

WHAT IS A HUSBAND WORTH?—IDAH PARKER REFUSED \$1,000,000 FOR HERS

BY NIXOLA GREELEY-SMITH

How much is a husband worth?

Idah Parker, formerly the fiancée of Danforth Brooks Ferguson, grandson of Herman O. Armour, has just declared that she will not accept \$1,000,000 to give the young man up!

This happened in New York.

Simultaneously, in Chicago, Mrs. Fellicie Mahdah Modjeska, in announcing that she will oppose a suit for divorce filed in Portland, Oregon, by her husband, a son of the famous actress, asserted that all the money in the world could not induce her to consent to the legal severance of HER marriage bonds!

"He is my own husband, the lovable father of our three children, and I love him dearly, regardless of his actions!" she explained dramatically. As Mrs. Modjeska claims actually to have refused her husband's offer of \$80,000 for his freedom, we must accept her statement as truth and not merely as third-act eloquence.

Before Madame Emma Eames could become Madame Emilie de Gorgoza, a transfer of more than \$100,000 had to be made to the famous prima donna's predecessor as Gorgoza's spouse.

On the other hand, Lillian Russell, whose husbands have been as transient as her charms are permanent, declared before she married Alexander Moore that he would have to show her \$1,000,000 or she would not go to the altar with him!

Innumerable other instances of the high cost of husbands might be cited. But what is the use? We all know that eligible men are becoming as scarce as roses at the North Pole, cigars in Indiana or Republicans in Texas! But the scarcer he becomes the more valuable he will be, of course! One may pardon any girl of the period who actually gets one roped and tied for estimating him as worth \$1,000,000. A husband in the

bush seems almost priceless. As for those women who are already married—well, I am afraid that to them a husband's value is pretty much like that of the Kansas man's baby. You remember he said: "We've got a baby up at our house that I wouldn't take \$10,000 for, but I wouldn't give 50 cents for another!"

A husband has other values besides those that can be expressed by the dollar sign.

What is a husband worth mentally?

What is he worth emotionally?

What protectively? You see the most insignificant of husbands has a certain scarecrow value in that he keeps so many other men away and so saves a woman the trouble of turning them down.

Every woman is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of a husband! The constitution guarantees this right. But, as in the case of many other things the constitution guarantees, a whole lot of people don't seem to know about this or to get any profit out of it. I shan't undertake to tell any woman how to get a husband. The thing we're discussing now is what is he worth financially after she HAS got him.

To many women he is worth far too much!

Every man has a certain economic value, an earning capacity. Because many women have not—**ALL WOMEN SHOULD HAVE**—they exaggerate the value and the difficulty of earning a living. I would rather take any man's job than almost any wife's job. In comparison with the unpaid professions of homekeeping and child rearing, any man's work, no matter how arduous, is a cinch!

Nature gave man a sinecure in the matter of parenthood. She made maternity an immolation and paternity a pastime. To do man justice,