

# SIDE 2

FABRIC LADY (To BOY.) Off you go, then.

FABRIC LADY exits; the stage is clear except for BOY, ROSCOE, and FLO. FLO positions herself behind BOY's back as ROSCOE calls him.

ROSCOE Young man? I say - young man! <sup>FLO</sup> *(Taking a monocle out of her eye and deliberately dropping it.) Goodness me! I dropped my monocle! (She gets down on all fours behind BOY as ROSCOE approaches him.)*

ROSCOE Just a moment, young man!

BOY *(Turning to go US toward palace. ) Sorry, mister - I'm late already... (He trips over FLO's back; BOY and boxes tumble in a heap upon FLO.)*

FLO *(From bottom of the heap.) Found it! (Confidentially, to BOY.) My monocle. (FLO puts the monocle back into her eye.)*

ROSCOE Young man ...

BOY *(From the ground.) Mister?*

ROSCOE Terribly sorry ...

# START

BOY I'm all right

ROSCOE That's a fair-sized bundle of boxes you've got there, boy.

FLO I wonder what's in 'em? As the cat said when she saw the row o' mouse holes in the wall.

BOY I beg your pardon?

ROSCOE The boxes--what's in them?

BOY New clothes.

FLO Who for?

TOWNSPEOPLE  
1, 2, 3 & 4 The Emperor!

FLO                   *(Aside, to Roscoe.)* Townspeople speak with single tongue !

ROSCOE               *(To the Townspeople. )* I see, I see. And today is a special day, that the Emperor should need so many new clothes? A state affair, perhaps. A royal wedding? A coronation? What is it?

TOWNSPEOPLE       It's Tuesday.

ROSCOE               I see.

FLO                   Well I don't. Pardon me, but I'm new to all this as the infants said to the midwife.

MAESTRO             It's really very simple. Once upon a time. . .

TOWN #1              In a country far away. . .

TOWN #3              There lived a certain Emperor. . .

TOWN #2              Who wore a different suit of clothes for every hour of the day.

ROSCOE               He wears a different suit of clothes. . ?

MAESTRO             Every hour of the day.

FLO                   But why?

BOY                   He likes to dress up.

TOWN #1              He's grand.

TOWN #3              He's majestic.

TOWN #2              He's regal!

FLO                   H e changes clothes a lot.

MAESTRO             Now you've got it.

ROSCOE But that wouldn't leave him time to do much else, would it?

TOWN #1 Not a thing.

FLO And what do you all do?

TOWN #2 Well, we make the clothes, of course.

TOWN #3 Hats, gaiters and garters . . .

TOWN #1 Belts , breeches, and bows. . .

MAESTRO Shirts, stockings and sashes...

TOWN #2 And shoes lined up in rows.

FLO Sounds like a fascinating life. Come on, Roscoe.

ROSCOE Florence--wait! I smell Opportunity!

FLO Well what do you expect, Roscoe? I haven't had a bath in days.  
(Roscoe raps Flo's head.) Ow!

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*The Emperor appears behind the gate leading to the palace. He wears only a dressing-gown and a wig-cap.*

**END**

EMPEROR You! Boy! Where are my new clothes?

TOWNSPEOPLE It's . . . him! (They scatter.)

BOY Coming, sir! Right away!

EMPEROR You'd better be--and fast!

The Emperor disappears. The town is transforming into the palace interior.

BOY Now I'm late . And there's going to be a court dance in the palace tonight The Emperor will be furious.