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## A SUBJECT FOR LADIES' AIDERS

By VIVIAN HAYES

(©, 1924, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

EARLY in the morning Abner's daughter, Emma Caroline, hurried down the road to her father's farm. She was a thin, wiry woman, brisk of motion and sharp of tongue. Behind her, her own immaculate house, husband and children bore eloquent testimony to her neatness and efficiency. Inside of half an hour she had "red up" her father's house and placed before him with a clatter two prunes, a glass of buttermilk and a slice of toast. She whipped out the dishpan, briskly poured out some boiling water and stood, the dishcloth in her large, red hand, her eyes roving impatiently from the clock to her father, as he picked listlessly at his breakfast.

"Land, pa!" she burst forth at last, "what a time it takes you to eat! I don't want to hurry you, but I've a million things to do at home this morning—carpet rags to dye, soap to make, and I don't know what all besides. And since your sick spell my being here so much does eat into my time."

"I hope you'll realize that you can't ever again eat anything but simple food that'll digest easy. I hear Abbie Styles has been saying that in her opinion 'twas nothing more'n eating your own cooking that brought it on. Says that never to her dying day will she forget the meal she saw you fixing for yourself one poontime when she stopped to get a setting of eggs—greasy fried potatoes and coffee that had boiled at least an hour and was black as night. Says it made her heart ache—humph! Maybe 'twouldn't have ached quite as much if she hadn't been a widow and you a widower."

"I said as much to the one who told me, and, says I, 'Pa can come and live with us any time he says the word,' I says, 'an' he knows it. It beats all the way he hangs onto living there alone, when he might be where there is folks—and you'd better think it over seriously, pa."

"When you had your health 'twas some different, but you can't deny that you aren't picking up any. I'll leave the dishes for you to do. I shan't be down again today."

"Your egg-nogg for lunch is on the cellar bottom and there's plenty prunes cooked up—and you can fix your hot milk and your rice for supper. I'll be down first thing tomorrow morning." With a jerk of her shawl she hurried away.

For a long time her father sat motionless, his broad shoulders sagging dependently as he leaned unseeingly over his untasted breakfast. With a sigh his eyes focused upon his food and an expression, almost of ferocity, appeared upon his kindly features. He hastily cleared the table and went out to attend to the chores. At noontime he assembled his egg-nogg and his prunes and then set them away, untasted. He sank listlessly into his armchair and gazed out of the window.

Some time later the door flew open with a bang and a red-cheeked woman slammed a napkin-covered basket upon the kitchen table, glibly repeating, "Mis' Styles sent this for the Ladies' Aid supper, and tell Mis' Henderson she'll be down in time to make the coffee." With a clatter he was off and away. Abner ran to the back door, shouting, "Hey, this belongs at Let Henderson's, on the lower road," but the small messenger was out of sight.

An aroma, elusive, provocative, memory-stirring, pervaded the vicinity of the basket. Cautiously Abner folded back the enshrouding napkins and stood gazing wistfully. There, as hot as though just out of the oven, reposed an earthen baking dish of fragrant scalloped oysters, its opulent mound of crusty brown surface hinting tantalizingly of the deliciousness beneath, and a deep, golden-hued pumpkin pie. Abner stared hungrily, his wistful eyes shining. Then with a groan, he threw back the coverings and walked resolutely away—but eventually he came back!

Some time later Abbie Styles rapped lightly at the kitchen door. "Has my basket been left here by mistake?" she began, then stopped as her glance fell on the empty dishes.

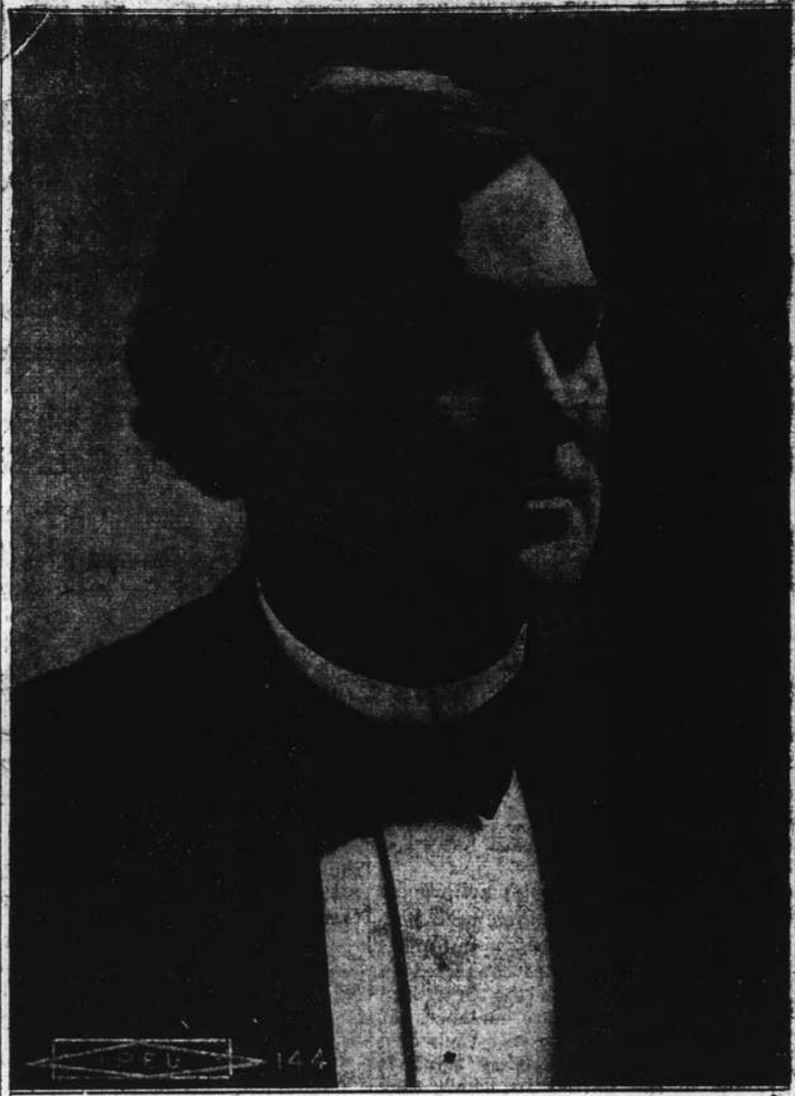
"Abbie," stammered Abner, his shamefaced air but partially concealing an all-pervading satisfaction, "a few hours ago I was a poor, starving old critter, dying a horrible death from an overdose of skim milk and prunes. If your First Aid supper hadn't come just when it did, I vow I would have passed away. The Ladies' Aiders never had a likelier subject for missionary work. I'm through dieting for good and all—only," he heaved a prodigious sigh, reddened in embarrassment, and blurted out, "it'll be awful hard to go back to my own cooking again! Ho, hum!"

Mrs. Styles' comely face became a trifle more rosy. "I'm real glad you ate it, Abner," she declared, heartily, "and, land, I do a sight of cooking. Ain't a mite of reason why you shouldn't come up to supper tomorrow night. I'll be expecting you." She hurried away, and the doorway looked suddenly bleak in consequence.

"Land, land!" breathed Abbie, with a mischievous smile, as she caught up another basket from beneath the hedge, "maybe 'twas awful bold of me—but him so shy and never quite daring to come to the point! Yes, yes, him being most starved, together with that 'first aid supper,' was the only combination that would've ever been effective! What'd he say, I wonder, if he knew that basket was sent there a-purpose?"

If your merchant doesn't handle Union-Made goods try one that does.

## Frank Morrison, Secretary, A. F. L.



Mr. Morrison is a candidate for delegate to the American Federation of Labor Convention to be held in El Paso, Texas, next fall. He is a member of the Chicago Typographical Union, and has been elected as one of the representatives from the I. T. U. to the big conventions for the past several years. Mr. Morrison has many friends in the South, and printers throughout this section are busily engaged in looking after his campaign this year.

Election of delegates will be held on the third Wednesday in May, and union printers in every city where there is a Typographical Local, will on that day express their choice for officers to manage the affairs of the International union. Among these offices is that of delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention.

## Gompers Insists That Labor Be Full Recognition of Real Worth

Harrisburg, Pa., April 10.—President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, looking the picture of health as he submitted to a fire of questions from reporters, came here to take part in the conference on super-power called by Governor Gifford Pinchot.

Participating in the conference, aside from President Gompers and Gov. Pinchot, were President James P. Noonan of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, President William H. Johnston of the International Association of Machinists, O. S. Beyer, Engineer representing the machinists, technical representatives of the power industry and representatives of the public.

President Gompers declared that industry is just beginning to realize how intimately labor is concerned with technical progress.

"No social group," he said, "is more concerned for the increased development of power resources and lowering the cost of power than are the users of the tools of industry and commerce."

"More abundant power at lower rates means more machinery, increases the productive capacity of the tool users and cheapens commodity costs. These in turn mean higher standards of living."

Mr. Gompers declared that labor welcomes technical progress. "To state the case in terms of industrial relations," he continued, "as wage earners and workmen we ask opportunity to participate in the development of industry as an organized group."

Six suggestions for the power industry, which Mr. Gompers believes "will be the most important determining element in the social and economic life of the future," were offered at the conference. They were:

"First—It required that there be a full and frank acknowledgment on the part of the whole country of the role which labor has to play and of its ability to offer co-operation in practical operation."

"Second—With labor's role fully acknowledged, there must then be a consciousness on the part of the whole industry that those who operate the industry in all of its branches are entrusted with vital functions and have obligations to those within the

industry, to the natural wealth brought into use and to other industries and the people as a whole.

"Third—The experience of the industry must determine to a large extent how to organize the factors within the industry on a democratic basis that runs parallel to its functions, so as to discharge these various obligations, with justice."

"Fourth—With experience as a guide in the application of the principle there must come into existence joint representative bodies, in which every useful element within the industry may have a voice and in such manner that it will not be possible for the combined voices of some to smother the voices of others in pursuance of injustice."

"Fifth—These joint organizations of representatives must have as their smallest unit the locality, after which larger units may follow in accordance with the natural lines found in the

industry itself.

"Sixth—The industry will find itself, as it has indeed already found itself, hampered by restricting laws placed on the statute books by political organizations lacking the requisite understanding of industrial needs, or fear lest an uncurbed industry might become a moloch; and it will be necessary to open the doors by clearing obstructive legislation."

Understanding is the key to the elimination of industrial waste and co-operation can obtain only where industrial relations conform to these basic principles, Mr. Gompers informed the conference. The regularity of employment is the aspect in which labor is fundamentally interested, he said. "We labor men participating in this conference are fully aware of the importance of this aspect of the study as well as of our serious obligation not only for the conservation of the power resources of our nation, but for the conservation of those who are an integral part of the nation itself."

A special meeting will be held at Belmont Carpenters Union hall on Monday night week. A box supper will be given for the benefit of the Charity fund of the union.

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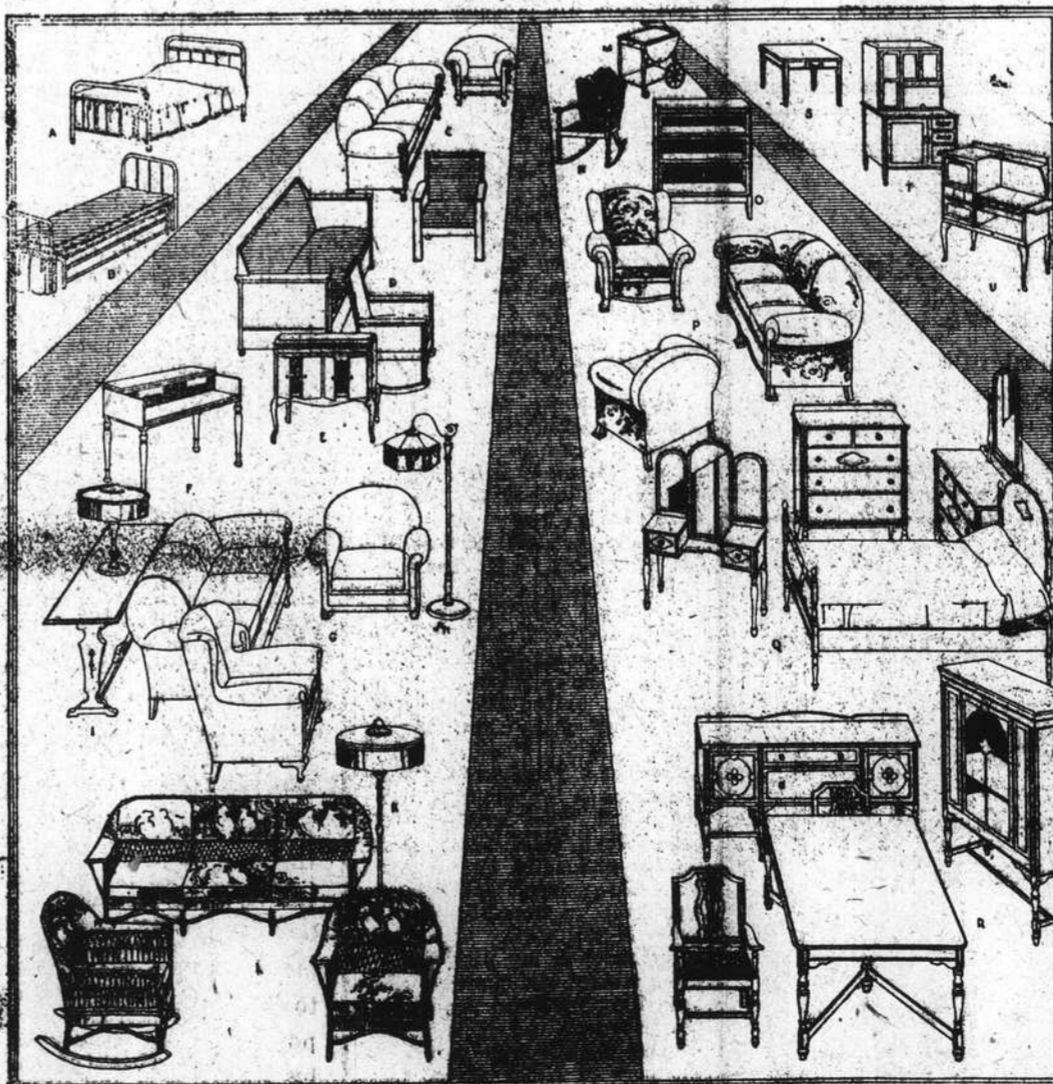
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