

NEWS AND NEWS FOR WOMEN READERS

Life's Social Side

Editor of Women's Page, Telephone 229; Private phone 857 w.

The pretty little club house overlooking the Cataract river, now fringed with trees in the beauty of their new spring dress, where the members of the Country Club hold their gatherings, was a delightful spot on Saturday afternoon when the first meeting of the season was held. The officers are as follows: president, Prof. Alexander Macphail; vice-president, Mrs. T. D. R. Hemming; treasurer, Prof. W. P. Wilgar; secretary, Major Bevan Dunbar and Mrs. T. Callander, Committee, General R. W. Rutherford, Lieut.-Col. Elkins, Lieut.-Col. T. A. Kidd, Walter Fleming, Mrs. F. W. Neill, Mrs. Campbell Strang, Mrs. Norman Leslie and Miss L. Swift. The executive looks forward to a successful year and a new feature is to be introduced in the shape of dinner dances, as the floor has been tested by expert engineers and pronounced safe for dancing. The first of these functions will be held in a few weeks. Tea was poured at the attractive table, gay with marigolds, Miss Hora and Mrs. Bevan Dunbar presiding.

Among those present were, General and Mrs. R. W. Rutherford, Mrs. T. D. R. Hemming, Col. and Mrs. Victor Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Fort, Miss Gildersleeve, Prof. and Mrs. T. Callander, Col. and Mrs. Norman Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fleming, Mrs. W. P. Wilgar, Miss Loretta Swift, Miss Helen Strang, Miss Laura Kilborn, Miss Eleanor Pheasant, Prof. Alexander Macphail.

Mrs. W. J. Fair, "Roland Place," was the hostess of a bright little dance on Saturday evening for Cadet Howard Fair, when the large rooms were gaily decorated in red and white, and balloons in the R.M.C. colors were caught to the chandeliers. Red and white flowers in a silver bowl centered the supper table and a few red tunic and the pretty frocks of the girls added more color to the gay scene. The guests included Mrs. A. H. Fair, Miss Lillian Fair, Miss Gweneth Carr-Harris, Miss Barbara Bidwell, Miss Kitty Torrance, Miss Louise Hill, Miss Harriet Vair, Miss Caroline Mitchell, Miss Anelia Minnes, Miss Lois Taylor, Miss Mary Ogilvie, Miss Faucetta Foulkes, Miss Helen Tofield, Miss Isabel Minnes, Miss Clara Farrell, ex-Cadet Biglow and about eighteen cadets of the recruit class.

return to her home to-day, after spending the past week with the Misses Hastings, Brock street.

Prof. and Mrs. L. D. Fallis and their family, Kingston, are with the latter's mother, Mrs. R. H. Suggitt, Nestleton.

Miss Roadhouse, Kingston, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. W. Jones, at the Hampton parsonage, has returned home.

Mrs. Thomas McCammon, Harrowsmith, is spending a few days in town with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore, Frontenac street.

Mrs. Ernest Thomas, Toronto, is the guest of her sisters, the Misses Jack, University avenue.

Rev. Robert Laird and Mrs. Laird, Toronto, will be in town this week for the Queen's festivities.

Miss Kathleen Goodheart, Timmons, Ont., is the guest of Misses Hastings, Brock street.

Prof. and Mrs. Callander are sailing for England on Friday on the S.S. Regina. Mr. and Mrs. Everett Townsend will occupy their apartment during the summer.

Miss Marion Laird, who has been in Smith's Falls, has returned to "The Avonmore."

Canon Emery, Antigua, B.W.I., is one of the notables in town for convocation. His son is one of the science graduates.

Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Eberington, University avenue, have returned from "Fetterclairn."

Mrs. W. B. Shuttleworth King, "The Tower House," is entertaining at luncheon to-day.

Mrs. J. M. Halliday arrived from Chatham to-day, for the graduation of her daughter, Miss Belva Halliday, from Queen's University, and is the guest of Mrs. Harold Day, King street west.

Mrs. Stewart Forbes, Montreal, is with Sir Archibald and Lady Macdonell, at the Commandant's Quarters, R.M.C.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Segsworth, Johnson street, motored back to Toronto on Sunday.

Miss Flossie Gray will return from Ottawa for convocation and will be at "The Avonmore."

Brig.-Gen. King and Mrs. W. B. Shuttleworth King, "The Tower House," will spend the summer in England.

The June Bride.

Simple outlines are in vogue for wedding gowns, and lace or net which has traceries of silver threads running through it is used. There is nothing better for a foundation than ivory-white satin, though I have lately seen exquisite gowns made of white organdie and fine Valenciennes mounted over white tulle. The choice of a gown, of course, chiefly depends upon the style of the wedding; if it is to be held in the country, organdie muslin inset with fine lace is excellent; if in town, white satin might be chosen, a long train of different lace—Chantilly, Brussels, or very fine Cluny—being added. Or again, all-white satin, the outline Moyen Age, with an elaborate girde made of orange blossoms, satin ribbons and chains of seed pearls.

Velvet, combined with lace, is considered a delightfully suitable fabric for the spring bride. A beautiful model was composed of ivory lace hand-threaded with silver and mounted over shell-pink crepe marocain. A pale touch of color is much liked by the modern bride, and is best introduced in the underfrock. The train, made of ivory velvet and lined with pink crepe, was hung from a girde of silver and pearls.

The traditional wreath of orange blossoms, softened by fairy-like tulle, is returning to favor. I have also seen an effective flat headpiece made of tiny orange blossoms, with chains of seed pearls at either side over the ears.

The mask-veil, worn in conjunction with a Greek flit made of waxen orange blossom buds and miniature roses, the latter formed entirely of seed pearls and diamond sparks, is an effective bridal head-dress, but the veil worn over the face with a coronet of orange blossoms is the favorite.

What the Editor Hears

That real home-grown rhubarb, lettuce and onions were among the many attractions seen in the market carts on Saturday morning. Beautiful flowers from the florists and dainty little nosegays from the neighboring woods were also for sale and eagerly bought.

That some of the streets in the northern side of the city are giving promise of being very attractive, lawns and boulevards are being seeded and watered, and no doubt later flowers will add a beautifying touch.

That in Venezuela the Masonic lodges have furnished a home for poor children.

That fashion's wheel has been given a turn and we are going back to the shoes with elastic sides worn by our grandmothers, only it is a

heat pump that has elastic at the side to keep it from slipping up and down.

That Paisley capes, made from Paisley shawls, with collars of monkey fur, are being worn in New York, and cost dresses of Paisley, some perfectly plain with a narrow rolled belt of self material, or with semi-cape effect in the back and the waistline confined with a cloth girde in olive green and hats to match are sometimes seen.

Russian Famine Work of Soviet

Famine in Russia has not been unusual even in comparatively recent times. The unselfish relief work of Tolstoy in the dread years of 1890, 1891 and 1892, and the pictures he drew of the destitution and suffering of the peasants are familiar, not only to readers devoted to his works, but to thousands who are unfamiliar with any other part of his literary production. The difference between the famines of those years and that of to-day marks in a striking way the difference between the political conditions of that time, however severe and autocratic the rule may have been, and those imposed by the domination of the Soviet Government. The famine formerly was largely confined to the regions peopled by the peasant farmers themselves; that of 1891 was, to a large extent, restricted to the Volga district, which is to-day affected. The primitive methods of culture and the small plots of ground allotted to the peasants brought them in years of poor harvests a return insufficient to meet their own requirements and those of the community dependent on them, says the New York Herald.

The situation quickly brought about a famine condition in the large centres of population and the industrial and manufacturing towns were seriously affected. But the transportation facilities of the empire brought to them the grain of the Black Earth districts of the Caucasus region and the plains of Siberia. The food rural districts were thus in time relieved and the Government furnished the means for the fertilization of the soil and the planting of the crops, besides food to tide the people over until the next harvest. In contrast with these conditions is the situation produced in Russia since 1916. This a Russian economist has recently elucidated in his effort to explain to the world the present famine and the reasons why it has so long held the country in its grasp. To him the famine is but the logical outcome of Soviet rule. From 1914 to 1920 the official estimate is that the planted area in the thirteen European provinces of Russia dropped off 38 per cent.

One reason for this was that the farmer found the result of his crops was uncertain and he was not inclined for him to plan to harvest more than would fill the needs of himself and his family. In the next place the large estates, which alone employed modern agricultural methods, were given out in allotments to Communist adherents, and the output of the land dropped almost to nothing. To this was added the complete disorganization of the road system, a disorganization which made impossible the transportation of grain, and left the cities of the north, and the more seriously affected famine districts, helpless. Even had the acreage been increased in 1921, and had the country not suffered from a drought, Russia would still have been a land of famine. The complete breakdown of the transportation system under the Soviet rule would have made the supplying of foodstuffs to the towns of Northern Russia impossible.

The hope for the seed for the crop this year lies not in the Moscow Government, but in help from foreign lands. There is no help to be expected from the Communists themselves. Though they are eager to aid, they have not the capacity so to do. They have not been able to hold together the public service they have controlled; they cannot improvise service to meet an emergency. It is impossible, as the Russians themselves have pointed out, that the effect of these four years of suffering will not be felt by the people and that they will not lay on the rule Lenin and Trotsky have imposed upon them the responsibility for the hundreds of thousands of lives sacrificed to hunger and destitution. Tolstoy, when the condition of the Russian peasant in a former famine was laid before him, uttered a remark which has since been accepted as so thoroughly characteristic of the people. "They are like a great good-natured boy who tries to smile in his tribulation because he is inspired by the faith that in the end all will come out well," he said.

The Russian's faith in the future is not of that Oriental type which trusts entirely to fate. He helps work it out himself. He arises in the extremity and he is then a host. With the recovery of his strength, may he not find the power to relieve himself of the heavy burdens he has borne? The Moscow Soviet has given up its hold on Northern Persia, and it has retired from the Caucasus before the small group of patriotic people who have demanded the right to rule themselves. Lenin no longer traffics with the Turkish Nationalist for the extension of his power on the southern coast of the Black Sea. He has affairs nearer home to watch. The Republic and a union of the Northern States has threatened the Moscow powers. The Cossacks, the Soviet's natural enemies in the south, have again published their demands for freedom from the Moscow rule. On the west, Trotsky's lieutenants have been struggling to repress the growing spirit of independence in the Ukraine.

Efficient Housekeeping

By Laura A. Kirkman

Why is Silk So Expensive?

A reader of this column has written to ask why silk is so expensive. "Don't the stores overcharge for it?" she asks her letter of protest. "And how is silk made, anyway?" In the following article I have tried to point out why a fairly high price is entirely justifiable for this tediously-gotten fabric.

Centuries ago—about 2700 B.C.—a Chinese empress discovered how to use the fibres of the silk worm. No doubt she watched the little worms at work and so got her idea. Today the Chinese people still celebrate her discovery each year in April—a discovery that not only enriched her own country, but many of the other nations of the world.

The Japanese and Chinese produce more silk than any other countries. They put their girls and men to work watching the silk worms closely, and tending them carefully. When the mother moth lays her tiny eggs on mulberry leaves, the sun hatches them—and then it is that the thrifty Orientals tend the little worms, keep them clean and feed them by food which they chop finely for them; for they know that if the worms are not kept clean and fed well, they will not thrive and produce silk successfully.

In about one month of careful attention, the young worms have grown to their full size—about as large as around as your thumb and three inches long. They now begin to spin cocoons for themselves. They do this by throwing out a tiny thread at each side of the head; these threads are made of a jelly-like fluid which hardens as it strikes the air. As the worm's head is thrown from side to side, the two threads become one. In three weeks' time the cocoon is made of these threads glued together in a mass like a piece of parchment.

Inside the cocoon the worm changes into a moth, like its mother. If left alone, it will eat its way out of the cocoon and fly to lay eggs, as its mother did—thus beginning a repetition of the process.

But if the worm is allowed to eat its way through the cocoon, this hole breaks the continuous thread of which the cocoon is made. So for this reason some of the moths are allowed to eat their way through their cocoons so as to lay more eggs, and thereby propagate their useful kind; while other cocoons are placed in a very high temperature so that the moths inside them will die—thus allowing the cocoon to be stripped of its perfect, unbroken thread.

The silk is taken from the cocoons (or "reeled") in this way: The cocoons are placed in a basin of hot water to soften the gummy secretion. The ends of four or five cocoons are then caught together and reeled off. This makes a strand of raw silk.

Silk from a broken cocoon can be used, but is never as strong as that made from one continuous thread. To understand why really good silk fabric costs a high price, one has only to realize that it takes 3,000 silk worms to spin one pound of raw silk—and it often takes two or three pounds of raw silk to make a single dress!

Tomorrow—Answered Letters.

All inquiries addressed to Miss Kirkman in care of the "Efficient Housekeeping" department will be answered in these columns in their turn. This requires considerable time, however, owing to the great number received. So if a personal or quicker reply is desired, a stamped and self-addressed envelope must be enclosed with the question—The Editor.

Good Night Stories

By Blanch Silver

Betty and Doris Meet Tut-zan.

Betty and Doris were having a discussion one beautiful day and it looked as if things were going to end in a row, when Betty chanced to look up and spied Gocombeck, the little travel elfin, coming in the gate.

She gave a glad cry and ran out to meet him, Doris close on her heels.

"Oh, Gocombeck, we're so glad you've come!" both little girls cried, as they threw their arms around the little elfin's neck.

"Well, I'm certainly glad you're glad!" he laughed. "I've been listening to you two wrangle for a long time. I thought if one of you didn't spy me before long that I'd never get through the gate."

"Well, I don't care," pouted Betty. "The Fourth of July is the best day in the year."

"I don't see how you can say that, Betty!" cried Doris. "I've never heard any one say a thing like that before in my life. Right down deep in your heart you must know that Christmas is the best day in the year, so there! There isn't a child living who wouldn't agree with me if you asked them all."

"My goodness!" laughed Gocombeck, putting his arms around his two little friends. "Are you quite sure of that?"

Before either of the children could answer they found themselves standing in a strange country in front of a queer little house built of gray brick with a roof of black tile. A little Chinese girl came out to meet them, and Gocombeck introduced her to Doris and Betty as Tut-zan.

"Now here's a little girl you might ask what she thinks about Christmas and Fourth of July," the elfin laughed.

Tut-zan had never heard of either

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To-morrow's HOROSCOPE

By Genevieve Kemble

TUESDAY, MAY 9th.

The astral conditions for this day make for liveliness and activity in affairs generally, although there may be some annoyances and difficulties to surmount. There may be a breaking away of old obstructions, but some perplexities and doubts as to how to meet the changed order may arise, with the mind vacillating as to the course to pursue. Radical changes are advised against under this bewildered state of mind. Very pleasant and prosperous conditions may be looked for in domestic and romantic matters.

Those whose birthday it is may find the breaking away of old obstacles and yet find it difficult to adapt themselves to the new state of affairs. There may be annoyances and perplexities in making the adjustments. Social and affectional interests may be happily expected. A child born on this day will be clever and enterprising, but may be unreliable unless carefully trained early in life. It may make its best success in employment of others.

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