

# PINK OVERALLS FOR 1916? HORRORS NO, SAYS DEALER

## Lack of German Dyes Causes Trouble—"Pink? Piff! Why Not White or Yellow," Asks Merchant.

The anxious inquirer with a foolish question on his mind—just the place where it is most annoying and burdensome—walked into the office of William Billstein, president of the Columbia Clothing company, and asked him if it were true that overalls would be pink next year.

There were two other men and a woman in the office. Somebody laughed. "Poppycock," said Billstein.

"But the president of the National Association of Garment Workers says they are to be pink because the blue dyes from Germany aren't obtainable," insisted the anxious inquirer.

"We're going to have 'gray blue' overalls," returned Mr. Billstein. "I'll

show you." He led the way to the elevator. While waiting for it the reporter again inquired: "And they won't be pink?"

Billstein pushed the button rather forcefully. "Don't display your ignorance, young man," he said.

The overalls were down in the basement. Billstein showed two pairs, one made blue with German dyes, the other with American dyes. The latter was somewhat lighter—"a gray blue," as Billstein called it. "That is going to be the overall of next year," he said, "and it is very far from being pink."

"Who'd go around in pink overalls?" demanded Henry Abraham of the Oak Hall company.

"Only some one who wanted to be conspicuous or an oddity," Max C. Albenberg of the Miller-Albenberg company, gave the answer. "It would be more logical to have them gray or brown or a khaki shade. Pink overalls? Nobody would buy them."

"For the life of me I can't see why they would want to shade them pink!" exclaimed Mr. Abraham. "Why not white or yellow or green? Pink, punk."

Albenberg declared that while blue dyes are scarce, black ones are more difficult still to get. Unless the real German dye is obtainable, an overcoat, he said, takes on a "rusty gray" color, and wears rapidly. He asserted that there are about 1,000 different shades of colors and that the dyes for all are made in Germany, where they are now being stored until after the war. Then they will be dumped on the American markets at such low prices as to put the American experimenter out of business, he declared.