

Too Much Efficiency

By E. J. Rath

BEGIN HERE TODAY

JOHN W. BROOKE, widower and hardware magnate, arranges with a firm of efficiency experts to operate his home for several weeks during his absence. It is three weeks now since.

H. HEDGE, efficiency expert took charge of the Brooke household. Constance, Billy and Alice, the Brooke "children," failed to stop scientific management until Constance became Hedge's secretary and Hedge proceeded to fall in love with her in a showdown between the two over some notes Hedge made which showed the Brooke family as types of the idle rich. Constance wins a complete victory. All the records are thrown into the fireplace by Hedge, who sends a letter of resignation to his company. Love has won over efficiency. Hedge and Constance are wondering how to explain it all when Billy walks in. They tell him that they are engaged to be married.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY Billy Brooke was stunned. He gaped at the pair and shook his head slowly in complete bewilderment.

"Connie's going to marry me," announced H. Hedge, grinning. "You're almost by brother-in-law, Bill."

"Is this true, Connie?"

Constance nodded and laughed. "You mean to tell me you're going to marry that—that crazy nut?"

"But he's not crazy, Billy dear. Are you, E. E.? He isn't an efficiency man any more. He resigned. And the efficiency is all the fire, and the time-clock is smashed, and all the rules are abolished. So you mustn't call him a nut, because—well, because—well, because he's mine."

"We're disgraced," moaned Billy.

"See here, William Brooke said his sister sternly. "Never let me hear you say that again. We're not disgraced! He's the finest, dearest—"

"Let up—please," begged H. Hedge modestly.

"I won't!" declared Constance. "You're whatever I say you are. As for you, Billy, I want you to shake hands with him and congratulate him."

Billy glared. "Billy, do as I say!" she commanded. "Why, it's an insult not to. Don't you think enough of your sister to congratulate the man who gets her?"

"But, Connie—after everything that's happened—after all he's done?"

Constance set her lips firmly and slid down from the table. "E. E." she said. "You promised to do anything I ever asked, didn't you?"

"I did."

"Very well. Then beat him up!" And Constance pointed at her brother.

H. Hedge laughed and advanced toward Billy, with an extended hand. "Shake Bill!" he said. "I'm O. K. even if you don't believe it yet. Connie says I am, and she's always right. I'm going to prove it to all of you—today."

Billy Brooke found himself studying a singularly winning smile, quite different from any he had ever before observed on the face of H. Hedge. Hesitatingly he thrust out his hand.

"And now kiss me and wish me happiness," ordered Constance.

Billy did, still bewildered.

"Does—does Alice know this?" he asked anxiously.

"She's not home from school yet."

"It'll be an awful shock to her."

"It is to all of us," said Constance cheerfully. "That's one of the nice parts of it. I love to be shocked but you're going to be shocked worse than Alice. Tell him what you are going to do, E. E."

For answer, H. Hedge fumbled among the few remaining papers on the desk and discovered the check-book.

"When did I cut off your allowance, Bill?" he asked.

"I—gosh!"

"It's three weeks, anyhow," observed H. Hedge, as he began to write. "Call it a month; that's near enough. We'll say two hundred is coming to you. And then there's interest, at six per cent. I guess. Oh, let's make it an even two-fifty and call it square. I don't want to bother figuring it. Is that satisfactory, Bill?"

Billy Brooke was choking. As Hedge signed his name with a particularly dashing flourish, he stood as though hypnotized. And when the check was in his hands he was still dumb. He stared at the slip of paper and then at the signer of it. Constance and Hedge laughed merrily.

"And hello, H. Hedge—congratulations!"

And she kissed him!

"Alice!"

It was the amazed voice of Constance that spoke.

"Poh!" said Alice blandly. "I knew it was going to happen all the time. Anybody who wasn't blind could see it."

"Alice! You couldn't have seen it—nobody could!"

"Couldn't I, though? I've been expecting to see you fall on each other's heads at breakfast for the past two weeks."

And she raced from the room.

"Do you really think she knew?" asked Constance in an awed voice.

"You never can tell," observed Billy thoughtfully. "She's a wise little ray, but she doesn't always let on."

"She's a dear," said Constance. "And I'm beginning to think she knew more about it than any of us after all."

Horace entered the room, carrying a trayful of mail. When he had laid

the exact spot where H. Hedge sat, he faced it, drew himself up with a military air, and covered the interval by the shortest possible route and with the fewest number of steps. With a single movement of the arm, he presented the mail.

H. Hedge took it from the tray, biting his lip to conceal a smile. Horace wheeled about, checked his heels together, and started back over the same route. He was halted by the voice of the ex-efficiency man before he had reached the door.

"Take a couple of turns around the table, Horace," commanded H. Hedge.

Horace started.

"Go ahead—just for luck."

Very solemnly, Horace walked twice around the table.

"After this, walk any old way you please, Horace. If I catch you doing points—stuff any more, you and I will roll around the floor some. And tell 'em all downstairs to get busy and wear out their shoes. If I don't see some varnish kicked off the floors, there'll be a row. And, while I think of it, have Giovanni sweep up the time-clock and throw it into the ash-barrel."

"Very good, sir," said Horace impressively.

But when he reached the hall he leaned against the staircases while he recovered his breath.

"And now to get ready for the big shot," said H. Hedge.

Constance and Billy looked at him expectantly.

"A party—the real thing—and no hospital corps!" he exclaimed.

"When?"

"Tonight."

"For just us?" asked Constance.

"Just us? I should say not! Just everybody—that's all."

"It can't be done, E. E. There isn't time."

"All the time in the world," he affirmed.

"But there are so many who will have engagements and—"

"Let 'em break their engagements. Tell 'em there's a big surprise coming. Make it mysterious; that'll fetch 'em."

I'll knock off after that for the rest of my life. Just give me this one chance. It's the last offense."

"I'm for letting him go to it," advised Billy, as he fondly figured the check in his vest-pocket.

"Go to it, E. E.," insisted Constance.

Hedge bounded out of his chair. "We've all got to pile in and work," he said in his old brisk manner.

"Connie, will you do the inviting? You've got your own phone upstairs. I'll need the one here. Who will you invite? Everybody you can think of—anybody you want. Make 'em come. Tell 'em we're sending automobiles after 'em."

"Don't leave anybody out. Get a mob. Just to give you an idea of what I mean, invite Tommy Treadwell, and invite the Van Nest family and that Withersbee thing you like. Take 'em all in, from top to bottom, and from bottom to top. Telegraph Washington and invite the president."

"E. E., you're absurd."

"I'm worse than that—I'm ridiculous. But I'm going to be good and loony for one night if I go into a straight-jacket in the morning. Now, hurry, Connie, my dear. Wait—kiss me! Now beat it!"

Constance fled by her room and locked the telephone.

NEXT CHAPTER: John W. Brooke appears unexpectedly.

Ah, well; the league justifies its existence if it serves only to keep the Balkan states from clawing one another.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION. The partnership heretofore existing between Chas. H. Williams and Max Hamrick, trading and transacting business under the firm name of Williams and Hamrick in Shelby, N. C., was dissolved on January 1st, 1926. The business will be continued and known as the Office Supply Company, a duly incorporated concern. Any claims against the old concern should be presented at once and all those indebted to said firm will confer a favor by settling accounts, or by making a satisfactory arrangement in lieu thereof.

CHAS. H. WILLIAMS, MAX HAMRICK.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. I, J. B. ELLIS, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. B. ELLIS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11 day of January, 1926. GEO. OATES, Notary Public. Correct—Attest: R. E. HAMRICK, J. S. WHITE, J. A. ELLIS, Directors.

Report of the Condition of THE BANK OF GROVER

at Grover in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business, December 31st, 1925.

Resources.

Loans and discounts	\$103,058.34
Overdrafts	4,300.00
United States bonds and Liberty bonds	100.00
All other stocks, bonds, and mortgages	1,001.00
Banking houses, \$1,015.32	
Furniture and fixtures	2,047.92
Cash in vault and on hand	3,063.24
Due from banks, bankers and trust companies	29,778.67
Outside collections	5,414.32
Total	\$147,028.53

Liabilities.

Capital stock paid in	10,000.00
Surplus fund	11,000.00
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid	504.35
Interest reserve account	510.10
Dividends unpaid	590.00
Notes and bills rediscounted	5,000.00
Bills payable	5,000.00
Deposits subject to check, Individual	60,820.74
Cashier's checks outstanding	534.41
Time certificates of deposit due on or after 30 days	53,158.93
Total	\$147,028.53

State of North Carolina—County of Cleveland, January 9, 1926.

I, J. B. ELLIS, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. B. ELLIS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11 day of January, 1926.

GEO. OATES, Notary Public. Correct—Attest: R. E. HAMRICK, J. S. WHITE, J. A. ELLIS, Directors.

HORSE SOLD FOR LESS THAN DOLLAR IN ORANGEBURG, S. C.

Orangeburg, S. C., Jan. 12.—This city is a mecca for the old time horse swapper, trader, auctioneer and other live stock dealers. The market is patronized by both white and colored traders every sales day in the year. They are in evidence especially on the first Monday following the New Year, as that is the biggest event in the market during the season.

The market is held in an open lot used at other times for cotton trading and weighing. The auctioneer occupies the deserted cotton-loading platform, and customers and dealers gather round in little groups, most of the men standing, a few discussing the more or less fine points of the different animals offered for sale from their vantage point in nearby buggies and wagons.

Animals of every description, old horses, young mules, cattle fat and cattle poor, work-horses, both blind and lame, all are offered at public outcry.

Sometimes a horse or a mule is "knocked down" for a few dollars, and the new owner is heard in hot dispute over throwing in the bridle or saddle, as the case may be.

The record price was recorded here Monday when one horse was "knocked down" for 75 cents.

Correct this sentence: "John is so busy he has little time for me," said she, "but I never complain."

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., 7:30 p. m.—Leaves Charlotte for Shelby 8 a. m., 10 a. m., 12 Noon, 2 p. m., 4 p. m., 6 p. m.

SCHEDULE LINCOLNTON-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. ZEB COSTNER, Manager.

SCHEDULE SHELBY-MORGANTON BUS

Leave Shelby 10:05 A. M. and 4:05 P. M.

Leave Morganton 8:25 A. M. and 1:00 P. M.

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 10:30 a. m., 12 Noon, 2 p. m., 4 p. m., 6 p. m.

BLUE RIDGE LINES, Owners, Asheville, N. C.

For Information Phone 450—Union Bus Terminal, Shelby, N. C.



AT KELLY'S

SPECIAL OFFERINGS ON OVERCOATS, KNIT GOODS AND HATS.

All belted models in Overcoats — \$20.00 coats \$14.75. \$24.50 coats \$17.50. \$14.75 coats \$11.75.

HATS—75 numbers—confined to window display. Some Mallorrs, DeLuxe and Alco Brands. Values up to \$6.50, all at... \$3.45

MEN'S AND BOYS SWEATERS 1-4 OFF

Boys \$3.50 Sweaters at	\$2.62
Boys \$4.95 Sweaters	\$3.72
Boys \$5.00 Sweaters	\$3.75
Men's \$5.00 Sweaters at	\$3.75
Men's \$6.50 Sweaters	\$4.95
Men's \$7.50 Sweaters at	\$5.63
Men's \$8.50 Sweaters at	\$6.37
Men's \$9.00 Sweaters at	\$6.77
Men's \$10.00 Sweaters at	\$7.50
Men's \$11.50 Sweaters at	\$8.63

These are all new stocks and all wool goods. Colors, Cardinal, Navy, Seal Buff & Black. Young men's Oxfords. Tan and black. A genuine calf skin, latest style spring line, just in at \$5.00

If it's Men's Apparel we can save you money, quality considered. We do not sell cheap merchandise, but sell quality merchandise cheap. Come see us.

You can be fitted in Tuxedos at our store.

Correct Dressers For Men And Boys.

OUR TERMS ARE STRICTLY CASH.

KELLY CLOTHING CO.

BLANTON - WRIGHT CLOTHING CO.

"THE QUALITY SHOP FOR MEN"

Great Clearance Sale of Men's Wearing apparel continues.

The stock is reduced, but not eliminated. The sale has been effective, but there are values here still that will interest any man who is seeking to save money in a purchase of good quality merchandise.

We are going to press the selling until we get rid of the stock which we have listed to eliminate. Display and stock room for new merchandise coming in must be provided for. It is not only good merchandising, it is imperative merchandising, that stocks be replaced; that of the passing season sold; that of the incoming season bought and displayed. Thus there is a healthy tide in every well conducted and successful shop.

Prices advertised heretofore are still effective. We are still maintaining the \$19.50 Sale Price on Overcoats, the original values of which ran up to \$39.50.

The same price for Men's Suits—\$19.50—marked down from \$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00 and as high as \$39.50. And there are a few of the Young Men's Belt Back Suits marked down from as high as \$22.50 to \$8.95. This last mentioned sale price is below cost.

We have made these prices in order to clean up before inventory and to make room for our new spring stock which is ready to ship. Come in and examine the quality of these offerings, we want to prove to you the values in this great Clearance Sale. We'll prove it if you come here.

BLANTON - WRIGHT CLOTHING CO.

—Successors to Evans E. McBrayer—

Sam Blanton — W. L. Wright