Too Much Efficiency

By E. J. Rath (W. J. Watt and Co.)

BEGIN HERE TODAY

JOHN W. BROOKE, widower and hardware magnate, arranges with a firm of efficiency engineers to manage his home for two months while he is away He fails to inform his three grown children, Constance, Billy and Alice. They learn of their father's arrangements, however, when

H. HEDGE, efficiency engineer, takes control of the Brooke household, occupies John W.'s suite and turns the library into an office. Hedge has cut off Billy's allowance because he refuses to work and reinstated Constance's since she became his secretary. Alice draws an allowance because she is still attending school.

Alice and Billy are indignant because Constance has apparently gone over to the enemy, especially in view of the fact that Hedge prevented Constance from eloping with Tommy Treadwell. Today Hedge is accompanying Constance on a shopping expedition. They have just started. Constance has purchased several pairs of gloves contrary to all expressed rules which Hedge insists in charging of "efficient management."

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

As they left the glover's and reentered the car Constance was trying to get a grip on herself.

"Steady," she whispered to her beating heart. "This is only a little skirmish. It's not event an outpost taken. Don't be too sure."

"Where next?" he demanded.

Constance pursed her lips doubtfully and studied the extendedd tip of her shoe.

"Shoes?" he asked.

"How wonderful you are at guessing," she murmured. "Really, I need a pair of walking shoes."

H. Hedge left her in the shoeshop while he returned to the sidewalk and delivered a sharp lecture to Frank, the chauffeur for allowing the motor to idle and thereby consume gasoline.

"It saves the starter, sir," explained Frank. "Using the starter runs out the batteries."

"Use the crank," advised the efficiency man. "It's good exercise."

Frank said that he would, but did not explain how he would most like to use it.

Back in the shop, he found Constance regarding three pairs of shoes with fond eyes.

"I don't know which to take," she said, looking up with a smile.

"Which are the walking shoes?"

"That's the trouble. They all are." He examined the shoes critically.

"You do a good deal of walking," he observed at length. "I've noticed it."

"Yes," she admitted ruefully.

"It's economy not to wear a single pair of shoes continuously," he added. "That has been demonstrated."

"I—I think I have heard that."

"Of course," Then to the clerk: "Wrap them all up."

Constance bent her head and be[illegible] thing in her purse with dutiful [illegible]. She did not care to look up, [illegible] at the efficiency man might [illegible] the gleam in her eyes. [illegible] them," she heard him [illegible] crisp tones.

[illegible] cousine, they rode [illegible] minute's, the [illegible] bundles that [illegible] of them. He [illegible] in the note-[illegible]

[illegible] it was time [illegible]

"[illegible] have already spent more [illegible] saved," she said sadly.

"[illegible] purchases are being charged."

[illegible] at her, still glaring at the [illegible] bundles.

"It's—it's very kind of you."

"Not at all. Understand, Miss Brooke that economy and efficiency are not synonymous with a policy of never spending any money."

"Truly?" Her astonishment was by no means feigned.

"Of course. I thought you understood. There is a complete chapter on that feature in the book I loaned you."

"So there is. I'd forgotten."

"Necessary expenditures, in order to preserve efficiency, are always economy. You needed gloves and shoes, did you not?"

"Indeed yes!"

"Very well. Then we have been practicing economy and living up to our principles. Economy, I may add in mere dollars, frequently costs more than extravagance. Note the case of your New Year party.

"It would have been extravagance to pay two hundred dollars, say for the employment of musicians and the purchase of indigestible refreshments. But it was economy, combined with efficiency and the principle of safety first, to spend three hundred dollars for a specialist and nurse in order to protect the health of the household!"

Constance opened her eyes wide, but was too amazed to speak. So he had spent three hundred dollars on that! She made a mental note that H. Hedge would pay dearly.

"You appreciate the force of it, do you not?" he demanded.

"I? Oh, assuredly!"

"Of course. It's obvious."

But a[illegible] glanced at [illegible] bundles again his frown returned.

"Well, where next?"

"I wasn't sure there was going to be any next."

"It's a waste of time, gasoline, and tires to spend an afternoon merely shopping for gloves and shoes he declared with emphasis. "Scientific shopping contemplates the purchase of all necessities within the shortest space of time and with a minimum of travel. What else?"

Constance stole a glance at him and paused irresolutely. Unconsciously she patted her hat.

"Not that?" he exclaimed in alarm

Now she looked at him squarely and smiled.

"No not that," she agreed. "Was it—terribly expensive?"

"Moderately so," he admitted. Then hastily: "But not extravagant. There is a marked difference. I draw the line at extravagance. But, as I said before, economy is not wholly gauged by dollars. I consider the hat an economy, all things taken into account. Do you find it a useful practical hat?"

"Oh, tremendously so!" she assured him.

He had spoken quite solemnly, but when Constance next ventured a glance she detected a faint grin on the efficiency man's features. He froze it immediately when he discovered that she was observing him.

"Well, where next?" he repeated.

Constance decided upon another strategic move.

"Honestly, I don't know," she said. "What do you think I want—I mean need."

He studied her until the scrutiny

"Wrap them all up."

became a trifle embarrassing. There was a penetrating and inclusive quality in his survey that caused her to flush, faintly She wished H Hedge was not quite so thorough in his examination, yet she was conscious that his painstaking interest was not displeasing.

"I think you need a set of furs," he said.

She beamed at him in sudden bewilderment. How could he possibly have guessed. How could he be so wonderfully human? And why—oh, why couldn't he always be like that?

"You are a mind-reader, Mr Hedge," she affirmed. "You almost frightened me."

"No. I am not a mind-reader," said the efficiency man positively. "But you see, the other day I noticed that your muff and boa might easily, even profitably, be replaced with a set more in harmony with your fur coat."

"When in the world did you notice that?" she asked in surprise.

"On the back stairs."

Constance turned pink. It was the first time he had even alluded in the most indirect manner, to the morning when he had robbed Tommy Treadwell of a bride. She herself had brought up the subject once, by mistake, but H. Hedge had never reopened it.

"I did not know you were so observing," she said for the sake of speech.

"It is my business to observe. Where do you buy your furs?"

She gave a direction to the chauffeur and presently the efficiency man found himself in one of those Fifth Avenue shops that resemble nothing so much as a palatial private home.

Half an hour later, truly dazed Constance emerged with a silver fox skin around her neck and a great muff that matched it. Furtively she pinched herself to make sure it was not a fantasy of the brain.

"It's five o'clock," announced the efficiency man. "Shall we drive in the park or take tea?"

"You decide," she murmured.

"We'll drive.

It would have seemed logical, after his amazing afternoon's record, that the efficiency man should be in gay and trifling mood. He was not. He indulged in long silences, broken only by monosyllables, yet marked by frequent and disconcerting inspections of Constance. Sometimes he glowered at the bundles on the front seat. There was something grim in his mood.

Once he turned to her abruptly and said almost sharply:

"I wish you would wear blue more frequently."

Constance widened her eyes, then stammered:

"Wh-why?"

"Suits you."

"And —and do you like it, Mr. Hedge?"

He did not appear to hear, having relapsed into another of his silences.

The number of parcels which were removed from the car as it stopped at last in front of the Brooke mansion caused Horace to display a surprise that is inexcusable in any experienced butler. H. Hedge did not notice this, however.

He walked directly to the library and began going through the afternoon mail. Constance hurried to her rooms, where she soon had Matilda bringing out for inspection every dinner gown that she possessed.

She chose a blue one.

The efficiency man had little to say during the evening meal. He did not fail to observe the gown, but he made no comment, as Constance rather hoped he would. He was unnaturally preoccupied, so that he forgot to tell Horace that he took seven paces in walking from the sideboard to the table.

NEXT CHAPTER Constance makes a discovery.

Alas! Another thing that got a vacation was the old savings account.

Those who think a Senator is a more stately officer should take another look at Borah.

January First

A new interest period starts in our savings department—deposits made up through January 5th will draw interest from January first—Perhaps you have not been carrying a savings account, in the past, if not we urge you to start one now. We pay 4 percent interest quarterly—One dollar or more will start a savings account here——

—START TODAY—

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Build Up A Cash Reserve During 1926—

A new interest period starts in our savings department January 1st. We invite you to come in now and start a savings account and build up a cash reserve, you may start with any amount, one dollar or more. 4% interest paid quarterly.

Good for old and young saving department—

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Dr. B. M. Jarrett

Around Our Town

—SHELBY SIDELIGHTS—

By Renn Drum.

"Resolution Day" is being observed generally over Shelby today. Some folks are closed up; others are "read up"

It's the beginning of a New Year when everyone decides to start the new year off right, and then proceeds to do the opposite by saying they'll do things they know will not last for any length of time.

Dad and the boy will quit smoking, and sometimes "cussing", for anywhere from a week to three weeks months and then go back at it harder than ever. Daughter will resolve to be more helpful to mother and in about two weeks consider a fast date a somewhat speedier life. Mother will decide to believe that the other members of the family have really started to reform, and then change her decision as the others break their resolutions.

That's New Year as America of 19 and one quarter centuries celebrate it.

However, there is one resolution that the colyum believes will go unbroken. That's the one Pete Grigg made when he resolved not to talk anymore about his possum dog. One could hardly blame Pete tho after he's heard about those Lawndale hounds.

Judge Van Wart, retired Canadian jurist, who believes Shelby second only to the Garden of Eden, and places Central hotel on an even basis with home, was the recipient of a little token Christmas that was of the nature that made Shelby so hospitable to him, Mrs. Pattie Ware, former popiotess of the Central being the donor.

Along about the first of the year, and there is nothing more "first" than today, the first, fortune tellers seers and wise men predict what will take place during the year. For Shelby during 1926 the colyum predicts:

Several more elopements across the South Carolina border where they said believe in letting a poor man marry.

Another chapter for the Francis-Philbeck case.

At least four new business firms.

Another Harold Lloyd picture with come to Webbs and Mae Murray may be expected again at the Princess.

One new industrial plant.

An increase of 1,200 in population. (The majority of whom will be fully developed citizens. Doctors needn't worry).

Another inquiry in The Star about the Hercules door at the postoffice.

A good high school baseball team.

Hugh Hoyle to crank another Ford with an arm broken four times already.

Somebody will call Recorder Mull "hard-hearted."

A new name for flappers

One or two cases of mumps and several cases of vanilla, and other artificially flavored kicks, permitted to be sold in a country "bone dry", but not "cake dry."

More visitors and tourists during the summer than ever before.

At least one new building on the blocked square of the court square.

A shake-up in somebody's job—webbe this one if we get in late many more times, but more'n likely in that of some important personage about town.

Mr. Ebeltoft will sell more "True Stories" magazines than everybody will Bibles.

15 more Shelby people, more or less and mostly more, will attend picture shows during the year than will go to prayermeeting.

One or two overdrafts will be issued to three of four customers of the moneyed institutions presided over by Messrs. Blanton, Lineberger and Bowman.

Somebody will park on the bench in the Cleveland drug store or a chair Sheriff Logan's office and wonder what the world is coming to when they see the 1926 styles for the flapper.

Red Newman will continue to have red hair, but Buck Hardin may buy a new automobile.

W. J. Roberts will likely continue being one of the friendliest fellows in town.

Fred Culbreth, Bass Settle, Julian Hord and J. C. McNeely will learn at least one new joke during the year.

Wythe Royster will continue to believe that the Carolina football team should be the first All-American pick but George Moore, Max Washburn and our boss will continue to cross their chests with Irish Hank Garrity and ba[illegible]

Jim W[illegible] may buy something and sell something.

At least the new cafe will open up in Shelby after the next of immigrants land in New York.

Everybody will say they're going to shop at home this Christmas and then read The Star to see what time the next bus leaves for Charlotte.

South Shelby may get a paved street but there's little likelihood that there'll ever be any more lights around the court square.

One or two folks will have automobile wrecks on busy Saturday afternoons.

The next commander of the Legion Post will be a member of the post.

Bill McMurry may go hunting if it's not good golfing weather, and Lefty Robinson may accompany him if he learns to like the sport.

Carl Weathers will still sell insurance and Major Hopper will continue in the grocery business, while all good business houses will continue to let the banks cash the checks and deal only in goods they know.

And at least three times, 8,851

A Physician's Prescription

Possible application of medical science. Into its writing may go the experience of years. Think, then, of the responsibility we feel when we accept it to see that the patient receives exactly what the physician intended.

In the first place, we must have pure drugs, full strength and freshly manufactured.

No substitutes, no imitations, no inferior preparations are ever used at our store.

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Dr. R. L. Ramseur

How Doctors Treat Colds and the Flu

To break up a cold overnight or to cut short an attack of grippe, influenza, sore throat or tonsillitis, physicians and druggists are now recommending Calotabs, the purified and refined calomel compound tablet that gives you the effects of calomel and salts combined without the unpleasant effects of either.

One or two Calotabs at bed-time with a swallow of water,—that's all. No salts, no nausea nor the slightest interference with your eating, work or pleasure. Next morning your cold has vanished, your system is thoroughly purified and you are feeling fine with a healthy appetite for breakfast. Eat what you please,—no danger.

Get a family package, containing full directions, only 35 cents. At any drug store. (adv)

Standardization helps. Think of the convenience if every member of the family smokes the same kind of cigaretts.

PAINS ALL OVER

Lady Says She Took Cardui and Never Saw Such Improvement—Was So Weak Couldn't Stand.

Weatherspy, Miss.—Mrs. James M. Hall, of this place, writes that she was "getting weaker all the time" when Cardui, the woman's tonic, was first brought to her attention. After she had taken Cardui a while, she writes that she "never did see such an improvement."

"I suffered all the time and had pains all over," says Mrs. Hall. "I was so weak I could not stand. My skin was cold and clabby. I did not have any color. I had always been a very active woman—used to outdoor exercise, walking and going where I pleased, and to get down, not able to get myself a drink, was indeed a hardship.

"Nothing seemed to help me, till I began on Cardui. The first bottle seemed to strengthen me, and I sent for five more. By the time I had taken these, I was on my feet, going around, doing my work, gained in health and strength.

"I took two more bottles, and I am well and strong. Can work my garden. I haven't had any more sickness."

Ask your druggist. NC-165

Take CARDUI THE WOMAN'S TONIC

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No. 113	Marion to Rock Hill	26 a. m.
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No. 114	Rock Hill to Marion	08 p. m.

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Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains at Shelby, N. C.

Lv.	No.	Between	No.	Ar.
4:50	16	Monroe Rutherfordton	16	4:50
12:27	15	Rutherfordton Monroe	15	12:27

Schedules published as information and are not guaranteed.

E. W. LONG, D. P. A., Charlotte, N. C.

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Tuxedo Hog Ration fed right along with your corn in a Tuxedo Self-Feeder—that's all it takes to make profit hogs fast.

Keep the Self-Feeder well filled and your hogs will balance their own ration. They'll eat just enough to keep strong and vigorous and put on weight in a hurry. And if you'll keep a record of your feed costs per pound of hog meat, the figures are bound to convince you that Tuxedo Hog Ration costs *less* to feed than anything else. See us about free plans for Tuxedo Self-Feeder.

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