CHAPTER XI

COAT MAKING

Shrink the Materials. — Woolens and cottons cannot be properly worked up and pressed unless they are first shrunk. The canvas for interlining should also be thoroughly shrunk before it is cut. See Shrinking Material, page 9.

Canvassing the Front. — The fronts of a cloth coat need reinforcement so the coat will hold to shape and set smoothly. Use tailor’s canvas. Use the pattern for the front of the coat as a guide in cutting the canvas. The canvas should cover the coat above the bust line, while in the lower portion it should face back the front edge for a distance of six inches. See Fig. 127. Cut the seam off the neck, front and lower edge of the canvas.
Place the canvas on the wrong side of the front, a seam’s width back from the edge. Baste it securely to position. If the front of the coat has a lapel, catch the canvas to the lapel with padding stitches. See Padding Stitches, page 23.

**Taping the Edges.** — To prevent stretching, tape the front edge of the coat. Use thin linen tape about one quarter of an inch wide. Lay the tape on the canvas, and catch the tape to the canvas and outside material, taking a stitch first on one side and then on the other. At all points hold the outside material and canvas into the tape. See Fig. 128. Run the tape at the neck edge, along the roll line of the lapel and down the front. After the shoulder seams are joined tape the back of the coat at the neck.

**The Collar.** — An interlining of tailor’s canvas is needed for the collar. Use the col-
lar pattern as a guide in cutting the canvas, cutting off the seam allowance at the outer edge. Baste the canvas to the under collar. If the collar is a tailored notched collar, cover the stand (crescent-shaped portion which comes next to the neck) with rows of machine stitching. See Fig. 129. Catch the canvas to the rest of the collar with padding stitches. In soft rolling collars catch the canvas to the entire collar with padding stitches.

**Joining the Collar and Front Facings to the Coat.** — After the front of the coat has been canvased and taped and the shoulder and underarm seams closed, join the under collar, reinforced with the canvas, to the neck. Press the raw edges of the seam down onto the coat. Join the top collar to the facing. Then lay the top collar and facing on the outside of the coat, along the front of the coat, and the under side of the collar. Stitch around the outside edges and turn the collar into its finished position, and the
facing onto the wrong side of the coat. Draw the facing back at the edge until the seam is on the wrong side of the garment. Baste into position and press. See Fig. 130.

**Staying the Lower Edge.**—To prevent the lower edge from stretching, reinforce it with inch-wide strips of tailor’s canvas. Lay the lower edge of the canvas along the line where the bottom of the coat will turn up. Catch the canvas to the material, taking a stitch, first on one side and then on the other. Use care that the stitches do not show through onto the right side of the goods. Turn the lower edge up on the canvas. Press and catch it into place. See Fig. 131.

**The Sleeve.**—Regulation coat sleeves are made in two pieces, the top sleeve having slight fullness at the elbow.
Sleeves with vents at the back seam should have the vents finished before the back seams are closed. Stay the lower edge with an inch-wide strip of canvas, caught first on one side and then on the other. See Fig. 132. Usually there is an extension cut on the under sleeve at the vent. Face the lower edge of the sleeve all the way across, letting the facing extend above the vent. See Facing, page 92. Close the back seam and press the seams open. Shrink out the fullness at the elbow of the upper sleeve. See Steaming Out Ease or Fullness, page 18.

Sleeves without vents have the back seams closed first. They are stitched all the way to the bottom. In this case there should be an extension cut on the bottom of the sleeve. Stay the bottom of the sleeve with a strip of canvas, then turn up the lower edge of the sleeve on the canvas and catch it in place.

Sleeves with cuffs have the seams closed as described in sleeves without vents. The
neatest finish is obtained when the seam is cut off the lower edge of the sleeve. Stay the bottom with canvas. The cuff should be cut with an extension to turn back onto the wrong side of the sleeve. Reinforce the cuff with an interlining of tailor's canvas. The canvas interlining should be cut without a seam at the top and without the lower extension. Close the seams in the outside cuff and lining. Baste the interlining to the outside cuff, lapping the edges flat at the seam, and join the cuff lining to the top of the cuff. Adjust the cuff to the lower edge of the sleeve, tacking the cuff lining to the sleeve. Roll the extension at the lower edge of the cuff onto the wrong side of the sleeve and catch it to the canvas.

Use the sleeve pattern as a guide to cut the sleeve lining. Join the seams in the lining and press them open. Turn the sleeve wrong side out and slip the lining over it. Tack the lining to the sleeve along the seams. Turn under the lower edge of the lining and fell it over the raw edges at the bottom of
the sleeve. See *Felling*, page 22, and Fig. 133.

*Sew the outside sleeve to the armhole.* The sleeve lining is left free until the coat lining is put in. Pin the sleeve to the armhole, so that it hangs in the position the arm naturally hangs in. Baste it in place and try on the coat. If it draws, shift it to the front or back until the arm can be moved with freedom.

*Lining a Coat.* — Use the coat pattern as a guide in cutting the lining. Allow a pleat at the center-back. This is to prevent the lining from drawing across the back. Join the seams in the lining and pin the lining to the coat. Smooth out all wrinkles and tack the lining to the coat at the underarm and shoulder seams. Baste it in place around the armhole. Turn under the edges of the lining and pin the lining over the raw edges of the coat at the neck, along the back edge of the front facing and at the bottom, placing the pins about an inch apart. Fell the
lining in place. See *Felling*, page 22. After the coat lining is sewed in bring up the sleeve lining, turn under the edges and fell the sleeve lining over the raw edges at the armhole.

**Unlined Coats.** — If the coat is to be unlined, cut the cloth facing for the front to extend across to the armhole, above the bust line. Also cut a shoulder yoke for the back. Canvas and tape the coat as described before. Bind the lower edge of the back yoke and the outer edge of the front facing before joining to the coat. Join the back yoke to the front facing at the shoulder and fell the raw edges of the collar over the raw edges of the yoke at the back of the coat. Bind the raw edges of the underarm seams and the lower edge of the coat before turning it up. See *Binding*, page 113.

**The Pressing is Important.** — Press each piece before it is joined, each seam after it is joined, all edges and trimming pieces. It is impossible to properly press a coat after it is entirely made. See *Pressing*, page 18.