The World

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THE GAS SCANDAL.

Official corroboration of The Evening World's charge that Referee Masten's 80-cent gas findings leaked comes from the Corporation Counsel's office. Mr. Burr, the assistant in charge of the case, says publicly:

Before I received the draft of the report our office was informed that the purport of the findings had been known in certain quarters the Saturday previous.

The stock ticker confirms this statement. Whoever knew in advance profited by his knowledge on the Stock Exchange.

This is a gross scandal. The process of the United States Circuit Court has been turned into a stock-gambling device.

Where was the leak? Did the stenographer in Referee Masten's office leak? Did his clerk leak? Who besides himself knew how he was going to decide? Wherever or however the leak, it is the immediate duty of the Judges whose court was scandalized to investigate and to punish.

EVERYTHING FREE.

PRESIDENT FINLEY, of the City College, is to have a $39,500 house for which the taxpayers will pay. As Alderman Meyers said, when the Board of Aldermen was passing the necessary resolution, the modest salary of $8,000 a year which President Finley receives is not sufficient, and the building of a house for him is only proper.

This is in line with the Water Department's kind provision for other city employees in furnishing them with summer homes on Long Island. Similar provision is made for some of the engineers on the Esopus water scheme. It has been customary for a long time to furnish sleeping quarters at the city's expense to policemen and firemen.

If the President of the City College is to have a free house, why should not all the professors and assistants, and teachers even, be provided with homes rent free?

The smaller the salary the more difficult it usually is to pay rent. This objection might be met by constructing municipal tenement-houses in which day laborers—street sweepers and other employees drawing less than $75 a month—could live rent free. For the next better paid there could be built municipal apartment-houses.

Merely by building on the watershed property which the city already owns in Westchester and Putnam counties and on Long Island, municipal summer hotels and cottages could also be provided. It would be unjust discrimination for the city to furnish free rent only during the colder months and not to provide for the summer season.

The investigations by the Commissioners of Accounts have disclosed that many city salaries are essentially gratuities. Out of the great wealth of the City of New York its government has devised a general distribution to aid worthy politicians, plumbers, saloon-keepers, real-estate agents, lawyers and others in adding to their income without the necessity of additional toil.

Already the city is the largest owner of automobiles in its territory. It provides these free and operates them without expense for the city officials, their families and friends. If automobiles, why not yachts?

With town houses at the city's expense, country places furnished free of charge and automobiles for the asking, it seems hardly fair that city officials should be compelled to squander their salaries on clothing, food and drink.

There should also be a municipal tailor, or several of them, to provide clothing free of charge to city officials. Municipal restaurants should be established to furnish free food. Municipal bars would be in keeping with this generosity, but the opposition of saloon-keepers with whom the city bars would compete would probably prevent this.

All this would require nothing more but that the other few million people in New York should work a little harder, pay a little higher taxes, a little more rent, and go without a few more clothes, meals and drinks themselves.

Letters from the People.

The Widows of Veterans.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Since veterans have had their pensions increased according to their age, I think it about time something was done toward increasing the pensions of widows of veterans. Nearly all of these widows are over sixty years and unable to earn their own living. I am sure $8 a month is not enough for any old lady to live on at the price of rent and living at the present time. No wonder so many of those deserving old ladies are in want, which should not be permitted in a rich country like ours.

A VETERAN'S WIDOW.

The Boy and the Automobilist.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

When a small boy comes into possession of an air rifle he feels that he must shoot something, no matter what or who it may be. This is just the way many a man who owns an automobile feels. He must get speed out of it, no matter what the cost—whether it's life or money. What cares the owner if he is arrested and fined a few hundred dollars? Threaten him with imprisonment and he'll hire smart lawyers, and even old judges of such unwelcome shadow. As this ordinary process of justice seems to have no effect upon him, why not try what they do in Glasgow? When a man is caught speeding there I understand they take his machine away from him and lock him up for a certain number of days, according to the seriousness of the offence. I wonder what effect that plan would have in this country?

A. F. W.

"The Saddest Sight."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The saddest sight on record may be witnessed on any uptown street every evening late when a score or more of weak-jawed men may be beheld lugging along by leash their wives' pet dogs. Wifey is too busy or too lazy to exercise her pet sufficiently. So when hubby comes home tired and used up from work he is sicked onto the job of perambulating Fido through the streets for an hour or so before going to bed. If anything could convince me that foreigners are right in saying we Americans are slaves to our wives, this would do it. But I think it is less a yoke of slavery than kinuness on hubby's part. But I'd hate to say what I think of wifey's share of the transaction.

M. M. HEETH, JR.

The "Proudest Moment" of Their Lives.

By Maurice Ketten.

Love Is Always War.

By Nixola Greeley-Smith.

TWO young men of East Aurora, N. Y., famous as the home of Elbert Hubbard, rivals for the affections of the same girl, engaged in a fist-fight for her favor, and as a result both have lost her.

The fact that the young woman discarded both admirers is a sign of the times and a distinct encouragement to the aims of the Peace Conference.

In very early times the victor would have taken the girl as a matter of course. She would not, in fact, have ventured to express a preference, even to herself, until the last round had been fought. Later the instinct of pity developed and tamed the savage woman's breast till the vanquished in the battle for her favor was more apt to receive it than the victor, who, looking around for his reward, was apt to find her with his defeated rival's head in her lap pouring witch hazel on his wounds.

The incident at East Aurora proves that at least one woman has survived the earliest instinct of pride in the brutality of the conqueror, the later and finer impulse of pity for the conquered, and has put both suitors aside for the preservation of the mere abstraction, Peace.

To be sure, she may not have loved either combatant. Indeed, it is not at all likely she did, for she must have found forgiveness in her heart for that one of the rivals she preferred.

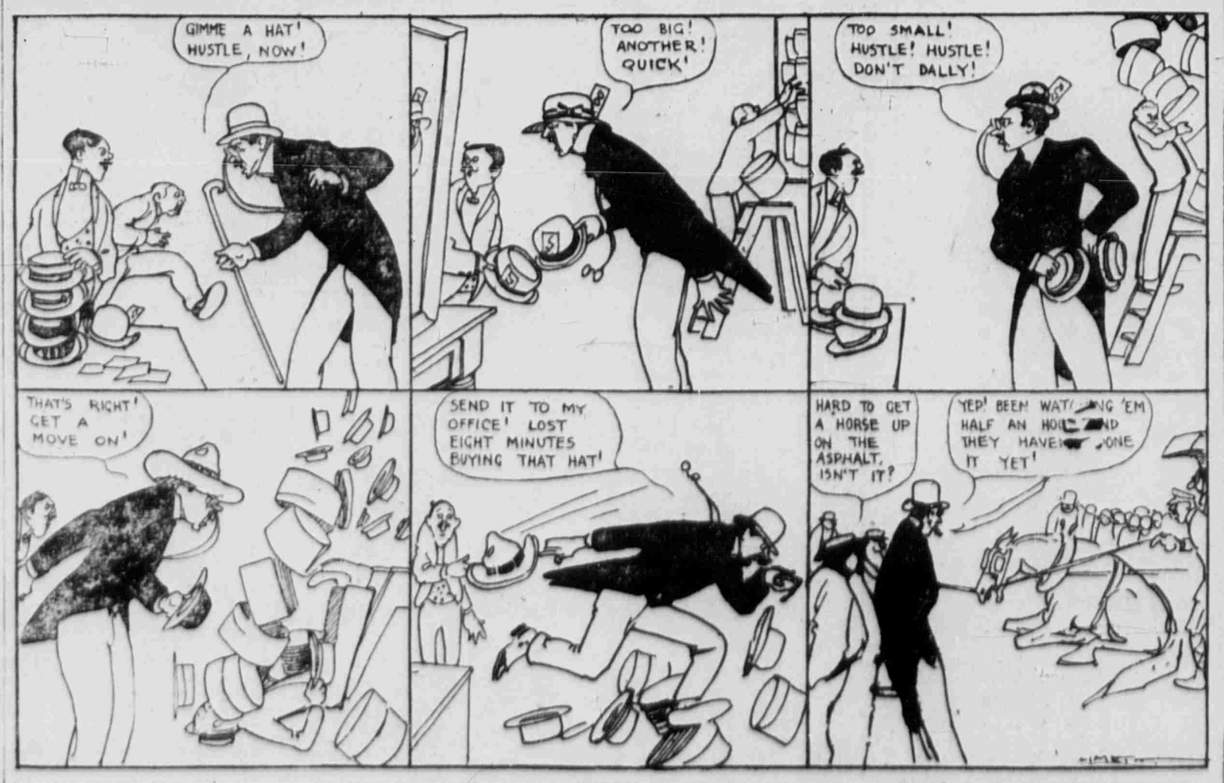
But her action has proved that she does love peace and a quiet mind and detests violence. And if every woman could enforce her love of peace on the men of her acquaintance to the same extent there would be no more need of Hague Conferences and Mr. Carnegie would have to look about for a new hobby.

But the world would be no better for the change. Men have always warred for women's favor. Women have always schemed and plotted and betrayed each other for men's love. Once one cave man stole up behind another, knocked him senseless with a club and took the girl that he wanted away from him. To-day he uses a sandbag of gold instead of a club and hits the girl with it instead of the other suitor. But the result in both cases is the same. The world was a very simple place when a man could fight with his fists for a girl and she was the sweepstakes, and not both stakes and referee, as she is now.

The Aurora girl is considerably ahead of the times in declaring the stakes forfeited because her suitors used their fists instead of the more peaceful weapons of flowers and theatre tickets and motor trips, by which modern knights contend for their lady's favor. I am not sure that she is right. But she may certainly be counted among the pioneers of peace.

Bill Hustle, of Harlem.

By H. Methfessel.



Australia Solves Servant Problem.

"HOUSEMEN" and "houseboys" are being introduced with great success in houses in Melbourne, Australia, to alleviate the domestic-servant problem. Boys, it is found, work more quickly than girls, and their wages range from $1.25 to $1.75 weekly. The male house servant is not given to continual outings, and is not so troublesome. He reaches the ideal age for service between eighteen and twenty years.

Battle Between Locusts and Fire.

LOCUSTS are proving hardly less destructive in German Southwest Africa than the three years' rising of natives. A settler not long ago attempted to defend his little plot of land by digging all around it a ditch one yard broad and of equal depth, at the bottom of which he lit a fire. But the insects swarmed into the ditch till the flames had been extinguished by their accumulated corpses.

SIXTY HEROES WHO MADE HISTORY

By Albert Payson Terhune.

No. 57—ALEXANDER II., the Hero Who Tried to Free Russia

IN no authorized list of martyrs is found the name of Alexander II. of Russia. Yet if martyrdom consists in living and dying for principle and for country it is scarcely a stretch of the imagination to apply the term to this bravest and best of Russian monarchs.

Alexander was born in 1818, just after the Napoleonic wars had scared Europe into new military caution. He was set to work as a boy of sixteen upon a series of daily army manoeuvres and routine that were so severe they broke down his health. In the early '50's Russia found herself plunged into the disastrous Crimean War. In the latter days of this conflict Alexander's father died and, in 1855, Alexander came to the throne. The war had depleted the treasury and had humbled Russia's pride and spirit. The country groaned under heavy taxes, official oppression and graft. The peasants were ground down in helpless slavery to their feudal masters. Serfdom had been abolished in every modern country, but in Russia this form of enslavement still flourished. Education was at low ebb, laws were inadequate, the entire country in wretched condition. It was a miserable, broken heritage which Alexander had entered upon. Then the young Czar showed what manner of ruler he was.

The Freeing of the Serfs.

First of all he brought the Crimean war to as swift and as honorable a close as possible. Then he set to work building up the shattered finances; lowered taxes, spread education, reformed the courts and arranged that rich and poor should receive equal justice. These sweeping improvements amazed and troubled the old aristocracy, but they were the mere foretaste of what was to come. In 1861 Alexander issued a proclamation liberating Russia's 23,000,000 serfs. This vast host of peasants who had been slaves of the most unhappy, ill-treated sort, suddenly found themselves free men. As an added act of justice Alexander paid their masters a full indemnity for the loss of the peasants' services and then set the freed serfs in the way of acquiring the lands they had formerly tilled for the feudal lords. He thus gave them not only liberty but the means of earning livelihoods.

In addition to all this Alexander, in 1865, established an election system whereby the provinces might choose representatives. He was working toward that greatest gift of a nation—a free parliament. A constitution would doubtless have followed but for certain unexpected developments. As it was, the first twelve years of his reign marked the greatest advances in progress and freedom in the country's whole history. Meantime, little by little, Alexander was managing to gain back nearly all his father had lost by the Crimean war. Not only did he make strong alliances and greatly raise Russian influence throughout Europe but he conquered the Caucasus and brought most of Central Asia under his rule. Then he turned his attention to Russia's old enemy, Turkey. The Turks, thanks to help from France and England, had won the Crimean war. Alexander bided his time for revenge. The opportunity came when Turkey's persecution of Christians in the Balkan States aroused all Europe to horror. Alexander promptly declared war on the Sultan, and, in 1877, marched two armies into Turkish territory. He himself took the field as commander-in-chief. Osman Pasha, the Turkish commander, held him at bay for twenty weeks at Plevna in one of the most famous of sieges. But at last Plevna fell, a Turkish army was captured at Shipka Pass, and Alexander advanced unchecked upon Constantinople itself. His forces were almost at the gates of the Turkish capital when the European powers intervened and peace was declared.

The foregoing is a brief record of what Alexander accomplished during his twenty-six-year reign. The following is the story of the price he paid for freeing, civilizing, avenging and advancing the country he loved: In the first place his services toward the plain people and his freeing of the serfs had set many of the conservative and land-owning classes against him. In the second, the very people to whom he had given their first taste of liberty at once began to demand far more independence than he felt he could so suddenly bestow on them. He was making his reforms steadily but slowly, as most great changes must be made. The "radicals" clamored for quicker, more violent methods. When these were not granted revolutions sprang up. The revolts were put down. A body of men calling themselves "Nihilists" (which means literally "Nothingists") formed to insist on the passing of radical measures. They tried to intimidate the Czar by killing his high officials. Then they began a series of attempts on Alexander's own life.

Marked for Assassination.

Alexander had tried to free his country from poverty, slavery and ignorance. In consequence he had made his own nobles distrust him, while the very class of people he had tried to help were now doing their best to murder him. Plot after plot was formed, attempt after attempt was made to assassinate him. In 1866 he was shot at; again in 1867, and a third time in 1879. In the latter year a train on which he was supposed to be riding was blown up. In 1880 dynamite was placed under his sleeping apartment and he narrowly escaped death. Every one shunned his presence for fear of being destroyed in some explosion intended for the Czar. In streets where his tyrannical father had walked alone and in safety Alexander was not even secure when surrounded by his guards. His wife and eldest son died. His second son (father of the present Czar) quarrelled with him. The unhappy monarch who had so splendidly sought to save his country stood almost alone in the world.

On March 13, 1881, the end came. As Alexander was driving from church a Nihilist tossed a bomb into the Czar's sleigh, killing him.

Six Ways to Make a Man Care for a Woman

By Margaret Rohe.

No. 6—After Marriage—Waste No Time on Dress.

Margaret Rohe.

DON'T bother about your personal appearance. When husband comes home from the office at night let him find you in the same little calico house gown that he left you in in the morning. Broad, comfortable Congress gaiters and a noticeable lack of stays should complete your simple little toilette. He will highly commend your sensible sartorial taste and appreciate that you waste neither time nor money on the frivolities of dress.

Always peel your hair back tightly from your forehead (which should be worn shiny) and wind it into a hard knob at the base of the brain.

Especially when you go to the theatre with him in the evening, in a severe shirt waist and skirt, stick to this effective coiffure. If you notice him constantly glancing at the gorgeously gowned women on every hand, with a supercilious smile upon his lips, you may know that he is mentally contrasting their extravagant get-ups with your neat but not gaudy attire, their ridiculously puffed and marcelled tresses with your own straightly peeled effect, and swelling with pride in the possession of such an economical and sensible dresser for his little wife.

In winter it is important that you should affect heavy woollen lingerie.

Pointed Paragraphs.

A LAWSUIT is the thief of time and money.

A stitch in time may close the mouths of nine gossips.

Thrift and stinginess are as similar as they are different.

If a man is incompetent he usually charges it up to bad luck.

Men with long heads are capable of using them on short notice.

It is the scarcity of their remarks that makes some women remarkable.

Even if you gain but an inch you haven't put your best foot forward in vain.

Theatrically speaking, the heroine's death scene is usually less realistic than her hair-dyeing.

It takes almost as many tailors to make a man as it takes collectors to induce him to pay for the job.

Our idea of a hypocrite is a man who really admires his mother-in-law, but is too contrary to admit the fact.

A woman derives more pleasure from planning things that never come off than a man does from the actual happening of things.—Chicago News.

The London Type of "Climber."

"LOOMING HOSTESS" is a phrase coined in London to describe a certain social type there. The "looming hostess" is the climber whose star is rising slowly on the social horizon. It is declared that there are more such aspirants for the coming season than ever before. The daughters of certain of these have been launched with all the glamour of costly entertainments and have been pronounced social successes. It is in them their mothers are placing trust that ladders on which they have climbed at such costly cost shall be clinched to the social wall.