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FASHION

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The women who contribute most largely to the sartorial exhibition which ever distinguishes the horse show have apparently improved, both in appearance and taste, since last year. Many of the erstwhile golden-haired members of that elastic body known as the 400 have in the past twelve months become the ash-blondes that nature intended them to be, and this in itself is a vast improvement. Another contributing cause is that fewer jewels are worn this year. Diamonds in profusion always detract from the brilliancy of a woman's complexion and eyes.

A great deal of black was worn at the exhibition both day and evening. Many of the fashionables are in mourning, it is true, but this will hardly account for all of the sombre gowns and hats. Big flat black hats with sweeping plumes and elaborate black gowns, cut very tight-fitting, save in the sleeves and at the feet, and only a few pearls by way of ornament, were seen at some period or other in the week on all the best dressed women. Pure white was also favored, but it is not becoming to women who are not of a pronounced type. To wear white with effect a woman must be either a pure blonde or a decided brunette.

Brown is an excellent color for the medium type, and Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt never looked better than in a golden brown velvet shot with tiny white spots, and a wide-brimmed beaver to match. This hat was trimmed with bows of cerise velvet ribbon and American beauty roses and leaves. The curves it took in the brim over her face were very artistic.

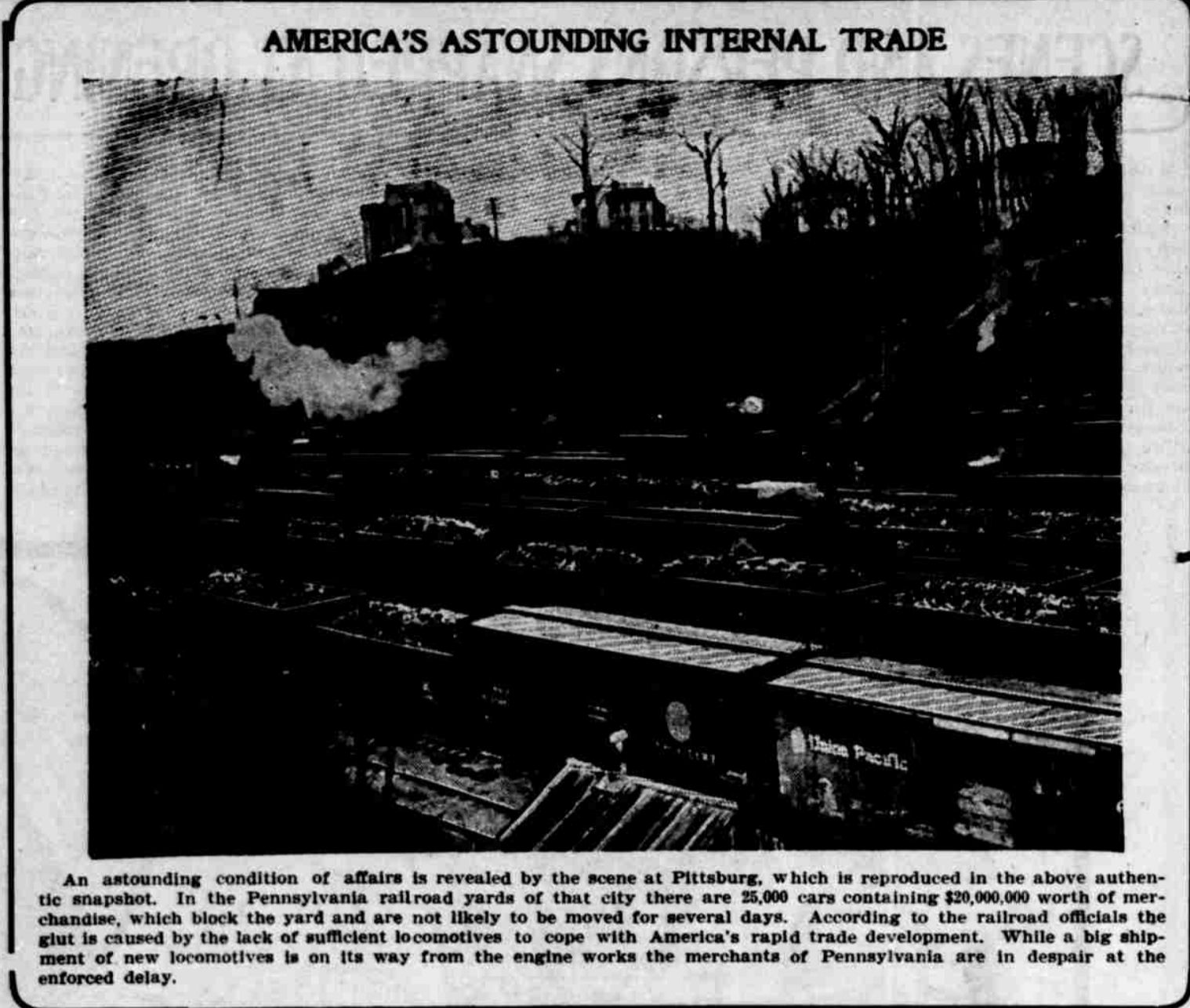
Antique lace costumes and gowns trimmed with the old style stuff that we always associate with bedspreads are coming to the front. When dyed the laces make up marvelously well. A steel-gray gown of this order was one of the most effective worn last week by Miss Cathleen Neilson. Her hat on this occasion was a gray beaver with gray plumes.

Miss Alice Roosevelt, with a box full of girls, was the centre of attraction one afternoon. She was gowned exactly as when she launched the Meteor, in sapphire-blue velvet with wide white lace collar, and with the big brown bear boa and muff. Her hat was white with black plumes—a charming hat, indeed—and far more becoming than the white one she wore during an evening visit.

Miss Helen Roosevelt wore some sumptuous sables, but no jewels. Her hair, like that of Miss Burden, Miss Neilson and many of that younger crowd, is always rather blowsy about the face. This is picturesque at a tennis game, but hardly in keeping with the required perfection of a horse show toilette.

An evening gown just delivered for holiday festivities is of white chiffon and Brussels lace, over white satin. The bodice has long slender points of lace almost to the waist line, with accordion-plaited chiffon showing between them. The sleeves have the lace cap with points and the full chiffon flowing beneath and ending in long streamers. A wide satin sash encircles the waist, caught with a square Venetian medallion in the back. Another feature of this costume is the full skirt, falling full in an unbroken line to the feet in wide alternating plaits of chiffon and lace. A wide lace insertion gives the required body to the bottom of the skirt. The prospective wearer of this creation is very svelte and unusually tall, so that it will, no doubt, be eminently becoming.

In hats, beplumed beavers and furs are most popular. The simplest of these rarely costs less than thirty dollars; but they are vastly becoming. A hat with



An astounding condition of affairs is revealed by the scene at Pittsburg, which is reproduced in the above authentic snapshot. In the Pennsylvania railroad yards of that city there are 25,000 cars containing \$20,000,000 worth of merchandise, which block the yard and are not likely to be moved for several days. According to the railroad officials the glut is caused by the lack of sufficient locomotives to cope with America's rapid trade development. While a big shipment of new locomotives is on its way from the engine works the merchants of Pennsylvania are in despair at the enforced delay.

finely plaited velvet crown and lace brim, with one long white plume, was admired at a recent exhibition of imported headwear.

Two rather effective gowns are worn at the Broadway Theatre in "The Silver Slipper" by the visiting women from Venus. One is of white Irish lace, with a gorgeous flounce on the skirt, and the other is Miss Royton's deep cream crepe de chine medallioned in heavy lace, with odd designs applied upon the yoke of the bodice. The only fault with this gown is that it is supposed to fasten in the back, and never does, especially below the waist. I was not a little amused by a line on the programme of this production, stating that the evening gowns worn in the last act are by Worth, of Paris. If they were ever designed by this famed man milliner it was certainly many years ago. There is neither a fresh nor modern gown in the entire lot. Even Edna Wallace Hopper's pale blue silk, so heavily embroidered that it drags her tiny figure down pitifully, lacks all semblance of a Parisian stamp.

A woman in one of the boxes the other night, in black net and diamonds, attracted more attention for the beauty of her gown than did the footlight people.

The rage for all manner of grape trimmings is simply tremendous, and the shops can scarcely supply the demand. These trimmings are pressed into service in all manner of ways. For hats they are applied upon all qualities of lace; they are worn in the hair, and they appear, too, on the corsages of young girls. Elderly women use them on their bonnets, made of satin, each grape stuffed and round. Very large clusters come, too, in heavy chenille for skirts of evening gowns.

In one of the ball-room boxes at the recent Chamber of Commerce banquet at the Waldorf, a grape gown made of white satin was very much admired. The term grape gown is used advisedly, for the entire front of the bodice was covered with one huge bunch of coarse and heavy, but beautifully effective, lace grapes. Each grape stood out in relief, and the cluster was exquisitely applied. Three of these enormous ornaments served to decorate the entire tight skirt, and a trailing vine of the leaves wound itself about the foot and train of the gown. A smaller cluster of the fruit capped each short sleeve. The bodice was very décollete, particularly in the back. This seems to be a feature of all the newest evening gowns. They are fully three inches lower in cut in the back than in the front.

Another toilet worn on the same occasion had a bodice reaching no higher than four inches from the waist in the back, while the front was modestly high.—Lady Modish, in Town Topics.

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