

# Too Much Efficiency

By E. J. Rath

BEGIN HERE TODAY

JOHN W. BROOKE, hardware magnate, widower and father of three grown children, has been away from home several weeks since arranging with a firm of efficiency experts to put his Fifth Avenue mansion on an economic basis. He failed to consider the consequences of leaving Constance, Billy and Alice at the mercy of

H. HEDGE, efficiency expert, assigned to carry out the contract. The "children" fight a losing battle until Hedge falls in love with Constance. Coincident with their engagement Hedge destroys all efficiency records accumulated in the Brooke library and cancels all regulations made in the name of scientific management.

Billy and Alice find it possible to approve the regenerated Hedge. All join to prepare for an enormous party planned for tonight. Constance is phoning friends while Hedge is calling the caterer, decorator, and other necessary individuals to provide entertainment for the celebration. Billy has just reported for duty.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY "Now, Bill," said H. Hedge, "you never worked for me before, and this is your last chance. Dump a barrel or so of gas into that foolish jiney of yours and stand by for orders. You may have to go a hundred miles a minute, so here's money to pay your fines."

He jammed a roll of yellow bills into the hands of Billy, whirled him about, and propelled him from the room.

Then he seized the desk phone. For the next fifteen minutes H. Hedge was a conversational volcano. He spouted vehement words until the transmitter fairly quivered.

"How many? Oh, be ready for two or three hundred anyhow. Waiters, everything! How much do I want to spend? Don't be silly. I want the whole works, and it's up to you to see I get 'em. Make believe it's for royalty; there'll be a queen here anyhow. Wine? Of course, anything, everything! What do you think I'm running—a hash house? You want a deposit? Right. I'll have it there in half an hour. Now hop off the wire. I've got to talk to somebody else.

"He never paused to take breath. "You say you've decorated this house before? You're wrong, old man; you only think you did. You mean you trimmed it. I want it decorated. You got six hundred dollars for the last job? Well, you're going to get fifteen hundred for this and if everything isn't all set by nine o'clock I'll come down there and throw bombs through your greenhouses. Yes; you'll get a deposit, too. Now, hustle out the begonias and the potted palms and the floral bowers. Do I want roses? I said I wanted this place decorated, didn't I. I want every thing from roses to rubber plants. Get it into your head that this is a desert and that you're Luther Burbank. Ring off, Luther."

H. Hedge was assuredly tireless. "Send somebody to the phone who can talk United States. I want to boss; I don't want the guy that saws the big fiddle. Hello—ah, good. I want a couple of orchestras. Yes—two! Can you get the Metropolitan Opera bunch? No? Why, I could do that myself if I had time."

"Have 'em on the job at nine o'clock. What'll they play? All the latest dance dirges, friend. For how long? How do I know? I may have 'em here playing for breakfast. They're here until I blow the whistle.

"Would I like a lady harpist? Sure I would. Tell her to trot right along. I leave it all to you. If you say hand-organs, it's hand-organs. But the Lord help you if you throw me down. Sell! Yes—that means by-by."

From telephoning H. Hedge turned to the writing of checks. He was still at it when Billy Brooke returned to announce that his car had been vitiated again.

"Take these checks to these addresses, Bill," commanded the ex-efficiency man. "They're deposits. Let's see; it's two o'clock. Take 'em to the bank first and get 'em certified. Don't mind, do you old man?"

Billy grinned. "Let's shake again," he said. "They shook."

"And say, E. E.—you're going to be awful good to Connie, aren't you?" H. Hedge gripped Billy's fingers until their owner winced.

"Bill," he said, "I'm going to be awful good—but not good enough. Nobody could be good enough to Connie. I'm only a poor human boob, after all."

"You'll do," said Billy. "And E. E. some time I want you to teach me that straight left—the one you handed Tommy Treadwell."

"I'll demonstrate it right now if you don't rustle with those checks, nor! Burn the road, Bill. It's Connie's party."

The retired efficiency engineer was sitting back in a swivel chair, with his feet on the desk, smoking placidly, when Constance appeared.

"What gown do you want me to wear, E. E.?" I've been looking them over and I can't decide."

your gown! Why you can't wear any of those gowns, Connie. Not on your life! Wait."

He rushed to the telephone and called a number.

"Put the head gown-builder on here," he commanded. "Ah—how do you do, madame? This is the residence of John W. Brooke. Miss Brooke—Yes, of course you know her. Well, Miss Brooke—yes, yes! As I was about to say, Miss Brooke—oh, yes, yes! Now, Miss Brooke—one moment please. This is my conversation, madame, not yours. It's the most important conversation in New York City at this particular minute, and I will not be interrupted."

"Miss Brooke desires a gown to wear this evening. Therefore, you will have every gown in your shop sent up here inside of an hour, in order that she may make a selection. And send a couple of tailors along to make any necessary changes. "What? Maybe they're not tailors; but any how you send 'em. Have 'em bring their own scissors and pins and all the customary tools. This is a rush job, but it has to be done right."

"How's that? Oh, bank! You call as many automobiles as you need and put 'em on the bill. Get these gowns here; that's all. What? Oh! Consider all apologies made—in French. Sure. Merci, madame. You are charming—magnificent! All to the good! How's that? All right? Surest thing you know, we'll get those gowns here, Hortense!"

Constance had collapsed into a chair.

"E. E.," she gasped "you are the hero!"

"Well, that's the only way to talk to those gay Parisiennes, my dear. I



"I want everything from roses to rubber plants!"

bet you those gowns will be here in half an hour. Why, that kid is hustling 'em into the boxes now!"

"Kid! She's fifty if she's a day, and she's fat."

"Never mind. She's human. She's so curious to see what talked to her that she's bringing the gowns up herself."

There was more than a mere sound of revelry in the Brooke mansion; there was a pandemonium. H. Hedge had at least given a party that exceeded anything within the memory of Constance or Billy. What it cost, the young Brookes had not the least idea, although the probable magnitude of the expense stunned and a little startled Constance.

As for Hedge, he had no more notion of the cost than they, and did not care. Perhaps he had wiped out all the savings effected by scientific management; he rather hoped he had. He was certain he would never exactly know, because the records of his administration were in ashes.

There had never been so much and such beautiful music, it seemed to the guests of the Brookes. There had never been such a supper. As for flowers, the house seemed literally to be built, out of them. And, to add the last touch of magnificence, particularly in the eyes of H. Hedge, Constance wore the kind of gown that only comes once in a lifetime.

It was nearly midnight when a commotion in the front hall sent Hedge scurrying out to investigate. He returned in five minutes, grinning. Constance questioned him with her eyes.

"Just an old gentleman who is slightly out of his head," he explained. "He managed to make his way past the men at the door, and he won't go. He seems to have an idea he belongs here, and he became rather onisy when they tried to eject him."

"The poor thing!" said Constance sympathetically. "What did you do?"

"Telephoned for the police. It's

the only right thing to do. They'll take care of him; probably send him down to Bellevue for observation."

"Where is he now?"

"A couple of men are holding him out in the vestibule. He's making a rather embarrassing racket. The funny part is, he keeps on saying he owns the house."

Constance looked at H. Hedge, and her eyes slowly widened.

"What does he look like, E. E.?" she asked in a whisper.

"Oh, he's about medium height, with a short gray beard. He's chunkily built and has a deep voice, with a funny way of making gestures with his hands."

Constance turned white and froze unsteadily to her feet.

"Oh, E. E.," she gasped, "do you know who that man is?"

"You mean the old tad who's trying to break in?"

"It's father!"

Constance rushed from the room, leaving H. Hedge paralyzed in his tracks. It was far ahead of the day set by John W. Brooke for his home

coming. He propped his shoulders against the wall for a few seconds in order to steady himself while realization became complete.

NEXT CHAPTER: John W. demands an accounting.

Among the meek who inherit the earth there won't be any drivers of five-ton trucks.

Peace is that blessed era when you can love the Star Spangled Banner without trying to sing it.

There's one good thing about cubist art. It isn't suggestive. It doesn't suggest anything, not even art.

Strange that government doesn't employ feminine agents to catch violators of the Mann act.

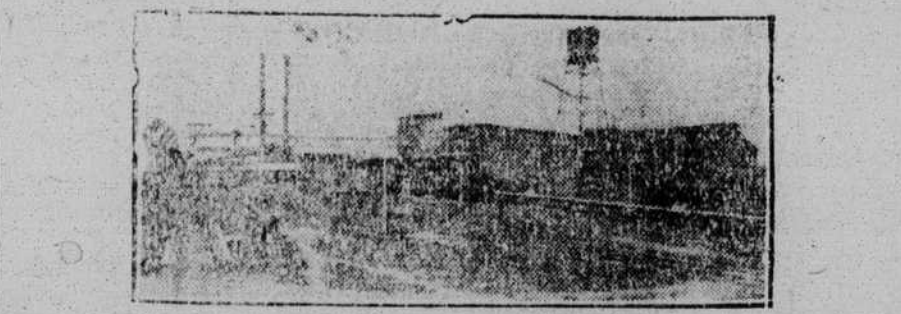
It is estimated that 93 per cent of the true conservatives would feel rude without suspenders.

Inheritance.

"Wot yo' doin', chile?"

"Nothin', mammy."

"My, but yo' is gettin' like yo' father."



## Use Acme Fertilizers For Profitable Crops

Above is shown a section of the Acme Manufacturing Company's big plant at Acme, N. C. Here are made the old reliable Acme Fertilizers, famous for forty-four years as growers of banner crops.

Planters now figuring their fertilizer requirements for 1926 and who are not familiar with the Acme brands should get in touch with the nearest Acme dealer and learn the facts about Acme's superiority in producing better and more profitable crops.

Donald MacRackan, of Whiteville, N. C., says: "I have been

Since 1883

The Old Reliable Acme Fertilizers

ACME MANUFACTURING CO.

Wm. Gilchrist, Pres. J. G. McCormick, Sec.-Treas. Wilmington, N. C.

## PIGGLY WIGGLY All Over the World

- Bananas, Dozen ..... 23c
- 4 Pound Bucket Jewel Lard ..... 65c
- 8 Pound Bucket Jewel Lard ..... \$1.28
- Loose Lard, Pound ..... 15c
- Kingans Box Bacon, Pound ..... 50c
- Full Cream Cheese, Pound ..... 32c
- Maxwell House Coffee, 1 Pound ..... 52c
- Maxwell House Coffee, 3 Pounds ..... \$1.52
- Grape Fruit, 3 for ..... 20c
- No. 3 Watauga Kraut, Can ..... 14c
- Medium Size Prunes, Pound ..... 12½c
- Evaporated Apricots, Pound ..... 27c
- Fancy Jumbo Celery, Bunch ..... 18c

Watch For Announcement Of Opening Of Our MARKET.

If the waiter has the knack of making you feel important, you may ask him how long ago he left the old country.

Fishing may not develop muscle, but it works wonders with the imagination.

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



ECK & STEPHENS Certified Public Accountants Gastonia, N. C. Systems — Audits — Investigations, Income Tax Specialists.

## Children's Colds

Are best treated entirely. Check them overnight without "dosing" by rubbing Vicks over throat and chest at bedtime.

Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic Restores Health, Energy and Rosy Cheeks.

Don't Be a Weak Woman!

Raleigh, N. C.—"I was suffering with inward weakness, thru which I had become all run-down, weak and nervous. I had headaches, a tired, dull feeling, no energy. I was greatly in need of a tonic to build me up when I saw Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription advertised and decided it was just what I needed. It gave me more help than any other medicine I have ever taken. It relieved me of my weakness, I gained in weight and strength and was greatly benefited in a general way."

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 Calatabs, the purified and refined calomel compound tablet that gives you the effects of calomel and salts combined, without the unpleasant effects of either.

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

## "ACHED & ACHED"

Lady Says Her Back "Hurt Night and Day"—Least Noise Upset Her. Better After Taking Cardui.

Winfield, Texas.—"My back hurt night and day," says Mrs. C. L. Eason, of R. F. D. 1, this place. "I ached and ached until I could hardly go. I felt weak and did not feel like doing anything. My work was a great burden to me. I just hated to do up the dishes, even. I was no-account and extremely nervous."

"My mother had taken Cardui and she thought it would do me good, so she told me to take it. My husband got me a bottle and I began on it. I began to improve at once. It was such a help that I continued it until after the baby's birth."

"I took eight bottles and I can certainly say that it helped me. It is a fine tonic. It built me up and seemed to strengthen me. I grew less nervous and began to sleep better."

"I can certainly recommend Cardui to expectant mothers, for to me it was a wonderful help. In every way I felt better after taking it and I think it is a splendid medicine."

Cardui is purely vegetable, and contains no harmful drugs. For sale everywhere. NC-162



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 Blackburg with No. 40 for north.

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

## PENDER'S YELLOW FRONT STORES

LEADERS IN EVERY COMMUNITY

The leading spirit of better living and economy in every community is your nearest Pender Store. In fact, wherever you find a community center established, there you will find a Pender Store ready and waiting to serve.

Most of the activities of every community surround the Pender Store, because almost every housekeeper knows the quality of the merchandise we sell and the economical prices that prevail.

SHOP WITH CERTAINTY AND SATISFACTION IN THE STORES WHERE THE CUSTOMER, OLD OR NEW, IS THE FIRST CONSIDERATION ALWAYS.

THE MOST — OF THE BEST — FOR THE LEAST

CHUM SALMON, Tall Can ..... 12½c

HILLSDALE ASPARAGUS, Large 2½ Can ..... 27c

D. P. COCOA, Half pound can ..... 10c

D. P. BREAKFAST BACON — 1 Pound ..... 23c 1 Pound ..... 45c

A Nutty Flavored Breakfast Bacon Sliced and Packed Daily in Our Plant under U. S. Government Inspection.

—OLD VIRGINIA FRUIT CAKE— Packed in 2 lb. Fancy Decorated Tin for ..... 65c

SWIFT'S PREMIUM HAM PICNIC SHOULDERS Per Pound ..... 35c Per Pound ..... 25c

BALLARD'S SYRUP Pancake Flour, 15c Cane and Maple, 35c

Buckwheat Flour, pkg., 16c D. P. OATS Per Package ..... 9c

GOLD MEDAL Pancake or Buckwheat Flour, pkg., 10c PICKLES Sweet Mixed or Cherkins. Small Bottle ..... 15c

PILLSBURY'S Pancake Flour, 14c Dried Lima Beans, lb., 20c

Buckwheat Flour, pkg., 17c

OLD VIRGINIA BRUNSWICK STEW Per Can ..... 30c GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR With Blade, Each ..... 10c

EVAPORATED FRUITS Fancy Apricots, lb., 27c DRIED PEAS and BEANS Navy Beans, lb., 8c

Fancy Peaches, lb., 19c (Hand Picked Michigan.) California Black-eye Peas, lb., 10c

Fancy Apples, lb., 21c Dried Lima Beans, lb., 20c

Fancy California Prunes, lb., 12c

TOMATOES, Solid Pack, No. 2 Can, 3 for ..... 25c

No. 3 Can ..... 14c

CHEESE, Best American, Pound ..... 33c

—LAND O' LAKES BUTTER— Made from Pure, Sweet Cream. The Finest and Only Butter in the United States carrying a Government Certificate of Quality. Tub, 58c 1-4 lb. Prints, 62c

D. P. COFFEE—The World's Best Drink. Pound Sealed Package ..... 47c

Blended From The Finest Grade Coffees Obtainable. A Most Delicious Beverage! You'll Taste The Difference!