

Experiences of Two Yankee Girls in Paris

PARIS, April 2.—A trip to Paris with the exposition thrown in as a sort of side show is just now the scheme for a summer excursion on which many an American woman is figuring with diligence and determination. Her proposition, in nine cases out of ten, is to take advantage of this unusual combination of attractions on an allowance that would just about buy Mrs. Astor a spring gown, and, fantastic as this may sound, if she is a woman to whom friendly advice sent direct from Paris makes any appeal, such an apparently impossible achievement can be compassed as easily as any ordinary vacation tour.

Paris is a city where there are at least 365 nice, cheap and interesting methods of living, and while it is perfectly certain that from the 1st of May until the 1st of November the hotels and boarding houses will be crowded at the highest prices, this need not in the least discourage or debar countless little groups of feminine explorers from invading the gay capital and seeing it and its exposition at their best.

To arrive at this desirable end let any woman or women, with Paris as an objective point, remember that co-operation is the secret of true economy and that there is strength in combination. To travel alone is both costly and unsafe for femininity in Europe, but if an enterprising spirit can persuade two, or better still, three congenial souls to put into a common fund the amount of \$250 each, there is no reason why the resultant \$1,000 should not carry them triumphantly from America to Paris for thirty days and home again.

Crossing the Ocean.

Now then! Here is the full estimate for four women who agree to try their luck at foreign travel on the above named sum. As the statements made are all drawn from actual and successful experience they can be accepted at their full value. No. 1 of expense items to be considered is the steamship passage. There are many good lines giving low rates that carry their human freight to various continental ports, whence it is possible to proceed overland to Paris; but overland traveling in Europe is expensive, therefore it is essential in the economic conditions under discussion to take a boat, safe but moderate in passage price, docking on the French coast. Only four lines can be recommended for this service, one calling at Havre, one at Bordeaux, one at Boulogne and another at Cherbourg. On two of these

and historic Normandy, and from coast to capital the roads are absolute perfection. It can not be accomplished comfortably in less than four days even by expert riders, but that time spent in cycling through the fresh, bracing air makes it easier to endure later in the city's heat or dust.

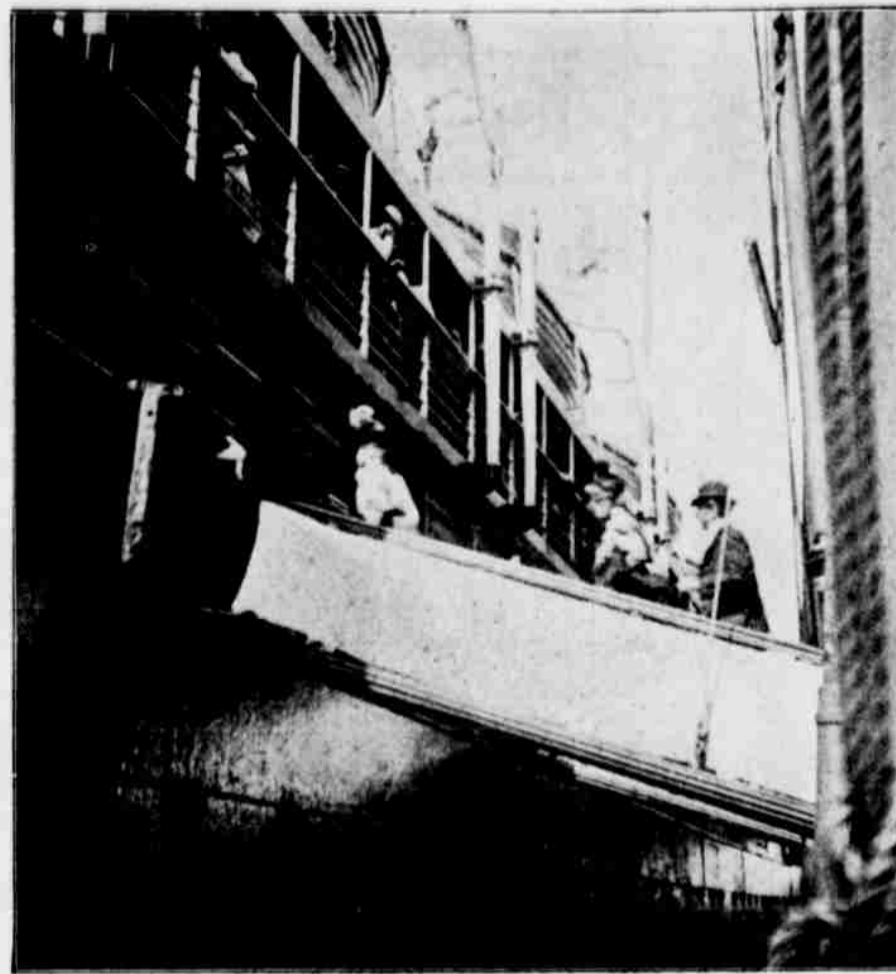
If the party decide to take wheels an essential for the success of these trips is to secure membership in the League of American Wheelmen, a society with headquarters in Boston, Mass. An application accompanied by \$2 for initiation fee and yearly dues, secures all the privileges of the Cyclists' Touring club of England. The C. T. C. card guarantees the admission of wheels anywhere in France or England, with invaluable tourist's maps and guides for both countries. Transatlantic fare for wheels should never exceed \$1.50, and after registering them at the custom house upon landing all red tape and expense is at an end.

The Run to Paris.

Should a cycling trip be agreed upon all the heavy luggage may be shipped as freight straight through to town and then for four days of smart riding over the most beautiful high roads in the world. From Boulogne the distance is about 200 miles, from Cherbourg 150, and the C. T. C. maps not only give discreet advice as to the best inns to patronize, but also supply accurate schedules of proper prices to pay for food, lodgings, tips, repairs to machinery, etc. With this guide at hand no party need fear going astray and one fine afternoon they will pass Les Barrières, as the confines of Paris are called, to find themselves in the gayest, most brilliant city on earth.

While in Paris during the exposition months, when the facilities for transportation will be taxed to the utmost limit, the woman who has her bicycle along will be independent to a degree.

A delightful surprise awaits the incoming tourist when she discovers that there are no custom duties and her baggage goes through the most perfunctory examination. The less baggage the better is a motto to lay to heart in continental Europe, where anything over and above sixty pounds per individual must be paid for extra and where porters' tips, like little drops of water, quickly swell into a stream of extravagance. For four women two steamer trunks should hold all their possessions over and above those carried in the satchel and straps full



GOING ABOARD OCEAN LINER.

that modern convenience, the dealer who leases sets of furniture by the month, and, where the studios are, there the least exorbitant furnisher of household necessities is found. Another outlay of \$15 brings in a couple of broad divans where weary women can secure a welcome rest, a chest of drawers, a mirror, a washstand and appliances, four chairs, a big center table, a redeeming strip of carpet for the floor and a curtain to draw across that corner of the room occupied by the bath equipage.

A studio in the Latin quarter, its windows looking out on the ever picturesque Paris roofs and affording fresh air as well, may be bare, but it is clean, and the glamour of such life as Du Maurier drew in Trilby hangs over it all. This is not to be experienced when an apartment is taken in some green and flowery suburb, yet it is only fair to say that food and rent are both

all these elements of a breakfast will be left outside the studio door fresh every morning. Coffee and sugar are both more expensive than in the states and should be used discreetly, yet for all that a meal of hot coffee, rolls and eggs can be had at 10 cents apiece for every breakfast.

Parisian Eating Places.

It is wisest and cheapest for women interested in the sights of Paris and mindful of their pockets to make luncheon the great meal of the day. For 2 francs each and a tip of 50 centimes to the waitress it is easy in almost any part of Paris to buy an excellent midday meal. There are two ways of accomplishing this desirable end. In the fair grounds the restaurants will, perforce, charge royally, their space being limited and costly, but in old Paris there are many restaurant kitchens and tiny luncheon parlors, kept by thrifty French women.

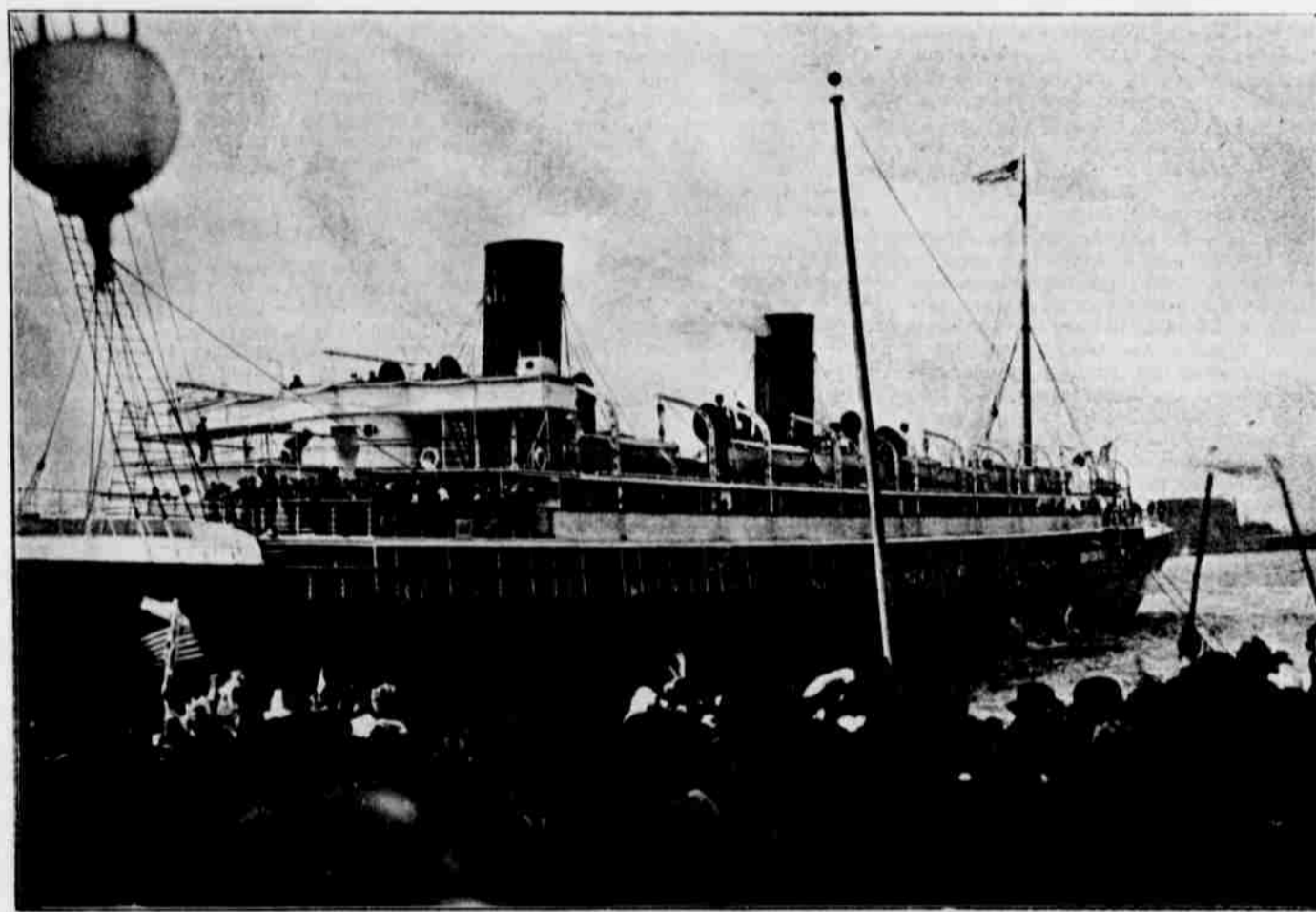
The kitchens tempt those whose appetites demand large forage, for the purchaser is entitled to go directly in where the ranges are and select what she wishes from the spits and pots. A ladle full of soup from the big cauldron of broth, the second joint and drumstick or breast of a chicken, a helping of delicious beans from another pot and a couple of slices of bread with butter will all be dished out by the white-capped maid just as the purchaser directs and prefers. Add to this a steaming cup of freshly made coffee and the edibles can be carried away or devoured at a clean scrubbed table in the front of the kitchen. To these hot dishes the diner can add a chocolate eclair or tartlet, bought for 5 cents at the pastry cook's nearby, a piece of cheese from the grocery and at these kitchens a tiny glass of good wine or a mug of beer will be served.

Two francs, or 40 cents, can cover nearly all these extra items that go to make a very rounded little dinner, while, if the larder of the kitchen presents nothing to the taste of the traveler who wishes something more conventional in the serving at least, all the famous Duval restaurants are at her command.

The Ubiquitous Duval.

There is not a district in new Paris that does not boast one of these admirable restaurants, where the most tempting, wholesome food is daintily served by white-capped, lily-aproned, rosy maids and where the prices are as low as is compatible with wholesome, neatly served food. No matter where you find yourself at midday, inquire and a gendarme will point the way to one of the Duvals, in which Paris abounds. At a Duval an investment of 2 francs buys a small steak, butter that is as sweet as flowers, fresh bread, a cup of hot chocolate, a salad and a spoonful of some appetizing conserve. Enough fuel, it would seem, for any woman to do a vast amount of sightseeing work on.

Then if the pangs of hunger assail in the long summer afternoon it is easy to slip out of the picture gallery or museum and into the nearest tea room, where a cup of tea and a square of cake is sold for 10 cents. English influence has acclimatized the afternoon tea in Paris, and wee parlors where it is served are met in nearly every well known thoroughfare. If tea is not preferred then there is all out doors for a woman and her companions to eat in, at one of the tables in rows under awnings along the streets or in the shade of the omnipresent spreading horse chestnut tree. One woman would not dare sit alone at a sidewalk table in Paris, tiny though it might be, and two American girls would perhaps feel awkward, but in four a position of impregnable dignity and security is gained and the little marble topped stand with its painted iron chairs, its glasses of foaming beer and thin cheese or butter sandwiches is an irresistible temptation to the travelers from the states



THE START FOR THE BIG SHOW.

lines it is quite possible for women of the most fastidious tastes to travel second-class and suffer no discomfort, and in a big double berth cabin the four can room together, paying \$58 apiece for their tickets. At the same price and in the same class the run can be made to Southampton or Plymouth in England and thence direct to Paris for a little over \$5 apiece.

Less expensive but slower boats running from New York to Boulogne or Bordeaux will take passengers first-class for as little as \$55 each, with the trip by rail from the coast to Paris costing a few cents less than \$3 per traveler. Tipping included it is then very clearly demonstrated that the minimum price for a safe and comfortable passage from the shores of America to the city of Paris is \$60 per woman.

Take Your Bicycle.

To abjure the railway journey from Boulogne, Havre or Cherbourg to Paris and getting on their wheels run down to the capital through pastoral France costs a trifle more in money, but the small investment pays a big dividend in health and happiness after a long sea voyage. This leg of the course, to use seaman's slang, affords a bewitching glimpse of beautiful

of shawls allotted to each one. With regard to clothing one "best" dress, one wrapper, underwear and toilet articles should make up the sum of necessary belongings. A golf skirt with jacket to match, shirt waist of flannel, felt Alpine heavy gloves and brown shoes is the proper costume for every day afloat and ashore.

How to Keep House in Paris.

Arrived in Paris neither pension (as the common or garden boarding house is called in France) nor hotel can be the destination of the co-operative feminine tourist. Hers is a more direct, comfortable, safe, not to mention economical, way of lodging. She goes at once to housekeeping.

Out of the 365 variations of domestic economy it is at once the least dear and the most amusing. In either the Latin quarter or the lovely suburbs of Paris there are rooms or lodgings to rent. Down in the region of the Boulevard Montparnasse a single large studio big enough for all the temporary lares and penates of four women can be had for \$15 a month, and out in such suburbs as Auteuil, Neuilly and St. Denis a huge roof-lighted studio or coupe of less expensive rooms can be secured at the same rate. These are barren enough at first sight, but Paris is blessed with

cheaper outside than inside the city limits. Living in the suburbs it is easier to run into the city by wheel than on any of the overcrowded accommodation lines and for the sum of 1 penny a bicycle can be stabled safely and conveniently in the exposition's environs.

Catering on one Dollar a Day.

So much for lodging; now for board. Living in Paris is not dear if feminine wiles are practiced. To spend \$1 a day on food is an ample allowance for a hearty, healthy woman if she goes catering in the right directions. Long ago the American art student in the Latin quarter learned that while coal, wood, oil and gas are all costly in this city of pleasure, alcohol is one of the cheapest commodities. Hence these Yankee chaffing dishes throughout the studio district as well as numerous little lamps designed for heating coffee, water, etc., over an alcohol flame. Let the prospective tourist then take advantage of this discovery in domestic economies and in the steamer trunk a good American coffee pot and an up-to-date chaffing dish will be the means of preparing as good a studio breakfast and supper as any hungry traveler needs. Through previous thrifty arrangement with a neighboring milk and butter merchant and bread man,

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