

REFORM OF ROXANA

By LINCOLN ROTHBLUM.

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Roxana was one of those dimpled, bewitching, tantalizing girls one could not help loving.

It was Dick, nicknamed the "Faithful," who suffered the most and complained the least.

It was to her mother that in desperation he appealed. "What can I do?" he asked dejectedly.

"Oh, pshaw," blurted Dick, "it contained some underwear I had just bought."

"I'll marry her!" "And marry her he did."

Already on this fine July morning her honeymoon of four saccharine weeks seemed like a beautiful dream.

Just that week a roll of films had been ruined by exposure to the light.

There was no more the unconscious act of ripping open the envelopes as Roxana handed him each night his letters in exchange for a kiss.

Red summer had merged into a fall resplendent in a galaxy of yellows and browns, and Dick trudged home from the depot through the cooler atmosphere so pleasingly refreshing after the long hot day just over.

"Wonder what's in it?" Roxana's curiosity danced excitedly high as she saw her husband coming up the garden path carrying the grip.

"No, it isn't, and that's just why I don't want you to look at it," Roxana frowned.

"Indeed! Roxana was quite displeased with her husband and firmly decided that if he was getting material for a suit she ought to have been consulted.

There the satchel lay on the floor against the wall, its black leather surface seeming to aggravatingly tantalize her with the secret it concealed.

"No, it isn't, and that's just why I don't want you to look at it," Roxana frowned.

Not a note of vexation escaped her as tools of feminine inventiveness bent beneath the unusual task allotted them.

At last! The lock was pried. In a moment she would know all. The catch was slipped and the sides of the satchel flew open, revealing—a mass of papers!

Roxana's surprise of disappointment angered her. "Oh, that Dick should have told me an untruth," she sobbed, and smarting tears sprang to her eyes.

A puzzling expression was succeeded by one of deep interest, and as a young girl with her first romantic novel, Roxana read on, oblivious to everything save the sheets before her.

"Why—why," she gasped, "Dick did tell the truth. It is off-color material for a suit—evidence for an ugly law case."

And Dick, arriving that night tired from a strenuous day at court, was too happy to see his lovely wife dressed in her prettiest gown of rose tinted voile, to notice the tears glistening so suspiciously in her eyes.

But as he took his mail from the tray he looked at her in loving surprise. His letters were unopened!

"Never again!" promised Roxana.

FIGURES ON COST OF LIVING DIFFER BY WIDE MARGIN

Price Statistics Gathered by Professors Show Cost of Living in Pullman to Be Unreasonably High—Data Submitted by Merchants Show the Contrary

"Is Pullman's high cost of living excessively high?"

Seven State College professors and five Pullman merchants are striving to answer that question through a comparison of local prices with those of other cities of the state.

The controversy all started when a faculty association committee of seven members, with Prof. A. L. Melander at the head, began the investigation of the cost of living for the purpose of showing their salaries inadequate.

They selected a list of 14 grocery items and of five items of meat and milk, secured prices on these from county agents, city superintendents, and teachers in the various cities of the state, and listed them alongside Pullman prices on the same dates.

And the results of their figures showed that on a basis of a 100 per cent price for Pullman, the average of the grocery costs in other parts of the Northwest was 93.2 per cent and of milk and meat 96.0 per cent.

The merchants took exception to the percentage of comparison, and suggested a budget comparison in

dollars and cents. Consequently, the faculty committee, using the same figures they had collected previously, revised their lists on the basis of actual money value of items and quantities used by the average family.

The following monthly budget, suggested by the merchants, was used in making up the new comparison: four dozen eggs, six pounds of creamery butter, one sack hard wheat flour, two nine-pound sacks cornmeal, 50 pounds potatoes, four packages shredded wheat biscuits, two packages oatmeal, four packages crackers, six cans baked beans, six cans soup, one bottle catsup, 12 cans evaporated milk, five pounds leaf lard, four packages Dromedary dates, four pounds best bacon.

Identical items priced during February and March in the towns listed were compared with Pullman prices on the particular day prices were obtained in the other towns.

In some cases, prices on all items were not obtainable from the other cities, and the absence of these items in the comparison is shown by the number of items in the second column. The east side towns used are as follows:

Table with columns: Town, Number of Items, Cost, Pullman cost on same date, Difference, Per cent of Pullman on budget basis, Per cent of Pullman cost on percentage business.

In the above list, the prices from store. Dayton were obtained on a "cash and carry" basis, and those from Ritzville were also from a cash

Table with columns: Town, Number of Items, Cost, Pullman cost on same date, Difference, Per cent of Pullman on budget basis, Per cent of Pullman cost on percentage business.

These figures are sponsored by a committee of the faculty association with Prof. A. L. Melander, head of the department of zoology, chairman. N. J. Aiken, Carl Hoover, Alfred H. Meyer, Ed Gaines, Etta Handley and Joseph Passoneau.

COMPARATIVE PRICE LIST

MERCHANTS MAKE A SURVEY OF PRICES IN SEATTLE, SPOKANE AND MOSCOW, AND FIND PRICES SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN SEATTLE AND PRACTICALLY THE SAME IN MOSCOW AND SPOKANE.

THE PRICES LISTED WERE OBTAINED FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE STORES IN SEATTLE AND SPOKANE THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH, AND THE PRICES IN MOSCOW THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL.

Table with columns: Item and Unit Used, Pullman price, Seattle price, Per Cent, Spokane price, Per cent.

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A practical working example of the above prices is shown below. Seven different monthly grocery accounts were taken and figured on Pullman and Seattle prices.

Table with columns: Family accts., No. items, Pullman, Seattle.

In fairness to Seattle it must be stated that sugar was selling in Pullman at 14c and in Seattle at 17 1/2c, Pullman merchants having stock on hand at old price, while Seattle merchants were selling at the new advanced price, which made a difference in favor of Pullman of \$6.15.

(Signed): PULLMAN MERCHANTS