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Chatting . . .

with M. H. B.

● **THESE ARE THE** days when most businessmen are busy getting their books into shape for the making up of their income tax. It is a heavy, serious job, but Editor George Cadogan of the Durham Chronicle has quite a sense of humour. He has found a humorous angle to the whole business, and entitles it "An Honestly Wed Woman is a Liability" . . . The man who drafted the first income tax law must have been a bachelor who had just been miffed by somebody's wife. How else can one explain the tax discrimination that persists to this day against a married woman?
● **"IF A MARRIED** woman works out and hires another to help at home she cannot deduct any part of this as expense. Furthermore, her husband is deprived of the married status which would otherwise help to offset this cost.

"The Financial Post suggests that the act as it stands today could be said to encourage immorality. Heck! That ain't nothin' . . . "A business man who travels about the country a good deal was explaining that his wife was a costly luxury. If he takes her on his business trips her expense cannot be deducted for tax purposes . . . But if he leaves his wife home and takes his secretary, the income tax collectors say that's OK. In fact, the secretary is allowed what might be termed a bonus. Not only can her expenses be deducted, but she can also collect pay . . . But most men are so stubborn, they keep their wives despite the tax persecution." . . . Thus quoth George.

● **WHILE OUR THOUGHTS** are up around Durham district, there has been great rejoicing in that town recently because of the acquisition of a new industry, but according to the Fergus News it is the sale of a farm in that vicinity that is causing the greatest excitement. The News says a farm on the eighth concession of Bentinck township has been bought lately by a city man. Bentinck lies just north of the Durham-Hanover road and it's a lovely district of hills and little lakes. The farm is to be used as a nudist camp, and the editors up that way can hardly wait for the official opening. One of them is already reading the sunbathing magazines (or looking at the pictures). The mosquitoes of Bentinck are also said to be looking forward with hungry anticipation.

● **A DAY LIKE THIS** makes you realize that the mosquito season, bless it with its warmth and sunshine, will not be too long in coming. The youngsters on Easter holidays are enjoying the first really spring-like day. Their heavy much-the-worse-for wear leggings are off for the first time since last fall. Cumbersome overboots and woolly hats have been set aside, the better to appreciate the joys of skipping in the bright sunlight. "Double-dutch", marbles and bikes, trikes and wagons again hold sway. The kids are really having themselves a time . . .

● **IN THESE DAYS** of large housing developments I think nearly every family with a car makes a hobby of touring them every so often just to see the progress and note the different styles and types of homes. Houses are a never-failing source of interest. But one of the most inter-

esting I have ever heard about was brought to our attention by Miss Addy Coventry. It is pictured on a pamphlet sent to her by her niece, Mrs. E. D. Sheley, who visited the landmark while on a trip. Mrs. Sheley, incidentally has been visiting her mother, Mrs. J. N. O'Neill, and her aunt, during the past week. Her home is in Birmingham, Michigan. . . . The house in question is the famous "Paper House" at Pigeon Cove Mass. It is called a paper house most appropriately, because the whole house and furniture, are made of Boston newspapers. A man named Mr. Elis F. Stenman, with the help of his family, began in 1922 to prepare the paper material to be used in constructing the walls of this unusual house. The newspapers were made into different layers, each having been pasted and folded. The walls when finished consist of two hundred and fifteen thicknesses . . .

● **TO MAKE THE FURNITURE**, the newspapers were made into rolls of different sizes. They claim, in the little brochure about the house, that at any time in the future these rolls can be unwound and the print inside will be absolutely preserved, since neither glue nor varnish was used while making the paper rolls. The Stenman family began the work of constructing this fabulous full-size house merely as an experiment to see what could be done with newspapers without destroying the print. The experiment has proved a success both in strength and stability. I presume, however, that the house is used merely as a showplace and is never actually used. From the pictures it is a very attractive bungalow . . .

The furnishings look quite complete, and indeed they are, according to the list they have made. There are table chairs, lamps, settee, and desk, made of the Christian Science Monitor, cot made of the "History of the World War"; piano of Admiral Byrd's South and North Pole expedition, writing desk made of Col. C. Lindbergh's flight; radio cabinet — President Hoover—his campaign and election in 1928; a grandfather's clock made of paper from the capital city of each state in the Union, and fireplace made of the rotogravure section of the Boston Sunday Herald and New York Herald Tribune.

● **I WAS TELLING** the family after I read about the Paper House, that here at last was the idea I have been looking for all these years, to use the avalanche of newspapers that inundate the household with regularity . . . Just kidding, of course . . . Heaven help me if they started a project like that in the backyard—or anywhere else . . . The Paper House is a great novelty for sight-seers of course, but I think I'll continue to rely on the Boy Scout Paper drive to relieve the household of our superabundance of newspapers. In addition to providing themselves with a source of revenue, the Boy Scouts actually do render us a real service collecting the newspapers, and I'm sure all other people in town feel that way too.

TELLS CHURCH LADIES ABOUT PRISON WORK

Miss Mollie Parker, staff member of the Elizabeth Fry Association, was guest speaker at the Easter Thanksgiving meeting of the Afternoon Auxiliary of St. John's United Church. Miss Parker spoke to the ladies in the assembly hall of the church on Tuesday afternoon, April 3rd.

In the early eighteenth century, Miss Fry, an Englishwoman, used to go to visit women in prison. Many people tried to dissuade her from this courageous undertaking, especially as she would visit the ill-famed Newgate prison. She would take books and food, and do many kind things for the women there, many of whom had their children with them. Miss Fry would prevail upon members of parliament to improve prison conditions.

The Elizabeth Fry association has continued ever since, said Miss Parker, and it has been active in Canada for fifteen years, started by the Unitarian Church in 1942. It is very active in the Mercer Reformatory in Toronto.

Miss Parker is associated with Miss Johnson and Miss Phyllis Hastam as a staff worker, and they give a great deal of time to rehabilitating women inmates of the reformatory. The work demands a great deal of tolerance and persistence. The usual committal is from 30 days to two years less a day. Usual causes are liquor, drugs, shoplifting and vagrancy.

She spoke of many discouragements, but then there are good hopes as well. She told how difficult it is for children where both parents work, and they go home to find no one waiting for them, and the essential quality for children, love, is lacking.

Her talk was absorbing and listeners felt the association is fortunate in having a woman of Miss Parker's calibre to further the work of the Elizabeth Fry association.

Mrs. Charles Junkin, the president, was in the chair and gave a few appropriate opening words. Mrs. Lyla Pollock gave a beautiful devotional written by Rev. Peter Marshall. Miss Eleanor Schenk sang a lovely rendition of "Green Pastures".

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