FICTION — THE BEE'S HOME MAGAZINE PAGE — HUMOR

## Ermine Theater Wrap.

PHOTO BY JOEL SELDER.

This rich wrap of untailed ermine with border trimming showing the small, black tails, in handsome effect, is shaped in at the bottom to produce the narrow lines now considered correct. At the shoulders the wrap is roomy and graceful and the full sleeves and huge muff of ermine and chiffon increase the effect of breadth at the top of the garment. With this stunning theater wrap is worn a smart Gage hat with a tapestry crown and brim faced with black velvet, the only trimming being the immense spray of aigrettes which towers at the back.

## Dottie Dialogues

**We Collaborate On Some Really Unusual Scenarios.**

BY WALTER A. SINCLAIR.

"Car coming!" cried Dottie, whereat I leapt nervously a couple of yards.

"Don't mention that to me suddenly," I ordered.

"Have you got the jumps yet?" she inquired.

"While not in my cups I am still in my cup race," I admitted. "And you—continued our hero with a rising inflection?"

"Does the inflection rise in a monotone or a bitone or merely in an aerotone?" she asked.

"Who's balloony now?" I retorted, cutely. "But did you enjoy the race?

"I was hoping you would ask me that so that I could moan about the sorrows of the rich," she replied.

"Proceed to throw on canine," I permitted.

"You mean 'throw on the high,' speaking automobiliously," she corrected.

"Do I infer that your little trip to the cup races in Mr. Quiney's stationery-and-English basement automobile,—

"How did you know it was stationery?" she exclaimed, amazed.

"Because it is monogrammed," I explained. "Rudimentary, my dear, Watson."

"Well, you are considerable inferer—infernally so," she commented. "We should have joined the brotherhood of stationary engineers, for that automobile had the most stationary engine I ever want to meet. I thought it was going to be so fine, starting out in grandeur, while the common people were crowding aboard trains to get there. But as it was, we stalled out on a country road and fussed there for over an hour, and by the time we got under way again everybody who ever owned a car or could hire one had passed us, giving the marry or minnehaha."

"Tire trouble?" I interrogated.

"It tired me, all right," she observed.

"And the automobile was tired enough, too, from the way it acted. When we arrived near the course we found all progress blocked by large flocks of touring cars and limousines and other offensive creations, to say nothing of large hats. I couldn't see a single accident for my trouble."

"I saw it all at the famous hatpin juncture," I gloated.

"You mean hairpin," she corrected.

"I thought I meant hatpin," I objected. "I meant that I stood behind two of the dear, unfair sex who wore hatpins longer than the law allows, and risked my eyes peering through the jungle of spears. And talk about fun! They both wore small turbans and long pins, and every time they craned their necks they would jab each other with their skypiece stilettos. Regular doodle. Much joy."

"And all I could do,' she mourned, "was to sit at the rear of the mob composing the loveliest plot for an automobile play. I had for the hero a handsome, reckless racing driver. The beautiful heroine's father has mortgaged the old Fifth avenue farm mansion to recoup his fortunes by betting on the result. The villainous villun goes to the garage the night before the race to dope the faithful bay racing car with bay rum instead of gasoline, and the noble mechanician beats him off, but is all broken up doing it. They do not discover it until just before the race has to begin. So what does the noble girl do but don the goggles and the mechanician's disguise, ride like mad with the handsome hero and just as they are on the last lap he bumps his head on the wheel and becomes insensible, but she holds him firmly at the steering wheel until he flashes across the line a winner, and then —"

CUT CUT CUT CUT CUT CUT CUT CUT "COMPOSED.

"Then the critics go to their offices and pan the show," I hazarded. "I suppose she wins him?"

"How did you ever guess it?" she gasped, sarcastic like.

"Oh, authors are always dragging in a happy ending in the last act."

"But this play isn't going to have any last act," she asserted. "Last acts are so called because the audiences never last through one. So I'm going to have this stop at an unexpected moment and then offer a prize for the best answer."

"Aren't you going to introduce any love scene?" I asked.

"I thought maybe you might do that," she responded, artlessly.

Quick curtain.

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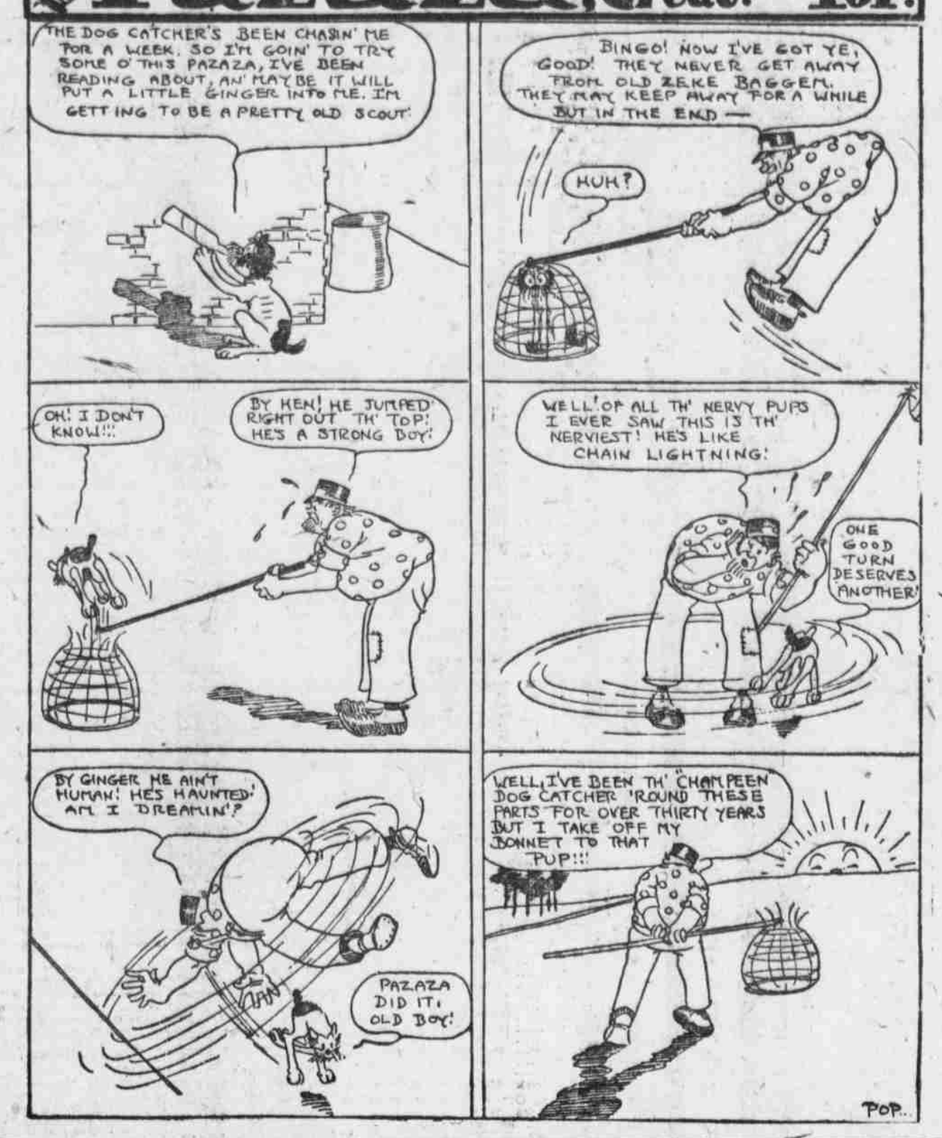
## GERMANS ARE IN MUTINY

**Society Is Organized for Suppression of Present Dangerous Custom of Lifting One's Hat.**

"Why raise your hat?" is the motto of the Society for the Promotion of German Modes of Greeting, whose headquarters are at Darmstadt. It is a wasteful habit, because it wears out the brim of the hat. It is unhealthy because in bad weather it is likely to bring on colds. And, worst of all, it is unpatriotic, for the custom was adopted by the French, the first nation in Europe to bare the head as a form of politeness. The true mode of greeting for Germans, we are told, is the military salute, which is of purely Teutonic origin, having originated among the officers of the Prussian grenadiers. The society has gained many adherents and the inhabitants of Darmstadt are now accustomed to see elderly civilians stand rigidly to attention and bring the hand smartly to the forehead when they meet acquaintances in the street, says the London Chronicle. The mere salute without raising of the hat will be welcomed by many of us, for when we wear the soft felt hat or the cloth cap we find it easy enough to pluck it off, but how to return it to its place? There is no brim, the clutch courtesy is stopped midway, and there is no courtier living who can take off a golf cap and return it to his head gracefully. So let us agree not to take off our hats, but merely indicate with our hands that we would take them off if we could put them on again.

## "Pazaza," It's Great! By Pop.




## The Tired Business Man

**Tells Friend Wife Mr. Taft Would Rather Be "In Right" Than Be President.**

BY WALTER A. SINCLAIR.

"I see that President Taft told the inmates of the Cincinnati Incorrigible Boys' Home that there are other places which give more happiness than the presidency," observed Friend Wife.

"In the imperishable words of Hen Clay he would rather be 'in right' than be president," replied the Tired Business Man. "And you correctly noticed that he told it to the incorribible boys. They are the kind who become presidents. They are incorrigible about it. We don't have to look very far back to find a glittering example of incorrigibility, one so incorrigibly addicted to the presidency that he never can be cured. But as authors always prefer incorrigible boys, I suppose he will remain a hero to many of us.

"You will note that Mr. Taft did not say that there were happier places than the White house—although actions speak in clarion tones compared to words. Of course, he could hardly be called qualified to speak on the subject, having seldom had any opportunity to form an opinion. He might be able to tell the boys about the railroad accommodations between Washington and New York; of the swept-by-ocean-breezes condition of Beverly, Mass.; of the good golfing at Atlanta, the uncertainties of club invitations in Chicago, the hardships of Mississippi river steamboat travel, the far from pacific politics of the Pacific slope, the central states' crop outlook as seen from a car window and of their own Cincinnati, but on Washington he can only speak as a passer-through that pretty little capital city.

"Maybe he might have made reservations about the joys of the presidency, meaning that it was not the happiest place extant where there was a president emeritus or a super-president frisking around the country, crowding the stage center hard and keeping the spotlight operator perspiring freely. I can imagine that What's His Name, the second president—oh, yes, Adams—would have had a more unpleasant term than he did if George Washington hadn't immured himself in Mount Vernon, spending his time breaking poachers' rifles over his knees and accomplishing other strong arm jobs better remembered than any particularly brilliant thing he did while in office.

"ADVICE."

"Mr. Taft might have told the boys that there were other jobs which needed their early inclinations more than the presidency. He might have assured them that there were bigger salaries awaiting them as presidents of predatory trusts than are paid to those who get the White House rent free.

"But isn't it just like incorrigibles to want to be president? On the other hand, if we don't get our future presidents from homes for incorrigibles, where will we get them? We are entirely out of log cabins, the kind which cleared the way for Washington, Lincoln and the first Harrison. Boys with presidential aspirations can wish until they are blue in the face and never be born in a log cabin. The log cabins have all been absorbed by a trust. And, as for the canal towpath which reared another president, who will go down to fame as the father of a great conservator, why the very mention of canal now suggests scandal, graft, dirt flying, mud slinging and resigning engineers. You can't get even an ambitious American boy to take a canal job if he values his reputation. All the other presidents won out through soldiering, and there is still plenty of that, but not the kind that won. A good war might develop a good presidential butcher; but alas, the peace movement is gaining daily.

"President Taft shouldn't discourage boys from wishing to reach his office. Heavens knows it's as hard to get any one to take the job as it was to get a vice president. I suppose Mr. Taft isn't comfortable in the presidency because of the spirit manifestations."

"Spirit manifestations?" echoes Friend Wife.

"Yes. Cabinet knockings," explained the Tired Business Man.

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## Items of Interest for the Women Folk

A convenience for the home milliner, when it becomes the question of trimming a large hat, it the "ready to add" wreath of ostrich feathers. To a band of feather trimming several curled tips are added, and then the ends are caught together, forming a wreath which is placed around the crown of the hat and secured with a few stitches. Blue, brown, black and gray comprise the list of colors and the price is $1.99 for the whole wreath.

It has become a fad to wear corsage garnitures of artificial flowers instead of natural ones. They are such perfect imitations, and, when a little perfume has been added, the ruse is complete. The perfume of the rose, the violet and the lily of the valley can be got without trouble when needed, but when a bunch of sweet peas was bought for their beauty there seemed to be no way of giving them an odor until a clever girl discovered that the Mary Garden perfume suggested the fragrance of this delightful flower. This was added, with most satisfactory results.

When washing chamois or doeskin gloves they should always be turned inside out, fingers and all, while drying, for exactly the same reason that fine wearing apparel is always dried wrong side out. Flecks of dust are always in the air ready to settle anywhere, and dampness always holds soil. Especially is this true of kid and any kind of soft leather. Very often, too, articles that take some time to dry are apt to become streaked with yellow or a dirty brown. These streaks always appear on the right, never on the wrong side.

The newest scarf is not only smart but extremely practical, and it is not necessary to pay the price asked in the stores for it, if one is willing to do the required sewing, which is simple enough, at home.

Two lengths of soft satin are bought, one of which should be black, the other white or a delicate color. About three and one-half yards of each will be necessary. These are basted together, and then the edges are caught together all around. About four or five inches from the ends the scarf is gathered together and tied with cords or ribbon.

Some of the handsomest handbags are fashioned from a heavy Persian material which reminds one of the old-fashioned Paisley shawls. The mountings are in dull French gray or oxidized silver, with cord handles. It is said these bags will be seen a good deal this winter as a bright spot lightening up the dark toilettes. Many of the new afternoon gowns are fitted with pouch bags to match the dress. They hang from the belt or the arm, as the owner pleases.

Embroidery is used on all belts, collars and on many of the small yokes.

The prettier a girl is the less she believes that love is blind.

**CRUEL TRUTH**

"He has more money than sense."
"Well, that don't signify great wealth."

**MATTER OF QUANTITY.**

"Does he make good money?"
"Oh, yes—but very little!"

## Things You Want to Know

**The Government at Work—The State Department.**

The Department of State employs the smallest force of any department of the government, but it is first in rank, and its official head is regarded as the premier of the cabinet. As a rule, when the president makes up his official family, he selects the ablest man he can get for the state portfolio. There have been a few administrations in which the secretary of state yielded first place in influence to the head of another department in cabinet affairs, but, as a rule, official precedence has carried with it the actual premiership.

The State department has its official existence in Washington, but the larger of its activities take place in other countries. The diplomatic and consular servces represent the most important work of the department, and while the plans are mapped out in Washington they are largely executed abroad. It was found advisable from the earliest history of the American colonies to have representatives among the nations of Europe to look after the colonial interests. Benjamin Franklin at one time represented several of the colonies in this capacity abroad.

The contingent fund of the State department is the one appropriation made by the federal government that requires no accounting to the people. This is a secret fund established for the purpose of enabling the secretary of state to keep close track upon the secret doings of other nations, in order that the government may at all times be apprised of any foreign developments which might affect its interests. The diplomatic representatives of the United States in foreign countries are supposed to keep themselves in close touch with the officials of the countries to which they are accredited, and to so conduct themselves in the discharge of their duties that they will be on good terms with those foreign officials with whom they have to deal. This has in a measure brought about a demand for wealthy Americans to fill the important foreign posts. As the personal representative of the president of the United States, the American ambassador is supposed at all times to have access to the offices of the ruler of the government to which he is accredited. If he is to make the most of his position he needs to be well fitted for taking part in the social affairs of the capital, and this calls for expenditures far in excess of the emoluments of the office. It is said that Ambassador Reid, in maintaining the Amedican embassy at the court of St. James, spends $250,000 a year—more than ten times his income from the ambassadorship.

Many rules and regulations are prescribed to govern the conduct of America's diplomatic representatives abroad. They are required to be charry in the matter of giving out interviews or making speeches involving questions at issue or questions which might be raised between their government and the ones to which they are sent. They are forbidden to become responsible for debts of fellow Americans or to allow their names to be used as references. Neither can they endorse bills or exchange for American tourists abroad In all important correspondence between the Department of State and its diplomatic representatives abroad, mail is not entrusted to the ordinary channels of communication. Special locked and sealed pouches are used, and wherever posible these are entrusted to American citizens in the international mail service. In times of threatened war between our government and any other nation, special messengers are often employed to carry the dispatches. Secret cipher codes are used in correspondence when war threatens. In case of a declaration of war the American representatives abroad are afforded a safe conduct to the frontiers of the country at whose capital they are stationed, and the representatives of some other nation undertake to look after American interests, pending the conclusion of hostilities.

The consular service is in many ways the most interesting part of America's representation abroad. The consuls bear the same relation to American business interests in foreign countries that the diplomatic service sustains to governmental interests abroad. Their duties are many and varied, and even in remote cities the consul finds much to do. There are invoices to be made out on all shipments of goods to America, and such a consulate as that at Hong Kong will make out as many as 10,000 in a year. The day's routine in a consular office is as varied as that of a newspaper office. There are passports to be looked after, calls of war vessels to be made, complaints of American tourists to be heard, stranded seasmen to be provided for, a minature postoffice to be kept, pension payments to claim attention, notarial service to be performed, trade reports to be written, extradition papers to be acted upon, marriages to be witnessed and certified to, and a record of all these things to be kept.

The government is especially considerate of the American seamen abroad. If he is stranded, his way is paid back to the United States. If he is ill trated on the vessel of whose crew he is a member, his interests are carefully looked after. Wherever there is an American consulate the flag of Uncle Sam means protection to the American seaman. This has led others to presume that Uncle Sam pays the way of any stranded American seamen back to his home, and thousands appeal for such aid. But the seaman is in a class by himself in this regard, and if aid be given to others, it must come out the the consul's pocket or from private charity. Women whose husbands have left them, others who have regretted their marriage to foreigners, and thousands of both sexes with varying tales of woe annually appeal to the members of the diplomatic and consular service for aid in getting back to their American homes.

Few nations enjoy such an extensive trade abroad as the United States and much of the success of the American exporter is due to the activity of the men who make up the American consular service. They are the watchmen on the towers of international trade, spying out the country for new fields of commercial opportunity and seeking for every kind of data that will enable the American export business to continue to grow. Not long ago a New England manufacturer of knives asked the consular service for a list of retail dealers in cutlery in England. He got it and is now carrying coals to Newcastle by sending knives to Sheffield. Another manufacturer asked for certain information and since the receipt of it has doubled his export trade. So successful has been the consular service of the United States that it is being made the pattern after which Germany, England and France are modeling theirs.

The secretary of state handles many things of a purely domestic interest in addition to his attention to all foreign matters. It was this that led to the changing of the name of the department. In the early years of the government it was known as the department of Foreign Relations, but the desire of those in authority at that time to make its activities include certain home affairs led it to be called the State department. The secretary of state is the medium of correspondence between the president of the United States and the governors of the several states. He also has the custody of the great seal of the United States which affixes to all executive proclamations, to various commissions, and to warrants for the extradition of fugitives from justice. He is the custodian of the treaties made with foreign countries and of the laws of the United States.

The publication and distribution of the laws of congress, so as to make them accessible to the general public, is entrusted to the State department. The secretary also issues all passports, promulgates amendments to the constitution of the United States and proclaims the admission of new states into the union. All matters pertaining to the American end of international conferences and congresses are arranged through the State department. Various institutions, including missionary societies, have the protection assurred through its labors, as in the case of the establishment of schools and hospitals in foreign lands. A record is kept of all marriages of American citizens abroad and also of all children born abroad. A register of all citizens of the United States residing in foreign lands is maintained, and inquries are nstituted for those who go to foreign countries and disappear.

When any branch of the government wishes information from a foreign country, the State department uses the diplomatic and consular service as the medium for securing it. When congress wants to know about postal savings banks, the information is forthcoming through these channels. When the status of divorce laws in Europe is of interest to an important American society, the State department ascertains what the situation is. In addition to all this a sort of "Who's Who" is kept of nearly every citizen of prominence in the world. For instance, a foreign government appoints one of its citizens as minister to the United States or a citizen of another country as a member of a court of aritration in which American interests are involved. The State department has a card index containing complete information about them. This shows whether the appointee is likely to be persona grata or whether his presence would be objectionable.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Tomorrow—The Government at Work. III.—The Treasury Department.

## Proper Proportion Must Be Observed in Decorating the House

When a house or apartment is to be entirely papered it is of the utmost importance that designs shall be selected to scale the colors chosen which will accord. To "scale" means, roughly, that sizes of whatever is used shall be in proportion. If a paper of very large design is chosen for a small room, it does not "scale." If a pattern is small, that is, proportionate to the room, then "scale" has been observed, and the effect is better.

For one room to scale with another means that, in going from one to the next, the eye shall not be disturbed by too sharp a change. A good way of illustrating this is to tell the error just made by a woman who is papering a new house. The reception room on the right side of the lower hall is small, and has a paper showing small fruits. Across the narrow hall is the living room, 12x15 feet, and that, too, has a paper of small patterns. Opening from this room is the dining room, almost similar in size to the living room, and on its walls is a gray paper with a huge colonial pattern. The result is no scale whatever.

If the dining room were large, a large design would not have jarred even with the small living room walls, but when it is the same size as the other room and can be seen from the living room, the walls should correspond in every respect. This does not mean that either the pattern or coloring should be the same, but merely that general proportion is to be observed.

When one room opens from another, colors which accord must be chosen for both. The eye would be highly offended were it to take in a positive red in one room and at the same time pink in the next. It is only when rooms are entirely cut off from each other that colors violently opposing may be used.

As every room on a floor opens from a hall, a tone for that part of the house must be one that will harmonize with all. A dull, not bright, red goes with almost everything; so, too, does green or dull yellow, and one of those three colors is apt to be safe. But the hall paper should be chosen last, that there may be no mistake in it, and one will not have one's teeth on edge by being surrounded by one tone while one gazes on another which offends.

By all odds, the safest hall papers for good effects are self tones, showing only one color, or foliage, which are combinations of soft shades of the same colors. A hall paper whose background is one color, with a positive pattern of another, entirely different, rarely works out well.

### Daily Health Hint

According to Emily M. Bishop in "Seventy Years Yong," every person who would keep old age at bay should seek newness of experience, of thought, emotion, environment, association and personal expression. He should eagerly seek to do old accustomed acts in a new way. To do only what is has been our habit to do is to lose the power to do the new. Good advice, that.

### The Dyspeptic Philosopher

A musical comedy star, to be successful, must be able to kick at least as high as she can sing.

We must take the bitter with the sweet; consequently the optimist regards life as a cocktail.

The theory that two can live as cheaply as one works out only when conditions are such that they have to.