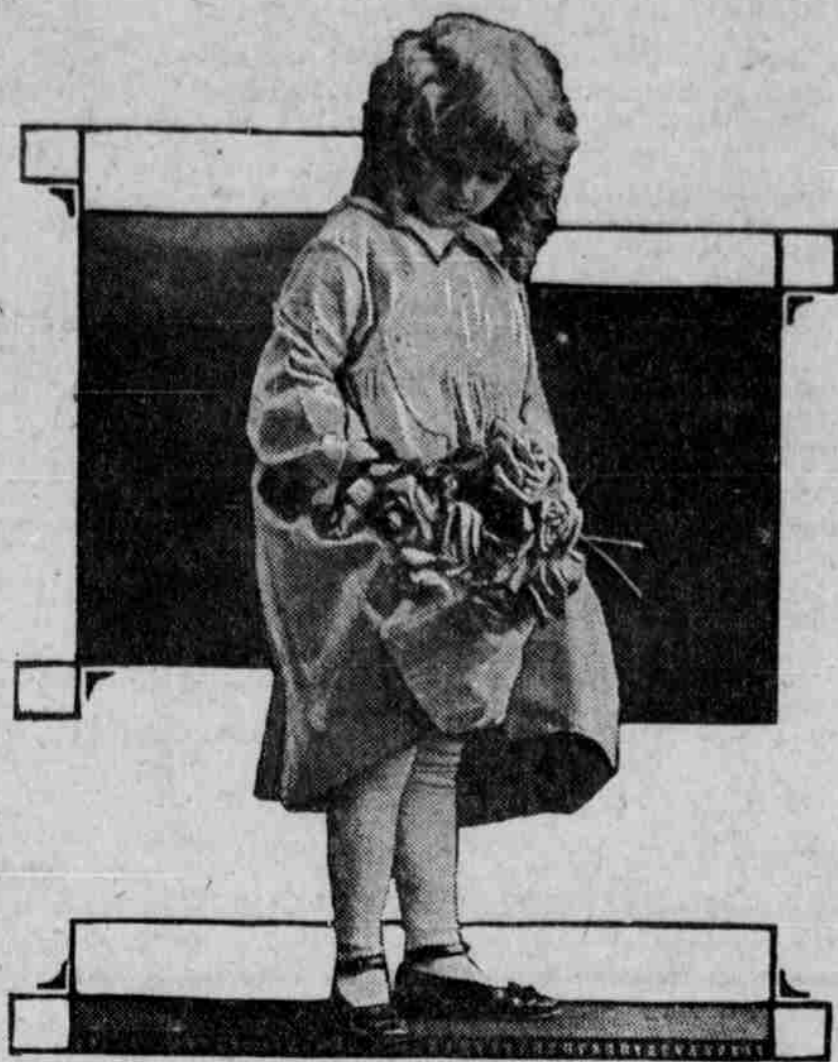


# What Well Dressed Women Will Wear



A Gingham Summer.

Ginghams, either plain or in small plaids and checks, and percales, plain and in narrow stripes, make up the prettiest of practical everyday dresses for the very little girl. In any case these materials are nearly always a combination of one color with white and are made up with white cotton goods of some other weave, as dotted swiss or pique or kindergarten cloth, or any effective cotton goods that will wear well.

Plaids and checks, expanded in size and in more intricate color combinations, are used for girls progressing toward the "flapper" age; having arrived there the young miss glories in all sorts of gay gingham. Grown-ups go in for big plaids, stripes, checks and plain gingham in quieter color combinations and those with narrow black cross-bars woven in the plaids and stripes have made a great success.

Ginghams arrived early in the vanguard of spring styles and at present are flourishing to the point of taxing manufacturers to supply the demand for them. The colorings are fine and it is a great satisfaction to know that the dyes are made in America.

Plain yellow gingham in many tones of the color are used for little and big wearers of this reliable and favored fabric. It is nearly always made up with white and a pretty example of this combination for a little girl of five or more years is shown in the picture. It is a plain frock for everyday wear with a "baby" waist having the skirt gathered to it. A substantial quality of dotted swiss is used for the bands; these are set in the waist at each side and extended into tabs finished with the narrowest of edgings. The small turn-back cuffs and the collar are made of swiss, also.

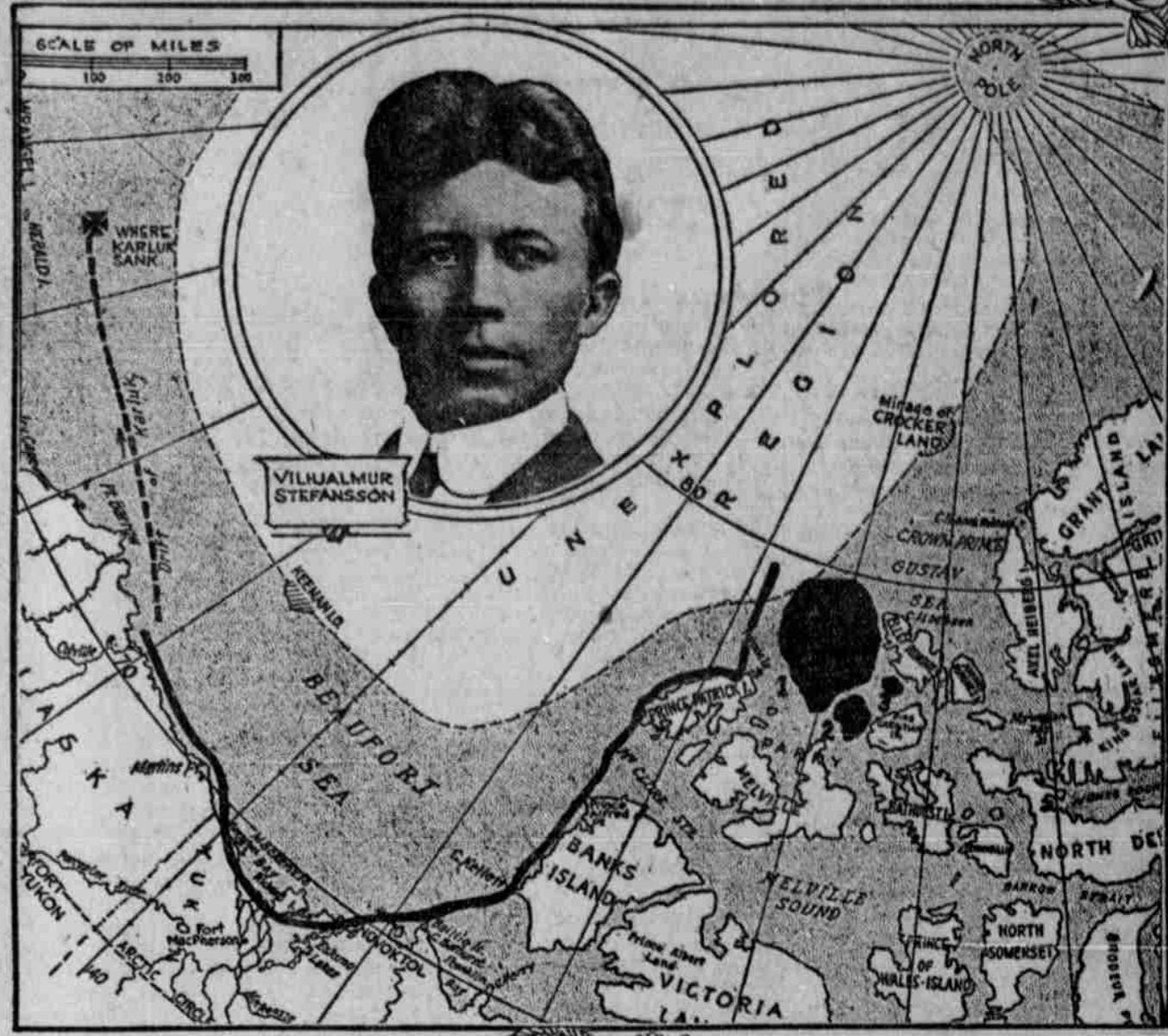
# HAS GREAT POLAR RIDDLE BEEN SOLVED?

**T**HE saga of the deeds by Stefansson newly done may yet reveal that the Arctic mirage dream is true.

His lay of discovery which comes now so briefly out of the frozen north describes islands not far remote from that mysterious Crocker Land which was only of the kingdoms of the air. When the final account of the explorations of Vilhjalmur Stefansson is given it is likely that it will show that he has gone far in solving that great riddle of the polar fables as to whether or not there exists a vast continent, or at least an extensive archipelago as yet uncharted by man, hidden in the blind spot of the world.

The news which came by way of Fort Yukon, Alaska, brought there by a trader who had seen the sturdy scientist at Herschel island, records further achievements of the Canadian Arctic expedition, of which he is the commander. The only polar explorer of note on the western side, Vilhjalmur Stefansson comes to the fore even in these days of war and upheaval, for his conquest of nature and circumstance, aside from the important results which have attended it, mark him as one of the most remarkable men of the age.

Stefansson is of the blood of the North. His father was a native of Iceland, although the explorer himself was born at Arnes, Manitoba, thirty-eight years ago. The University of North Dakota and Harvard equipped him in science, but the iron will and the stalwart constitution went back to the Icelandic forbears.



Map Showing Stefansson's Recent Arctic Explorations. Black Masses Show New Land Discovered and the Solid Black Line the Explorer's Route.

It was in 1904 that he went to Iceland on research work for his alma mater at Cambridge, but it was not until ten years ago that Stefansson became an important factor in Arctic work. Since that time he has labored almost without ceasing. Once he came out of the North, wrote a book and was back again in the boreal fastnesses before he had even read the proofs of his rather hastily written volume.

It was in time of respite from his mission beneath the North star that he told us much of the strange Eskimos whom he had found, a race blue-eyed, red-bearded and often fair and ruddy of skin, which had never seen the men of the white race nor heard of such. They might have been descended from that ancient Icelandic colony established by Leif Ericson, which is supposed to have been driven by pirates into the realms of the North. Between the blond Eskimos and Stefansson there sprang up a sense of kinship and from them he learned many secrets of life in the Arctic which were to stand him in good stead in his researches.

unfulfilled vision of the mighty North. This much, of course, Stefansson knew before he started on his own quest as a conquistador of the pole. It was his belief that one day he would not only set foot on the Crocker Land which Rear Admiral Peary believed he had seen, but also find reaches of territory in what many had believed to be an impenetrable sea.

He set forth from Teller, Alaska, on June 27, 1913, with a well equipped expedition in the steamship Karluk, prepared to do at least three years of work beyond the Arctic circle. The Karluk was caught in fogs 20 miles from the mouth of the Colville river. It was at this point that Stefansson, accompanied by five men, landed for the purpose of hunting caribou and other game.

The floe in which the Karluk was embedded was torn from the shore by a heavy gale in which Stefansson and his party of hunters nearly lost their lives. After a hopeless drift of four months the Karluk was crushed in the ice off Herald Island on January 11, 1914. There had been time to remove most of the supplies to the ice. The company of the Karluk which remained was divided into two companies.

Eleven of the number in all lost their lives. The others succeeded in reaching Herald island and also Wrangell island. Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, of Peary North pole fame, accompanied by an Eskimo, made a dash to the mainland and the following September brought the King and Wingo to the rescue.

Stefansson, unaware of the tragedy in his wake, proceeded on his way after he had learned that the Karluk had drifted beyond his reach. The daring trip which he made to the north from Martin's Point demonstrated his self-confidence and hardihood. With two companions, Storkensen and Ole Andresen, he pressed on to try his fate with the fogs. The entire resources of the party consisted of one sled and a dog team with which they were conveying 1,300 pounds of supplies and baggage, two rifles and 300 rounds of ammunition.

Stefansson literally put his theory of life to the proof, for he and his followers became Eskimo, dressed as such and subsisted for the most part on the meats which make that race so rotund and oily. Other explorers, accustomed to the many needs of civilization, have always looked forward with anxiety to the idea that they might have to subsist on such primitive fare, but Stefansson and his two comrades welcomed the novel subsistence methods in their unbroken journey of 700 miles.

Proceeding to the north and northwest from Prince Patrick island, Stefansson discovered his first new land on June 15, 1915, in 78 degrees north latitude and 114 degrees west longitude. He surveyed this new territory to the eastward for 100 miles, and from observations made at a height of 2,000 feet estimated at that time that the newly discovered territory extended for at least 150 miles. It apparently touches the periphery of the area marked unknown.

The party returned to a base camp at Cape Kellett on Banks Land and, after having communicated its discovery to the outside world, prepared to push its explorations further into the unknown realms of the North.

More land was discovered, according to the latest advices, in June of the following year in approximately 80 degrees north latitude and 102 degrees west longitude. In August of the same year additional land was seen in approximately latitude 77 degrees north and 117 degrees west longitude. These figures are only approximate and do not take into account the outline of the lands as they are likely soon to be set forth in the official records of the Canadian government.

That there is a large land mass or a conglomeration of many islands in the unmapped regions which have been the objective of Mr. Stefansson all these years there can be little doubt. If there were not solid and well anchored terra firma in those regions the scientists believe that the enormous glutting and choking of the straits and the channels of the Arctic could hardly occur.

The drift of various vessels indicates that there are impenetrable tracts of large area in the so-called unexplored region. Dr. Herbert J. Spinden in the Scientific American not long ago discussed the extent of the uncharted polar basin as indicated by the drift of the vessels of explorers.

"The track of the Karluk," he wrote, "practically completes the drift record from Point Barrow, in Alaska, to Spitzbergen island, north of Norway, two-thirds of the circuit around the pole. It ends at almost the same place where the drift of the Jeannette began, and this vessel in turn sank not far from the beginning point of the Fram's long voyage in the grip of the floe."

"All drifted toward the west, but the Fram made more to the north than the others did. These certified tracts block a vast area capable of holding a continent the size of Greenland or extensive archipelagos."

"Contrary to some published reports, the new land north of Siberia found by Commander Wilkitzky of the Russian navy cannot possibly be part of this supposed land mass. The Fram drifted in between this new land (Nicholas II Land) and the pole, passing over an area of deep ocean soundings. The De Long islands, near which the Jeannette sank, and the ill defined mass of Bennett Land, may mark the extreme extension toward the west of the supposed land of the Arctic ocean."

As the work of exploration carried on by Mr. Stefansson is official in character, there is every reason to believe that after the close of the European war Canada will devote extensive resources to further exploration based on what he has already ascertained.

Although the lignite deposits which Stefansson reports finding are not considered of commercial importance at present, it may be that the researches of the explorer will open up a new region for development. His meteorological and tidal observations are bound to be of great service to navigators.

The ethnological investigations which Stefansson's ready sympathies and keen insight into life have enabled him to make are likely to prove of exceptional value to science. He was the first to grasp the spiritual ideas and concepts of the Eskimos and to explain their peculiar beliefs concerning the migration of souls.

Taken all in all, if Vilhjalmur Stefansson returns to civilization in the spring of 1918, as he planned to do, he will have a mass of important information of all kinds to collate and arrange, of which the geographical results will form an important part, as they may well lead to the lifting of the veil of time from the secrets of an ice-locked land.

# WHAT CAN WE DO?



A letter dated January 15 has been received from Mrs. Gertrude Austin, chief of surgical dressings service, American Red Cross, Paris, France, thanking the central division for shipment of dressings, as follows:

"If you could see the delight of army officers and Red Cross officials when they inspect all the splendid things that come to us from America, you would realize what fine work you are doing for our men."

We have orders from national headquarters to stop absolutely the making of trench caps. The government is now furnishing with each man's equipment a cap especially designed for use under the steel helmets worn at the front. The winter is nearly over, and yarn shouldn't any longer be used for unnecessary articles.

Hand-knitted socks are greatly wanted and wherever suitable yarn can be obtained the production of this article should be pushed. Few helmets will be needed until further notice.

We are advised by Washington as follows:

"Not only do we need comfort kits continuously, on account of the arrival from time to time of fresh troops at the camps to replace those sent abroad, but we also wish to accumulate a surplus stock which so far has been impossible."

"Indefinite numbers of black sateen pinafores, women's wrappers, women's and girls' chemises, girls' dresses and children's capes are needed; the quantity of underclothing in general to be double that of outside clothing. Clothing for infants of one to three years should be rushed rather than layettes."

"A group of six women in Chicago recently took 50 pairs of under-standard socks, and returned the following perfect articles from the wool: Thirteen sweaters, one pair wristlets, one scarf, nine helmets, 18 pairs of socks and four trench caps. Chapters could easily do this work themselves, and send in to the division only the perfect articles."

The above paragraph shows how essential it is to make knitted articles according to standards set by the Red Cross. Any chapter will furnish the necessary information and bulletins.

Many department stores in Detroit took advantage of heatless Mondays to increase the production of Red Cross supplies. The girls in these stores who gave five hours of these Mondays to work in the American Red Cross rooms received the usual day's pay.

*Julia Bottomley*

**When Applying Your Valance.**

There is always an easier and more practical way of doing things than the way you are doing them. Take, for instance, the applying of the valance to your window draperies. If you are doing it in the ordinary way you, no doubt, nail the valance in place. Then when it comes time to take it off for cleaning purposes you have the trouble of pulling out the nails and oftener than not the material is torn in the process. The easier and more practical way is to substitute clasps for the nails. Sew the pockets of the clasps to a strong tape and nail this to the board. Attach the snaps to the valance at the proper places and your problem is solved.

**New Togue Features.**

The new presentation of a new touque shows some distinguishing features, notably the high, full crown of silk or dull patterned gauze, while the surrounding motifs take the form, in this case, of leaves made up of tiny black and white feathers studded with jet. Cockades of ribbon would also have a good effect. A white beaver felt with a series of small black velvet straps fringed with silk is decidedly distinctive. This hat will be seen later on in most of the new schemes, a soft geranium being one of them, with prune, jade and Chinese green, and ochre yellow—this latter color looking best, perhaps, with a touch of black velvet or dull brown.

## XMAS TREE CUSTOM HAD ITS ORIGIN IN NEW YORK

The custom of placing an evergreen tree in the home on Christmas eve to be decorated and hung with gifts is of course a yuletide rite of ancient standing, but in its modern form as practiced in the United States it is comparatively young and had its origin in New York.

Mark Carr is the man who introduced the Christmas tree to New York city as New York knows it now. He was a Catskill woodsman. He had traveled a bit and was acquainted with the Christmas customs of various countries. He thus came to see the possibilities of the evergreens of the Catskills.

The more thought, he gave to the little trees the more confident he was that they would make a fine Christmas decoration. He decided to try

them and came to New York before Christmas in 1851 with a lot of the evergreens. He took up his stand in St. Mark's place, which was then more or less of a shopping center.

He decorated one of the trees with ribbons and tinsel and sparklers and other things until it was a riot of color. The sight immediately struck the fancy of the ladies of the Stuyvesant section and lower Second avenue, which were then vastly different from what they are now. Two hours after he had placed his trees on display he had sold out his cargo and was speeding back to the Catskills as rapidly as conveyances could take him.

He returned the day before Christmas with a larger load and found New York waiting for him and his trees. He sold them all before they had been

in the city three hours and for prices which would compare favorably with those of today.

This was the real start of Christmas trees in New York.

### Roast Armadillo.

The distress of war has caused us to eat many strange things. We are casting hungry looks at many an animal that we have heretofore regarded with merely zoological interest. For instance, the armadillo. According to the San Antonio Light, the first wagon load of armadillos arrived on last Saturday at the Texan city and was immediately sold to ultimate consumers who found the meat of the armadillo, which suggests food about as much as does a British tank, to be greatly like pork and entirely edible.

This consumption or armadillo on the half-shell by San Antonians suggests a thought. Will a zoo eventually become a place where animals are kept in cages, not because the animals are wild, but to preserve them from the covetous tooth of man?—Cincinnati Times Star.