

My Marriage Problems

Adèle Garrison's New Phase of "REVELATIONS OF A WIFE"

Stunt Madge Planned for Bess Dean.

"If I can wear them!" Bess Dean repeated my words with a venomous little tang in her voice. "Oh, I don't believe I'll have any trouble in keeping them on. Sneakers are so securely fastened that they do not usually slip off even if loose."

I did not need the infliction in her voice to tell me that I had scored heavily in the queer little below-surface duel between me and my casual assistant to her request to borrow my sneakers, with the proviso if she could wear them. Her cheeks held a flush of anger, her eyes were like sapphire points, and that she had temporarily lost her cool poise I knew by her comical gasp through her teeth. Bess is clever enough to have uttered something far different than the rambling retort she had made to the little speech which I would have given much to recall because of its banality.

Dicky's Rallies.

But it had served its purpose well in goading her, a purpose which I realized lay beneath the surface of her emotion, but which constantly was thrusting itself into my conscious actions. Why is it, I wonder, in this day of feminine emancipation, that one of the surest ways to make the average woman angry is to insinuate that her size and shape are larger than other women of approximately the same weight and height?

I saw Mrs. Cosgrove bite her lips to hide a smile, and in Lillian's eyes there glinted a swift amusement at the girl's evident anger, but I read something else in those clear eyes—I read disapproval of my petty cattiness. In Lillian's estimation I knew that for the moment I had forgotten to play the game.

Dicky's voice struck in with the careless, half-mocking infliction he almost invariably uses in talking to Miss Dean.

"You might stuff the toes with a pound or two of cotton," he drawled, "or if Mrs. Cosgrove will lend me her clothesline I'll tie them on with pieces of that, provided you find they won't stay on alone. Funny, isn't it, never realized before what a Cincinnati foot you have, Miss Dean. I thought my spouse's tootsies took the cake and the pie in that direction. But we live and learn. Madge, I warn you, I'm the original glass slipper gentleman. When I find a girl with a foot smaller than yours, well—I won't break your heart right here before everybody by telling you the probable consequences. But take a tip from the Chinese and begin to bind your feet right away today, that is, if you value my fealty."

Madge's Change of Heart.

Through the chagrin I felt at having belittled myself by the feeble little speech which I started with, I rallied there except a tiny thrill of triumph. Dicky, who always has been absurdly proud of my rather small feet, had taken my side in the undercurrent duel between Bess Dean and me. He could not have expressed his disbelief in her so strongly than by this mocking assent to her claims.

With the triumph came a sudden distaste for the controversy, and I cast about for some means to avoid the humiliation which I was trying to put on my sneakers. With a sudden remembrance of an extra pair of the comfortable footgear which I once had bought without trying on, that had proved a size too large, and which I had brought with me for a possible emergency, I rose to my feet, resolved to make things easy for the girl.

"I'll get the shoes right away, Bess," I said with nonchalant friendliness. "I suppose you'll want to make an early start."

"Thanks so much," she returned with careful amiability. "What about

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Responsibility

By JACK LEE

Just now the public is training its attention on Omaha, where a grand jury has just finished indicting a number of widely known men for their activities in alleged stock and get-rich-quick schemes.

The grand jury has released the whole list of accused and all its findings to the court and day after day the list of men who are arrested on various charges is growing. Just now it is not healthy for the reputation to be seen with a deputy sheriff, no matter of how long standing the acquaintance may be. Persons who see you with one may think you are one of the indicted being taken up before District Judge Troup to fix a bond.

So far none of the men arrested has had to go to jail for failure to find a bondman. There seems to be plenty of bondsmen and even bondswomen.

Omaha feels quite proud of its share in turning the "pitiless light of publicity" on sharks who helped bilk Nebraskans of millions in the past few years.

Attorney General Davis is seriously considering another grand jury investigation of other cases. Lincoln talks of following Omaha's example and calling a grand jury of its own. Just now it looks as though the shark is in for a bit of stormy weather. Whether all will be found guilty at the hands of the jury that hears the evidence in the case is yet to be seen.

Anyway there's going to be a lot of thinking done before any more wildcat schemes are launched in Nebraska.

All of which brings us down to a little speech made by an old-time man of Omaha to a group of younger men at a luncheon recently.

Said he: "This grand jury stuff has got me worried and the worry is doing me a world of good.

"I am a member of the board of directors in one of the companies under fire. While I know nothing of the company or its affairs, I am just as liable for any of its transactions as though I had attended every meeting of the board of directors and as though I had taken an active part in its affairs.

"We older business men take the appointment to a board of directors very lightly. We consider it quite an honor to be a director in as many companies as possible. We figure that it gives us a lot of business prestige without our exerting any special physical or mental action for the company.

"We skip meetings, never keep tab on the company and let those in direct charge of all activities do as they please and abide by their reports.

"It has never occurred to me until this grand jury investigation just how careless responsible business men can be and how close to the law some of us are flying without being aware of it.

"I have come to the conclusion that being a director in the concern doesn't mean only that I have my name on the company's stationery and that I draw what dividends I am entitled to without a qualm, but it means that I am responsible for everything that takes place in the name of that company. If the company is honest I am honest. If it is crooked, whether I know it to be or not, I'm crooked.

"Hereafter men are not going to be so ready to be an officer in any old company that asks them, especially in Nebraska. They're going to investigate and see just what the concern is before they take a hand in it.

"I hope there are other responsible business men as worried as I, for I know that it is going to awaken them to their true responsibility.

"If the company I am in proves another 'wildcat' all the explanations I can give might not be able to convince a jury I had nothing to do with it actively. The fact that I was one of the officers, even though a negligent one, will place me in the same position as those who really did the illegal acts."

The promoters of these wildcat schemes are not altogether to blame. They had to have assistance in many cases to get the company started after they had raised the funds. On occasions the name of a prominent, safe business man on a board of directors or in some official capacity will do more to get investors than all the sily talk a smooth salesman or promoter can put out.

Investors are apt to follow the actions of a successful man and do as he does or suggests. Just why a man who has worked earnestly for years to acquire a substantial business reputation will risk it on something which he knows nothing is inexplicable.

An old philosopher, Emerson possibly, said something to the effect that many a man's first step to ruin was taken when he first accepted something for nothing.

When big concerns are going well they are known as "big business." All their success is centered in the hands of a few operators who have the business brains to put their concern across successfully.

But let one of those "big business" concerns get into trouble, financial difficulties, or go broke through mismanagement and see how quickly one can analyze "big business."

The minute the concern goes under there comes a way from the stockholders. Who are they? Doctors, lawyers, merchants, clerks, stenographers, widows, orphans, salesmen, farmers, ranchers, Tom, Dick and Harry and practically somebody from every walk in life is present.

They are "big business." They have lent their savings in an effort to get a bigger return than the savings banks or building and loan associations could offer.

When he discharged the grand jury that made the present investigations District Judge A. C. Troup told the jurors that a greater service had never been given to the county or state by any similar jury.

One way to prevent a recurrence of the wildcat promoter is for every business man to appoint himself a member of a personal grand jury. When a scheme or promotion is presented to him, let him go into the merits of the concern conscientiously. Let him weigh his findings and then if the facts warrant let him either recommend or condemn.

Let him not be responsible for losses to men and women who cannot afford them and let him also be true to himself.

The grand jury investigations have proven T. P. Barnum's famous saying, "There is one born every minute," and they are not all east of the Mississippi.

This saying can be refuted in a short time if every man in a position to stop "wildcatting" will feel his responsibility and do all in his power to clip the wildcat's fur.

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