

THE TIMES-STAR FEATURE PAGE

Dorothy Dix

The Girl Whose Fiance Would Rather Break Their Engagement Than Allow Her to Work After Marriage—How to Divide the Family Income—The Old Mother Who is Tired of Being a Guest.

DEAR MISS DIX—For seven years I have been engaged to a man who is one of the finest fellows in the world, but who seems not to be able to "get along" somehow. He has been working and struggling to try to save up enough for us to get married on, but has made no headway, and has become so discouraged that he has written me breaking off our engagement, saying that he did not feel it right to keep me bound any longer.

When we became engaged I told him that I would not work after I was married, and he said that he could never let his wife work, but now I realize that I cannot live without him, and that I would be only too glad to work and help make the living. Don't you think he should be willing to sacrifice his pride for his love, so that we could be married and be happy together, instead of miserable apart, even if it does involve my keeping on with my job?

ANSWER: I do, indeed, Mary. There is nothing so foolish and illogical as the position that many men take about their wives continuing in business after they are married.

For the very man who most loudly proclaims that he is going to stop his wife from working when he gets married doesn't stop her working. He merely puts her to work at a harder job, with no pay envelope attached to it. He takes her from a mahogany desk and puts her at the kitchen range and the washbowl. He doesn't want her to help him by working publicly, but he will take all the help she can give when the work is done out of sight.

And why shouldn't a woman work as well as a man? Why should an able-bodied woman be supported by somebody else's labor? Every one with a grain of intelligence knows that idleness is just as demoralizing for women as it is for men. It's the idle women who do nothing to do that kill time and haunt the movies and matinees of afternoons who get crushed on screen heroes and make fools of themselves. It's the idle women who frequent the afternoon tea places who get into flirtations with the hired dancing partners. It's the idle women who do nothing but adorn themselves who ruin their husbands with their extravagance.

I think there is nothing more unfortunate than that men have so long been slaves to the old tradition that it was a kindness to a woman to lap her in luxury and keep her in idleness.

And I could weep when I remember the fine men I have known who have killed themselves to keep their wives from having to do the work, and have the responsibility that would have been their salvation, and in which they would have found happiness.

Men have got to be educated up to the point where they will abandon the old superstition that it is a man's duty to make his wife a parasite who does nothing but sit on a cushion and sew up a seam, and feed upon strawberries and cream. Also, they must be made to realize that there is no more reflection on a man in his wife helping him earn money than there is in her cooking for him, and that it is an economic waste for a \$60-a-week office woman to do a \$6-a-week kitchen job.

This knowledge is coming very swiftly, for under present economic conditions many men can never make enough money to support their families alone and unaided. The wife must be a money-earner, too. And if men say this plan will break up the home, why, just ask them to cast an eye at the French, who have practiced the system for centuries and whose family life is particularly solid.

DEAR MISS DIX—How should a man and his wife divide the family income?

ANSWER: I will let a correspondent, who signs himself "Contented Husband," answer that question, as an ounce of experience is worth a pound of theory.

He says: "I believe that a woman's work in the home should be regarded as of equal value with her husband's work outside of the home. With this thought of equality of service we have used a plan that has worked successfully for many years.

"All moneys received are divided into three equal parts. We each take one-third and the other third is set aside for saving. Out of this is paid the life insurance, which, of course, is one form of saving.

"With the money divided, as I have stated, we figure the house and office expenses as nearly as we can, and divide this between us, each being responsible for certain items. What is left we each have for our individual use, to use absolutely as we please.

"This plan makes the wife feel that she is a real partner, and I think that there are very few women who, if trusted with responsibility, would not show themselves perfectly capable of handling their end of the finances of the matrimonial firm. I know that my wife outclasses me when it comes to getting results with her third of the money."

DEAR MISS DIX—I am a widow, 71 years old, but in good health. I have ten children, all married. After my husband died, I broke up housekeeping, stored my furniture, and have been staying with my children ever since. But I am tired of roaming around from house to house. I want my own home and my own furniture, and am thinking of renting some rooms with my sister so that I can use my things and live as I want to in my old days. But my children don't want me to do this. They want me to sell my furniture, and continue to live around with them. What do you advise me to do?

ANSWER: I advise you to rent your rooms and establish your own home, particularly as you can be with your sister and have some companionship, and some one to look after you if you get sick.

Your children are actuated by the most affectionate of motives in wishing you to live around among them, but old people should stay put. They should have their own fire, and not be asked upon to make frequent changes, and adjust themselves to new environments. However welcome you are but a guest in your children's houses, and you must adapt yourself to their ways, and new ways are not easy for old people to learn.

And I think young people cannot possibly realize how much her furniture means to an old woman, and what pleasure and comfort the gets in being surrounded by her old things. Her chairs and tables, her china and silver are not just household goods to her. They are memories that speak to her, often more audibly than the voices of the living people about her.

She can never lack for companionship with them around her. Here is the bed in which her children were born, and in which her husband died. Here is the shabby little chair in which she rocked her babies to sleep. Johnny made the scar on that table leg with the tools that Santa Claus brought him on a Christmas morning fifty years ago. The dent in that spoon was made by Sally's first tooth. Hands that have been dust and ashes these many years worked that needlepoint. A little girl's first stitches went into the making of that patchwork quilt.

And so it goes. Every article has some association that makes it dear to the old woman. Memories, tears, old joys, old joys, hollow and sanctify every object until the shabbiest thing is more precious to its owner than the finest object in a collector's shop.

Every old woman should have her own home, even if it is only a room, and live among her household gods, who will bless and comfort her.

DOROTHY DIX

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With The Women of Today

TWENTY-TWO national organizations of women are represented by the "Woman's Joint Congressional Committee," which recently met in Washington.



MRS. JOHN D. SHERMAN.

ton, D. C., with Mrs. John D. Sherman as its chairman. It represents nearly all the women's organizations that have civic, political or social welfare programs.

For five years the women of America have forgotten creed and political preference and have banded together to influence legislation. They are now working for, first, the entry of the United States into the World Court; second, establishment of a federal department of education; and third, correction of certain abuses in the federal civil service.

Mrs. Sherman is known from coast to coast and is president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Her home is at Estes Park, Colorado.

Lady Astor will present the Brooks-Bryce essay cup to the student in Sir William Perkins School at Chertsey, Surrey, England, who is the winner in that school of the prize essay contest offered by the Brooks-Bryce Foundation. The girls of the High School of Champaign, Ill., are also competing, but this English school is the first one exclusively for girls to become a member of the foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to establish better understanding between Great Britain and America by fostering mutual regard through the youth of both countries as found in their secondary and preparatory schools.

Fashion Fancies



By Marie Belmont

THE model above is French inspiration. The color scheme is an especially attractive one, the dress being of soft, blue-gray trimmed with yellow.

The dress is made with a long slim upper portion. This fits the hips snugly, while below the hip-line is a flared section of box pleats. Yellow stripes, woven in the material, appear in a border design at the lower part of the bodice, and are matched by the yellow piping which trims the dress.

TUSSAUDS TO BE SOLD.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The site, buildings and contents of Madame Tussaud's wax works museum will be offered for sale shortly, and it is hoped the purchaser will continue the famous exhibition, which was considerably damaged by fire last March.

Many figures are in perfect condition and one wing of the building escaped the flames entirely. John Tussaud, descendant of the founder, is willing to remain at the museum in the service of the purchaser.

CHRISTMAS CANDY.

Now is the time to make your Christmas candy and the fondant, cooked or uncooked, is the foundation of the sweets. To make a cooked fondant, mix two cups sugar, two-thirds cup water and one-sixteenth teaspoon cream of tartar in a saucepan and boil without stirring until syrup forms a soft ball when dropped in cold water. Let cool for a few minutes and turn out on a buttered platter. When the bottom of the platter feels the same temperature as the hand, beat the syrup until thick. Then knead with the hands until very firm and creamy. Place in a bowl, cover and use as needed.

SEE-SAWING ON BROADWAY

THERE'S a good gag going around about a certain Broadway theatre—allegedly, the feeling is, went to a specialist, "Diabetes," soborly announced the physician.

"Doctor, is that an acid or a liability?" joked the theatrical man.

MUCH has been written about the mawkishness of New Yorkers when celebrities are about. It used to be that crowds would gather at theatre entrances, when important opening night attractions were under way, to gaze at stage notables and society women, to marvel at their clothes and to get a close-up view. This was more or less forgivable inasmuch as the Broadway belt is cluttered each night with people who have little else to do but wander about.

But this winter the situation inside the theatres has become acute. A considerable portion of first night audiences not only refuse to take their seats but line along the rear of the house to stare at each other—women in particular.

ADVENTURES of the TWINS

AN ADVENTURE IN THE COUNTRY

The Twins took the picture of "The Whaler" (which really had turned into a picture again as they stepped out of it) and looked around for Mister Blue Cap.

"Where have you been all this time?" asked Nancy, when the little fellow appeared suddenly from nowhere.

"I was right along with you," said Mister Blue Cap with a grin. "I went every place you did on the big boat. But I thought that I'd better keep out of sight, for sailors are not accustomed to fairies and if Bob Merry had seen a queer chap like me, all cap and buttons, and no size, he'd have jumped overboard. Did you learn much?"

"I should say we did," exclaimed Nick. "I always thought whaling boats came in with a lot of whales piled up on the decks, but we found out that they never take a whale on the boat at all. All they do after they catch it is to cut it up, and take it on board in pieces, and melt down the fat for oil. They bring that home in barrels."

"That's right! That's right!" nodded Mister Blue Cap approvingly. "You are learning more in the picture gallery than your mother thought you would, my dear. The green wall of the picture gallery, and the red wall of the picture gallery, and it wasn't two seconds until Nick's quick eye noticed a picture of a little boy in overalls, whitewashing a fence.

"May we go and visit that boy?" he asked eagerly. "He looks just about as old as I am and I think I'd like him."

"Sure, you may go," nodded Mister Blue Cap. "Both of you. Come right along!"

So going up to the picture, he unlocked the glass cover, and back it swung.

Then he looked it after him again. Again the picture very disappeared, and the Twins found themselves on a country road in front of a white farmhouse with green shutters and rose vines.

"Hello there!" he called when he saw Nancy and Nick. "Where did you come from? I didn't see you a minute ago, and I looked all up and down the road both ways."

He didn't say anything about Mister Blue Cap, for, as usual, the little fairy-man had disappeared.

"Why we came from—well, we came from just here," said Nancy.

But the boy wasn't too curious. "Gee, I'm glad you did," he remarked dropping his brush beside the bucket. "I'm tired and I'm going to call my brother to finish this. I know where there is a blue-bird's nest. Do you want to see it? And I know where a big pickerel is hiding under the bank, and where there are a lot of rain toads and everything."

"Oh, Charley!" he whistled. "Come on out."

To Be Continued.

Much greater force is exerted by explosives used in blasting stumps than the ground is wet when dry, because the water in the ground is not compressible.

Timely Views On World Topics

IT is important that the prohibition forces shall practice restraint in its use of the enormous legislative majority now registered," declares Wayne B. Wheeler, head of the Anti-Saloon League forces in Washington.

"The future of prohibition depends upon the aggressiveness and the sanity with which the problem is handled. Extreme measures that do not commend themselves to the country's sense of fairness would be disastrous in the long run."

He foresees a long and arduous campaign before John Barleycorn is completely vanquished.

Elaborating his view, he said: "It is not an easy thing by law to change the habits of people. The time required to make the larger cities truly dry will depend upon many things. I would point out, however, that no law is 100 per cent. successful. In spite of the laws against robbery and murder, robberies and murders are committed."

"We are making progress, nevertheless. In volume the consumption of alcohol for beverage purposes has been reduced 20 per cent. Before the national prohibition act, about \$2,500,000,000 was spent for drink. Even with the high prices demanded by bootleggers, the sum now spent is, as an estimate, not more than \$500,000,000. This is a saving of \$2,000,000,000 a year."

Your Birthday

DECEMBER 15—You are quiet and retiring, lovable, and accomplish a great deal without making a noise about it. You are bright, fond of amusement if it does not interfere with anything important, and extremely practical. You learn readily, have a good memory and are often able to give information to others. Love will never leave you. Your birth-stone is the turquoise, which means prosperity. Your flower is holly. Your lucky color is pink.

A Thought

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.—Prov. 25:19.

HONOR is but the reflection of a man's own actions shining bright in the face of all about him, and from thence rebounding upon himself.—South.

To make a very stiff batter (I make it so stiff that the mixing spoon will stand in it.) The in a cloth and put in boiling water. Keep covered and boil for four hours. The longer it is boiled the better, or it may be steamed. Serve with whipped cream, hard sauce or any good pudding sauce.

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DAILY MOVIE SERVICE News Notes From Movieland

AND still the "vamp" is with us. Paulette Goddard, French actress, has been cast in a siren role in Marion Davies' "The Girl Who Came to Stay."



PAULETTE GODDARD.

Comedian, "Cheaper to Marry" and "Pretty Ladies."

The George Barr McCutchen story calls for Miss Davies to play a dual role, one as cousin of a prince, the other that of the crown prince himself, when she is called upon to foil a usurper's plot. In her disguise as a prince she looks very manly. Her hair is cut short, eyebrows painted so that they won't show, eyebrows altered and lips painted so that they are a mere slit. Miss Davies calls her makeup "crasura," for she succeeds in "crasura" almost all of her feminine features and replaces them with the more masculine variety.

Other members of the cast are Antonio Moreno, Roy D'Arcy and George K. Arthur.

"Wild Oats Lane," the stage play of a boy and girl who have sowed their share, is being filmed by Marshall Neilan. The girl "who never had a chance" is played by Viola Dana. The boy, weak and a victim of circumstances, is portrayed by Robert Agnew.

William DeMille is going to quit the directing field in which he has achieved no little success, to return to his first love, that of playwright and scenarist. "The Woman" and "Strongheart" are among his plays. His newest offering is "Mapple," the tale of a girl crook. Reba Daniels is the crook.

Emil Jannings, Germany's greatest screen actor, may be playing in American studios soon. An exchange of film stars is assured by an agreement between Ufa, the German company, and Universal in this country.

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