH BROADCLOTH*, stripe effect, in solid colors of brown, light blue and navy, fitted back coat, trimmed with tailored strapping, collar and cuffs of velvet and lace, cream silk serge lining, flare skirt trimmed with folds of self. **\$30.00**
- G5028. *MISSSES' CHECKED WORSTED SUIT*, cream ground with black hairline check and green overcheck, coat made with semi-fitting back and loose front, trimmed with silk ties, fancy vesting, silk braid and velvet, sateen lining, thirteen-gore skirt finished with fold. . . **\$15.00**
- G5030. *SUIT OF FRENCH VOILE*, in black or navy, cutaway coat lined with taffeta, edges bound with silk and trimmed with narrow braid, velvet collar and cuffs, overlaid with Oriental lace, thirteen-gore pleated skirt trimmed with folds of self. **\$22.50**
- G5035. *MISSSES' SUIT* of French Venetian, in brown, green and navy, semi-fitted, double-breasted coat trimmed with solid brass buttons, lined with mercerized sateen, nine-gore pleated skirt trimmed with fold of self. **\$10.00**

G- 5030
\$ 22.50

G-5028
\$ 30.00



G-5042
\$8.50

G-5039
\$6.50

G-5032
\$20.00

Women's and Misses' Suits

Regular Stock Sizes from 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Skirts 37 to 43 inches in length, waistbands 22 to 29 inches. Sizes in Misses' Garments are 14 years, 30 inches bust measure; 16 years, 32 inches, and 18 years, 34 inches. Skirts are made from 32 to 37 inches long, with waistbands from 22 to 28 inches. All special sizes may be had for 10 per cent. additional, but are not returnable. In cases where the exact measurements required or shade wanted is not in stock, 6 or 8 days may be required to fill the order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G5029. WOMAN'S SUIT of French voile, in black or navy, fitted coat, gathered effect at waist, trimmed with braid and ornaments, edges bound with silk, lined with taffeta, pleated skirt trimmed with silk fold and braid..... **\$25.00**

G5032. WOMEN'S SUIT of French Panama, cutaway coat, velvet collar, trimmed with velvet buttons and soutache braid, lined with cream rhadamaz serge, skirt made with flare sides, and pleated back and front, trimmed with folds of self, black, navy, light brown and green..... **\$20.00**

G5038. WOMEN'S SUIT of French Venetian, in black, navy, brown and green, Prince chap coat, trimmed with self-covered buttons, lined with mercerized sateen, flare skirt trimmed with fold of self..... **\$10.00**

G5039. MISSES' LINEN WASH SUIT, in white, pale blue and natural colors, semi-fitted coat, collar and cuffs trimmed with harmonizing colors, thirteen-gore flare skirt trimmed with fold of self..... **\$6.50**

G5042. WOMEN'S WASH SUIT of mercerized linen, pale blue, pale green and white, sleeveless Eton coat with mikado armhole, trimmed with lace and guipure medallions, flare skirt trimmed with stitched strapping..... **\$8.50**

G-5038 \$10.00

G-5029 \$25.00



G 5002
\$22.50

G-5011
\$28.00

G-5007
\$17.50

G-5016
\$20.00

	Women's Suits	
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Regular Stock Sizes are made from 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Skirts 37 to 43 inches in length, from lower edge of waistband; waistbands 22 to 29 inches. Special sizes may be had for 10 per cent. additional, but are not returnable. In cases where the exact measurements required or shade wanted is not in stock, 6 or 8 days may be required to fill the order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay

G5002. WOMAN'S VENETIAN CLOTH SUIT, made in black, navy, Congo, brown, green, purple and Copenhagen blue, the jacket is semi-fitted back, loose fitting front, broad shoulder effect formed by stitched pleats, lined with taffeta, and trimmed with self-covered buttons and braid, side pleated skirt with box pleats back and front, finished with folds of self..... **\$22.50**

G5007. FANCY CHECKED WORSTED

SUIT, cream ground with black, green or brown overcheck, semi-fitted coat, 24 inches long, lined with sateen, trimmed with bone buttons and tailor stitching, full flare skirt, finished with box pleats back and front, and folds of self around bottom. **\$17.50**

G5011. NOVELTY SUIT of fine quality poplinette, fitted back coat, trimmed with silk braid, fancy vesting and soutache ornaments, lined with taffeta, the skirt is made with inverted pleat back and front, flare sides and finished with folds of self, giving a tunic effect, made in black, navy, brown, green and red..... **\$28.00**

G5016. STRIPED WORSTED SUIT, cream ground with black and intermediate stripe, the coat is made with semi-fitted back lined with satinette, trimmed with stitched bias strapping, lapels finished with silk, thirteen-gore pleated skirt, panel front, finished with fold of self..... **\$20**



G-5018-\$15.00

G-5010
\$20.00

G-5017
\$25.00

G-5014
\$25.00

Women's Suits

Regular Stock Sizes are made from 32 to 42 inches bust measure.* Skirts 37 to 43 inches in length, from lower edge of waistband; waistbands 22 to 29 inches. Special sizes may be had for 10 per cent. additional, but are not returnable. In cases where the exact measurements required or shade wanted is not in stock, 6 or 8 days may be required to fill the order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G5010. WOMEN'S FRENCH WORSTED SUIT, fancy herringbone weave, in plain colors, navy, Copenhagen blue, and green, lined with satinette, plain semi-fitted coat, with velvet collar, pleated skirt forming panel front and inverted pleat at sides and back, folds of self giving tunic effect \$20.00

G5014. SUIT OF WOOL POPLIN, in black, navy, brown and green, semi-fitted coat, effectively trimmed with silk braid and soutache ornaments, vest of fancy braid, lined with taffeta, pleated skirt, panel front, finished with fold of self..... \$25.00

G5017. PANAMA CLOTH SUIT, in black, navy, brown, and green, cutaway coat style, trimmed with silk braid, edged with silk, collar finished with silk ornaments, lined with satin, flare skirt finished with fold of self..... \$25.00

G5018. VENETIAN CLOTH SUIT, fitted back coat, trimmed with tailor stitched strapping of self, silk lapels, collar trimmed with soutache ornaments, lined with mercerized, pleated skirt trimmed with fold of self, comes in black, navy, brown and green..... \$15.00



5024

710

5025 5019

G-5024
\$30.00

G-710
\$20.00

G-616 \$16.00

G-5025
\$14.00

G-5019
\$12.00

Women's and Misses' Suits

Sizes and particulars same as on page 7.

G616. TAFFETA SHIRT WAIST SUIT, in black and navy blue, waist opens in front, trimmed with self strapping, self-covered buttons and tucks, back of waist finished with clusters of small tucks, skirt pleated back and front, ripple sides trimmed with folds and strapping of self **\$16.00**

G710. FRENCH VOILE SUIT, in black and navy, waist made with front opening, lined with Japanese silk, finished with pleats, tucks on sleeves, and taffeta fold giving mikado effect, trimmed with taffeta covered buttons, side pleated skirt trimmed with folds of taffeta to match **\$20.00**

G5019. MISSES' SUIT of French venetian, in black, navy, brown, and green, semi-fitted coat, edges bound with silk braid, lined with sateen, pleated skirt trimmed with fold of self **\$12.00**

G5024. WOMAN'S TAILORED SUIT of fine quality taffeta, in black only, coat made with fitted back, trimmed with silk braid, soutache ornaments, Chantilly lace and silk ties, lined with silk rhadamaz serge, flare skirt trimmed with fold of self **\$30.00**

G5025. MISSES' SUIT of navy blue coating serge, 24 inch coat Prince chap model, lined with sateen, detachable collar and cuffs of white embroidered linen, flare skirt trimmed with fold of self **\$14.00**



G-5037
\$10.00

G-5040
\$8.50

G-5036
\$10.00

G-5006
\$12.50

G-5004
\$14.00

Women's and Misses' Suits

Regular Stock Size; are 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Skirts 37 to 43 inches in length; waistbands 22 to 29 inches. Sizes in Misses' Garments are 14 years, 30 inches bust measure; 16 years, 32 inches, and 18 years, 34 inches. Skirts are made from 32 to 37 inches long, with waistbands from 22 to 28 inches. Special sizes may be had for 10 per cent. extra, but are not returnable. In cases where the exact size or shade wanted is not in stock, we ask for 6 or 8 days' time to fill order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G5004. WOMAN'S SUIT of French Panama, in black, navy, brown, Congo, and green, semi-fitted coat lined with sateen, tailored seams, collar and cuffs of self, fancy pockets, nine-gore flare skirt trimmed with fold..... **\$14.00**

G5006. SUIT OF GOOD QUALITY VENETIAN, semi-fitting coat trimmed with tailored strapping, velvet buttons and velvet collar, lined with mercerized sateen, eleven-gore pleated skirt, trimmed with fold, made in black, navy, brown, and green..... **\$12.50**

G5036. WOMAN'S WASH SUIT of mercerized linen, plain semi-fitted coat, collar and cuffs of harmonizing colors, front and back of skirt pleated alike, flare sides trimmed with folds.. **\$10.00**

G5037. WASH SUIT of mercerized linen, coat made in the popular semi-fitted style, trimmed with torchon lace insertion, skirt made with inverted pleats back and front, flare sides trimmed with insertion to match coat... **\$10.00**

G5040. MISSES' WASH SUIT of mercerized linen, pale blue, light tan and white, semi-fitting coat trimmed with colored strappings that harmonize with suit and self-covered buttons, nine-gore flare skirt trimmed with folds of self **\$8.50**

Shirt Waist Suits



Regular Stock Sizes are 32 to 40 inches bust measure. Skirt lengths 38 to 43 inches; with waistbands from 22 to 28 inches. Special sizes for 20 per cent. additional, but are not returnable. In case the sizes required are temporarily out of stock, we ask for 6 to 8 days to fill order. Skirts are all made walking length. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

- G602. WHITE PERCALE SHIRT WAIST SUIT** with irregular black stripe, waist made with front opening, finished with tucks and hemstitching back and front, flare skirt finished with hemstitched fold of self. **\$2.75**
- G604. CHAMBRAY SHIRT WAIST SUIT**, waist made with front opening, three-quarter sleeves, tucked yoke and sleeves, back finished with tucks, skirt made with flare sides and pleated front, navy, ox blood and pale blue. **\$5.00**
- G610. CHAMBRAY SUIT**, in pale blue and ox blood, yoke made with fine pin tucks, waist made with back opening and trimmed with white Swiss insertion and tucks, back of waist finished with tucks, pleated skirt trimmed with fold of self and insertion. **\$6.00**
- G611. SHIRT WAIST SUIT** of dress duck, waist is given broad shoulder effect by pleats, and is trimmed with Swiss embroidered insertion, front opening, back of waist finished with small box pleats and embroidery, skirt made with flare sides, trimmed with two rows of insertion. . . . **\$5.00**
- G613. WHITE LINEN SHIRT WAIST SUIT**, Gibson shoulder pleats, trimmed with embroidered insertion, front opening, back finished with small box pleat and insertion, skirt made with flare sides, trimmed with insertion and fold of self. **\$8.00**
- G614. WHITE MUSLIN SUIT**, waist made with front opening, and trimmed with embroidered shoulder frill, tucks and Swiss embroidered insertion, back of waist is finished with clusters of small tucks, thirteen-gore pleated skirt, with panel front, trimmed with fold of self and insertion. **\$5.50**

Shirt Waist Suits



G-605
\$ 5.00

G-618
\$ 6.00

G-619
\$ 9.50

G-609
\$10.00

Regular Stock Sizes are 32 to 40 inches bust measure. Skirt lengths 38 to 43 inches, with waistbands from 22 to 28 inches. Special sizes for 20 per cent. additional, but are not returnable. In case the sizes required are temporarily out of stock, we ask for 6 to 8 days to fill order. Skirts are all made walking length. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G605. LUSTRE SHIRT WAIST SUIT, made in black, brown, navy, green, and cream, waist made with front opening, and finished with box pleats, the back is finished with pleats and tucks, full pleated skirt trimmed with fold of self..... **\$5.00**

G609. SHIRT WAIST SUIT of fine poplinette, in black, navy, brown, and green, waist is made with front opening, fancy yoke trimmed with self-covered buttons, three-quarter sleeves, finished with deep tuck, back finished with pleats, pleated skirt trimmed with two folds of self..... **\$10.00**

G617. PONGEE SILK SHIRT WAIST SUIT, in navy and natural tan shades, waist made with front opening, extended shoulder pleats, trimmed with self-strapping back and front, eleven-gore pleated skirt trimmed with folds and strapping..... **\$18.00**

G618. WHITE LAWN SUIT, waist opens at back, front trimmed with Swiss embroidered insertion and tucking, back finished with small tucks and box pleat, eleven-gore pleated skirt trimmed with insertion... **\$6.00**

G619. WHITE INDIA LAWN SHIRT WAIST SUIT, waist made with back opening, elaborately trimmed with pin tucking, Valenciennes lace insertion, back finished with tucks and lace and insertion, flare skirt trimmed with rows of tucks and insertion..... **\$9.50**

G709. FANCY MUSLIN DRESS, floral design, in either grey, mauve, pink, blue or green, on white ground, with satin stripe, waist is made with back opening, and trimmed with tucks and Valenciennes lace and insertion, back is finished with pleats and rows of insertion, skirt made with deep flounce and trimmed with rows of tucks..... **\$6.50**



G-709
\$ 6.50

G-617
\$18.00

We Pay Freight or Express Charges on All Orders of \$25 or Over. See Page 191 for Full Particulars



Cravenette and Rubber-Lined Raincoats

Stock Sizes are 32 to 42 bust. When ordering, state bust measure and in case of a long coat give length, measuring down the back. Raincoats other than regular stock sizes cost 10 per cent. additional, and are not returnable. If not in stock in measurements wanted, a few days may be required to fill your order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G5104. CRAVENETTE RAINCOAT, made 45 inches long of herringbone twill cravenette, in tan, olive and Oxford, loose back, imitation collar, shoulder extension formed with strapping, self-covered buttons. **\$6.00**

G5108. RUBBER-LINED COAT, absolutely waterproof, full loose back with centre pleat and cross belt, storm cuff preventing wind or wet from entering sleeve, colors black, navy, and tan. **\$8.00**

G5109. RUBBER-LINED COVERT COAT, double breasted, large coat collar, loose back with centre pleat and belt, a thoroughly good coat, perfectly waterproof and one that will give splendid service, comes in tan and Oxford. **\$12.00**

G5110. RUBBER-LINED COAT of heavy cashmere serge, in navy, black, and tan, made without sleeves, shoulder capes are 29 inches deep and faced with plaid silk, full draping back, velvet collar. **\$10.00**

G-5110 \$10.00

We Pay Freight or Express Charges on All Orders of \$25 or Over. See Page 191 for Full Particulars



G-5106
\$5.50 to \$6.50

G-5102

\$10.75

G-5107
\$7.50

G-5103

G-5103
\$14.00

Cravenette and Rubber-Lined Raincoats

Stock Sizes are 32 to 42 bust. When ordering, state bust measure and in case of a long coat give length, measuring down the back. Raincoats other than regular stock sizes cost 10 per cent. additional, and are not returnable. If not in stock in measurements wanted, a few days may be required to fill your order. A second or third choice will generally avoid delay.

G5102. CRAVENETTE RAINCOAT, good heavy quality, tan, olive, and Oxford, full ripple back, extended shoulder pleats, collar trimmed with stitching, new sleeve and self-covered buttons, supplied in lengths from 52 to 60 inches..... **\$10.75**

G5103. CRAVENETTE RAINCOAT, extra heavy quality, tan, olive, and Oxford, made 48 and 50 inches long with full ripple back, deep armhole, full sleeve, velvet collar, handsomely trimmed with tailored strapping, shoulders lined..... **\$14.00**

G5103. MISSES' CRAVENETTE COAT, mid grey, Oxford, tan and olive, made with loose back, deep armhole effect formed with strapping, supplied in lengths—
33 to 42 inches..... **\$5.50**
43 to 51 inches..... **\$6.50**

G5107. WOMEN'S CRAVENETTE COAT, tan, Oxford and olive shades, supplied in lengths from 52 to 60 inches, made with loose back, double box pleats down centre, belt and cuffs..... **\$7.50**

'How to Order by Mail.' For Full Instructions see page 190. Index to this Catalogue on page 192

Print and Sateen Wrappers

Wrappers illustrated on this page are made with fitted waist linings, and supplied in regular Stock Sizes, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measurement and 57 inches long. G2-901 will be made to special or extra measurements for 20 per cent. additional.

G2-901. BLACK MERCERIZED SATEEN WRAPPER, fine lustrous quality, trimmed with fancy braid, yoke effect front and back, with frill over shoulder, buttoned cuff, pleated back and full skirt made with deep flounce..... **\$2.00**

G2-902. PRINT WRAPPER, extra quality, four pretty colorings, black, navy, cardinal, and grey, made with frill of self over shoulder and trimming of fancy braid, full skirt made with deep flounce..... **\$1.25**

G2-903. PRINT WRAPPER, selected quality, new design, colors, black, navy, and cardinal, made with yoke effect front and back, deep frill over shoulder, back made with double box pleat, full skirt with deep flounce, buttoned cuff, (same as in G2-904)..... **\$1.50**

G2-904. PRINT WRAPPER, extra quality, colors, black, navy, and cardinal, made with pretty yoke effect front and back, frill over shoulder, back is made with inverted pleats, buttoned cuffs and full skirt finished with 11-inch flounce.. **\$1.75**



G2-903
\$1.50

G2-904
\$1.75

G2-901
\$2.00

G2-902
\$1.25

“How to Order by Mail.” For full instructions see page 190. Index to this Catalogue on page 192.

Tea Gowns and Kimonos

Garments illustrated on this page are supplied in regular Stock Sizes only, viz., 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measurement.

G2-800. KIMONO GOWN of fancy figured velours flannellette, loose back, yoke lined with self, kimono sleeve, fronts and cuffs trimmed with wide band of wool cashmere in harmonizing colors, finished with two rows of soutache braid, navy, cardinal, pink or sky..... **\$2.50**

G2-802. TEA GOWN of heavy quality Japanese silk, black, ivory, pink or sky, fitted waist lining, yoke effect of tucking back and front, large fancy collar, sleeves and cuffs trimmed with Valenciennes insertion and edging of lace, deep flounce finished with shirring, tucking and rows of fine insertion. Special **\$13.50**

G2-803. TEA GOWN of all-wool cashmere, black, navy, cardinal or sky, made with handsome bertha collar, daintily edged with rows of shirred ribbon and trimmed with fine guipure insertion, fitted lining to waist, full skirt made with deep flounce, back made with Watteau pleat..... **\$7.50**

G2-804. HOUSE MAIDS' DRESS OR NURSES' COSTUME, of fine quality pin stripe percale, navy and white, attached collar and cuffs of white muslin, finished with hemstitching, waist and skirt combined, skirt cut full and made with side opening..... **\$1.50**

"How to Order by Mail." For Full Instructions see page 190. Index to this Catalogue on page 192.



G2-802
\$13 50

G2-804
\$1 50

G2-800
\$2 50

G2-803
\$7 50

Women's Aprons



51. **MAIDS' APRONS**, fine lawn, shoulder straps, bib and bretelles of embroidery, frill on bottom of skirt, size 36 x 38 inches, sashes. **SPECIAL VALUE**.....**.35**
52. **MAIDS' APRONS**, fine lawn, bib, bretelles and straps of fine embroidery, flounce skirt, sashes, size 38 x 40 inches.....**.50**
53. **MAIDS' APRONS**, fine lawn, plain lawn bib and shoulder straps, sashes, deep hem on skirt, size 38 x 45 inches.....**.45**
54. **MAIDS' APRON**, fine lawn, bib and bretelles inserted with fine embroidery, sashes, size 38 x 40 inches.....**.50**
55. **MAIDS' APRON**, fine lawn, bib and bretelles of tucking, embroidery insertion and frills, flounce skirt, wide sashes, size 38 x 40 inches.....**.65**
56. **MAIDS' APRONS**, fine lawn, bib and bretelles of fine embroidery insertion, frills and medallions, skirt and flounce tucked.....**.75**
57. **NURSES' OR MAIDS' APRON**, fine lawn, bib, bretelles and skirt hemstitched, 6-inch hem size 43 or 40 inches long by 64 inches wide. **SPECIAL**.....**.75**
58. **MAIDS' APRON**, fine lawn, bib and bretelles fine tucks and trimmed with frills and insertion of very fine embroidery, wide sashes, flounce skirt, size 39 x 40 inches.....**.85**
59. **AFTERNOON TEA APRON**, fine Persian lawn, small round shape, frill edged with lace all around, wide ties.....**.50**
60. **AFTERNOON TEA APRON**, fine Persian lawn, dainty lace edged and tucked frill on skirt, lace trimmed bib, wide sashes, silk ribbon bow on pocket. **SPECIAL**.....**.65**
61. **SEWING APRON**, fine lawn, large spool pocket and frill lace trimmed. **SPECIAL**.....**.65**
62. **AFTERNOON APRON**, fine lawn, 2 rows fine embroidery insertion and deep hem, wide sashes, size 39 x 36 inches.....**.55**
63. **AFTERNOON APRON**, embroidery frill on bottom, 2 clusters of hemstitched tucks, wide sashes, size 40 x 36 inches.....**.55**
- PLAIN AND KITCHEN APRONS**
64. **PLAIN APRON**, fine heavy lawn, deep hem, size 38 x 40 inches. **SPECIAL**.....**.25**
65. **PLAIN APRON**, fine heavy lawn, deep hem, buttoned in back, size 39 x 66 inches. **SPECIAL**.....**.50**
66. **PLAIN APRON**, heavy grey chambray, fancy border on bottom, size 37 x 38 inches. **SPECIAL**.....**.25**
67. **BIB APRON**, heavy grey chambray, fancy border on bottom, bib and sashes, size 37 x 38, style as No. 68. **SPECIAL**.....**.35**
68. **PLAIN APRON**, blue check gingham, size 38 x 39 inches, fancy border on bottom and sashes.....**.25**
69. **APRON**, with bib, blue check gingham, size 38 x 39 inches, fancy border on bottom and sashes.....**.35**
70. **PLAIN APRON**, fine black sateen, deep hem, large pocket, size 38 x 45 inches.....**.45**
71. **APRON** with bib, heavy cream linen, size 38 x 38 inches, style as No. 68. **SPECIAL**.....**.35**
72. **OVERALL APRON**, heavy blue check gingham, frill on shoulders and bottom of skirt, lengths 52, 54, 56 inches, width 60 inches. **SPECIAL**.....**.55**
73. **GORED OVERALL SKIRT APRON** with large bib and shoulder straps, covers entire skirt, pocket, sizes small, medium, and large, width 85 to 88 inches. **SPECIAL**.....**.75**
74. **OVERALL APRON**, fine navy blue print with small white dot, gathered full on fitted yoke, buttons in back, covers whole dress, sizes 34, 38, 42 bust measure, width 72 inches.....**.65**
75. **OVERALL APRON**, same as No. 73, with full long sleeves, same sizes.....**.90**

Bridal or Matched Lingerie

In sets of 3 or 4 pieces, or single pieces at prices marked. When ordering give size of each garment and style of Drawers desired. Drawers come in both styles. Sizes, Gowns, 56, 58, 60 inches. Drawers, 23, 25, 27 inches. Corset Covers, 32 to 42 bust measure. Skirts, 38 to 44 inches. Finest materials used, trimmings perfectly matched.

10. SET OF 4 PIECES, finest nainsook, trimmed with fine embroidery beading silk ribbon and ruffles of embroidery and lace, tucks in skirt, drawers and cover, new Empire style gown; prices, Gown, \$2.50; Corset Cover, 95c; Drawers, \$1.50; Skirt, \$2.75; or complete set for..... \$7.35

Or set of 3 pieces, omitting skirt... \$4.75

11. SET OF 4 PIECES, finest nainsook and lawn, trimmed with fine French Valenciennes lace, lace and embroidery beading and silk ribbons, embroidery medallions in gown, drawers and cover, slip over gown; prices, Gown, \$2.50; Corset Cover, \$1.50; Drawers, \$1.95; Skirt, \$3.75; or complete set for. \$9.25

Or set of 3 pieces, omitting skirt... \$5.70

12. SET OF 4 PIECES, finest nainsook and lawn, trimmed with very fine French Valenciennes lace and dainty embroidery beading, lace beading and silk ribbon in gown and cover, gown slip over neck, butterfly sleeves, corset cover and gown backs trimmed, tucks in skirt, corset cover and drawers, very fine and pretty set; prices, Gown, \$3.00; Drawers, \$1.25; Corset Cover, \$1.75; Skirt, \$5.25; or complete set \$10.75

Or set of 3 pieces, omitting skirt. \$5.75

13. SET OF 4 PIECES, finest nainsook and lawn, trimmed with very fine embroidery insertions and frills, fine embroidery beading and silk ribbon, Valenciennes lace frill, beading and silk ribbon on cover, gown new Empire style, drawers and back of cover tucked, a magnificent set; prices, Gown, \$5.00; Corset Cover, \$1.50; Drawers, \$1.75; Skirt, \$5.50; or complete set for. \$13.25

Or set of 3 pieces, omitting skirt. \$7.90

Special

See page 45 for the new "ISABELLE" Drawers. The "ISABELLE" marks a distinct improvement in ladies' undergarments, and is as near perfection as human ingenuity can make it. Isabelle Drawers are cut in one piece, eliminating the circular yoke and band and bringing the bias on the hip, producing a most desirable rounded effect. The "ISABELLE" has no gathers on the hip or at waist, and hangs very full giving divided skirt effect.





Drawers

Sizes 23, 25, 27 inches, open or closed styles, Nos. 288½, 289½, 293½ come extra large, for women 42, 44, 46 inches bust measure.

- 288. **HEAVY COTTON**, wide umbrella style, trimmed hemstitched tucks and hem. **SPECIAL**..... .25
- 288½. Same as 288, in extra large sizes .40
- 289. **FINE COTTON**, deep hemstitched tuck and ruffle of embroidery. **SPECIAL** .35
- 289½. Same as 289, in extra large sizes .50
- 290. **FINEST CAMBRIC**, deep umbrella flounce with wide hemstitched hem. .55
- 291. **FINE COTTON**, deep umbrella flounce, ruffle and insertion of fine lace..... .50
- 292. **FINE COTTON**, three ¼-inch tucks and ruffle of fine embroidery..... .50
- 293. **NAINSOOK**, five plain tucks and deep ruffle of fine embroidery..... .75
- 293½. Same as 293, in extra large sizes .95
- 294. **NAINSOOK**, 9 hemstitched tucks, deep flounce edged with Valenciennes lace .75

- 295. **FINE COTTON**, 4 hemstitched tucks, insertion and ruffle of fine embroidery \$1.00
- 296. **NAINSOOK**, 5 small tucks, embroidery beading, silk ribbon and ruffle of very fine embroidery..... \$1.25
- 297. **NAINSOOK**, hemstitched lover's knots, insertion and ruffle of French Valenciennes lace..... \$1.50
- 298. **BLACK MERCERIZED SATEEN**, style as 288..... .60
- 299. **BLACK MERCERIZED SATEEN**, knicker style, elastic at knee, lengths 28, 30, 32 inches..... .50

Isabelle Drawers and Combinations

Sizes 23, 25, 27 inches, open or closed styles

The "ISABELLE" is a bell-shape patent circular cut Drawer. It hangs very full and there are no gathers or fullness at the waist. The "Isabelle" is a wonderful improvement in undergarments.

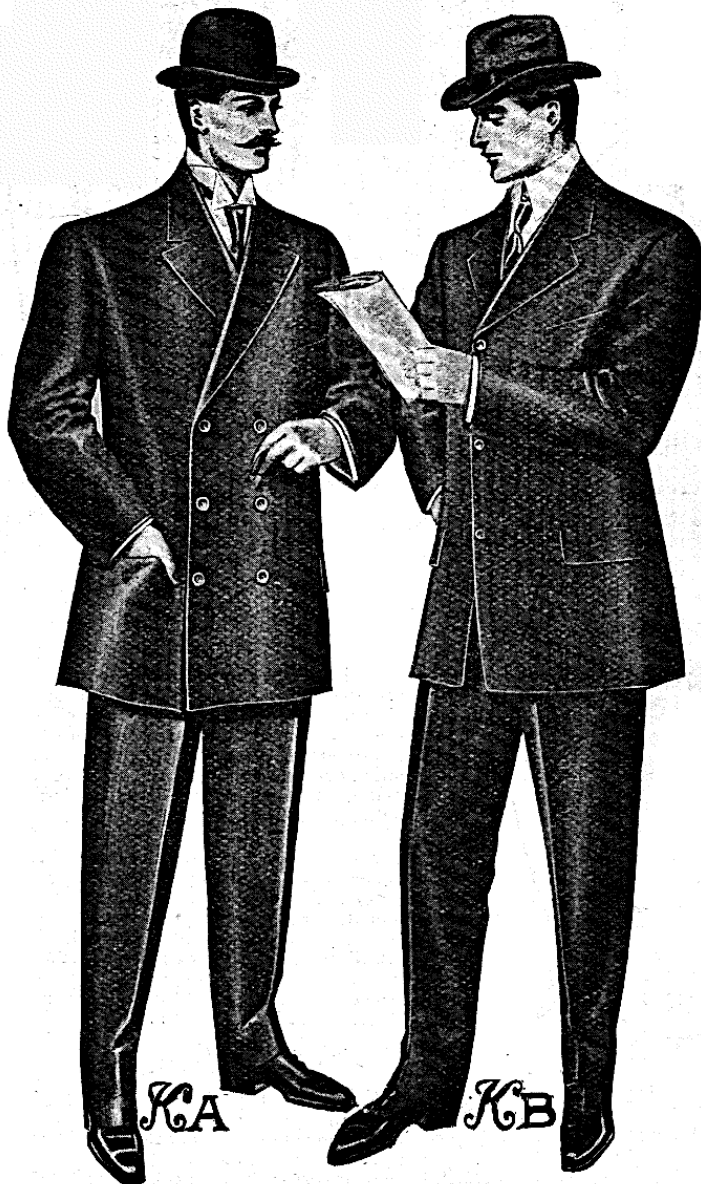
- 300. "ISABELLE" DRAWERS, fine nainsook, deep ruffle and tucks. **VERY SPECIAL**..... .50
- 300½. Same as 300, in extra large sizes .65
- 301. "ISABELLE" DRAWERS, nainsook, deep flounce, 3 hemstitched tucks and frill of Valenciennes lace..... .75
- 302. "ISABELLE" DRAWERS, nainsook, ruffle of fine embroidery. **SPECIAL** \$1.00
- 302½. Same as 302, in extra large sizes \$1.20
- 303. **NAINSOOK**, 3 tucks, insertion and frill of fine Valenciennes lace..... \$1.00
- 304. "ISABELLE" COMBINATION. Corset Cover and Drawer, trimming of fine Valenciennes lace, embroidery beading and silk ribbon in waist, lace beading, silk ribbon on neck and arms, sizes 34 to 44 bust measure. **SPECIAL**..... \$2.50
- 324. "ISABELLE" COMBINATION, 3 pieces, Corset Cover, Drawer and Short Skirt, a beautiful garment, trimmed with fine Valenciennes lace, embroidery beading, silk ribbon at waist, lace beading with ribbon on neck and arms, embroidery medallions, sizes 34 to 44 bust measure. **SPECIAL** \$3.25

Men's

Clothing

Boys'

ON the following pages you will *not* find an inventory of our clothing stock for men and boys. These pages contain only representative lines, and for that reason give but an inadequate idea of the enormous stock we carry. In addition, we continually maintain extensive selections of more exclusive goods, in regard to which, information will be furnished by mail. The foundation of our clothing business is reliable materials and honest workmanship. Any garment that does not prove satisfactory can be returned at our expense and money refunded.



Special Value in a Man's Suit, \$10.50

Imported English Clay Worsted in two colors and two styles, Navy Blue and Black, single or double breasted

The material a fine soft-finished Clay Twill, made from pure Botany wool in 18 oz. weight, guaranteed fast color. We have selected this fabric on account of its real worth and its great popularity for men's wear, being suitable for either business or semi-dress. It is always correct. We know of no material that will give equal wear and retain its appearance. Cut in the latest single or double-breasted sack style, tailored with the greatest care in every detail, lined with a fine twill mohair serge; coats are made up with a patented unbreakable front of shrunk linen duck, haircloth and padding stayed with linen, sewn throughout with silk, finished with seams double stitched 1-4 in., all seams are serged and the material and linings have been thoroughly shrunk before making up and are guaranteed to retain their shape, sizes 34 to 44, as cut K-A or K-B. Our Special Mail Order Price **\$10.50**

Sizes larger than 44 chest and 35 leg will cost \$1.00 extra per inch. Samples upon request

In ordering, be sure and state style, whether single or double breasted

Men's Tweed and Worsted Suits



MEN'S SINGLE-BREADED SACK SUITS

Sizes 36 to 44

K1. Men's Strong, Durable Domestic Tweed Single-breasted Sack Suits, assorted shades of dark grey and black with lighter stripe effects and faint colored overplaids, Italian cloth linings, as cut K1..... \$5.00

K1 1/2. New Spring English Tweed Suits, in light and dark mixtures, showing a heather intermixture with subdued colored overplaids, strong durable linings, as cut K1..... \$6.00

K2. Men's English Tweed Suits, brown and black mixtures in neat small pattern, showing faint colored overplaid, also lighter grey shades showing black broken stripe pattern, good linings, as cut K1..... \$7.00

K2 1/2. Dark Oxford Grey and Grey and Black Mixed Domestic Tweed Suits, neat double stripe pattern with greenish intermixture, also plain dark grey showing lighter intermixture, good durable cloth, with linings and trimmings in keeping, as cut K1..... \$7.50

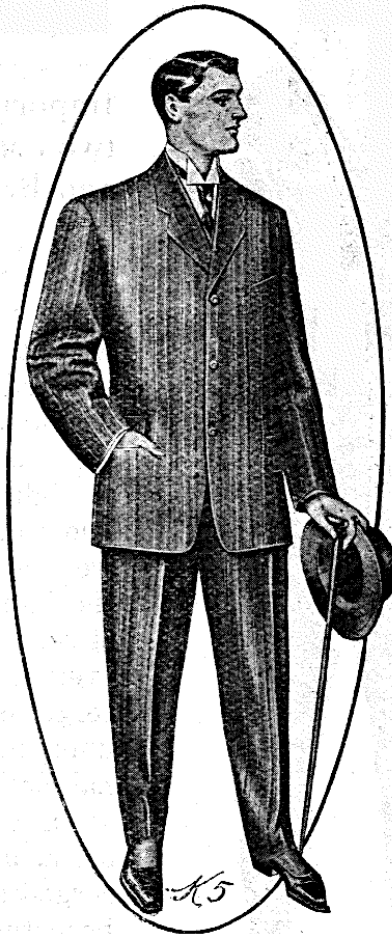
K3. Rich Dark Brown English Tweed Spring Suits, also brown and grey mixed, and Oxford grey with lighter intermixture fancy weaves showing stripe effects and indistinct colored stripes, substantial interlinings and trimmings, as cut K1..... \$8.00

K4. Fine Saxony Finished English Tweed Suits, also a rich dull finished cloth in brown, subdued darker stripes, also colored double stripe effects with rich dark overplaids, good Italian cloth linings, the latest single-breasted style, as cut K1..... \$9.00

K5. Men's Suits, Smooth, Closely Shorn Fancy Worsted, a neat grey and black small pattern, showing faint stripe, a material that wears well and is easily kept clean, also nobby imported tweeds in Scotch effects, fancy greys and browns in medium and light shades, twilled linings, and tailored in first-class style, as cut K5. \$10.00

K6. Fine Quality Fancy Worsted Sack Suits, new spring colorings in greys, neat and stylish patterns in the latest weaves, medium light and dark shades, fine twill linings and shrunk duck interlinings, as cut K5..... \$12.00

K7. High Grade Suits, in Saxony finished English tweeds, dark brown and mid greys, also rougher Scotch effects in olive greys and Oxford shades, neat and subdued stripe patterns, with good linings and trimmings, as cut K5..... \$12.50



K8. Rich dark browns, brown and grey mixtures, also lighter greys, in fine quality fancy worsteds, the latest plaids and fancy stripe patterns made up in single-breasted sack style, the newest coat, with linings and trimmings to match, as cut K5..... \$13.50

K9. Extra Fine Quality Fancy Worsted Suits, high grade imported English materials in the latest shades of grey, olive, brown, and seal browns, the weaves show stripes and cross plaids with very faint coloring, mohair twill body lining and interlining to match, as cut K9..... \$15.00



K10. Finest Quality English Worsted Single-breasted Suits, large assortment of greys in all this season's latest colorings, olive shades, grey and black, dark Oxfords, light Cambridge shades in fancy club check, new stripe effects and plaid patterns, linings and trimmings to match, and splendidly tailored, as cut K9..... \$18.00

K11. Men's Hand Tailored Ready-to-Wear Imported High Grade Tweed and Worsted Suits, greys and browns in neat small patterns, also novelty weaves showing stripe and plaid patterns, hand shape and tailored, high grade interlinings, all thoroughly shrunk, every detail carefully completed, and cut in the latest single-breasted sack style, as cut K9..... \$20.00

CLERGYMEN'S SUITS

K11A. Fine Imported English Worsted Clerical Sack Suits, in a fine, smooth clay twill Oxford, and Cambridge greys and blue and black shades, single-breasted sack style, with single-breasted clerical vest with stand collar, good Italian cloth linings and trimmings..... \$15.00

K11B. Fine Black English Cheviot Clerical Suits, this cloth has a soft, unfinished surface, very suitable for this style of garment, fast color, and will not gloss or crease easily, made up in the 3/4 single-breasted frock style, with stand collar on vest, good durable linings, etc..... \$18.00



MEN'S NAVY BLUE AND BLACK SUITS

Sizes 36 to 44

- K12.** Dark Navy Blue and Black Cheviot Finished English Serge Suits, Italian cloth linings, made up in single-breasted style, as cut K12..... **\$5.00**
- K13.** Men's Hard-twisted Worsted Finished English Serge Suits, strong, durable material, which will give lots of wear, lined with strong Italian cloth, as cut K12..... **\$8.50**
- K14.** Plain Black English Cheviot Suits, a fine soft-finished material that will not gloss, durable Italian cloth linings and trimmings, as cut K12..... **\$10.50**
- K15.** Dark Navy Blue and Black English Clay Worsted Suits, single-breasted sack style, fine linings and good interlinings, as cut K12 **\$12.00**
- K16.** High Grade Imported Botany Worsteds, in navy blue and black clay twills, also fine black vicuna, made up in the latest single-breasted sack style, silk stitched, linen shrunk duck and haircloth interlinings, exceptionally well tailored and splendid fitting, as cut K12..... **\$15.00**
- K17.** Fine Black English Vicuna Sack Suits, a very rich llama finished cloth that will not gloss, also a fine quality, rich finished blue, soft navy shade, made up throughout with high-class trimmings and best workmanship, made only in the latest single-breasted sack coat style, as cut K12..... **\$18.00**

MEN'S DOUBLE-BREASTED SUITS

Sizes 36 to 44

- K18.** Men's Soft Cheviot Finished Navy Blue and Black Serge Suits, Italian cloth linings, as cut K18..... **\$5.00**
- K19.** Men's Worsted Finished Navy Blue Serge Suits, good weight material, in medium wide twill, plain Italian cloth linings, as cut K18..... **\$8.50**

K20. Imported English Clay Worsted Suits, navy blue and black, in medium fine twill, good twilled linings and silk sewn, the correct double-breasted style, as cut K18..... **\$12.50**

K21. Men's High Grade Botany Worsted Suits, fine quality soft clay twill, rich, permanent dark navy and black shades, silk sewn and finished with high grade interlinings and trimmings, as cut K18..... **\$15.00**

K22. Fine Imported Black English Cheviot Double-Breasted Suits, a rich, soft-finished material that does not crease easily and will not gloss, fine linings and trimmings, and splendidly tailored, as cut K18..... **\$15.00**

MEN'S FULL DRESS TUXEDO AND FROCK COAT SUITS

Sizes 35 to 44

K25. Men's High Grade Full Dress Suits, made from rich black vicuna cloth, fine quality smooth, closely woven material, with fine soft unfinished surface, that will not crease easily, tailored in the latest style with high-grade interlinings, fine quality mohair serge body lining and silk-faced lapels, the fit and workmanship of these suits are exceptionally good, and no detail is neglected and no pains spared to turn out a first-class article in every respect, as cut K25..... **\$21.00**
Coat and Vest only..... **\$17.50**

K26. Extra Fine Quality Men's Silk Lined Full Dress Suits, made from imported English unfinished worsted, a deep, permanent black, extra quality shrunk duck and mohair interlinings, coat lined throughout with heavy rich silk, vest back to match, best workmanship and tailoring, as cut K25..... **\$26.00**
Coat and Vest only..... **\$21.00**

TUXEDO OR DINNER SUITS

K28. Fine Black English Vicuna Cloth Tuxedo or Dinner Suits, a rich, soft-finished material, deep black shade, very fashionable for this style of garment, made up in the latest style, with long shawl collar, faced with fine quality silk and fine twill mohair serge body lining, as cut K28..... **\$16.50**

K29. Men's Imported English Dress Worsted Tuxedo Suits, high-grade material, in rich unfinished weave, showing a soft surface, fast color, made up in the latest style with long shawl collar, silk lined and fine twilled body lining, as cut K28..... **\$22.00**
Coat and Vest only..... **\$17.00**

MEN'S PRINCE ALBERT SUITS

K30. Fine Black English Cheviot Frock Coat Suits, the material has a rich, soft, unfinished surface, that will not gloss or crease easily, made up in regulation style, double breasted, with silk-faced lapels, fine twill mohair lining, good interlinings and trimmings, as cut K30..... **\$20.00**

K31. Men's Fine Unfinished Dress Worsted Frock Coat Suits, fast black, a cloth that will not gloss, made up in the latest cut and splendidly tailored, interlined with haircloth and shrunk duck and lined with fine quality mohair serge and silk-faced lapels, elegantly finished and has all the appearance of a high grade custom tailored suit, as cut K30..... **\$22.00**
Coat and Vest only..... **\$17.00**

MORNING COAT SUITS

K32. Men's Fine Semi-dress Morning Coat Suits made up from a rich fast black unfinished worsted, the three-button cutaway style, fine quality linings and trimmings, and well finished..... **\$17.00**

Men's Spring Overcoats



If you do not find what you want catalogued here, write for samples. Every garment has our liberal guarantee behind it; if not satisfactory return at our expense and money will be refunded.

MEN'S TOPPER COATS

Sizes 34 to 44

- K35.** Men's Imported English Covert Cloth Topper Overcoats, dark olive shade, made up in the latest short boxy style, Italian cloth linings, as cut K35..... **\$8.00**
- K36.** New Spring Topper Overcoats, a fine fancy worsted in dark grey shade, showing very faint darker stripe, mohair sleeve lining and good body linings, as cut K35..... **\$9.00**
- K37.** Fine Quality Imported English Whipcord Topper Coats, handsome light olive, fawn shade, good quality mohair twill body lining and splendidly tailored, as cut K35..... **\$10.00**

MEN'S CHESTERFIELD OVERCOATS

- K38.** Plain Dark Oxford Grey Cheviot Spring Overcoats, three-quarter single-breasted Chesterfield style, with Italian cloth linings, as cut K38..... **\$6.50**
- K39.** Single-breasted Chesterfield Spring Overcoats, in three-quarter length, made from a soft English cheviot, mohair sleeve lining and good body lining, Oxford grey shade, the pattern shows faint twill, good linings, as cut K38..... **\$8.00**
- K40.** Dark Oxford Grey Spring Overcoats, the material is a soft cheviot showing a twill weave, good linings and trimmings, and is finished with silk facings, silk extending to bottom of coat, as cut K40..... **\$10.00**

MEN'S RAINCOATS

Sizes 34 to 44

- K44.** Dark Oxford Grey and Fawn Imported English Covert Cloth Raincoats, made up in regulation style with long full skirt, strong durable body lining and mohair sleeve lining, as cut K44..... **\$8.50**
- K45.** Plain Dark Oxford Grey English Covert Cloth Raincoats, the long single-breasted Chesterfield style, with good quality linings and trimmings to match, as cut K44... **\$10.00**
- K46.** Fine Imported English Covert Cloth Raincoats, plain Oxford grey and dark olive fawn shades, splendidly tailored in the correct,

- long, full-skirted single-breasted Chesterfield style, with self collar and good Italian cloth lining, as cut K46..... **\$12.00**
- K47.** High Grade Raincoats, made from English covert cloth, in a dark Oxford grey shade, extra well tailored and trimmed, shrunk duck and haircloth interlinings, and fine twilled mohair serge body linings, splendid fitting garment, as cut K46..... **\$15.00**
- K48.** Men's Extra Fine Cravenette Cloth Raincoats, high grade imported English materials, in rich dark grey shades, also handsome fawns, made up with best linings and trimmings and lined throughout with fine twilled mohair and elegantly tailored, as cut K46..... **\$18.00**
- K48½.** The same Raincoat as described above in No. K48, made up body unlined, with saddle back and sleeves only lined with mohair, all seams neatly piped, as cut K46..... **\$18.00**

AUTOMOBILE RAINCOATS

Sizes 35 to 44

- K49.** Extra Fine Quality Feather Weight Rubber Raincoats, very soft and pliable, yet absolutely waterproof, double breasted with wind straps for sleeves and double cuff, tab for throat, buttoned close up around the neck, ventilated at armholes, bottom facings strong and durable, and suitable for driving or auto-mobiling..... **\$15.00**

Men's Clothing



Men's Unlined Summer Suits

Sizes 34 to 44

- K57.** Men's Light Grey Homespun Two-piece Summer Suits, single-breasted sack style, coat unlined with patch pockets, the pattern shows a shadow stripe and overplaid, as cut K57 **\$6.50**
- K58.** Fine quality light grey and medium grey mixed Homespun Two-piece Unlined Suits, showing fancy overplaid pattern, also fancy brown overcheck, as cut K57..... **\$8.50**
- K59.** Fine Fancy Worsted Unlined Two-piece Suits, in a very neat small pattern, also medium grey striped flannel finished English tweeds showing faint colored stripe, as cut K57.. **\$10.50**
- K60.** Imported Dark Navy Blue English Worsted Two-piece Suits, a rich shade in a very fine clay twill, single-breasted style, as cut K57.. **\$10.50**
- K61.** Popular grey shades in fancy worsteds, showing darker box plaid and neat stripe patterns, single-breasted, unlined, as cut K57 **\$12.00**
- K62.** Fine Quality Mid Grey English-Flannel Two-piece Suits, also Elephant greys and brown worsteds, in neat stripes, unlined, as cut K62..... **\$13.00**
- K63.** High Grade Light Cream Worsted Two-piece Summer Suits, in very rich delicate colorings, single-breasted style, unlined, seams piped with white satin and beautifully tailored, as cut K62..... **\$14.00**
- K64.** New shades of grey in neat and dressy imported worsteds, weaves show faint plaid and stripe effects, also fine soft-finished English flannel, unlined, two-piece styles, as cut K64..... **\$15.00**

K65. Men's High Grade Imported Fancy Worsted Two-piece Summer Suits, plain greys in assorted shades, also fancy plaid effects, elegantly tailored and $\frac{1}{4}$ -lined and finished with canvas and haircloth interlining to make retain the shape, as cut K64..... **\$15.00**

Men's Double-Breasted Summer Suits

Sizes 34 to 44

K66. Fine Quality Imported English Worsted Two-piece Summer Suits, a very handsome light cream serge showing neat stripe, finished inside with white satin piping and beautifully tailored..... **\$15.00**



Men's Yachting Suits

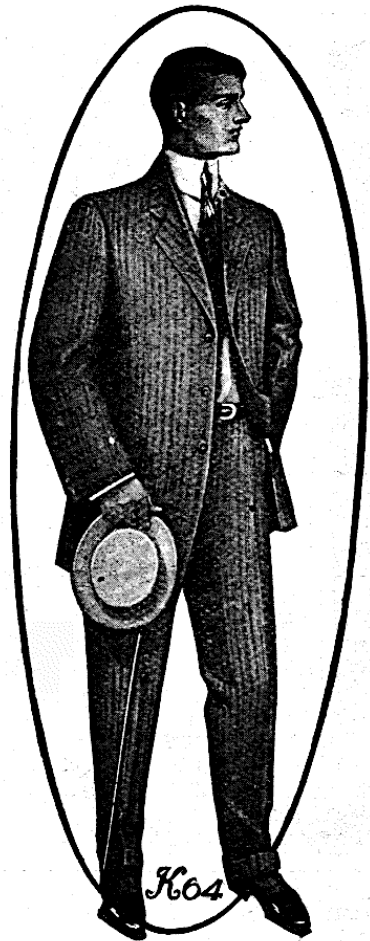
Sizes 35 to 44

- K67.** This Suit consists of double-breasted navy blue clay worsted coat, unlined, with white duck trousers made in regulation style.. **\$6.50**
- K68.** Men's Yachting Suits, with double-breasted navy blue clay worsted coat, lined throughout, and best quality fine white duck trousers..... **\$9.00**

Men's Summer Pants

Sizes 31 to 44

- K69.** Men's White Duck Trousers, made with belt keepers..... **\$1.00**
- K70.** Men's Heavy Weight White Duck Pants, 8 oz. cloth, well made..... **\$1.25**



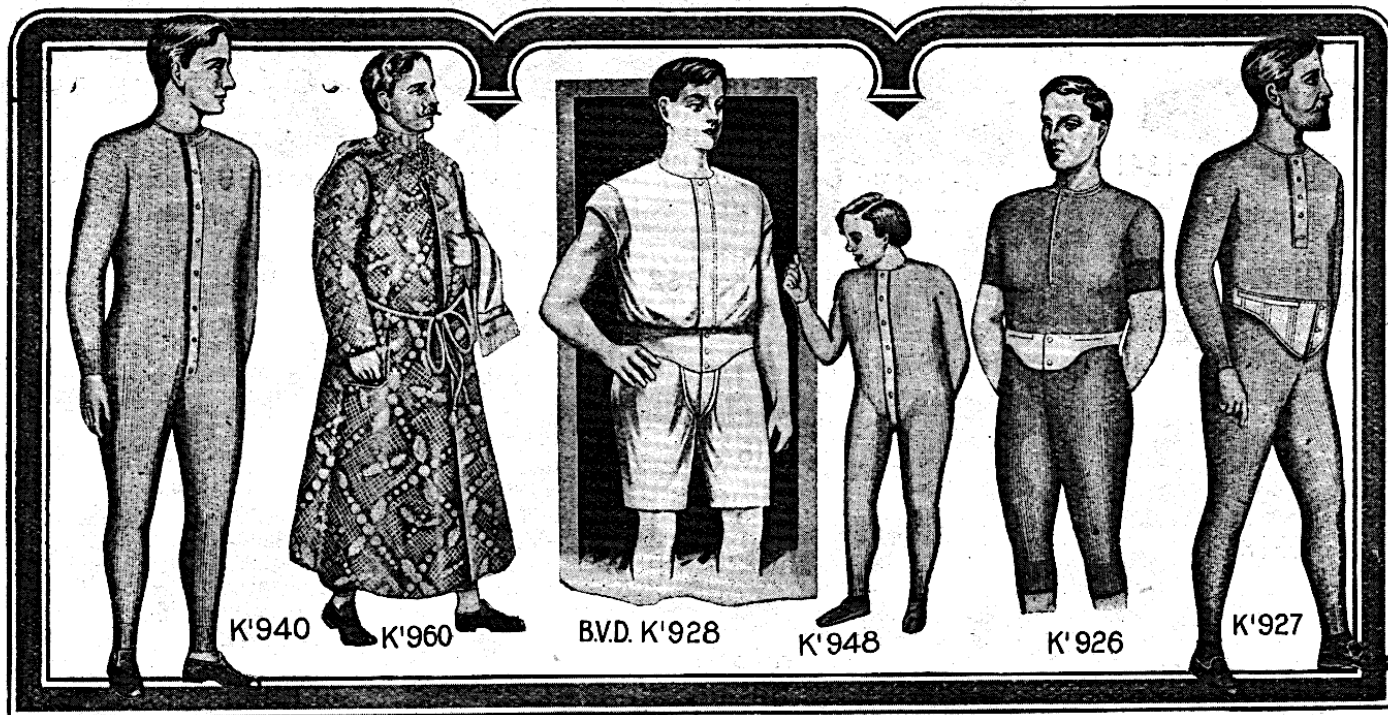
- K71.** Best Quality Fine White Duck Pants, extra well made..... **\$1.50**
- K72.** Fine Light Grey Homespun Trousers, stripes and overplaid patterns, belt loops and college roll..... **\$2.50**
- K73.** Plain Grey Homespun Outing Trousers, handsome plaid and stripe effects..... **\$3.00**
- K74.** Men's English Flannel Cricketing Trousers, cloth thoroughly shrunk, light cream shades \$2.50 and..... **\$3.50**
- K75.** Men's High Grade Imported Mid Grey English Flannel Trousers, made up in regulation style, in neat stripe pattern..... **\$4.00**

Men's Unlined Summer Coats

Sizes 34 to 44

- K76.** Plain Black Lustre Summer Coats, single-breasted sack style, patch pockets..... **\$1.50**
- K77.** Dark Silver Grey Lustre Coats, unlined with patch pockets..... **\$1.75**
- K78.** Good Weight Lustre Summer Coats, unlined..... **\$2.00**
- K79.** Black Paris Cord Summer Coats, clergymen style..... **\$2.50**
- K80.** Fine Black Russell Cord Unlined Summer Coats, sack style..... **\$2.75**
- K81.** Clergymen's Fine Black Russell Cord Clerical Coats, unlined, $\frac{3}{4}$ length..... **\$3.00**
- K82.** Dark Navy Blue and Black Serge Unlined Double-breasted Sack Coats, patch pockets..... **\$5.00**

Men's and Boys' Underwear



K1-923. Men's Ribbed Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, fawn shade, sizes 34 to 42, per garment..... **.25**

K1-924. Men's White Cotton Shirts and Drawers, men's sizes only, per garment..... **.25**

K1-925. Men's Fawn Balbriggan Underwear, long and short sleeves, lined seats, sateen trimmed, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927, per garment **.35**

K1-926. Men's Imported Balbriggan Underwear, short sleeves, short knee drawers, extension back, lined seats, elastic ribbed cuffs and ankles, sateen trimmed, sizes 34 to 50, as cut K1-926, per garment..... **.50**

K1-927. Men's Imported Balbriggan Underwear, shirts long sleeves, drawers ankle length, sizes 34 to 50, as cut K1-927, per garment..... **.50**

K1-928. B.V.D. Underwear, white nainsook, the Ideal garments for summer, shirts short sleeves or sleeveless, drawers to the knee only, sizes 30 to 44, as cut K1-928, per garment..... **.65**

K1-929. Men's White Mesh Underwear, shirts long or short sleeves, drawers long or knee length, sizes 32 to 44, as cut K1-928, per garment..... **.50**

K1-930. Men's Imported Balbriggan Underwear, very fine and soft, extension waistbands, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927, per garment... **.75**

K1-931. Men's French Lisle Thread Underwear, pure white, beautifully finished, sizes 34 to 46, per garment, 75c and..... **\$1.06**

K1-932. Men's French Fancy-colored Silkette Underwear, stripes and check effects, sizes 34 to 44, per garment, \$1.25 and..... **\$1.50**

K1-933. Men's Hot Weather Net Undershirts only, short sleeves, per garment, 25c and **.50**

Natural Wool

K1-934. "Britannia" Natural Merino Underwear, light weight, outside cashmere trimmed, pearl buttons, lined seats, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927, per garment..... **.50**

K1-935. English Natural Cashmere Underwear, summer weight, long and short sleeves, drawers outside trimmed, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927, per garment..... **.75**

K1-936. Men's English Natural Cashmere Wool Underwear, spring and summer weight, unshrinkable, non-irritating, pearl buttons, lined seats, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927. The best that can be bought, per garment..... **\$1.00**

K1-937. "Britannia" English Natural Wool Underwear, spring weight, absolutely unshrinkable, elastic ribbed cuffs and ankles, sizes 34 to 46, as cut K1-927, per garment..... **\$1.25**

Better quality, Britannia and Wolsey.... **\$1.50**

K1-938. "Penman's" Natural Wool Underwear, unshrinkable, sizes 34 to 42, per garment **\$1.00**
 Sizes 44 to 50, per garment..... **\$1.25**

K1-939. Men's English Silk Underwear, salmon shade, spring or summer weights, sizes 34 to 44, per garment, \$2.50, \$3.00 and..... **\$3.50**

Combination Suits for Men and Boys

K1-940. Men's Elastic Ribbed Balbriggan Combination or Union Suits, sizes 34 to 44, as cut K1-940, per suit..... **\$1.00**

K1-941. Men's Silkette Combination Suits, white, pink, blue, short sleeves, knee length, long sleeves, ankle length, sizes 34 to 44, as cut K1-940, per suit..... **\$1.50**

K1-942. Men's Imported Mesh Combinations, plain white, perfect fitting, sizes 34 to 44, per suit..... **\$2.50**

K1-948. Boys' Elastic Ribbed Balbriggan Combination Suits, sizes 22 to 32, as cut K1-948, per suit..... **.65**

Boys' Underwear

K1-949. Boys' Imported Balbriggan Underwear, double thread, shirts long sleeves, drawers ankle length, very firm and strong, guaranteed—

Sizes 22 to 26, per garment..... **.25**
 Sizes 28 to 32, per garment..... **.30**

K1-950. Same quality as above, shirts short sleeves, drawers to the knee only—

Sizes 22 to 26, per garment..... **.25**
 Sizes 28 to 32, per garment..... **.30**

This garment cannot be equalled under 50c,

K1-951. Boys' Natural Cashmere Underwear, medium spring weight, unshrinkable, fine and soft, long sleeves and ankle length, sizes 22 to 32, per garment..... **.50**

K1-952. Same quality as K1-951, short sleeve shirts and knee length drawers, sizes 22 to 32, per garment..... **.50**

K1-953. "Wolsey" Boys' Natural Wool Underwear, unshrinkable, very soft—
 Sizes..... 22 24 26 28 30 32
 Per garment..... **\$1.00 \$1.25 \$1.50**

K1-954. Boys' "Pen Angle" Natural Wool Underwear, unshrinkable—
 Sizes..... 22 24 26 28 30 32
 Per garment.. 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, **.90**

Bath Robes

K1-960. Men's Fine Imported Turkish Bath Robes, hood and girdle, in scroll and striped designs, all sizes, as cut K1-960, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00 and..... **\$8.00**

K1-961. Men's Imported Eiderdown Robes, in stripes, scroll and checks, each \$5.00, \$7.00, \$9.00 and..... **\$10.00**