

# The Literary Digest

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## PEACE CONFERENCE THREATENS TO REVIVE THE TALL SILK "LID"

THERE is talk of the high silk hat coming back. The Peace Conference is blamed for it, as, deservedly or not, it probably will be for many another doubtful blessing with which the world will be afflicted during the next several years. The distinguished gentlemen struggling with the peace problems in Paris all wear silk hats, seeing which, many other males are apewise doing the same. "Is this to be part of the price we must pay for having the world made safe for democracy?" inquires the Shreveport (La.) *Times*. It goes on to say:

Diplomats and those consorting with them evidently feel they can not function diplomatically with full effect unless they wear their silk kellies. Some of us probably are unable to understand how a section of stovepipe on the bean makes a man feel more dignified and brainy, but apparently it does.

Until the Peace Conference opened we had come to a place where high silk hats were worn in the daytime principally by minstrel men, undertakers, profiteers, medicine-show doctors, and at bankers' conventions. Of course, when the shades of night had fallen, we were accustomed to observe the black silk tile as the appropriate top-piece to accompany low-cut vest, swallow-tail coat, and tape-striped trousers. With such attire, we admit, the high silk hat is becoming. But wearing of a "plug-hat" in the daytime, in many communities, would be the signal for a riot.

The reports concerning the men who are buying the silk tiles for daylight wear—in the East and North, not in the South, for the fashion hasn't fastened upon this section as yet—indicate that they are the fellows who have pored over pictures of the statesmen in Paris. These fellows just couldn't help aping the diplomats and covering their domes of thought with the supposed badge of superiority and respectability.

It probably is true that if Clemenceau or President Wilson or Doug. Fairbanks or Jess Willard were to appear in public wearing roller-skates on their hands, they would have plenty of imitators.

Dr. Bernard Holz, an expert on brain diseases, claims that persons with a passion for violent clothing are three-quarters insane. "A certain proportion of lunatics," Dr. Holz says, "owe their troubles to the influence of fashion. Hysteria, for example, is essentially a fashion-nervous disease."

The manufacturers report a great demand for the silk tile, and it may come into vogue, but we doubt if it becomes the dominating kelly in these parts. Still, if any of you fellows like 'em, go to it!