

V A N I T Y F A I R

April, 1918

For the Well Dressed Man

*Some Riding and Out-door
Clothes and a Golf Shoe or Two*



This covert cloth overcoat for riding can be made either with or without side pockets. It is of very light weight and is skeletonized. The price is \$100



Malacca riding crop with horn handle and silver band. Price \$10

STRANGELY enough, one of the effects of this highly motorized war into which the whole world is casting its maximum of resources, has been to emphasize the usefulness and importance of the horse. In recent issues of this magazine, articles have been published which show the vital need for an extended reservoir of horse flesh in this country. For military purposes it is estimated, for instance, that the army should have a reserve supply of at least a million horses. This condition must lead naturally to the greater development and improvement of the breeding horses and an intensive cultivation of the best thoroughbred sires together with their wide distribution throughout the country.

But the interest in horses from a purely military standpoint and from the standpoint of the race track, which is but a corollary, in the large sense, of the military development, has increased enormously

since the opening of the world war. This interest has found its very clear reflection in the great stimulus of what might be called layman interest in the horse and his uses. Only a glance at the bridle paths in the parks of our best cities or in those parts of the country where the character of the roads and the terrain in general is favorable to riding, is required to show to what an important extent equestrianism has developed among us. A stroll near any of the bridle paths in Central Park, for instance, in the fine spring months will convince even the sceptic that New York can now boast its Rotten Row.

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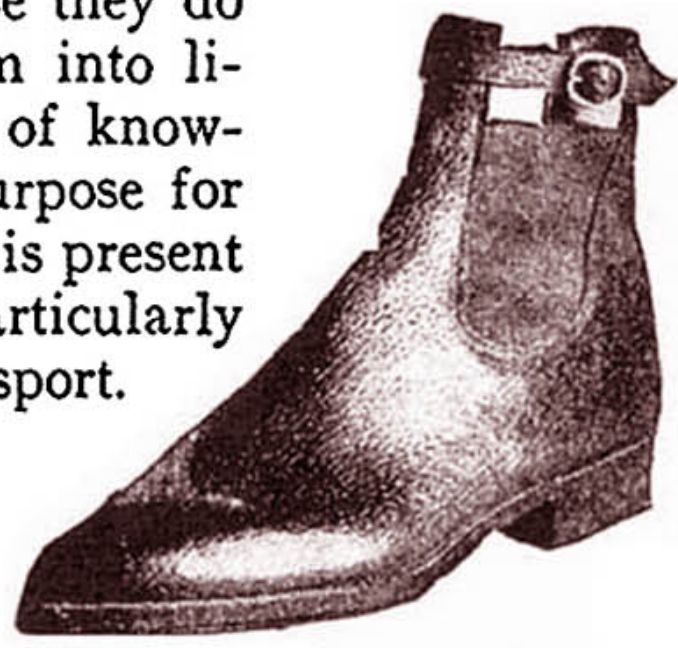
NATURALLY, with this stimulated interest in what has been called the greatest of all exercises, has come also a wider and more particular interest in the things which belong to riding. The clothes, fittings, and accoutrements which are part of the horseman's outfit, are now properly the subject of painstaking care and investigation on the part of all men who have any interest in the things which they wear.

The effect of the war upon riding has not been only to increase the relative number of riders or the interest in the art of horsemanship. It has also had its effect upon the clothes themselves which are used for this sport. As in all domains of dress in which its influence is felt, so in this one its tendency has been toward the simplification and the practical utility of dress. Of course, for very formal riding in the city parks one still sees the cutaway riding coat, the long tight-legged ungaitered trousers, and the high hat, but the proportion of this sort of costume to the whole is markedly smaller than it used to be. The more comfortable and more comfortable looking type of riding clothes undoubtedly have the sanction of popularity at present.

It has been my endeavor in this issue to illustrate some of the many types of riding dress which the well dressed men of America will wear this season. These costumes have about them the air of the open country and the freedom of the great outdoors. Of course they do not translate this freedom into license. That little touch of knowledge of the particular purpose for which they are to be used is present which distinguishes all particularly well-designed clothes for sport.



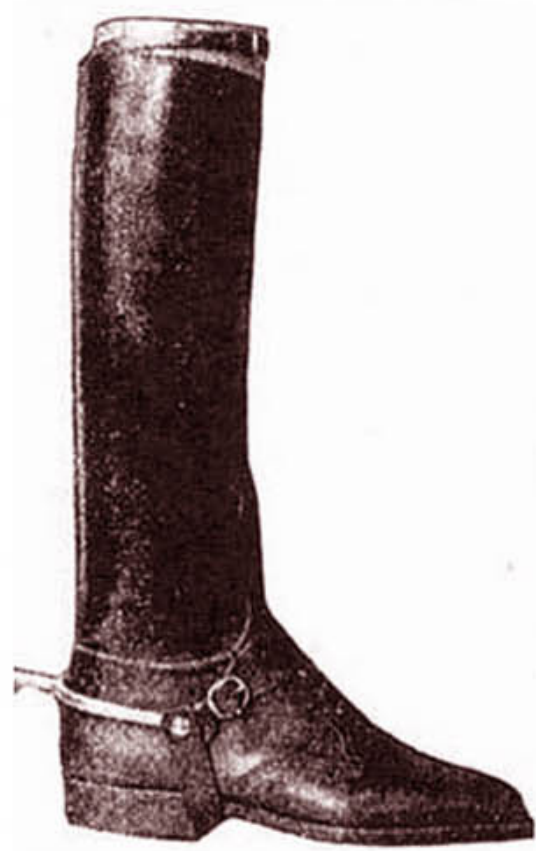
Dark Malacca crop with an ivory handle and gold band. Price \$16.50



Gaiter boot of pigskin to be used with Jodhpore trousers. There is elastic webbing at the sides. The price is \$25 a pair



Soft legged riding boot of brown leather, shown with garter straps and spurs. The price of boots alone is \$40 a pair



Officer's field boots of English grain leather, with lacings above the instep. These boots, to measure, cost \$45

For example, there is the twillet hack suit with breeches and jacket of the same material, worn with russet leather field boots and with a short stock caught at the front. It is an easy-going, slightly careless-looking type of dress which yet is exceedingly careful in its fittings and cut. With it is worn a comfortable hat of light-weight leghorn straw. Another slightly more formal costume consists of a flannel jacket and waistcoat, the jacket

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two-buttoned and the coat sweepingly cut away at the skirts. It is worn with tweed breeches and black, soft-legged riding boots.

STILL another of the riding costumes which will undoubtedly be widely used this spring consists of homespun jacket and waistcoat with large, buttoned pockets in the jacket, gabardine breeches with canvas over gaiters and russet boots. This excellent knockabout riding costume for country wear is rounded out by a soft shirt with polo collar, bow tie, and comfortable cap with one piece top.

Rather less commonly seen than any of these costumes, yet one with considerable merit and individuality, is a riding suit which consists of light-weight tweed jacket with jodhpore trousers of the same material worn with gaiter boots.

Many men who have done a deal of riding prefer the jodhpore trousers to breeches; although, of course, their tendency is rather away from the military fashion which has so strong a hold upon civilians this season. The gaiter or jodhpore boots which accompany such a costume are exceedingly comfortable and, if properly made, are also very smart looking. An excellent type is illustrated in this issue. This costume may properly be worn with a folded stock and a cap, although there is plenty of latitude as to the choice of headgear in all these variations of riding dress.



Hack riding suit of twilled with jacket and trousers of the same material. Russet leather field boots. A short stock caught at the front and a Leghorn straw hat



Light weight riding jacket of tweed, worn with Jodhpore trousers of the same material and gaiter boots of pigskin or brown leather. A stock and comfortable cap

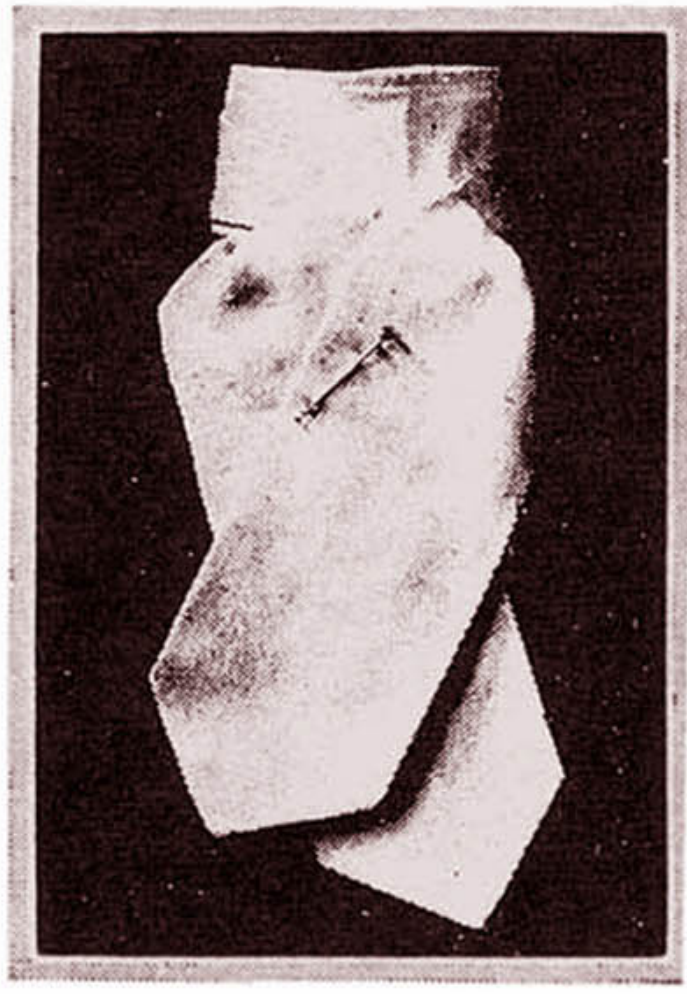


Flannel jacket and waistcoat with tweed breeches for riding of a rather more formal type. With this costume may be worn black soft legged boots and a derby

THE jackets of all these types follow the lines of the figure easily and without any sense of tightness or stiffness. They are essentially utility garments and their small details, such as saddle pads and the draping of the skirts, are points which require very careful design, in spite of the apparently careless result of the whole when finished. A very useful addendum to the riding suit, especially for the rather changeable weather of early spring, is a top coat or overcoat of covert cloth of very light weight and completely skeletonized. An illustration of it with pockets is shown in this issue of *Vanity Fair*. It may be made, however, either with or without side pockets, and in the latter case only a breast pocket or change pocket being fitted. The coat is, perhaps, a little smarter when it is made without any pockets in the skirts.

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Of course, one of the most important features of the riding costume is the footgear. There are boots and boots, and a truly well-dressed man who is fond of riding will pay fully as much attention to the correctness of his boots as to that of his riding suit itself. Nothing is more indicative of the real knowledge of the propriety and the correctness of dress than the cut and fittings of a riding boot—the exact height and careful fit of the leg, the shape and length of the heel, the spur mountings and stirrup guards, and the width and placing of the garter straps, all contribute to the balance of the whole. These seem to be but small details when considered separately, but their proper design and adjustment are important factors in determining whether the man who wears them is well turned out or not.



Fold over riding stock of silk oxford with various small patterns in the material. Price \$2.50 each

THE regular soft-legged riding boot is more formal and has been more generally seen in the past years than any other. This season, however, it is likely to give place in very large measure to the officers' field boot which has a lacing above the instep. This boot is, of course, very comfortable and more easily put on and off than the tight, soft-legged boot. For riding in the country and for all informal purposes it is certainly equally appropriate. The gaiter or jodhpore boots have already been touched upon. They are really a high shoe with an elastic webbing set in at the sides just as in that abomination of abominations, the old Congress boot of bygone years. However, this feature is the only one in which they bear any resemblance to that hideous form of footgear.

REALLY a whole chapter; or if one wished to do the subject full justice, a fairly corpulent volume could be written on riding boots alone. In England the profession of bootmaking is an honorable one, handed down from father to son. It is really an art cultivated and made exact by many generations of fox-hunting squires and hard-riding cavalry men. Already in this country there is being built up a little atmosphere about boots. As we increase the membership of our hunting clubs and the numbers of our gentlemen riders and now, especially, as the flower of our young manhood is being rapidly translated into smart officers of the line, the matter of correct bootmaking and boot wearing has received a degree of importance not hitherto accorded to it.

The proper leathers to use for boots are in themselves important. Except in the case of black boots they should be of tan color, darkened by the careful use of soaps and dressings and not stained or artificially darkened, as is all too frequently the case. The secrets of the proper care of leathers are usually carefully guarded from the general public. They are to be found in the receipt books or in the memories of well-equipped gentlemen's gentlemen, usually of those who have graduated from army life, because part of the business of the officers' servant, or striker, especially in the British and European armies, is to maintain the various parts of his and the officer's leather equipment spotlessly clean and in the most pliable and serviceable condition. For those who are es-

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pecially interested in this subject I will give here some of the tried and tested recipes for the care of boots.

In the first place, all shoes should be cleaned on well-fitting block trees and tan shoes or boots should not be worn on two days in succession. Particular care should be taken when the boots are wet and they should not be allowed to dry until the trees have been put into them and they have been well scrubbed with soap and water until all stains are removed. If there are any obstinate stains which are difficult to eradicate, they can be easily removed by applying Propert's boot top powder—of a nut brown color—which is mixed with water and applied with a brush. The boots should then be allowed to dry gradually, after which Lutetian Cream can be applied liberally. The polishing is done with a soft brush and finished with a soft woolen cloth or chamois. After this Wren's Paste may be applied sparingly and polished with a soft brush, a soft woolen cloth or chamois being used to give a finishing or final polish.

FOR black calf leather, the most essential thing is a set of three good brushes and the shank bone of a deer. The first thing to do is to get off all the dirt on the shoe with a brush. Then apply Everett's blacking with a soft brush and while this is still damp polish with a medium stiff brush. The shank bone may then be used, rubbing the shoe well all over and finishing lightly. It may be that this process will have to be repeated in order to get the best results. It is well to (*Continued on page 84*) wash off black calf occasionally, especially when wet. A little castor oil applied sparingly and boned into the leather afterwards will make the boots more pliable and give a smooth surface to the leather.

As patent leather is also used for officer's dress boots in some instances and for riding boots of the more formal kind, it may be well to give a recipe here for this type. A little castor oil sparingly applied is very beneficial for the preservation of the leather. Of course the soles should be polished. Should the leather begin to crack, a little black Meltonian Cream, sparingly used with a cotton cloth and polished with a chamois or soft cloth, will do much to improve matters and will not increase cracking.

PATENT leather which is much worn can be restored to something of its pristine freshness by using Parisian de Guiche. This is used by first washing off the boots with warm water and then allowing them to dry. After this they should be well rubbed over with alcohol and dried with a piece of old cotton cloth. Then the de Guiche should be applied evenly with the tip of the finger and the boots allowed to dry in a warm place. When they are thoroughly dry the surface can be hardened by rubbing a little with a soft cloth or chamois. Of course, it is essential that shoes which are to be cleaned in this way should be supplied with trees which fit them perfectly. These are but a few of the recipes for the care of boot leathers and apply with equal force to the care of ordinary boots and shoes as to that of riding boots.

Many and various are the forms of riding crops now upon the market. The use of the swagger stick and the riding crop has been so greatly increased by the requirements of military men that there has been a perfect out-blossoming of these articles during the last year. A crop is, of course, the result of a special need, although its use has become so widespread that the need which brought about its creation has been in great

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measure forgotten. It was designed originally for a combination purpose to be used when riding to hounds. The shaft could be used as a whip for the horse while the loop end was intended to assist the rider in lifting the latches of those gates which are so familiar a feature of the English countryside, without dismounting. To the loop also could be attached a long thong for the special needs of the Master of Hounds or the Whippers-in.

ALTHOUGH many persons use a riding crop, where there are neither latches to lift nor hounds to keep in order, still the loop has persisted. Its original purpose has indeed been lost sight of to such an extent by the average user that one meets not a few men who have no hunting traditions who believe that the loop is intended to be a wrist loop.

Two or three excellent crops are illustrated in this issue of *Vanity Fair*. One has a Malacca shaft and horn handle. Another is pigskin covered with a silver top, which has in addition to the true loop at the small end, a wrist loop fitted near the top. This is a rather interesting departure and is an entirely practical one, probably arising from the trench stick now so generally seen. The third crop is of dark red Malacca with an ivory handle and gold collar. Obviously, these are only a few of hundreds of variations of handles and fittings which may be had to suit the individual taste.

ALTHOUGH it has nothing to do with riding, I have illustrated in this issue, an excellent type of shoe for golf. This is a Scotch oxford with a Lorne tongue and a scarfe sole set with plugs, of course, which give a very firm grip on the ground. It is vitally important to have a firm stance and to this the shoe — properly designed — contributes very greatly. A rather interesting high golf shoe now on the market, which I shall illustrate in a later issue, incorporates a special feature at the instep which permits the player to turn very freely without moving his foot. This is a feature which will be appreciated by those who like to wear golf shoes of ankle height but who dislike the stiffness at the ankle which is frequently found in them. Perfect freedom of movement during the course of the swing contributes much to the success of one's game.