

Too Much Efficiency

By E. J. Rath

BEGIN HERE TODAY
JOHN W. BROOKE, widower and hardware magnate, arranges with a firm of efficiency engineers to operate his home while he is away for two months. His three grown children, Constance, Billy and Alice, combine to fight H. Hedge, efficiency expert, assigned to take charge. They fight a losing fight until Constance decides to turn spy and becomes Hedge's secretary. She finds notes on a book which Hedge intends to write, referring to the Brooke children as examples of the idle rich. She denounces Hedge and throws his notes into the open fireplace. Hedge acts as if demented for the next few minutes. He throws all files into the open fireplace. Then he orders Constance to write two letters: One tenders his resignation to the Economy and Efficiency Corp. and the other her own resignation to him. He insists she sign her letter "affectionately."

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY
 "There! That ends the business—the efficiency part. You resign; I resign. It's all off. Now we're ready to take up the other matter. Here—where are you going? Not much; sit right where you are—Connie. Don't forget that you're mine 'affectionately.'"

Constance sank back and stared at him. As she did so, the wild look faded from his eyes and he smiled at her.

"Now, Connie," he said, seating himself on the desk and looking down at her, "I'm sorry if I scared you, but it had to be done. I'm not crazy; I've just become sane. I've chopped six years of efficiency out of my life and I'm beginning all over again."

She was simultaneously relieved and alarmed.

"Last night," said H. Hedge, "you turned the lights out on me. I don't blame you. I was still an efficiency engineer. I'm just plain Henry now, and as such I'm entitled to a hearing I love you."

Constance watched him curiously. He was utterly unlike the efficiency man. Somehow, his dark eyes had changed. They were ardent. They carried an appeal that even his voice lacked.

"Yes, Connie, I love you. Of course I had to. Everybody has to. I suppose that's one of the things I'll have to put up with after we're married."

She gasped and turned pink.

"Certainly; after we're married. We're going to be, you know. No; you mustn't run, dear. You must listen a minute or two. I love you. That's three times I've said it; it proves I've cast economy to the winds. Doesn't it? I'll never economize again, especially on that. I love you—I love you."

And Constance, for all her bewilderment, could see that H. Hedge meant it.

"You see," he went on, "it explains lots of things. It explains why I ordered one young man after another out of the house. I was afraid one of them would really get you. I don't suppose I was giving them a sporting chance. But so what? I've just had to have you, Connie. You don't mind my saying 'Connie,' do you?"

She made no reply, being a trifle uncertain.

"Now, as to the other part of it," he said, "I mean the part about you fooling me and making me believe that you really like all that efficiency stuff. You did fool me, of course. But before you got through you fooled yourself, Connie."

Constance was watching him sharply.

"Didn't you fool yourself?"

"How?" she asked unwarily.

"By pretending that I was your enemy and that you hated me, and then winding up by loving me."

"I—why?"

Her face flamed again.

"How dare you say I love you?"

"Because I'm sure of it," he answered happily.

"You—you presume, Mr. Hedge?"

"I do not presume—and my name is Henry. Sometimes I used to be called Harry," he added a little wistfully. "Honestly, Connie, I think you love me."

"You think it? You said before—"

He made a gesture of despair and laughed.

"That just shows you how mixed a man gets when he's in love. But I am sure of it. And you'll be if you'll only stop to consider."

ought to deny it," he suggested meekly.

"I deny—"

"Stop!"

She stopped and was annoyed when she became aware of it.

"I deny—"

He reached over and placed his hand across her lips.

"Don't deny," he pleaded.

She pushed the hand away, but did not finish the sentence. Instead, she rose from the chair and started toward the hallway. Then she changed her course, for no conscious reason, and went over to one of the windows where she stood with her back toward him. H. Hedge followed.

The floundering uncertainty went out of his eyes and he beamed at the back of her head. He took her gently by the shoulders and turned her around.

"Let's quit fooling," he said.

"So—so you've been fooling, then," she murmured. "Then I—"

The rest of the sentence was smothered as H. Hedge stood there with Constance in his arms his heart pounding a hundred beats to the minute. He did not dare speak. Constance did not try; it was too amazing.

After several minutes he ventured a pleading appeal.

"I don't know whether I can talk straight yet," he said. "I suppose I'm due for another bungle. But I've kissed the top of your head so often that I just wondered if you'd let me—"

She lifted her head—and let him "I don't deserve this," he said humbly after an interval.

"I don't think I do, either—after—"

"Connie—I love you."

the way you treated me," she answered faintly. "I—I think I must be crazy."

"Why?"

"For loving you."

"Connie! He held her off at arm's length. "Honestly,—do you?"

She looked at him in amazement.

"H. Hedge, you are insufferable!" she exclaimed. "Do you think I'd let you—kiss me—and almost crush me to death—if I didn't love you?"

He seized her again, and they began once more, from the point where

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Constance Brooke had received proposals before, but never one that carried with it such brazen assurance. She knew that she ought to put H. Hedge aright without delay—but she waited.

"I can't give any reason for believing so, I admit," he continued rather lamely. "But I just feel it in my bones. I just feel—oh, I guess it's a hunch, Connie."

He slid down from the table and stood in front of her, his hands outstretched, as he had the evening before. But this time she did not laugh at him. She felt serious and disquieted. It was like having an utter stranger lay his heart in her hands—for there was no doubt that the efficiency man had vanished. As for the stranger, why—

"If you don't love me, I think you

they had quit fooling.

It was Constance who broke the silence finally.

"It seems to me," she said as she ran her finger lightly almost curiously, over his hair, "that for a person who has abandoned efficiency, you are still a rather scientific manager. O-o-oh! There—didn't I tell you so, dear?"

Half an hour later Constance and H. Hedge were gravely wondering how they could ever explain it to anybody. They could not even explain it to themselves.

"There's absolutely no sense in it," she said.

"Absolutely none," he agreed.

"It's impossible to give any good reason."

"Impossible."

"And yet—well, it's done."

"That's the only explainable part of it—it's done. Nobody knows how; not even us."

"Yet we've got to tell them, of course."

"You bet we have! I'm going to—"

(Continued on page two.)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX ELECTION.

Whereas, a petition has been presented to the Board of Commissioners of Cleveland county, signed by more than 25 qualified voters within the proposed special school tax district, the metes and bounds of which are hereinafter set forth, requesting this board to order an election in the territory embraced within the boundaries of said proposed school tax district, said boundaries comprising the present boundaries of Cabaniss Local Tax district No. 42, the exact metes and bounds of which special school tax district are as follows:

Beginning with and including the farm of Joe S. Blanton and running thence with and including the following farms, viz: Nash Magness, F. W. Cabaniss, E. E. Cabaniss, Pleas Bridges, W. P. Hawkins, J. M. Brooks, the Covington farm owned by F. Bate Blanton, Lee Cabaniss, Mrs. White's farm owned by Tom Greene, W. T. Weathers, Frank Connor, Mrs. C. G. Poston, J. C. Pruett, J. W. Irwin, Ellen Wilson, F. P. Gold, L. A. Blanton, the Perry Wellmon place, T. P. Cabaniss, and thence to the beginning;

to ascertain the will of a majority of the qualified electors residing in said district upon the question of creating a special school tax district comprising the said boundaries and of levying a tax of not exceeding (50) cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of property, both real and personal, in said district, and where, as, said petition has been duly approved and endorsed by the county board of education.

Now, therefore, the board of commissioners, of Cleveland county, at their regular session held on January 10th, 1926 do grant said petition and order that an election be held at the usual polling place at the Cabaniss school house, in the aforesaid district, on Monday, February 22nd, 1926, for the purpose of ascertaining the will of the electors within the proposed special school tax district upon the question of levying a special tax, not exceeding (50) cents on the One Hundred dollars valuation of all property, real and personal, in said district, in addition to the county tax for the six months school term.

It is further ordered that G. T. Cabaniss be and he is hereby appointed registrar of said election and that he be furnished with a copy of this order, and that Coleman Blanton, and Pink Irwin be and they are hereby appointed judges of said election.

It is further ordered that at said election those who are in favor of said boundary becoming a Special School Tax district and of levying a special school tax in said district to an amount not exceeding (50) cents on the One Hundred Dollars valuation of property, both real and personal, in said district, shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words, "FOR SPECIAL TAX," and those who are opposed shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words, "AGAINST SPECIAL TAX," it being understood that if a majority of the qualified electors at said election shall vote in favor of said special tax, then said boundaries shall constitute a special tax district known as the Cabaniss School Tax District, in which a special tax not exceeding (50) cents on the One Hundred Dollars' worth of property may be levied for school purposes.

It is further ordered that a new registration of voters residing within said special tax district shall be had and that the registration books shall be kept open between the hours of 9 a. m., and sunset on each day, Sundays excepted, for twenty days preceding the day for the closing of the registration books, for the registration of any electors residing within the aforesaid boundary entitled to register, and that said books shall be opened for registration on January 21st, 1926, and close Saturday, February 13th, 1926, before said election and that on each Saturday during the period of registration the registrar shall attend with his registration books at the polling place in said district for the registration of voters and that on the day of election the polls shall be open from sunrise to sunset and the election shall be held as near as may be under the law governing general elections.

It is further ordered that, after the closing of the polls, the registrar and poll holders shall duly certify over their hands the number of registered voters at said election and the number of votes for and against the special tax and transmit same to the Board of Commissioners, and same shall be filed and the board of commissioners shall canvass and judicially determine the result of said election and record such determination on their records.

It is further ordered that due publication of this order and of said election and new registration be made by publishing this order in the Cleveland Star once a week for three weeks, the first publication hereof to be made in the issue of January 6th, 1926.

R. L. WEATHERS, Clerk to Board.

PECULIAR NAMES ARE FOUND ON MAP OF THE TWO CAROLINAS

Rock Hill, S. C.—That other sections of the country and world have not anything on the Carolinas when it comes to outlandish names for villages, towns and cities is proved by a casual survey of any list of post-offices in the two states. Anything one is looking for is right in the Carolinas.

Taking a glance down alphabetically on the list of South Carolina postoffices, for instance, one finds such names as the following, some of which the average citizen would be undecided whether to define as patent medicines, Pullman coach names, or Chinese crossword puzzle synonyms:

Blue Brick, Greezewood, Burkhek, Catechee, Choppee, Coosawantechie, Daufuskie Island, Dunvegan, Eastatoe, Fingerville, Frogmore, Helena (Montana has one, too), Horse Pond, Hospital, Jocassee, Montmorenci, Nine Time, Okatie, Pinopolis, Pon Pon, Salkhatchie, Sieginville, Thickety, Tigerville, Vacluse, Wampee and Yeuhannah.

Of course there are others, but this was just a casual glance!

Then North Carolina also has to offer the following:

Ahoskie, Altamahaw, Bat Cave, Bearwallow, Bee Tree, Bowditch, Burhill, Buladann, Calypso, Cash Corner, Cataloochee, Cheeah, Chiquapiur, Chocowinity, Cognas (gone but not forgotten), Cullasaja, Dundarracó,

Dysartsville, Grimshawes, Gum Neck, Hiwassee, Makatoka, Mashoes, Nags Head, Natabala, Okisko, Old Trap, Pfafftown, Potecasi, Quinine, Quitsna, Sazoro, Samarand, Saxapahaw, Short Off, Solola, Teresita, Terra Ceia, Ilah, Unaka, Uree, Wakulla, Wannish, Wanchese and Worry.

Yes sir, some towns in far-away states certainly do have strange names!

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the annual stockholders meeting of the Cleveland Bank and Trust Co. will be held in the director's room of the bank on Tuesday January 12th, at 11 o'clock or the election of officers, and the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting. This December 29th, 1925.

J. J. LATTIMORE, Secy.-Treas.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Trust Company of Shelby, for the election of directors for the ensuing year and any other business coming before the meeting, will be held Tuesday January 19th, 1926 at 11 o'clock a. m. at their banking room in Shelby.

FORREST ESKRIDGE, Cashier.

An efficiency expert, can do it as well as anybody if you'll give him time to prepare a blue print.

INSURANCE

Immediately after a fire or a death you think of insurance. Very nice if they had it. A pity if they did not. Then why wait if you are not properly insured. We write all kinds. We make loans. Phone 200 for your Insurance Wants.

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 ROOMS 15 AND 16, ROYSER BUILDING.
 SHELBY, N. C.

SERVICE THAT SATISFIES

—AT THE—
DRIVE IN FILLING STATION
TEXACO GAS AND OILS
 We have a few Tires for Fords at a VERY LOW PRICE

DRIVE IN FILLING STATION
 JAMES F. ROBERTS, Proprietor

SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY COMPANY

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.
 or H. A. HARRIS, Local Ticket Agent

NEW SOUTHERN SCHEDULE CHARLESTON DIVISION

No. 113	Marion to Rock Hill	7:26 a. m.
No. 36	Rock Hill to Marion	9:37 a. m.
No. 35	Marion to Rock Hill	6:41 p. m.
No. 114	Rock Hill to Marion	8:08 p. m.

No. 35 makes connection at Blacksburg with No. 40 for north.

A. H. MORGAN, Agent
 SHELBY, N. C.

SCHEDULES

INTER-CAROLINAS MOTOR BUS COMPANY
 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 Lincoln-ton 8:30 a. m., 11 a. m., 3:00 p. m., 6:30 p. m. ZEB 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.
 For Information Phone 450—Union Bus Terminal, Shelby, N. C.

GENERAL REPAIRING ON ANY MAKE OF AUTOMOBILE
 Wrecker Service — Road Service
THE SERVICE GARAGE
 B. F. Spangler
 Phone 371. — Shelby, N. C.

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SHELBY ICE & FUEL CO.
 Shelby, N. C.

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 --HIGHEST QUALITY--
 --QUICKEST SERVICE--
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 SASH — DOORS — FRAMES
 SIDING — FLOORING — CEILING
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 CUTTING, WELDING, BRAZING
 PHONE 237
SHELBY WELDING PLANT

Coal
 AND
DRY WOOD
Ideal Ice & Fuel Co.
 PHONE 250
 NIGHT OR DAY
 WE NEVER CLOSE.



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