Is the Coronet Worth the Price?

The One-Sided Exchange of American Girls and Millions for Foreign Titles

The Unhappy Duchess of Marlborough who was Miss Vanderbilt

The Fortune Pauline Astor Took Capt Clay was Made in New York Real Estate

Duchess of Manchester formerly Helena Zimmerman

Gladys Vanderbilt's $12,000,000 Will Enrich Count Szechenyi

Daisy Leiter's Dot Has Improved Earl of Suffolk's Estate

Countess of Yarmouth Had Better Remained Alice Thaw

Countess Perigord, Formerly Helen Morton

Anna Gould Who Divorced Count Boni de Castellane

ARE the coronets purchased by American girls, with American gold, worth the price?

This subject has been discussed, with more or less freedom and acrimonious comment, since the first foreign title was bought, years ago. The discussion has been given stimulus by the recent capture of Miss Gladys Vanderbilt by an Austrian nobleman.

At least one American thinks the title isn't worth the price. He is of opinion that no insignia of nobility is better than the plain enrolment of a citizen of this country. He objects to the impoverished nobility—so-called—of other lands reaping the financial benefits accruing from American industry in American enterprises through American brains and the splendid possibilities of the American business field.

Consequently, Representative Sabath, of Illinois, not long since introduced in Congress a bill imposing a tax of 25 per cent. on all dowries and other settlements made in consideration of marriage by citizens of the United States with citizens or subjects of other countries. He asserts that during the last dozen years or so no less than $900,000,000 has been taken out of this country by foreign owners of titles who have married rich American girls.

He wants a curb placed on this industry of Europe.

AN ESTIMATE OF SOME FORTUNES GONE ABROAD

May Goelet, married the duke of Roxburghe	$40,000,000
Pauline Astor, married Captain Spender-Clay	20,000,000
Anna Gould married Count de Castellane	17,000,000
Miss Bradley-Martin, married the earl of Craven	15,000,000
Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts, married Colonel Ralph Vivian	12,000,000
Gladys Vanderbilt, married Count Szechenyi	12,000,000
Sarah Phelps Stokes, married Baron Halkett	10,000,000
Consuelo Vanderbilt, married the duke of Marlborough	10,000,000
Mrs. Livermore O'Brien, married Baron Seilliere	7,000,000
Miss Edith Collins, married Count Czaykowski	6,000,000
Mary Leiter, married Lord Curzon	5,000,000
Nancy Leiter, married Captain Colin Campbell	5,000,000
"Daisy" Leiter, married the earl of Suffolk	5,000,000
Leila Wilson, married Hon. Michael Herbert	5,000,000
Caroline Astor, married G. Ogilvy Haig	5,000,000
Miss Pauline Whitney married A. H. Paget	5,000,000
Miss Sharon, married Sir Thomas Hesketh	5,000,000
Miss Ethel Field, married Captain David Beatty	5,000,000
Miss Adele Sampson married Duke de Dino	5,000,000
Miss Elena Grace, married the earl of Donoughmore	5,000,000
Miss Helen Morton, married Comte Perigord	5,000,000
Miss Amy Phipps, married Frederick Guest	5,000,000
Marie Satterfield, married Count von Moenich	4,000,000
Lily Hammersly, now married to Lord Beresford	3,000,000
Miss Victoria Bonynge, married Viscount Deerhust	3,000,000
Miss Harriet Gammell, married T. Shaw Safe	3,000,000
Julia Bryant (Mackay), married Prince Colonna	2,000,000
Miss Garner, married the Marquis de Breteuil	2,000,000
Florence Garner, married Sir Gordon-Cumming	2,000,000
Claire Huntington, married Prince von Hatzfeldt	2,000,000
Minnie Stevens, married General Arthur Paget	2,000,000
Beatrice Winans, married the count of Bearn	2,000,000
Helen A. Zimmerman, married the duke of Manchester	2,000,000
Miss Flora Davis, married the marquis of Dufferin	2,000,000
Miss Gwendolyn Caldwell, married Marquis de Monstiers-Meinville	2,000,000
Miss Caldwell, married Baron von Zedwitz	2,000,000
Miss Pinchot, married Hon. Alan Johnstone	2,000,000

Whate'er it be, it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good.
Kind hearts are more than coronets
And simple faith than Norman blood.
—Tennyson.

NATURALLY, the list given above is not intended to be entirely authentic. For instance, Miss Gladys Vanderbilt's fortune is supposed to be at least $12,000,000. Just what part of this she settled upon her count husband is known only to those immediately interested.

Rumor has it that he is to get $5,000,000 of her fortune absolutely—or, at any rate, is to have the income from that amount. But, should the marriage turn out happily, no one doubts that in time even more of the Vanderbilt wealth will go to the maintenance and upbuilding of the count's estates.

In the list given above the women with fortunes who have been captured by foreign aristocrats number only thirty-seven, yet the aggregate of the fortunes they are supposed to have taken with them amounts to $244,000,000, and there have been many more such marriages within the memory of this generation.

Congressman Sabath believes that the drain from this source has been far greater within the last dozen or so years than the American people are aware.

He doesn't believe it can be stopped. He does hold, however, that this country, as well as the enterprising holders of foreign titles, should reap a financial benefit from such international marriages.

Not long after he introduced his bill his colleague, Congressman McGavin—a bachelor, by the way—made an impassioned speech in the House of Representatives upholding Mr. Sabath's ideas. This encouraged Mr. Sabath greatly. He thinks that if the bachelors of the nation can be interested in preventing such foreign alliances, such alliances will be checked, bill or no bill.

Congressman McGavin's speech upon the subject made quite a hit. He declared that too many American girls are sacrificing their souls and honor "on the altar of snobbery and vice," while samples of them are traveling abroad, rummaging among the remnants of royalty that still litter the auction blocks, and shrieking, from time to time: "Oh, mamma, buy me that!"

WORTH LOOKING INTO

And everybody who heard the speech laughed.

Then, having laughed, everybody wondered whether a little serious consideration would not be more appropriate—whether, with so much truth in the thoughtful gentleman's reflections and so much ground for the forensic gentleman's eloquence, there might not be some real need for the bill propounded by Sabath and eulogized by McGavin.

It seems to be worth looking into.

Congressman Sabath, admitting that he had done a "little figuring," said that foreigners, returning to their homes in Europe, took with them last year the tidy sum of $20,000,000; but the 1,200,000 immigrants who arrived last year, being required under the law to bring in $25 each, at the lowest, added to the cash resources of the nation at least $30,000,000. And no one can tell how much more they brought.

The "poor foreigners," Congressman Sabath deduced, are a gain to the country in cash, as well as in their direct productiveness.

But those who come here to exchange their titles for American money, he found, are a dead loss coming and going. "The country loses money, and the girl happiness, with an empty title as her only compensation."

Taking his main estimate on its face, $900,000,000 gone from the United States within a period of twelve years, it would mean that the national resources were transferred to Europe at the rate of $75,000,000 per annum. He and his colleague aver that this vast wealth was literally made out of this land and this people.

The mines have lost so much coal, the forests so much timber, the soil so much fertility, the body politic so much energy, as every factor has contributed to the upbuilding of the various fortunes.

They are riches that can never be replaced. All the nation had to show for them was the cash, which is the concrete form of energy, the storehouse of the nation's dynamics. In a steady stream that energy, equal to 37,500 man-power—estimating the modern cash value of the average citizen at $2000—has flowed across the Atlantic to restore the ebbing vitality of Europe in those especial spots where ages of parasitic drain have exhausted it to the verge of penury.

Of that outflow Congressmen Sabath and McGavin would take a net toll amounting to one-fourth part, as the rightful share of the American land and the American people, from the total of concentrated energy which is being permanently lost to them by reason of the exchange by heiresses of cash for titles.

BILL COVERS ALL MARRIAGES

And, lest the law have an application to the moral right of individuals instead of to the ethical rights of the nation, it covers all marriages, and includes those where the bridegroom is independent of the dowry as well as those where he makes it an essential condition of the marriage contract because he needs it to relieve his necessities.

Such a tax, bringing in such annual returns as $17,000,000 or $18,000,000, with only $2,000,000 or $3,000,000 added from the national treasury, would build a couple of first-class battleships; it would help along materially the appropriation toward the Panama canal; it would have so raised the pay of our little American army that the men in the ranks would have found much less the matter with it than they do now.

The law proposed by Mr. Sabath, affecting as it does the individual right to dispose of individual property and treading dangerously close to an inhibition such as might have denied to William Waldorf Astor the right to spend his inherited millions in the capacity of a subject of King Edward VII, may never come to the reality of enforcement.

The American people are still too little envious of individual prosperity and too greatly confident of their private energies and their public resources to grudge a dollar's worth of happiness to any girl who is willing to pay for it, whether the "remnants on the auction block" be royal or noble, gentle or vulgar.

But, however Americans feel regarding the wealth the nation's daughters bear abroad, all have a profound interest in the terse, American question:

"Are they getting the worth of their money?"

If any rule can be laid down, it would appear that those who furnish the least money receive the most enduring, sincere love. Scarcely a fortnight elapsed after Congressman Sabath's reflections produced his famous bill on the floor of the House when Baron des Planches, the Italian ambassador at Washington, had an attack of sorrowful indignation over the popular reprehension of international matches. It is not true, he averred, that most of them turned out unfortunate. And he proceeded to prove it.

He instanced Lillian Langham, of Louisville, the cherished wife for whose hand Baron Speck von Sternburg withstood the commands of imperious Wilhelm; Mme. Jusserand, whose husband, the French ambassador, is devoted to her; Charlotte Clayton, now Baroness Moncheur, wife of the Belgian minister; Miss Glover, wife of Van Swinderen, the minister from the Netherlands; Alice Ward, married to Juan Riano, Spanish minister in Brussels, and Martha Hoy, daughter of a navy paymaster, the wife of Pierre Rojestvensky, whose uncle lost the Russian fleet so promptly.

These women, the protesting baron observed, are as well loved and as happy in their married life as they could possibly have been with the most devoted of American spouses, and, so far as the world knows to the contrary, he spoke with complete knowledge.

But none of them brought to their suitors any dowry worth speaking of. Many brought nothing at all. The husbands had the assets, and the sole lure that won them was the charm of face or nature in the bride.

When, however, one casts the critical glance upon any list where the brides have brought dowries or have been in position to embark in its entirety some considerable fortune, name after name appears that tells the bitter story of divorce, or carries the reminiscence of separation, alienated affection, or affection craved and consideration asked which the endowed husband makes haste to declare were never in the bargain.

For the felicity of Lord and Lady Curzon there is the shameful offset of mercenary Boni de Castellane and the Gould millions; for the unknown, and, therefore, supposedly blissful wedded life of May Goelet with her duke of Roxburghe, there is the grotesque misery of foolish Alice Thaw and her recreant earl of Yarmouth; for the pretty romance of unassuming Pauline Astor and her gallant Captain Spender-Clay, there is the tragedy of the daughter of Levi P. Morton, formerly Vice President of the United States.

If an emphatic public opinion, supporting the two ardently patriotic and economical congressmen from the sovereign state of Illinois, should urge the dowry tax bill to that zenith of glory where the Supreme Court must try to find out whether or not it is unconstitutional, all Europe—from the impecunious nobility that is willing to pay its debts with American money to the hordes of harpies and Shylocks that howl for the payments before the marriage contracts are signed—will emit a shriek of chagrined wrath over the miserly jealousy of the sordid American people.

Not a few of the foreign owners of titles might contend, with some degree of truth, that the fortunes they have received with their wives have been devoted to good purposes. The duchess of Roxburghe, it is said, has done a great deal with her money to improve the condition of tenants on her husband's estates.

It is understood that the duchess of Marlborough wished to make a similar record of philanthropy, and to a great extent did so, despite the selfish objections of the duke.

Perhaps, now that Alice Thaw's marriage to the weak earl of Yarmouth has been annulled, she may be able to rescue much of the family fortune that he doubtless had grown so fond of. Rumor has it that she allowed him to continue the enjoyment of the original settlement of $40,000 a year, in consideration of his failure to fight her battle for annulment of the marriage. But, one asks, is even that comparatively small sum worth a few years' wearing of the coronet?

Congressman Sabath may not succeed in having his bill passed by Congress, but he says he has been greatly encouraged by the favorable sentiment that has reached him.

State Lotteries in Foreign Lands

STATE lotteries add to the incomes of foreign governments. In Italy they bring the government in a sum of nearly $12,500,000 a year. In Prussia the profits of the public lottery amount to no less than $21,250,000. The Dutch government gets the nice little sum of $250,000 profit out of its lottery. Portugal makes about $350,000 in this way, and Denmark a profit of $29,000. In Brazil, where the government does not itself run the lottery, but collects a tax on the receipts of private lotteries, the amount realized is $85,000.

Is $900,000,000 Gripped in Economy's Clutches?

IS $900,000,000 of the wealth of this country held in check by the clutches of economy?

Years ago President George B. Roberts, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, asserted that, during periods of panic, of financial scare or fear of trouble, the expenditures of the people of this country decreased on an average about $10 a head.

There is no financial panic at present; last fall there were lowering clouds of menace, but they have passed, happily. Certain evil influences in great financial centers have endeavored, beyond doubt, to bring about a panic, hoping thereby to cover their own misdeeds and turn public attention from themselves.

At the same time the masses of the people the country over have been taking in sail so far as expenditures were concerned. If, by keeping a tighter clutch on the dimes and dollars they have checked active circulation to the extent figured by Mr. Roberts—$10 each—and are thus retarding the flow of $900,000,000 through the channels of trade, the responsibility lies, men in active business assert, at the doors of designing persons, miscalled high financiers.

ARE the masses of the people striving to save their dimes and dollars? Are they cutting down expenses? If so, in what way?

Business men will tell you that there is an era of economy on. In many families it is necessary. Many employers of labor are curtailing expenses, and many workmen have been laid off. This has happened, year by year, for a long time, but only after a flurry, such as was experienced last fall, is general attention directed to it.

But now the rich as well as the poor are economizing. The last decade has been one of almost headlong expenditure; the reaction was bound to come. Why call it a scare, a panic or bad times? Ask business men.

Possibly one of the most striking features of the economical era has been the failure in New York of a number of diamond brokers. According to a weekly organ of the trade, the highest class of jewelers in New York city have been the chief sufferers. The rich patronize the big jewelers.

"It is known that after every financial stir," declared a business man, "people begin to cut down their expenses. People with regular salaries, and even those who are independently wealthy, begin to save money and buy as little of the luxuries as possible. It is estimated that in this country there are 5,000,000 persons who live on an average of $800 a year. These people cannot afford luxuries, and cannot very well economize without suffering. But you will find people with no excuse for cutting down their expenses doing so; in many comfortable, well-to-do homes the women do with last winter's furs, the daughters are satisfied to do without the customary gifts of jewelry, and they lose interest in bric-a-brac and tapestries.

"No doubt if one could ascertain the truth, many of the very men who brought about the recent difficulty and who expected to make money out of it have economized in their household expenses. It seems that the Wall street people themselves are taking the initiative in economizing.

"The man who works for wages does not save much; usually his income is taxed to the utmost to meet his actual needs. But the people who have no cause to tie up their purses follow in line at such times and cut down expenses. Thus business suffers. There is no reason for it."

The decrease in imports recently has been noticeable. People are consuming nearly as much food, but they are not buying as much art. While the sale of pianos has not decreased, there has been a flunk in the market for automobiles. According to the last report of the Department of Commerce and Labor, the value of automobiles imported in November, 1907, was $316,769, against $418,035 in 1906.

FEWER GEMS IMPORTED

There was a falling off in the value of art works in November of $100,000, compared with the same month of the previous year. During November, 1906, the value of uncut diamonds and other gems imported was $771,882; last November the value fell to $385,376, and of cut diamonds the monthly importation fell from $1,299,910 in November, 1906, to $342,563 last November. The value of imported diamonds and pearls received at New York last January was more than $3,000,000 less than in the corresponding month of 1907.

There was a decrease in the value of imported hats of about $250,000, while gloves fell from $924,118 to $683,452. There was an increased importation of toys, but a decrease in the value of cigars and cigarettes of more than $100,000.

This would seem to indicate, as has been claimed, that the people who are economizing are those who are not obliged to economize, but people who economize merely as a matter of policy.

How long the era of economy will last is a question. Manufacturers and merchants say the sky is brightening. Vanity Fair may refrain from buying a new silk dress while her husband is sweating over the ticker and reads losses in stocks, but as soon as he begins to recoup the order goes to the fashionable modiste.

Part of the recent falling off in the consumption of liquors is believed to be due to the prohibition wave that is sweeping the country. Announcement is made that the so-called Whisky Trust has decided to cut down production 25 per cent., and has reduced the price of grain spirits. The price of champagne has been reduced $2 a case, yet the demand has fallen off.

Of the wage workers of the country it is estimated that 21,000,000 earn only enough to support themselves comfortably, without an opportunity to indulge in luxuries. Silks, ivories, diamonds, automobiles are rarely, if ever, purchased by this great army, and hard times, so far as they are concerned, would not affect the big jeweler or automobile dealer. There has been little decrease in rent, provisions, clothing and fuel. But the sales of luxuries have—and it is said unnecessarily—suffered.

Large business concerns have followed suit in economizing. According to labor leaders, from 120,000 to 130,000 persons have been thrown out of employment recently. Among these are said to be 60,000 makers of clothing, 20,000 ladies' waistmakers, 15,000 cigarmakers, 3000 capmakers.

There has been a lull in building, and many carpenters, masons, sheet and iron workers, bricklayers, plasterers and other tradesmen are out of work. Declaring that a depression of business made the action imperative, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on February 1 reduced higher wages 10 per cent. Many coal operating companies reduced the working hours to thirty-two a week. In cities, transit companies have reduced the number of cars on the lines.

During the last week or so, however, a great many industrial enterprises that shut down wholly or in part have been resuming, and thousands of workpeople have been benefited thereby.

Naturally, the working men who are affected will be compelled to skimp to make ends meet or stave off actual want. But in the great majority of homes that have not been affected directly, one can doubtless find women trimming old hats and making over last year's dresses. They are possibly steaming their old ribbons and cleaning the soiled ostrich feathers. Men—but not many—are cutting down the number of cigars and women their florist's bills.

So that when an era of economy, no matter what its cause, grips the country, the home is the first place to feel it. The meat bill is cut down, less clothing is bought, luxuries are dispensed with.

It is thought the general belief that gripping economy is necessary will soon pass. Crops have not failed, there is every demand for the employment of money. The days, far-sighted men assert, are brightening, just as they are lengthening at this season.