

CONFESSIONS OF A WIFE

PAULA PUTS TOO MUCH REALISM IN KISS WITH LAWTON! "IS SHE ACTING?"

"I sometimes think, Margie," said Paula, "that every girl thinks she can act."

"I guess you are right, Paula," I said. "I can remember when I thought life was not worth living because my mother suggested that I teach school when I wanted to be a chorus girl."

"At that time I was studying the part of Elga I was perfectly happy," Paula said with a whimsical smile, "for I was passionately in love with Earnest Lawton. Don't look so incredulous, Margie. I know that a woman can fall in love a number of times."

"I have come to believe that love as we know it—the romantic love of novels, dramas and poetry—is one of the most transitory things of life. It rarely lasts over two years and then the heart, freed from monopoly, is ready for another love which may be even more tyrannically exclusive than the last.

"I never felt again that trust and perfect faith in any man that I felt for Earnest Lawton, and I never again believed in love's unchangeableness. Since that first love, I have lacked faith in love's immortality.

"But while I was studying the part, and for some time afterward, I was absolutely oblivious to everybody and everything except my work, my love and my lover. I do not think I ever played a character as well as I did that first one of Elga.

"The part was that of a young girl who falls in love with a man much older than she and who is already tiring of an older sweetheart. He at first struggles to be honest and straight with the older woman who has given her all for him, but at last he succumbs to the innocent blandishments of the girl who in turn sends him back to his first love when

she finds out how he has wronged her.

"I had a number of scenes with Lawton in which I could tell him all I felt with perfect propriety, for I had only to put the love that was filling my heart into speeches I had learned, and the deed was done.

"In one scene Earnest kissed me. I'll never forget what that kiss meant the first time. I grew pale, then red, and I was sure he would feel my heart thumping as he held me in a crushing embrace.

"Under his breath he said, 'Child, is this acting? If it is, you are the greatest actress I have ever known.'

"I did not answer—I could not have spoken if my life depended upon it—but I lifted my eyes to his and heard him murmur, 'Thank God, you are woman first and actress afterward.'"

(To Be Continued)

FOOD PRICES GO UP; WAGES REMAIN STATIONARY

New York, Oct. 16.—The average citizen constantly is being forced into a lower standard of living because the increase in prices exceeds increase in wages, W. Frank Persons, economist, announced today as a result of a series of investigations.

Persons said his investigations show a family of five cannot live on less than \$22.75 a week. This, he declared, is equivalent in purchasing value to a \$17 income four years ago.

Foodstuffs have increased 50 per cent in four years, according to Persons' figures. Flour is up almost 100 per cent, vegetables 70 to 110 per cent, coal has advanced from \$5.25 to \$7.45 a ton, hardware has advanced 60 per cent, lumber 30 to 40 per cent, and all textiles and dry goods have made big jumps.