WHAT THE GROOM HAD ON

Some of the Things Overlooked by Public at Wedding Festivities.

HIS BRIDAL TROSSEAU IS EXTENSIVE

Just a Few of the Important Conventions in the Clothes Line He Must Observe to Be Correct.

A very much overlooked but nevertheless very important adjunct to every successful wedding is a groom, although such might not be supposed the case to judge from the small amount of attention or discussion he receives. After the bride has been provided with a trousseau, entailing weeks of distracting labor, and it has been robed upon her by willing but nervous hands, and the church or the house has been fittingly decorated for the big event, and the presents have all arrived, and everything seems about ready, then, and not till then, some brilliant mind happens to think of the bridegroom.

Meanwhile, the troubles of this worthy person have not been small, and more than commensurate with the estimation in which he is held by his friends through his part in the program. Everything centers around the bride, but while she has been busy with dressmakers and milliners, he has been making frequent visits to the tailor, hatter, haberdasher, etc., though, as he thanks his lucky stars, his trips have not been so frequent as those of his fiance.

While there must be planning and designing for her gowns and dresses, his clothes are to be made from already prepared designs, the same as those for people already married and those who never thought of such a thing. There need be no special preparation for his outfit, but he must have everything made new, a complete outfit of clothes for all occasions, made out of the prescribed material, whether he ever expects to wear them again after the honeymoon or not.

What a Man Ought to Have.

Most brides and bridegrooms go on a tour after they have been married to spread their joy broadcast and give people a chance to guy them. When the knot has been tied the husband should have packed away his trunks ready to leave, evening, afternoon and morning suits, with one or two business suits for traveling, besides the one he has on. He should also have one or two top coats, half a dozen fancy waistcoats, three or four hats, as many pairs of shoes, and, of course, gloves, ties, undergarments, and such things. He will be married in the habit appropriate for any high social function the time of the day the ceremony is performed, and must have his traveling suit handy to don and drive to the depot.

Every feature of every article of wearing apparel upon the happy man must be cut in the very latest fashion and be of the latest fashionable material. In recounting the events of a big wedding, the newspapers will devote a column, more or less, to a minute description of the wedding clothes worn by the bride, and then add as an afterthought, "The groom wore the conventional black, and left the city with his bride wearing a dark (or light) business suit," but for all that, there really was some method to his get-up. The charts and prescriptions of the metropolitan tailors, taking their cue from London and American fancy, have been followed, although the "conventional black" rule has not been deviated from.

If Wedded in Evening.

If the great event in the history of the young couple is an evening function, the groom should, of course, wear the evening dress. And there are some changes this year in the evening dress coat, slight though they are, which should be carefully noted, for the groom must be a model in latest dress when ready for the holy words. The tail of the coat should be a little longer than usual, reaching about four inches below the regular frock length, or in other words to the bend of the knee, and should be of fine black thibet, narrow weave black undressed worsted or black Venetian cloth. The lapel should be straight and well peaked; it should have two buttons, be silk-faced to edge and buttonholes; back cut very narrow at tacking, and the skirt at the bottom amply over the trousers pocket at the waist seam, and this should be perceptibly dipped.

The evening dress vest should be made of white silk or shades of a light tint. The opening should be twenty-one inches for the ordinary man and slightly shield shaped, closed with three buttons, closely spaced, and points slightly cut away. The edges can be finished plain or with a tracing. The length should be determined by the coat, but can be dropped below it in front.

Trousers are not so hard to describe. They should be cut loose over the hips, full knee width; should taper to within three inches of the bottom and then have slight spring effect. The full-dress trouser should have, using the ordinary man for model, a knee width of nineteen and one-half inches and sixteen and one-half inches bottom, with plain braided side seams. A word might be added here regarding business wear trousers, which should be cut low-waisted, and trousers of same material as double breasted frock coat should have braided side seams.

Latest Cut of Garments.

Garments of all kinds nowadays are cut so as to give a high, chesty, effect and to this end all tailors serve their means. There is a decided closeness over the lower button. The shoulders are moderately narrow, a departure from the recent extreme width, and inclined rather to narrowness in extreme and square. Sleeves are to have plenty of fullness, with a rounding effect, and three buttons, or, perhaps, four. The width of the back at the collar is cut wide, the gorge being moderately high.

The evening dress slip-over should be made of light weight, water-proof material, in light shades and half lines. It should be cut very full, so as to make the whole garment drape in graceful folds over the shoulders. It will have an outside breast pocket, and vetrical side slits, will be closed with six buttons and fly front, will have a standing double collar closed tightly in front with a self-extending tab, and lined with light colored silk. The left sleeve must have a ticket pocket with flap, and the length should be to within eight inches of the floor.

The top coat of covert cloth should be made with a fly front, lapels of medium length. The back should be slightly shaped so as to take away the bulging box effect. It should be half-lined and have bellows pockets with flaps and outside welted breast pocket. There should also be a change pocket with flap on the left sleeve. With a length of thirty-six inches, this will make a popular spring coat.

Shape of Frock Coats.

Double breasted frock coats should have lapels four inches in width from crease to edge, three and one-half inches at top button and two and one-quarter inches at lower when finished. It should have silk to the buttonholes and close with two buttons. The back should be cut very narrow at tacking and should have medium full skirt effect. The single breasted frock coat is to be made on the same general lines as the double breasted, but should close with three buttons and the lapels should be peaked.

The Newmarket single breasted frock overcoat should be of light colored material, with buttons through, the lower button to be in waist seams or below. The waist seam should dip extensively in front, the back to be cut off and have a center seam and be well tapered toward waist. The skirt should have plenty of hip fullness and flat pleats. The coat is to have an outside breast pocket, slightly peaked lapels, and should be forty-nine inches in length.

The groom might also have a morning coat, of a soft cheviot or vicuna, dark oxford or black, with flap braided edge; a walking coat of fancy worsted or cheviot, soft roll, three buttons, with or without pockets except breast pocket, and a dinner coat with a peaked, silk-faced lapel. The latter should have outside breast pocket, hip pockets without flaps, back moderately shaped and should close with one button.

For His Finish.

He should not fail to have with him a high silk hat, with felt band or opera hat for theater, and to go with these for full dress wear, plain white shirt with cuffs attached, lap front or poke collar, white tie with broad ends, white glace or pearl gloves, with silk or black silk backs, patent leather or varnished calfskin shoes, buttoned tops or patent leather pumps, and pearl links and pearl studs for jewelry. For informal wear he should have with him a tuxedo alpine or black derby hat, plain or pleated white shirt, cuffs attached, fold or wing collar, black silk tie with broad ends, gray suede, gray silk or tan gloves; patent leather, varnished calfskin shoes, with button tops or patent leather ties, and chesterfield or covert overcoat.

SUMMER FASHIONS FOR MEN

Flannel Suits Are Popular and Come in Many Colors.

ABOUT THE CUT OF THE NEW COATS

England More Extreme Than America—The Tweed Suits of the Season — Fancy Waistcoats Still Popular.

NEW YORK, May 25.—No coat is near so interesting to the average American as the flannel, for nine men out of ten wear this garment as soon as the warm weather sets in. The coat is long, as it was last year, and must fall well below the waist, as the suit in the picture shows. The back does not fit closely to the figure, but shows what the tailors call a "half shape." There is a deep roll of the collar, which should fall back freely and show no signs of being pressed down. The lapels to be in style this season must be at least two and a half inches broad. The hip pockets usually have flaps, although this is not done when the seams are strapped, as that gives a flannel suit a too elaborate appearance.

The smartness that the tailor can this year add to a flannel sack lies in the cut of the neck. That must be low and the rest of the coat, if it be allowed to fall from the shoulders, which should fit moderately tight, will take care of itself. Some of these coats have the collar cut so deep and the opening in front cut up so high that there is room for only three buttons, and these are put close together in the small space between the end of the collar and the beginning of the front opening. Much better style, however, for the flannel coat is four buttons, or at least three, put far enough apart to stretch well over the front of the coat.

Turned Back Cuff on Coat.

Another detail which suggests painting the lily in the case of a flannel suit is the turned-back cuff with the buttons which some of the tailors are adding to the coats this year in the hope of making them a little different from the styles of the last few seasons. If any cuff effect is wanted in flannels it is to be had by putting on the bias applied cuff or by opening the sleeve for a distance of three inches and using the buttons there. This is regarded as the best style for a cuff for flannels. The vent in the back of the coat, if one is used—London tailors leave it out of this year's modes altogether—should be in the center of the back and not at each side. The trousers with flannels are still made long enough to turn up at the bottoms. The wise man always gets two pairs to every suit.

In spite of the tiresome run that onion skin and other browns had two years ago, it has again happened that there is a great demand for flannels of that color. They are liked best in the hard finish. Grays are, of course, popular and on the dark grounds there are checks and stripes of red, green and even purple, which has made its appearance for the first time this summer as a color for men's wear. Some of the dark flannels have, in fact, a distinct stripe of purple or mauve.

Trousers Made to Fit.

Trousers, following the tendency of all clothes to be smaller and fit closer to the figure, are not so wide as they were. The measurement at the ankle should not exceed more than seventeen inches, while an inch less is the rule of many tailors. The clothes worn by Englishmen are much more marked in this change than any that our tailors have made. They used to be conspicuous for looseness, but now they fit the figure closely, although they are not shaped much at the hips, nor are they cut to outline the waist, either. The best New York tailors have not yet tried to introduce this fashion here. They are cutting the coats close to the figure, but avoid the exaggerated curves that threatened to be popular several seasons ago.

The tweed suits follow the style of the flannel suit, although through being heavier and generally supplied with some lining they fit more closely. All of these are made with three or four buttons. In these worsted or tweed sacks there is usually a vent in the back of the coat, and the London tailors supply also a turned back cuff which is supplied with buttons. All the waistcoats of the same material are cut higher than the coats. If the waistcoat be of the same material as the coat a dickey or border of white linen is worn inside it. It does not often happen in this country, however, that the same sort of a waistcoat is worn. The waistcoat must be cut sufficiently high in the neck to show above the roll collar of the coat.

Luminous Waistcoats in Order.

Fancy waistcoats have come on the market this spring in a very novel style. On a white ground are stripes about a quarter of an inch thick that match the color of the flannel suit. Some of these are in blue, brown and grayish black, and they are made with braid and without a collar. Five mother of pearl buttons are used on them. There has been some reaction in favor of braid, which was so overdone a few years ago. The braid has been worn chiefly this year on white duck waistcoats and is of the same color. Biscuit-colored cotton cloths in various colors are still smart and there are canvas in various shades of mauve, bird's eggs blue and even pale green. These latter shades are new and form a beautiful contrast to double-breasted blue serge, for instance, or the dark gray flannels, but are very expensive, as they do not wear well. Light flannel waistcoats, unlined and so thin that they wash readily, have been introduced by some of the tailors. They come usually in a cream white and are made with imitation ivory buttons.

Frock Coats Are Few.

There are not many New Yorkers that have frock coats made in summer weight cloth, and they are certainly much fewer than ever this year, when the frock seems almost doomed, so rarely is it seen. Even at many of the spring weddings the ushers wore cutaways, and they would have been seen at more weddings if the bridegroom had not hesitated to ask his ushers to buy new coats for his sake. The spring cutaways of medium length are cut so low in the collar that half of the waistcoat shows and they are made in most cases of a fine diagonal. They are, of course, braided, as is the waistcoat when one is worn. So many fancy waistcoats are now worn that the average purchaser does not buy a waistcoat made of the same material if he is disposed to be economical. If he does wear the same the indispensable dickey must also be there. Very dark trousers are worn now with these coats. One suit of this kind recently turned out by a Fifth avenue tailor had the trousers of black striped with a broad line of gray made of finer lines of black and white. Recently the black and white striped cassimeres have come back into fashion for wear with the braided cutaways.

There seems to be little chance that the double-breasted sack coat will come into favor again for some time. There were nearly fifteen years of popularity to its credit when it did drop out of fashion, and now it seems to be gone for good. The only suits of this kind that the tailors are making up this season are for the men who really must wear them—that is, the yachtsmen. Serges and flannels are used in these cases and the sleeves are not made with a turnover cuff, but with the cuff applied and closed with three buttons.

Top Coats from Lunnon.

Two overcoats for rough wear have recently come over here from London and at least one of them has been cordially received. It is made of a rough tweed or Scotch mixture, usually in checks. The coat fits rather tightly over the shoulders and then falls loosely—in fact with almost a bell shape. The lines run out directly from the shoulders. It has no lining, although the material is so finished on the inside that it has the effect of a cloth lining. The buttons, which are large and made of translucent bone, which takes its shade from the color of the coat, come through the cloth with no fly to hide them. There are no vents and the strapped seams make vents impossible. The pockets have a flap which is sometimes buttoned down. The other overcoat, which is like the one described and is intended for motoring, driving or other rough wear, is somewhat more pronounced in style and has not been taken up so warmly where men are more conservative about dress than they are anywhere else in the world. The coat fits much more closely above the waist and suddenly flares out at that point, standing out about the legs.

MARRIAGES DOWN IN MEXICO

How Senor and Senorita Manage the Affair of Matrimonial Preliminaries.

The average Mexican does not think of marriage until he has at his disposal a sum more than moderate, if he happens to belong to the higher strata of society, nor until it is consented to by the unanimous vote of every one of the members of the family. Instances can be mentioned of two young persons who have never met each other and in whose minds the idea of matrimony has never yet entered, says the Mexican Herald, becoming man and wife through the whim of their parents.

It may be that the family of the bridegroom looks upon his matrimonial union with a certain girl who may happen to be the daughter of a magnate as the means of avoiding bankruptcy; it may be that the father of the bride considers her alliance with the son of a politician as an adroit measure in preventing the downfall of the head of the house, or in point of trivial circumstances, it may be that a marriage is brought about with the object of reducing the yearly tax by the father of the bridegroom or that of the bride.

The motives given, and those never given, for the pre-arrangement of such alliances, vary according to conditions and are always in relation to the position occupied by the two families.

The frequent brevity of the proceedings in the arrangement of bridal ties is, fortunately, giving way to a more liberal and conscientious behavior on the part of parents toward their sons and daughters. But it should also be added that the custom has by no means disappeared, for cases of this nature could be counted by the score in almost every city in the republic.

When, without the knowledge or consent of their parents, two young persons become engaged, the parish priest is requested to call on the bride's father for the purpose of making known to him the designs of the bridegroom. A temporary objection at this point may practically upset the plans of the young candidates to marriage, as the opposition of the father means a delay of two years or more.

During that period the affectionate lover parades the street night and day in the hope of seeing his sweetheart; a thunderstorm would not be sufficient to drive him from his retreat under a balcony or near a telegraph pole. I have seen a lover talking to a pretty girl through an iron-barred window while a terrific rainstorm swept over the city with great fury as quietly and naturally as if balmy spring weather had prevailed.

But the Mexican lover enjoys the novelty of the affair, and far from making any attempt to obtain permission to call on his sweetheart in her own home, he is ready to undertake any task, however difficult, in order to speak to her alone, for a young woman is seldom allowed to receive men without at least two or three members of the family being present.

The general topics of conversation about extreme heat, beautiful weather and the like are in such cases strictly in order, and the suggestion is never made to take "her" out for a stroll or a short drive—that would set the house on fire. A moderately large bank account may enable the visitor to invite her family to attend the opera, but this means that all chances for the exchange of amorous expressions between the lovers are lost, for it is his duty to offer his arm to "mother" and wait upon her until their return from the theater, aside from securing seats for every member of the family, sometimes including the servants.

The theory is too deeply rooted in their minds to permit a man or a woman to resort to the court of divorce in Mexico, but it is never adhered to as a principle; it is simply a question of self-respect. The separation of husband and wife excludes both from high society, and even their sons and daughters are made to feel the effects of public scorn; sometimes it bars the son or daughter from matrimony, while social intercourse becomes impossible for the divorced husband and wife.

SEARCHLIGHTS AS SENTINELS

Many Important Uses of Electricity in Modern Defensive Warfare.

Little has been written of what is perhaps one of the greatest fighting units in modern warfare, the searchlight.

Hereafter every great power will not only have its fighting ships well protected with the searchlight, but each army corps will have its own detachment and apparatus for this very necessary auxiliary.

For it has come to be one of the most important uses of electricity, enabling artillerymen to remove many of the uncertainties from the much dreaded night attack.

Shallow waters that are suspected to have been planted with submarine mines are always subject to such attack by the enemy in small boats. Volunteer landing crews are often sent with orders to destroy all electrical shore connections and thus render the mines useless.

Foggy weather is the most favorable time for this work. The boats are usually masked in gunny sacks to avoid all noise.

In normal weather scouting of this character is, by the use of the light, sure to be detected. Then woe unto the small boat crews. For the great white beam gives only a few seconds of silent grace in which to raise the flag of surrender, then glares on the slaughter by the rapid fires.

Important channels or such passageways of water as are too deep to be successfully mined usually rely for their protection on several of the lights. As discovered vessels form a very good target, the gunners in the forts gleefully lick their chops; while the enemy, owing to the disappearing gun carriage now used, has practically nothing on which to concentrate his fire.

The operator does not stand near the light, but takes up his position in the fire commander's station, an elevated tower at some distance from it. It is above sea level and commands the harbor.

Here is located the controller, which, by reason of its electrical connection with the two motors in the base, gives full control of the light. By merely shifting the handle the flashing beam travels at will.

A dense fog, however, is absolutely impenetrable, and smoke or slight mist causes the beam to be followed with difficulty. Then, sometimes, distinct images are shown which are caused by impurities such as dust in the air and which to the novice would appear as dark objects on water.

However, when weather conditions are unfavorable, the enemy is not apt to move about much. Cloudy weather and rain are rather beneficial than otherwise, as dust and smoke, which act as a screen to the light, are washed out of the air.

But the very natural question is: Why doesn't the enemy throw a few shells and destroy the searchlight? It's certainly bright enough and one would think would afford an easy mark.

It has been found, however, after repeated trials, that to determine the exact location of the lamp is almost an impossibility. Then, again, the forts have the advantage of a fixed gun and a comparatively large target, whereas the ship has an unsteady gun base and a very small target, in fact, not more than eight feet. An export marksman, even at half a mile distance, has hardly one chance out of fifty to hit the projector.

"Very well, then, wait until daylight and blaze away at the shelter house in which the lamp is kept," is said.

A very good scheme, very good, indeed, only the shelter house, under actual war conditions, is mostly a blind and contains nothing. For the latest type of searchlight is mounted on a motor car and, like the service ghost, is never around in the daytime.—Army and Navy Register.