

Too Much Efficiency

By E. J. Rath

BEGIN HERE TODAY

JOHN W. BROOKE, widowed hardware magnate, before leaving town for a period of two months, arranges with a firm of efficiency engineers to take charge of his home while he is away. He does not inform his three children, Constance, Billy, and Alice, about what will take place. But they soon find out, when

H. HEDGE, assigned to carry out the contract, takes complete charge of the Brooke household. He is occupying Mr. Brooke's private suite and has made an office out of the library. Constance has come to Hedge for a requisition to buy a new hat. She admits having bought the hat she is wearing only three weeks previous. She tells him that the season has changed. He seems to know of only four seasons in a year. Constance, however, insists that yearly seasons have nothing to do with hat seasons.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

He devoted five seconds to thought. "Probably, if you buy hats so frequently, you have one that you purchased in the corresponding season last year. If so, in what condition is it?"

"It was probably given to my maid long ago. Really, do you propose to persist in being utterly impossible?"

"Not at all. On the contrary, I am very glad to have this matter of hats brought up. I can see that it merits attention. Really, Miss Brooke, I do not want you to misunderstand me."

The efficiency man paused for an instant to give emphasis to his words.

"I desire your co-operation in all things, including hats. I am not in the least unreasonable; I am merely trying to apply business principles in a new field. I am sure that you will assist me. Now, as to hats, I may say that I never pay more than five dollars for my own, usually less. Assuming for argument, that I pay five. I can buy 20 hats for a hundred dollars. It would probably take me five years to consume 20 hats. The hat which you are now wearing, while different in style from my own is nevertheless obviously less durable, both in design and material. I cannot see that it is an efficient hat, while I already know that it is not an economic hat.

"Let us be reasonable. I will make an exception in this case, which I do not think justifies another hat for a period of nine or 10 weeks. I will give you a requisition for a new hat now."

He smiled at her in a friendly way. Constance held her breath.

"But I shall specify that the hat is not to cost more than five dollars."

She arose slowly from her chair and faced him.

"Are you serious?" she asked in a low tone.

"Oh, quite."

The bitter moments of life are visited upon the rich and poor alike. Constance knew that she was poor—very poor.

"I—I shall go about in tatters," she said brokenly. "I shall wear my old hat!"

The efficiency man looked at the old hat and liked it. The thought occurred to him that Constance and the hat had been created for each other. There was a beautiful harmony that appealed to him, which was testimony to the fact that art was not wholly dead within him. Nevertheless he did not care to be looked upon wholly as a person who pinched pennies and bit nickles. Efficiency was more than mere saving. Nor did he think it right for Constance to go in tatters, although he could easily believe that she would probably ornament them. Here was a chance to kill two birds with one stone.

"See here, Miss Brooke," he said. "I am going to demonstrate something to you. It will be an object lesson in efficiency. You say that a proper hat cannot be bought for five dollars, hence you are in the habit of paying a hundred. I differ. I say that a proper hat can also be an economical hat. You are going to get a new hat."

"Wait, please."

"But—"

He seized the telephone and called a number.

"Is this the Luxembourg shop? Very well. This is the residence of Mr. John W. Brooke. Please send up an assortment of hats for Miss Brooke to examine. Of course, all kinds of hats. And send them up right away. In half an hour? Make it 20 minutes, if possible. Yes; that's all."

He turned to Constance as he hung up the receiver, and smiled.

"I'll show you how to buy a hat," he said. "I'll send for you, Miss Brooke, as soon as the hats arrive."

Constance walked out in a daze. He was going to buy an economical hat—and he had telephoned to Luxembourg! She whistled softly and wrinkled her forehead in perplexity. Oh, well, there was nothing to do but wait. But she was intensely curious.

Half an hour later H. Hedge summoned her to the library. There were many hat-boxes there, under the chaperonage of two young women whose own hats identified them as eminently qualified for their duties.

"We are ready to examine hats," he said briskly, pushing aside his work and nodding at the hat custodians.

The first hat was large and of a profuse richness. The efficiency man shook his head at once.

"But at least I may try it on," exclaimed Constance.

He shrugged his shoulders and she tried it on, surveying the effect in a mirror.

Followed a succession of hats, which, to the efficiency man, were plainly constructed to sell by acreage. He was patient, however. Constance could try them on, if she wished—but she could not buy. He had committed himself to a hat to prove of the truths of economy and efficiency, but he was steadfast against extravagance.

"No small hats?" he asked finally.

"But yes indeed," said the second saleswoman. "Some that are exquisite."

"Trot 'em out, please."

There was a very pretty parade of small hats, but at nearly all of them H. Hedge merely shook his head. He was not to be deceived; he recognized the high cost of living when he saw it. They bore all the outward evidence of sky prices. Constance appeared pleased with some of them, and sighed when she read his steady disapproval.

At last he became impatient, and began diving into boxes himself. Taper hats he tossed aside carelessly, bringing exclamation of dismay from the young ladies of the Luxembourg. Then, suddenly, he was all business.

"Here we are," he said. "Put this on."

It was the tiniest hat of all, a mere bit of velvet. Not a stitch of trimming, not a solitary ornament graced it. It was almost Quakerish in its simplicity. Yet, as Constance placed it on her head, it suddenly assumed a rakish little air of its own, so that it became more than a hat—it was a saucy sentiment.

"Like that?" he demanded.

Constance did like it. Anybody would have liked it, because of the sheer pertness and mischief of the thing. But she was wary. She merely shrugged her shoulders.

"It is exquisite!" said the first

saleswoman. "It seems they all are," remarked the efficiency man dryly. "How about your opinion, Miss Brooke?"

"It is not bad," she said reluctantly. "But—"

Her glance wandered toward the discarded creations. H. Hedge shook his head promptly.

"Too high-priced, the rest of that stuff. Now, this hat is reasonable. Anybody can see it's cheap. Yet it's a good hat. It's durable, simple, and doesn't carry any circus spancies. Does it fit? What is it—a seven?"

One of the Luxembourg ladies was about to break into vivid speech when Constance checked her with a glance.

"The hat fits quite well," she said gravely.

"I thought so. Want it?"

"Why—I believe so—with your consent, of course."

NEXT CHAPTER: Efficiency meets a set-back.

Live Earl News Of Late Interest

B. Y. P. U. Social Committee Entertains at Home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morehead—Personal Items

(Special to The Star)

Mr. and Mrs. D. Anstell and children spent Thanksgiving in Charlotte the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bird Goode.

Mr. Everhart of Kings Mountain, was a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Olive.

Mrs. B. F. Jones and daughter, Miss Pinkie and Miss Ophelia Moss and Mr. R. L. Nichols returned Sunday from Atlanta, Ga., where they spent Thanksgiving holidays with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Brett Jones.

Mrs. D. G. Webber and daughter Lilla who spent the Thanksgiving in Charlotte with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Webber returned home Saturday.

Miss Thelma Earl spent from Thursday to Sunday night in Laurinburg, the guests of her brother Mr. J. G. Earl.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Graham and family visited relatives in the Antioch community Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Moss and family of Spartanburg, S. C., were the guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Moss.

Mrs. F. H. Sepaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Q. P. Sepaugh and Mrs. Bud House returned Saturday from a week's visit in Fayetteville.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bettis and children of Shelby were the week end guests of A. E. Bettis and family.

The B. Y. P. U. Social Committee delightfully entertained Saturday

evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moorehead. The first hour was given to Thanksgiving games. A social hour followed during which the hostess assisted by Misses Faye MeSwain, Leitha Bettis, Inez Moorehead and Lillie Webber, served a salad and fruit course.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Moore, Mr. Williams of Spartanburg, Misses Katherine Bettis, Pauline Borders, Ophelia Moss, Rebecca Austell, Thelma Earl, Myrtle and Freelye Crawford, Era Hopper, Mrs. Gain Rollins, Messrs Heyward Austell, James Ellis, Ansel Proctor, Louis Borders, Winford and Austell Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lavendar motored to Gaffney Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis of Grover were pleasant callers in the village Monday.

Mrs. R. E. Nichols and son Harvey spent part of last week in Union, S. C.

Miss Eyleene Nichols who is working in Spartanburg has been spending some few days with her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Sepaugh. Mrs. Tap of New York, is the guest at her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joe Runyans.

Ellis-Wilson Wedding In Beaver Dam Section

Training School to Start Next Week. Personal News of People on the Go.

(Special to The Star)

The Sunday school is progressing nicely under the management of W. H. Humphries. There was a large crowd out despite the cold weather Sunday. We were glad to have as visitors in Sunday school Sunday Rev. J. C. Gillespie and Mr. Bryant McGinnis from Charlotte.

The B. Y. P. U. is moving on nicely under the management of our new president Mr. Furman McGinnis.

There will be a training school taught at our church next week by Mr. A. V. Washburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Schlemmer McSwain, motored to Gaffney, S. C. Sunday, with Mr. Guy Ellis and Miss Lois Wilson, where Mr. Ellis and Miss Wilson were happily married at the home of Lake W. Straup. The groom is the son of Mr. G. W. Ellis a prominent farmer of this section. The bride is the daughter of Mr. John Wilson who is another prominent farmer of this section. We wish for the groom and bride a long and happy life.

Mrs. B. B. Moore, son and daughter and also Miss Verna Brooks visited the home of Mr. B. B. McSwain Sunday afternoon.

We are sorry to note at this writing that Mrs. H. H. McGinnis has lost sight of one eye.

REJOICES OVER HIS IMPROVED CONDITION

Mr. O. C. Tompson Says HERB JUICE is a Wonderful Medicine For Stomach Trouble And Constipation.

"I want you to know how grateful I am to my friends for telling me about your splendid medicine, HERB JUICE, for it has greatly relieved me and built me up so that I feel better than I have in years," said Mr. O. C. Tompson, County Surveyor and one of Cleveland County's most well known citizens in a recent statement to the HERB JUICE man. "There is nothing in the world so nice as to sit down to the table with a keen appetite and know that you can eat anything placed before you and yet suffer no ill effects afterwards. Were it not for your HERB JUICE I could not possibly make such a statement at the present time, as I was a constant sufferer from indigestion and constipation for years. Any one who has known the discomfort of gas pains, constipation, nausea and sleepless nights can appreciate my condition. Lack of proper rest and sleep made me extremely nervous and I felt at times like I would never see another well day, but friends who had used HERB JUICE and received great benefit from its use urged me to try it, and I want to say that I have already had more benefit from it than I expected. I have never found anything to equal this wonderful medicine. Before I started taking HERB JUICE I always had a tired, worn-out feeling, due, I believe, to an inactive liver, but HERB JUICE seemed to help me from the very first few doses and before I had used the first bottle I felt a great deal better; I continued taking this medicine regularly and after using several bottles, I now feel as though I had never been sick a day in my life. It relieved me entirely of gas pains and indigestion, regulated my bowels to that extent that I am not bothered with constipation and I have much more strength and energy than before using it. I have found HERB JUICE is all that it is advertised to be, and I do not hesitate in the least bit to recommend it to all my friends."

Mr. Welch of the HERB JUICE Laboratories has established headquarters at the Riviere Drug Co., and will gladly tell you without any cost just what benefit you can obtain from the great remedy.

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WATCH FOR OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

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Shelby, N. C.

— SCHEDULES —

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Leaves Shelby for Charlotte 7 a. m., 9 a. m., 11 a. m., 1 p. m., 3 p. m., 5 p. m., 8 p. m.—Leaves Charlotte for Shelby 8 a. m., 10 a. m., 12 Noon, 2 p. m., 4 p. m., 6 p. m.

SCHEDULE LINCOLN-TON-SHELBY BUS

Leaves Shelby 7:20 a. m., 10 a. m., 1 p. m., 4:30 p. m.—Leaves Lincolnton 8:30 a. m., 11 a. m., 3:00 p. m., 6:30 p. m. ZED COSTNER, Manager.

SCHEDULE SHELBY-RUTHERFORDTON BUS

Leaves Shelby 8 a. m., 1 p. m., Leaves Rutherfordton 9:55 a. m., 2:15 p. m. Z. V. COSTNER, Manager.

SCHEDULE SHELBY-ASHEVILLE BUS


Leaves Shelby 10 a. m., 12 Noon, 2 p. m., 4 p. m., 6 p. m. RED TOP CAB CO., and BLUE RIDGE LINES, Owners, Asheville, N. C.

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