Washington's Second Invasion

by Jane Drew

AMBASSADOR JUSSERAND
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BARONESS SHIDEHARA
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FRENCH EMBASSY
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BRITISH EMBASSY
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AMBASSADOR GEDDES
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HAS this been Washington or has it been Tokyo, Paris or London?

Since November 11, visitors well may be excused for asking this question. It was then the foreigners came to town. In a way, Washington, for the second time in its history, has been in the hands of the invader. But this time he was on peaceful mission bent with no thought of burning the capitol and the White House, or of driving President and Mrs. Harding into hurried flight, with a few executive valuables gathered up under their arms.

The great conference of discussing the limitation of armaments and Far Eastern problems has overshadowed all things. The foreign diplomats in Washington with their secretaries, councillors and attaches and with the wives, sisters and daughters, if they had them, always have been strong factors in the solving of the problem of how to keep capital society moving. With a thousand or two additional foreigners here to buttress the social efforts, the really necessary social efforts, of the resident diplomats, the Old World has had a powerful social hand over the New World, as it is represented in this good capital of the United States.

The White House, of course, dominates the embassies in every social sense, but it is the only seat of social activity and social influence in Washington which has so dominated them this winter. In society, interest in the foreigners and in their doings temporarily has clouded interest in the social doings of the congressional, the judiciary, the army and navy and the residential coteries.

All the visiting foreigners, great and near great, have made the embassies of their country their rallying places. There have been so many of the French, British, Italian, Japanese and others here that no embassy has been big enough to hold all its countrymen even for a rapidly coming and going reception, but the embassies are home soil and there not only is the national standard displayed for each country, but there is set also what may be called the social standard for all the "alien doings."

The ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries and their families always have been hospitably inclined. It is, of course, a part of diplomatic duty to maintain relations with other countries through the medium of the teacup. They are back today to pre-war conditions with a good deal added to make them powerfully attractive.

Jules J. Jusserand, ambassador from France, is dean of the diplomatic corps, having arrived in this country to assume the duties of his office February 7, 1903. This gives him ten years more service than his nearest competitor, Senor Riano, the ambassador from Spain. During this nearly score of years Ambassador Jusserand has so familiarized himself with Americans and American affairs that he well might be called an American himself.

The social activities at the great French embassy on Sixteenth street are directed by Mme. Jusserand, who was born of American parents residing in Paris at the time of her birth. She speaks French and English equally well. As hosts the French ambassador and his gracious wife have no superiors in this or any other city. It is apparent to anyone at all familiar with the personnel of the foreign colony in Washington that the dean of the corps and his wife are looked up to as leaders for whom one and all have a sincere admiration and deep affection. This is the feeling also of most people who know them, for the Jusserands have made many strong and lasting friendships in the large circle of Americans who, through the exigencies of politics, have been here for a longer or shorter time.

It is the custom of diplomats to make more or less frequent visits to the home land and up to the time of the beginning of the great World war in 1914 the French ambassador and Mme. Jusserand always spent the summers in Europe. They were there when the war torch set Europe on fire, but managed to get back to this country, traveling separately and incognito. Then, while the strife continued, they remained here constantly, never leaving Washington for more than a few days at a time. Their relaxation consisted of a drive each afternoon in their victoria, drawn by a span of horses and recognized by all people in this region by the tricolor cockades in the tall hats of the driver and footman.

The French ambassador has adopted the American breakfast. When weather permits, he takes it on the roof of the embassy instead of following the custom with which all travelers to France are familiar. Also, when the weather is congenial, afternoon tea is served on a porch. It is at these teas, quite informal, that the Jusserands get in close touch with Washington society, official, diplomatic and others. On these occasions Mme. Jusserand presides over the teacups with the dignified simplicity that characterizes her at all times. She is always well gowned, never overdressed, never appearing in anything approaching the bizarre.

It is considered of the utmost importance to all the members of the diplomatic corps that they make their calls at the home of the dean and his wife as soon as possible after their arrival in Washington. It would be hard to estimate how many calls have been made in this way, hundreds surely, and possibly thousands. As the number of diplomats is small compared to the rest of the people who figure in Washington society, all of whom make many calls each year on the Jusserands, a person mathematically inclined might find some amusement in computing the approximate number of visits which probably have been made at the French embassy during the past eighteen years.

To the casual visitor in Washington, the embassies and legations seem practically inaccessible, whereas such is not the case. To say the official homes of the foreign colony are easy of access would be nearer the truth. The representatives of other countries and their families go more than halfway to meet Americans. It is true they follow the rules and regulations laid down by polite society and are punctilious about calls, precedence and other social amenities, but they are most appreciative of courtesies which bring them in more intimate touch with the affairs outside of diplomatic formalities.

It is a pretty safe statement to say that all diplomats speak at least one language other than that which is native to them. The majority do better than that and are more or less familiar with half a dozen or so, speaking more than half of them fluently. It has been noticeable that for some years the wives of the men who are sent to Washington from countries in all parts of the world have perfected themselves in languages.

There are two ways of placing the rank of the heads of embassies and legations. In the matter of precedence at society doings the ambassadors rank the ministers, irrespective of the length of time of residence here. For instance, the minister of Portugal, Viscount d'Alte, came to Washington just nine months before the French ambassador, M. Jusserand, arrived. However, all the ambassadors must pass ahead of the viscount and all the wives of the ambassadors would precede the wife of Viscount d'Alte, if he had one.

The other method of rating the embassies takes into consideration the order of their establishment in Washington. The founding of embassies here is a part of history and goes deeper to the root of international relations than the appointment of ambassadors. The importance of the British embassy cannot be underestimated and yet Sir Auckland Geddes, the British ambassador, must take his place tenth in line because nine colleagues of other countries were appointed to serve in Washington before he was.

The British embassy, a great building on Connecticut avenue, whose warm red brick exterior, has recently received a coat of yellow paint, always has been the scene of frequent social hospitality. Today it has, as ambassador and host, a genial and naturally social chief. Lady Geddes is American born, a fact which probably is duly appreciated by her husband today in more ways than one, for this American wife of a British ambassador knows what the visiting foreigners expect and what Americans expect, and knows how to coalesce things so that the social current moves smoothly although it must move rapidly.

The Japanese are great entertainers. All Washington likes to go to the affairs given either by the Japanese ambassador, Baron Shidehara, and his wife, the baroness, or by his juniors in rank and place. Ordinarily the Japanese ladies wear the evening gowns of western usage, but occasionally and probably with sighs of relief they appear in the comfortable and beautiful costumes of the homeland. A real Japanese reception is a feast for the eye and Washington today more than ever before knows what real Japanese social affairs can be in picturesque effectiveness.

The Baroness Shidehara, who left Washington some months ago with her children, has recently returned. During her absence the ranking lady was Mme. Saburi, wife of the first secretary of the embassy, and in the absence of the wife of the ambassador she acted as hostess at the great formal affairs given by the ambassador. Mme. Saburi formerly was lady in waiting to the empress of Japan, and her husband, Mr. Sadao Saburi, was tutor to the crown prince. Both are clever linguists, speaking English fluently.

It is customary for all hostesses of embassies and legations to be assisted at receptions, teas or whatnot by the members of the staffs, their wives, sisters, daughters and mothers if they happen to possess them. One rarely hears of an entertainment being given by a diplomat outside of the official residences. It naturally follows that these official homes must be of generous dimensions. Some few are owned by the home governments, but the majority are leased. The Mexican government has purchased the residence on Sixteenth street of former secretary of the treasury, Franklin MacVeagh, for use as an embassy. Russia, whose emissary occupies an anomalous diplomatic position, owing to the chaotic condition of Russian governmental affairs, purchased the great Pullman residence some years ago. It stands on Sixteenth street a few blocks north of the White House. Just across the street from the Mexican embassy, the Cuban government has erected a most pretentious legation to house its representatives. The British government owns its embassy and the legations of China, the Netherlands and Siam are the property of the countries which they represent. All the foreign official residences are located within a certain radius, a wide one to be sure, in the northwestern part of the national capital.

During the past few years and since the war the embassies and legations have increased materially in number. There are 44 official foreign homes here. Twelve of them are embassies and 34 are legations. As soon as international relations are thoroughly established between the United States and Germany and Austria there will be two more.

Before the limitation of armaments conference brought the vast number of temporary diplomats to Washington there were approximately 400 members of the corps in residence here. Four embassies and one legation are presided over by women who, before their marriages, were Americans. This is not a large number compared with some former years, when the number ran up to more than twice that. It is interesting to learn what a mixture of nationalities through intermarriage there is in the diplomatic corps of Washington. For example, Rumania is represented by Prince Bibesco, whose wife, the princess, is the daughter of former Premier Asquith of Great Britain.

The assistant military attache of the Italian embassy is Captain Carlo Huntington, whose last name indicates his American ancestry. Many European diplomats have contracted international marriages, but those from the Latin-American countries and from Asia almost invariably marry women of their own race. However, the counselor of the Chinese legation, Mr. Yung Kwai, has, for his wife, a Massachusetts woman. They have a large family of children who, unlike the majority of foreign children in Washington, are being brought up as Americans.

The past year has seen many changes in the personnel of the diplomatic corps. Italy has sent a new ambassador, Senor Ricci, who with his wife, the ambassadress, are taking an important part in the social side of the capital city life.

SHORT FUR COATS

Novelties Have Been Launched by Paris Designers.

Band Trimmings of Embroidery Done on Bright-Colored Cloth; Satin Lining to Match.

Novelties launched by Paris designers are short box coats of fur, with band trimmings of lovely embroidery done on bright-colored cloth. The coats are lined with satin to match the embroidery, and the general effect is one of youth, simplicity and becomingness.

Another novelty launched by the same maker is the short shoulder cape and deep gauntlet cuffs of astrakhan, to be worn with the heavy wool street dress. The vest of fur is new and comfortable for motoring. It may or may not have sleeves of crepe de chine. Another designer shows a model made of beaver fur with sleeves of crepe de chine.

Inexpensive or substitute furs are very much used by Paris dressmakers. Dyed rabbit, dyed squirrel, dyed sheepskin, masquerading under various names, as petit-gris-lustre, zibeline Parisienne, agneau, etc., are successfully used for these, as well as for trimming purposes. The novelty wistatch is yet to be tasted.

Among the smartest of the so-called costumes is a camel's-hair dress in chemise form with bell sleeves and high collar. It buttons from neckline

Shoulder Cape and Gauntlet Gloves.

to hem with tan bone buttons. An accompanying cape reaching below the hips is circular, although it may be had in straight effect as well, and has a collar of raccoon fur. Long ribbon ends which tie the cape are trimmed with balls of fur.

WHEN MILADY MOTORS

For the wintry days in the big car this warm outfit has been designed. The coat is of gray astrakhan, with a Cossack cap of same material and high Russian boots of fine black leather.

HEADGEAR MUST HAVE CARE

Hats Are Perishable and Judgment Should Be Used in Putting On and Removing.

Choosing a hat suited to one's particular style of beauty and which harmonizes with the entire wardrobe and will be suitable for any occasion will help reduce the annual millinery bill.

Oftentimes we fail to realize that hats are perishable articles of wearing apparel and should be handled with care when putting on or when removing from the head. Without question, intelligent care prolongs their life. Like other garments, they should be aired and brushed, and it is well even for those worn daily to be put into boxes when removed from the head. A soft brush or a piece of silk or velvet is excellent to use for cleaning felt, silk beaver, silk, satin or velvet hats. Care should be given when brushing to get the dust out from under the edges of bands, folds and trimmings. Silk or satin hats are the most inexpensive in the long run, for they can be worn the year round.

Never allow trimmings, bows, bands or linings to become loosened; as soon as you discover broken or loose threads put in fresh stitches and keep ornaments tacked in place. If you have an opportunity to take a few lessons in millinery avail yourself of this privilege and see if you can't learn the art of manufacturing attractive "headgear." This is by far the easiest way to reduce the millinery budget.

HIP-LENGTH FUR SPORT COAT

Shorter Garment Retains Popularity Despite the Call for the Longer Style.

The little hip-length, loosely cut fur coats continue to be popular, regardless of the fact that many novel styles in full-length garments are shown this season. Staple pelts such as Hudson seal are used for these smart sport coats, and many of the new furs introduced this year are employed. Among the new furs is one in shades of tan and a vivid yellow mottled rather like the civet cat, but decidedly more striking in general appearance. A coat recently seen was made of this new fur and was worn with a smart little hat to match, the hat being trimmed on either side with outstanding loops of wide brown cire satin ribbon.

Worth Remembering.

Rub grease on the seams of new tinware, keep in a warm place for a day or two and the article will not rust in the seams. Have a little bag hung on the inside of the sewing machine frame to receive the clippings that accumulate when working at the machine.

FROCKS TO WEAR AT DANCES

Lace Skirt With Taffeta Bodice Among Favorites That Have Appeared This Season.

A lace skirt with a taffeta bodice is among the frocks that have made their appearances at dances. There was a full lace skirt, in cream color, and a bodice of mauve taffeta, that were most interesting as a combination for an evening frock. Then there was one with a skirt made in three tiers of black lace flounces, with a darted and fitted bodice of black taffeta. To be sure, this was worn by a girl whose hair was a brilliant red, so that nothing was taken from its youthfulness, as the hair supplied the necessary note of color and sparkle.

The slippers and stockings of the present season are worthy of mention—more so than they have ever been before. They are taking a place of prominence that has not been granted them for a long, long time. Indeed sometimes they are the sole trimming and note of color, and for this reason they must be regarded with reverence, even with awe.

Silver slippers and those made of cloth of gold are famous from fairy tale days, to be sure, but now they have stepped into real life with a vengeance. Hardly a twinkling foot but shows the glint of precious metal about its toes. And there are slippers made of brilliant brocades—even sandals, and those with heels that are given every appearance of a veritable sandal. Often one sees light-colored stockings (even those with apparently no color at all), that are worn with black pumps. These, in fact, are the rule rather than the exception, and it is quite extraordinary to see feet and legs clad in the same color, unless that color happens to be something more than extraordinarily brilliant.

Buckles, when there are any, are apt to be rather inconspicuous. The brocades are the thing, and they are used to make the whole slipper, with its intricacies of strappings over the instep.

WAYS TO RENOVATE THE FURS

Peltry May Be Cleaned With Gasoline or in Suds Made With Castile Soap.

Furs may be cleaned by washing in gasoline or in suds made with castile soap and a little borax, followed by several rinsings in clear water, is a suggestion that comes from the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture. It is best to hang them out of doors to dry. When dry or nearly so they require to be stretched and rubbed on the flesh side to make them pliable again.

Fur garments may be brightened by sponging them with gasoline and then rubbing cornmeal into the fur while it is still damp to take up the particles of dirt that have been loosened. Gasoline should never be used, of course, where its fumes can come in contact with fire.

The British museum, in London, contains 2,700 complete Bibles, written in all languages.