

her duty she knew that Jim's duty was to his country. Then she questioned herself. Was she really doing her duty? Had she any right to keep Jim waiting for his happiness? He was going away to what? To death? She didn't know, but in any event she felt that she had failed him. But it was not too late, she could make it up to him in part. She would marry him now. So she sent him a wire, "Come immediately." He came, and she said, "Jim, I want you to marry me now, before you enlist." Jim said, "No, it isn't a fair proposition." Mary insisted. Jim said "no" once or twice more, but each time the "no" was less emphatic. Then he consented, and just as quickly as it could be done, they were married. Mary met with considerable opposition. Her mother brought every argument up against the proposed match, but Mary was firm. Her friends pointed out to her the folly of what she was doing, Mary was still firm. The strongest argument against the match was the possibility of Jim being killed and Mary becoming a mother. That was one of Mary's strongest reasons for marrying. In speaking to me some time after the wedding when Jim had gone overseas Mary said, "I rejoice that I am to be a mother, if the very worst happens, I shall have so much consolation." We often talked together of the child, which she hoped would be a son to bear his father's name. She was always brave and cheerful, though she had little encouragement from her mother, who persisted in a gloomy "I told you so" kind of manner.

Then the boy was born. The same day came news that Jim was wounded. They kept the news from Mary for a day or two, then she sensed that there was something wrong, and had to be told. She wrote cheery letters to Jim, and sent snap-shots of little Jim. Jim recovered and went back to the trenches. He is still fighting.

Little Jim is a fine healthy baby, the idol of his grandmother's heart, who is doing her best to spoil him. She is more of a normal woman now than she has been since her husband's death, thought of self is crushed out by love for the child. Mary has not been too proud to take help from the Patriotic Fund. She is taking a business course now, and if Jim is not home when the baby is six months older she intends to obtain a position that she may save a little for time of need.

Most girls who contemplate marrying a soldier are advised by their friends not to take risks, and yet this is an age of risks. Personally I feel that the girl who is sure of her love and has health takes a greater risk when she decides to wait till the war is over. The woman, who is a mother is one of the greatest benefactors to her country. So many of our best young men are pouring out their hearts' blood on the fields of France. They, the potential fathers of Canada that is to be, are dying childless, while the foreign born young men stay home and marry. In the days that are to be, the proportion of British Canadians to the foreign born is bound to be less than it now is. That being the case the girl who marries the soldier who offers his life for his country, is doing her bit in a very special way, and should be encouraged, not discouraged. I heard one girl say, "I prefer a live man for a husband to a dead hero." Many may feel that way, but heroes do not die in the hearts of those who love them, and it is a glorious heritage for a boy or girl, that his father laid down his life for his country. The war widows must suffer many things, but it will be our place to see that they do not suffer from a material point of view.

(Editor's Note—Will the writer of this timely article kindly forward her name to this office. Unfortunately the letter accompanying the article is lost.)

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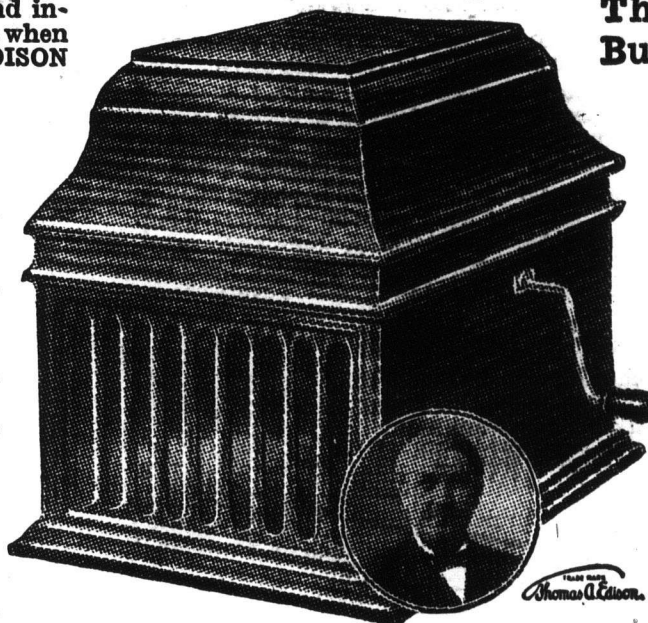
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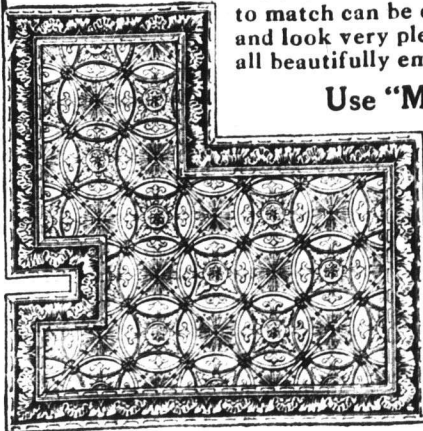
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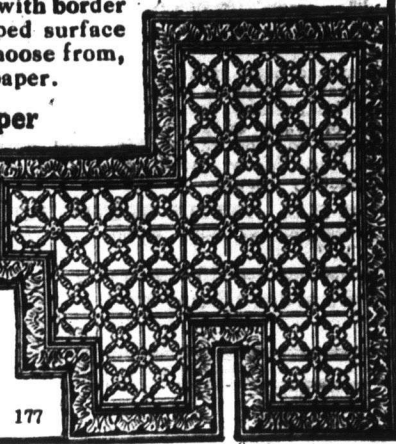
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