

# "STOP THIS TRAGIC FOLLY OF THE DIVIDED HOME," WARNS KATHLEEN NORRIS, URGING CLOSER TIES WITHIN FAMILIES

## DIVORCE DECLARED RESULT OF FAILURE TO SHARE ALL JOYS

### Present-Day Youth Finds Older Generation Standing Aloof, and Subsequent Search for Their Own Amusements Frequently Brings Trouble and Unhappiness—Husband and Wife Should Pursue Interests in Common.

I THINK that the very funniest thing I ever heard of at a circus was said by a charming young woman of perhaps thirty, who passed me in the crowd. She looked at some special lion or elephant and then up at the man beside her, obviously her husband, and said impulsively, in a tone of regret: "Oh, Billy! Wouldn't the children love this!"

And in saying so she placed herself perfectly as one of the millions of American householders who divide their time, their interests, their affections into neat little plots, like a vegetable garden, and never dream of allowing them to mix.

I knew intuitively that when this woman decided to give a day or an hour to her children, she did it conscientiously and allowed nothing to interfere with it. But when she planned a Sunday in the car the children were left at home; she invited just Mary and Tom Sherman, and disposed of Billy's mother and the children well in advance.

#### A COSTLY MISTAKE.

When she went to see her own mother in Yonkers she went alone. When she had to spend a morning downtown shopping she never dreamed of taking ten-year-old Sarah. And as to having the children visible at any dinner party or tea, she would quite as soon have had the riding horses brought in!

This is one of the real deficiencies of our American home life, and, like all our other mistakes, it is costly. "A place for everything and everything in its place," is all

very well when applied to stockings, saucers and school books, but it has nothing to do with our interests and our affections.

The fabric of human intercourse is all the stronger for being woven in one broad strand instead of a dozen thin threads, and we shall have more happy marriages, more good mothers and fathers, and more real homes when this ridiculous fashion of subdividing our time is succeeded by something more reasonable.

In the average American home the amusements of the older generation, of the master and mistress, and of the children fall into three separate classes. We have baby parties, children's parties, debutante parties, bride "showers," card parties and luncheons for the young wives and matrons, dinners and cards for older people, and quite distinct dinners and card parties for grandmother and the great-aunts.

It is extremely uncommon in America to find children, young girls and men, old persons, and the men and women who are in the prime of life all in one drawing-room. No, each separate member of the family has his or her separate and individual pleasures, and it is not at all unusual to have the member who happens to be entertaining warn the rest of the clan that he or she has all rights to the dining-room and drawing-room this evening.

#### DAUGHTER'S BACKGROUND.

Isn't this extremely stupid? And doesn't it perhaps account, in part at least, for some of our

many domestic failures? Divorces are frequently caused by the wife finding interests where the husband has none, and vice versa, and certainly the servant problem and the schooling problem and the flapper problem all come under this head.

"You Americans," say the Europeans, "have no social background!"

And we usually agree, partly because we don't quite know what a social background is, and largely because we are quite sure that, whatever it is, we haven't it.

A social background doesn't mean ancestors—it doesn't mean money, or the old homestead, or silver spoons, or a family tree. It doesn't even mean age in a nation. But it does mean that behind your daughter and mine is a group of men and women to whom she belongs, by right of birth. Old, young, rich, poor, successful and unfortunate, this is her background, and she has her place there.

She comes into the drawing-room and meets your friends. Of course, it bores her to distraction—she would much rather go off with her own friends to see part fifteen of "The Fanga of the Viper"—but she bears it as best she can, as bashful Eight, as awkward Fourteen, as embarrassed and giggling and fearfully articulate Sixteen. She meets all the aunts and cousins, and the awkward little boys growing up, and she grows up, too, and presently she is eighteen and she makes her formal bow.

#### GOOD FOR ANY GIRL.

And then, when she is twenty-eight, and has been married to one of the grown-up little boys for perhaps six years, it means that all this large group of old men and women, middle-aged friends of her parents, young girls and boys, and even children are keenly interested in her, approve or disapprove of what she does—make it impossible indeed, for her to do anything without their knowledge and partisanship.

This sort of tightly knitted association is good for any girl; it means an increased sense of responsibility to society, for one thing. It means an ability to talk to persons older or younger than

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To pick social groups merely by age is to lose something extremely valuable to life. The circle narrows and narrows, and presently we find ourselves amidst tragedies of parents who scarcely know their children; children who have not a single interest in common with their parents, and old age shelved and silent, pushed into the background of life.

herself, with interest and politeness. It means a knowledge of what life is; what motherhood, housekeeping, old age, mean.

#### PARENTAL FEAR.

To pick social groups merely by age is to lose something extremely valuable to life. The circle narrows and narrows, and presently we find ourselves amidst the tragedies of parents who scarcely know their children; children who have not a single interest in common with their parents; mothers who miss all the deliciousness of developing girl-and-boyhood, and old age shelved and silent, pushed into the background of life.

One of our universal fears is

aimless trips through the village, with no expensive refreshments to set as a spur.

But nowadays who dares take a child out without offering it all sorts of treats, or who keeps a child waiting an hour in a shop or a doctor's office without feeling the need of an apology?

I saw two small children in a Chicago department store a few weeks ago. They were actually enraged because they had chanced to see already all the moving pictures at the big houses and their mother would not allow them to "earn" about searching for some unadvertised picture. They debated the big films ill-temperately, guided by a patient and painstaking mother. No, they wouldn't like to see any one of them over again!

Perhaps, the mother suggested, there was a circus in town. They snatched the paper again. No, there was no circus.

#### SECRETS NOT SHARED.

In the end, with the little girl crying in vexation, they decided upon games; each child was to have two dollars to spend in the toy department and they would carry their booty to a hotel and spend the afternoon there. I imagine these children were traveling and that this was perhaps not quite their normal attitude.

But one's thought was: "No background!" No resources of conversation, no interest in strange scenes and new places, no development of character. They had to be completely distracted by food, candy, toys, loss, pictures, music—something—something—something—or they were totally at a loss.

They did not have a real share of their mother's and father's lives; they were not even listening to them. There were some seven or eight things in life that definitely amused them and they were dissatisfied until they had secured those things.

Their father was impatient to get away to a golf game; their mother wanted to shop, to have her hair marcelled and to join some friends at tea. She was a gentle, generous, affectionate mother, and she was most anxious to settle the children happily before she left them. But during an entire hour at the lunch table neither she nor

## FEARFUL OF BORING CHILDREN, PARENTS LOSE PROPER HOLD

### America Needs a More Wholesome Social Background—Contact Between Younger and Older Generations Brings Domestic and Community Stability—Growing in Opposite Directions Through Divergent Interests.

the father addressed them except to say, "Would you like...." or, "Why don't you...."

#### MOTHER'S ENCIRCLING ARM.

And yet, if we turn back the pages of literature only a generation or two, what extremely different little girls and boys we find! The little girls of Miss Thaxter, and Miss Proctor, and Mary E. Wilkins! Little girls who came home from school and sewed neatly upon samples, and then asked fearfully for an hour's holiday, and were off down the lane to Ellen's or Sarah's house, exulting in just blue sky and green grass and the delightful possibility of climbing up on the hay wagon in the barn and bouncing on the seat!

Terrible little prigs, perhaps, those pantalleted and hoopskirted little girls. Yet American homes—whether in New Hampshire or Louisiana—had "background" then! Fathers could command then, and it was a hard little girl who was not influenced by mother's arm about her waist and mother's persuasive voice in her ear. There was a code then: Little gentlemen were polite to their sister's friends, and little ladies behaved with dignity.

And when all is said and done, they grew up to be wonderful women, those little girls of the patchwork and the autograph album. With grandma and Cousin Sally and Uncle and Aunt Porter behind them, and the older cousins to chide them, and the younger cousins to turn to them for guidance, they felt their responsibility. Their little group of dancers and stirs

was not detached from all other human groups, and so detached from the moorings of sanity and decency and self-respect.

#### LAND'S RICHEST FAMILY.

To go back, even in a modern way, or even part of the road, would be bitterly hard, now. We bore our children, and they bore us; we both have been growing in exactly opposed directions for years and years. They ejaculate "Oh, goodness!" when the plans for the evening collapse and leave them stranded with only the prospect of dinner with dad and mother, and sitting about doing nothing, afterwards; and we experience an undeniable sinking of the heart when, in answer to a kindly interested query, "Isn't this the night of Helen's party?" the young voices say blankly, "No, it's postponed. What can we do? What are you and dad doing to-night?"

If there is a family left where this conversation would end with an ecstatic, "Mother, it's just ourselves tonight! Won't dad be delighted! Let's all choose what we want most to do!" then that family is the very richest in the land.

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This is one of a series of Woman to Woman Talks on present day family and social problems that Mrs. Norris, America's best loved and most popular woman writer, is writing for The Washington Sunday Times. Another talk will be printed next Sunday.

# What An American Merchant Marine Means to United States Foreign Trade

## NATION IS LOSING BILLIONS THROUGH DELAY ON SUBSIDY

### Commissioner Chamberlain Points Out That Huge Amounts That Could Be American Profits Are Being Poured Into the Coffers of British Interests—Impetus Given American Shipping During War Reveals Possibilities of Regaining Supremacy of Seas Once Held by America.

By GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissioner of the United States Shipping Board for the northern section of the Pacific Coast.

Commissioner George E. Chamberlain represented Oregon in the United States Senate for twelve years. During the greater part of that time he was a member of the Committee on Commerce, to which are referred all bills relating to shipping. As the result of this service and of close study of the subject, Senator Chamberlain became one of the best informed men in America on shipping questions. It was because of his profound knowledge of shipping problems and his ardent interest in the development of an American Merchant Marine that he was appointed a member of the Shipping Board by President Harding.

TO those of us who have made a close study of world shipping it is always surprising that for fifty years America has been content to do without the great merchant marine that at one time gave her mastery of the seas. It is even more surprising now, when conditions arising out of the world war have furnished us an opportunity to regain what we lost, that there is still an indifference in many sections of the country toward reaching out and grasping that opportunity.

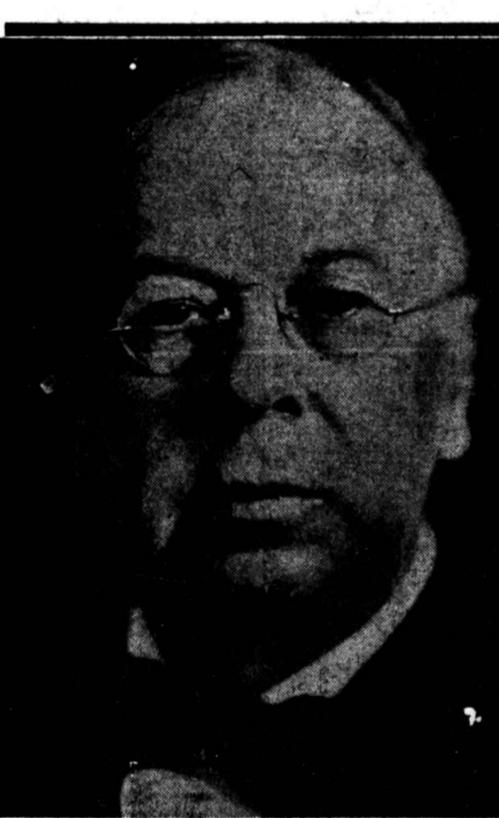
I sometimes feel that one of the obstacles placed in the way of the successful development of our merchant marine is to be found in the severe strictures which are indulged in against the agents of the Government and in the iteration and reiteration of the charge that it is impossible to successfully build and maintain an American Merchant Marine.

It is and has been the proud boast of America that she has not at any time in her history entered upon a war of aggression of conquest. Whenever she has been involved in war, it has been waged in self-defense or in the maintenance of some high and lofty principle. Her people are idealists, while many of her competitors for world trade and business are materialists in the strictest sense of the term. When America has up for consideration a question as to a step that might be taken for her own advancement in the world of competition, she is apt to ask herself, "How will the other powers look upon the taking of this step? How will it affect them even though it be beneficial to America?" If a course which would be beneficial to her might possibly be injurious to another power, or at least looked upon by that power, whether justly or not, as an encroachment upon interests, America holds back. This is the viewpoint and course of the idealistic nation.

Did anyone ever know of a time in the history of the British empire when she ever put to herself the question as to how other powers would be affected, whether injuriously or otherwise, by a course she had mapped out for herself that would be beneficial to her people? The question she has usually asked herself, and it seems to me it is the question that we ought to ask ourselves, is—Does the proposed step affect beneficially or otherwise the British Empire and her possessions?—and if the question be answered in the affirmative, that step is taken unless it might be trespass upon the rights of other peoples as to invite war.

#### U. S. NOT CONSIDERED.

Unnumerable instances might be given to illustrate the point now made, but I will only take a few. When the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was entered into, I think it safe to say that no consideration was given to America's views, or as to whether America would be injuriously affected or not, but the question was, how would it affect the high contracting parties? The alliance was formed, to be modified or abrogated, if you please, only when the Disarmament Conference convened and dissolved an alliance which was unpopular not only in America but as well in some of the colonial possessions of Great Britain.



GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissioner, U. S. Shipping Board.

urgency. Again when British corporations were formed under the Hong Kong ordinances, to do business in China with American financial interests dominating in the management and control of some of such corporations, it was afterwards decreed, by Orders in Council, that these corporations, even when under American control, must be under the management of British subjects.

The question was not asked—What will America think of this course and how will it affect American interests, but how would it affect British interests and the interests of British subjects in the Orient. The result was that large American interests were placed under

cheaper than American ships can afford to handle them.

Immense cargoes of cereals were shipped from the United States to the United Kingdom and other foreign countries during the past year and foreign flag ships were underbidding both the Shipping Board vessels and those of independent American operators with the result that the greater portion of these cargoes were carried by foreign ships.

The reason for this differential is to be found in the higher cost of ship construction in American yards, the higher cost of operation of American ships due to the maintenance of a higher standard of wages, aid given by Government to foreign ships, and many other items that I will not attempt now to discuss.

The American ship must therefore be operated at a great loss or it must go out of business, unless this differential is met by subvention, direct or indirect, permitted by Congressional action.

What is said with regard to cereal exports is applicable to practically all other commodities, whether exported or imported and in order to show what it means and has meant to America I will call attention to these figures:

#### BRITISH GOT U. S. GOLD.

The values of commodities exported by sea from the United States for 100 years, beginning with 1821, was, according to data obtained from the Department of Commerce, and the statistical department of the United States Shipping Board, \$86,629,676,814, while the imports for the same period amounted to \$62,174,162,566, making the total commerce in foreign trade by sea, \$148,803,739,380.

Of this total, vessels under the American flag carried only \$35,621,882,909, or about 24 per cent, leaving 76 per cent carried by alien bottoms. As the British merchant marine represents about 50 per cent of the foreign tonnage engaged in this trade, it therefore is evident that their participation in our commerce would amount to about 38 per cent of the total amount, or \$56,546,508,164.

In order to obtain some idea of the vast amount of revenue derived from this business by the carriers therof, and to present a comprehensive picture of the amount of money that went out of circulation in the United States and into the coffers of foreign companies during this 100-year period, it is assumed that an amount equivalent to 28 per cent of the total value was paid out for

## U. S. Paid Vast Sums To Foreign Shippers

### I DO not think it is an exaggerated statement to say that foreign interests were enriched by the carriage of American commerce, exports and imports, to the amount of \$28,292,949,118, as stated.

It is hard to realize the immensity of these figures, but if one will stop to think that from the foundation of the Republic to the present time, there has been expended by the Federal Government, for the improvement of rivers and harbors and canals, exclusive of the Panama Canal, only \$1,036,079,202.35, and for the construction of the Panama Canal \$479,851,938.98, including its fortification, amounting in all to \$1,515,931,141.33, we begin to realize what an immense amount of money the American people have paid into the coffers of foreign peoples—and to that extent enriched them.

In only seven years, as stated above, we have enriched foreign shipping interests in the sum of \$8,874,260,345, almost enough to pay the debts of the allies to the United States.

We begin now to realize how much it would mean to America if this money could be expended among our own people.

freight, insurance, banking, etc., to foreign interests. All such payments going into foreign hands, represents so much revenue deducted from the resources of this country and retards to that extent the expansion of our shipping, industrial, commercial, and agricultural interests.

On this basis it is apparent that while the American-owned vessels through their participation in our commerce of a century earned for American interests \$5,907,845,754, the foreign interests were enriched to the amount of \$28,292,949,118. This in the aggregate is a tremendous indictment against the apathy of our interest in our overseas transportation in ships of American nationality.

It becomes more forcibly apparent when the fact is considered that from 1821 to 1882 an average of 80 per cent of our total commerce was transported in American bottoms, while since the civil war our participation has steadily declined to an average for the period of 19 per cent, and the outward flow of American dollars has steadily increased.

The increase in volume of our commerce since 1914, and the great appreciation in values of commodities moved in combination with the growth of tonnage under the

American flag has tended to produce temporary stimulation of American shipping, which has stopped to some extent the outward flow of revenue; this is apparent from a review of the commerce for six years from December 31, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

In this period the total commerce by sea was \$47,626,671,810, of this amount American flag vessels carried \$12,129,630,481, or about 26 per cent of the total. On the other hand the foreign flag vessels carried \$35,497,041,329, or about 74 per cent. Of the foreign countries Great Britain carried the lion's share, viz: \$19,311,887,720, or about 42 per cent of the total commerce.

We begin now to realize how much it would mean to America if this money could be expended amongst our own people.

Would it not be far better to try to meet the situation which enables the foreigner to get the lion's share of world traffic by applying some of the methods that he uses in order to handle world commerce. This vast sum, if spent in the United States, would stimulate every industry, trade and profession that goes to make for a happier and a more prosperous people.