

Our London Letter on Men's Fashions



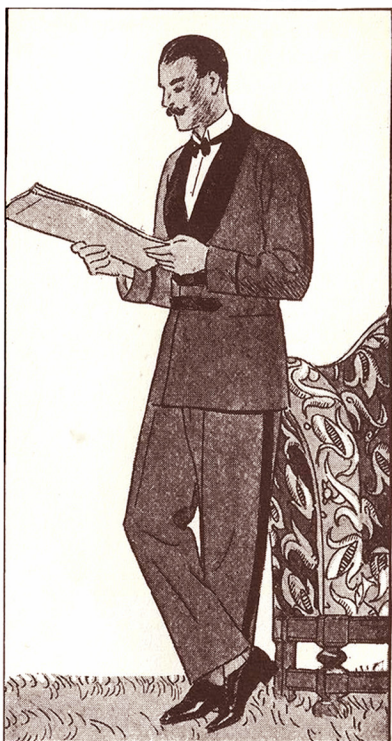
In London the spring will bring many double-breasted coats—some will be cut with the narrow lapel of the single-breasted coat to suit the man of slight build

MARCH brings a sensation of relief from the weary winter months and with it the thoughts of the Young Man of Fashion turn lightly to new clothes. To begin with, the era of the double-breasted lounge coat is here, at all events as far as the leaders of the mode are concerned. Last year it appeared very tentatively launched by the leading tailors of Saville Row and was received with almost immediate favor.

Those well-dressed men who pride themselves on being just ahead of the fashion have already introduced one variant to the normal double coat, and that is the use of the single breasted lapel on double coats. The chief reason for this innovation was that men of slight build are inclined to look puffed out if there is a big double roll to their jacket and it is certain that the single lapel goes a long way towards remedying this ungraceful appearance. Another innovation which is a natural outcome of the vogue of the double-breasted coat is the slit at the back. Had coats remained as short as in the past there would have been no change, but with the lengthening which is a marked tendency at the moment, the old trouble of coats which curled up at the back after being sat on has reappeared and men who are fussy as to their appearance have naturally turned to the remedy. In recent suits turned out by well-known makers, the double slit, one at each side, has been introduced. The double slit is rather more practical than the single and, being more practical, is most likely to be the real mode, as London fashions are essentially based on common-sense.

With the double-breasted coat, the single-breasted waistcoat is the rule and to repeat the crossing of lines twice in one suit is an entirely unreasonable exaggeration. With the single-breasted coat, however—and there will still be a great many of them worn—the

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For the most informal wear—dining at home in the family circle—the new pyjama dinner suit is being widely worn with the usual evening shirt, collar and tie

double-breasted waistcoat may be indicated as the fashion of the immediate future. Such double-breasted waistcoats should be cut straight across and not in the half-pointed shield shape which is no more than a compromise and a mode of transition. Both types of coats are made with a breast pocket, and have no flaps to the side pockets. The single coat has three buttons, of which only the center one is used.

The vogue of the short black coat and waistcoat with fancy trousers may be given a new direction by a custom which has been long established in London for Spring wear, and which is likely to be very popular this Spring. This is the wearing of light check trousers, popularly termed either "sponge bags" or "pepper and salts". A more conservative departure is that of light gray trousers with a darker gray stripe at fairly wide interval. Yet another suggestion would be the wearing of a stone-gray coat and waistcoat with either of the above trousers. The coat obviously should be single-breasted.

As regards trousers there can be no doubt that the fashion will be to have them made without the permanent turn up. There was a marked tendency in this direction during last Summer and it is certainly the fair weather fact of tomorrow. Incidentally trousers should be cut full, with a long and flowing line, and should in no circumstances give the impression of being hitched up.

Browns have been very popular for winter suitings but it is very doubtful whether any but the very earliest Spring clothes will follow this trend, as the color is altogether too hot to find favor when hot weather comes. Plain gray flannel is likely to be popular for the Spring and a little later on the patternless cashmere suit will be the thing. In such patterned materials as will be used, the general rule is likely to be the long stripe and the time of the check has

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passed, unless the check is represented by a very faint line of color at very wide intervals. Leading manufacturers are bringing out some pastel and powder blues which are likely to meet with a great deal of favor.

Ties are likely to remain very sober, such as a small black and white check, gray with a diagonal stripe in silver or black, a dark brown with a diagonal blue stripe or some such similar combination. The foulard tie is popular in bows, and here a little more color may be introduced, as for instance yellow, pale green, or light cherry, which look very well indeed with a gray suit. It may be laid down as a general rule that the sailor knot is always worn with the double-breasted coat and the bow-tie with the single. It follows from the above that the double collar is also the rule with the double coat and the long tie. In passing, it may be mentioned that as far as smart England is concerned, the bow-tie is never under any circumstances worn with the double collar. To do so at once stamps a man as a foreigner in London.



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