

TURN STAGE INTO A FASHION SHOW VENUE...

NARRATOR: (Gushing with lots of hands, etc.) Now, ladies, a special treat. A fashion show. What would a ladies luncheon be without a fashion show? We have to keep up with the fashion world, don't we girls? I can call you girls, can't I? Of course, and I can see you are already looking forward to being told what to wear. (Clap, clap, clap,) And this afternoon, we're especially honored to have five of Alberta's most prominent ladies modeling for us. It's too too exciting. My little heart threatens to leap right out. But enough about me. Our theme this afternoon is Grace and Glamor and Girls. G-g-g.. (Blink, blink.) Oh, it's too much. Music, please. (There could be different theme music for each model. Stately for Irene, hymnlike for Louise and Henrietta, lighthearted for Nellie, martial for Emily.)

IRENE PARLBY ENTERS AND NARRATOR CONTINUES: Our first model is Irene Parlby of Alix, AB, a cute little town just east of Lacombe. That's near Red Deer, you know, and that's just up from the road from Calgary. A darling town that's got a lot of farmers in the vicinity. They raise pigs and things, I think. Anyway, Irene for our viewing pleasure today is wearing her wedding dress. A sensible blue frock, as you can see. We might have expected a little more grandeur, glamour perhaps, since Irene, I happen to know, comes from a well-to-do family in Britain.... But no, she knew that a white dress was a foolish choice for a Canadian pioneer so she went with the old blue. And has worn it many times since, I can tell. Mind you, that hat helps her ensemble a great deal. If anyone knows how to wear a hat, it's Irene Parlby. Straight back, head held high. Don't you agree, girls? (Clap, clap.) Good luck, Irene, as cabinet minister up there in the Legislature. It must be so much fun. First female cabinet minister in Alberta. Keep up the good work.

LOUISE MCKINNEY ENTERS: Our next model is Louise McKinney of Claresholm, AB, a cute little town just south of Calgary. A lot of farmers there too and they raise cows

and things, I am told. Louise is wearing her Sunday-go-to-church ensemble, a classical look in shades of navy blue. Her hat is precisely in the middle of her forehead, which is where hats ought to be, according to Louise. The dress is a design of Timothy Eaton, a well-known fashion leader in Winnipeg. On the front of her dress is a white ribbon brooch, a symbol of the WCTU, the Women's Christian Temperance Union... which is why Louise expected tea this afternoon and will shortly speak to the management about the error of their ways. Maybe you'd better drink up before she shuts us down. She is a mighty fierce fighter for prohibition but luckily she fights equally well for the vote and women's rights. A powerful leader among women. .

NELLIE MCCLUNG ENTERS: And here's another of our WCTU girls, God bless them all. Nellie McClung made her first speech ever to a WCTU meeting in Manitoba and she hasn't quit talking since. A resident of Calgary now, she's wearing a very feminine ensemble that is bound to make waves in the fashion world. It's all about color and attitude this year and Nellie, our Nellie, has both color and attitude. Just try reading her latest book called *In Times Like* where Nellie manages to take a round out of church, politics, business, men generally. (I liked that part.) But Nellie hasn't forgotten her domestic duties in the midst of all her political action. No indeed. She mended her husband's socks this morning- that seems to be important to those who think women should stay home, out of the political arena, so that they can darn socks. What's more Nellie freshened up her hat this very morning...just for us...new flowers, a sprig of leaves from her apple tree. It's lovely. Thanks again, Nellie, and good luck with whatever.

HENRIETTA MUIR EDWARDS ENTERS: Now, making her debut on the runway is Henrietta Muir Edwards of Fort Macleod, AB. Another of AB's lovely southern towns. This one has history, I believe, something about mounted police and such. Henrietta is an original, as you can see. This dress was made by her sister from material left over from the church bazaar. The shape is essentially vintage sack and because Henrietta- and maybe you want to cover your ears, girls, at this piece of news- because Henrietta doesn't wear corsets- can you believe- her ensemble makes her look like a potato sack tied in the middle. But she says corsets squeeze your organs, and fashion is just a series of useless

fripperies. Fripperies, that's the word she uses, but I'm sure she doesn't really mean that. After all, her own ensemble is a comfortable creative expression of womanhood and who can argue with that? Certainly, I can't since I know also that Henrietta is an expert in Canadian law. And law experts have a habit of suing so I'm out of here. Thank you, Henrietta, for sharing your fashion sense even though there ought to be a law.

EMILY MURPHY ENTERS: Now, we have saved the best for the last. This is Emily Murphy of Edmonton, a woman who knows her own mind when it comes to fashion. Also, when it comes to most anything else you can think of. Today, Emily is wearing a tailored ensemble that suits her position as police magistrate, just appointed to the Edmonton court. First female in the British Empire to be made a magistrate. As you can see, she has accessorized her suit with a hat that suggests at once innocence and naughtiness. Not that our lady magistrate would be naughty. No no no. But she can't resist a plume or two, some braid, perhaps some medals, reminiscent of Napoleon, say, or Queen Victoria. And don't you agree, that her costume speaks to us, tells us to straighten up and fly right. Thanks, Emily, for your support tonight, and thanks to all the old girls who agreed to trip the light fantastic across our runway this afternoon. We couldn't have done it without you, girls. Let's give our girls a great big hand. Thank you again and again... girls. (Music could be Don't let your boys grow up to be cowboys or some such thing.)
