

FLAPPER

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Hats Off to the Flappers!

The last thirty days have witnessed a spectacle as astounding, as momentous, as far-reaching as any of the episodes that have shaken the earth's foundations and caused mankind to stop, look and listen.

A revolution has occurred of greater significance than the French revolution, the Russian revolution or perhaps even our own revolution of 1776.

The flappers have rebelled—and by that act of rebellion they have not only justified their existence but insured their survival.

They have hurled the gauntlet in the face of the Parisian dictators of style and declared that from now on they are going to use their own minds in matters of dress, at least.

And that means that they are going to use their own minds in all matters that concern their own welfare.

Well may the world rejoice, for the welfare of flappers means the welfare of the human race.

And well may those tremble who have hitherto waxed fat and merry over the alleged ignorance, helplessness, submissiveness and weakness of the better half of humanity, for their days are numbered.

There is not a flapper in the land today who does not know that styles are made and changed at the behest of those who make their living—and a darn good living, too—out of the hard-earned money paid by flappers in order to keep in style.

And when flappers rise en masse and say that they can see no reason for giving up a style that means comfort, freedom and health—then indeed out of this welter of strikes, injunctions and warfare may be seen a glimmer of hope for mankind.

M. Poiret, designer of Paris, has seen fit to take up the cudgels on behalf of the long skirt, and therefore he cannot object if the shafts of ridicule are hurled at him in return.

We are inclined to agree with the Chicago Herald and Examiner that "at the hands of American women, we suspect, M. Poiret is going to get the one surprise of his blameless life."

In fact, M. Poiret has had his surprise, judging from his public utterances. He is quoted as saying rather petulantly that "when fashion outlived its purpose it should be relegated to the scrap heap and something new tried." Not fashion, Monsieur Poiret, but the designers of senseless modes are the ones who will ultimately be relegated to the scrap heap.

However, M. Poiret admits that American women may be "tardy" in accepting the long skirt, due to the fact that "the American feminine figure is better developed and more finely poised than the French. Complexions are better—clothes seem possessed of more snap."

As a sop he predicts that in 1927, or perhaps 1925, short skirts will come back, shorter than ever.

But three or five years is a mighty long time to wait, Monsieur Poiret, until the style-makers in Paris grant their august approval to a renewal of sensible styles.

And on our part we predict that not only will flappers retain their short skirts right here and now but that short skirts will be the prevailing mode for flappers in the year of our Lord 1923.

How's that for prediction, Monsieur Poiret? We think it's just a little bit better than yours.

As one flapper puts it, "Why in the name of common sense do the manufacturers of ladies' clothing insist upon girls wearing long skirts, when we simply don't want them? What do they think we are, a bunch of jellyfish with no minds of our own?"

Twenty girls in Montreal have started a "No Longer Skirt" league. All success to them. Their sisters on the American continent are not a bit behind them, as THE FLAPPER referendum shows.

Of the scores of votes received as we go to press, only one was cast against short skirts. Rolled sox received four contrary votes, and bobbed hair and knickers had one opponent each. One woman (married) voted for corsets. All others voted to uphold present-day styles of bobbed hair, rolled sox, short skirts, knickers and low-heeled shoes.

Seven flappers insisted on registering their preference. Strange to say, three opposed knickers, and two low-heeled shoes. One of them explained his position by saying that if by knickers is meant any variety of "bloomer" he is strongly against them, "as they look like h——, and are not comfortable and give you no more freedom than riding breeches, which look much better and are little more expensive and much more durable."

Everyone to his or her own taste, is our motto, and if some of our fair ladies have limbs that do not show to advantage in short skirts, they are at perfect liberty to cover them up. But legs are made to walk with, and therefore we are heart and soul behind the sensible American girls who insist on freedom in movement before anything else.

So hats off to the flappers! They are making the word sit up and take notice.