

PLAYS "GRAND DAME" PARTS IN SILENT DRAMA



Clara R. Smith

Clara Reynolds Smith wasn't always a silent player. Her career has been a long and an interesting, active one. She held the chair of oratory in Deland college, Deland, Fla., and she began her career as a dramatic reader, being well known on the lyceum platform twenty years ago. Her stage experience commenced in the Broadhurst plays. Her first part was that of Mrs. Goodly in "What Happened to Jones." Since that time she has played a wide range of grande dames and characters. Now you can see her in many of the feature productions of the "movie" screen.

"MOVIES" WILL NOT PAY AS CANADIAN INDUSTRY

Leading Film Producer Says There is no Scope in Canada For Motion Picture Plants—Cost Rising

Why, it is often asked, are so many of the motion pictures shown here of a distinctively American flavor? Why are so many of the films of a kind extolling the United States, its flag, its soldiers, or its navy? The motion picture business in Canada has grown to great proportions. But it is not, it is claimed, sufficiently a Canadian business, nor is there sufficient of a Canadian appeal. Why, then, it is asked, should not the sentiments of people on one side of the international line be catered for on that side of the line? In other words, why not Canadian pictures for Canadians?

According to the motion picture men the main difficulty in the way is the financial one. "In the early days of the business," says Mr. D. Cooper, distributor of the Kleine-Edison Co. in Canada, "our only sources of supply were from England and from the foreign market—principally France and Germany. The subjects in those days were mostly scenic subjects. Then American subjects loomed up. When American pictures were first shown here objections were frequently taken to pictures showing the American flag.

"For my part, I would like nothing better than to see a good, big plant here in Canada making pictures of Canadian life. But the real reason why pictures are not made in this country is because it would not pay to do so. It must be remembered that the Canadian end of the business forms a very small part of the motion picture business as a whole. And the manufacturer, in making his subjects, caters for the largest market.

It Would Not Pay

"Take the small number of prints that are required for the Canadian end of the business. The Kleine-Edison people, for example, have 16 distributing offices in the United States. And for a big feature each distributing office would use several

...and five, one-making a total of about 50 in all. On the other hand, two prints are enough for the Canadian end of the business, one for the east of Canada and one for the west. And when times are at their very best, four prints are sufficient, one for Ontario, one for Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, one for British Columbia, and one for Manitoba to work the Prairie Provinces.

"To manufacture for so small a number of prints could not be made to pay. The cost of a print is, roughly, about 10 cents a foot, to the distributor, and as a reel consists of about 1,000 feet, that would mean about \$100 a reel. If the play consists of seven reels, then the total price the distributor would pay the manufacturer for a print would be \$700. Thus if two prints are enough for Canada the manufacturer would be paid for them \$1,400. It is obvious that no such sum as that would form any appreciable proportion whatever of the cost of the negative. By the expression the cost of the negative, I really mean the cost of the production. It includes the amount paid to actors and actresses, for chemicals, raw stock, and costumes, and for developing and assembling, etc.

Cost of Negatives Rising

"Moreover, the cost of the negative is much higher to-day than it used to be. The salaries the manufacturer pays the performers have vastly increased—not only the salaries paid to the stars, but also those paid to the 'supers' as well.

"Some very good pictures of the scenic end of Canadian life have been made for purposes of immigration. But I fancy these have often floundered, with the expenses paid by the railroads. This stuff would generally be in small lengths, and it would be possible to find a market for exceptionally beautiful scenic bits all over the world."

Silk Worms and New Diet

It has just been discovered that by putting silkworms on special foods, they can be made to spin different colored silk threads. Up to the present the silk threads produced commercially have always been white or yellow. Most people who have kept the silk worms for a hobby, have experimented with feeding them on dyed leaves, and so getting different colored silks, but this method is not practical when silk is being produced for the market. By the new method the silkworms are fed on mulberry leaves and it is the careful allowances of the two foods which make the caterpillar spin red and blue silk, the two colors which have at present been successfully produced. It takes 3,000 caterpillars to produce a pound of silk, and when they begin they spin at the rate of six inches a minute.

Yachts have been made wholly of aluminum.

FISH SCALES

In Days Gone by Were Most Valuable Part of Fish

Among unconsidered trifles may be included the scales of fish. Of value and utility to the owner during its sojourn in the vasty deep, the scales are ignored after capture as good for the manure heap. But it was not ever thus. In days gone by fish scales possessed a real value, notably those of roach, bleak, dace, and whitebait. Older writers tell us how the scales of these fishes were collected and used in the manufacture of necklaces, ear-rings, and such-like ornaments. London fishermen used to catch the fish, take off the scales, and throw the body back into the river.

A pigment was obtained by treating the scales in a certain fashion, white-bait being the most popular fish used for the purpose. So great, formerly, was the demand at times that the price of a quart of fish-scales varied from one to five guineas. This treatment of fish-scales for making small personal adornments is attributed to the French. A Parisian artist one winter, it is said, used thirty hamperfuls of bleak scales in the course of manufacture. To-day, however, the industry is practically extinct.

A Way Out of Difficulty

A poor young Irish couple went to the priest to be married, rich in love, but so poor in earthly goods that they did not even possess the few necessary pence for the wedding fee. The clergyman was relentless in his demands. "No money, no

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...he declared. "Let me go home," begged the girl, "and I will get the money." She soon returned with the small amount required, when the knot was duly tied to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. "Could anyone now oppose our union?" she inquired. "Nobody, my daughter." "Not even your own reverence?" she persisted. "Not even I, Catherine!" "God bless your reverence! Here is the pawn ticket for your hat and overcoat, which I took from the vestry to pawn."

The Legend of the Horseshoe

Why is the horseshoe considered a sign of good luck? The origin of the superstition can be traced back to the thirteenth century. The monk Ger-vaise of Tilbury informs us that at that time there was a kind of demon in England which appeared as a horse. Whenever this apparition was seen it was a sign that a conflagration would soon break out. Hence, as giving a kindly warning, this mysterious horse was regarded as a friendly spirit, and the animal in general was believed to be a beneficent mystic power.

THE AGONY COLUMN

The agony column of "The Times" continues to delight one's lighter moments, as well as to touch the heart with its hints of pathos and sorrow.

In the same issue several women appeal for details of the last moments of their husbands and sons killed in action; a fat man implores that someone should grasp this unique opportunity to obtain his services for cinema comedy pictures; a colonial subaltern hopes that a kind person will help him with \$75, out of his difficulties; another subaltern, a Canadian ranker, wants \$125 urgently, and a lady wants to adopt the child of an officer who has fallen in action.

A few days ago, a girl whose fiance had been killed, offered to marry and devote herself to a disabled officer, with a view to making him happy. What a pity one cannot follow up these appeals. Did a disabled officer reply to this? Would the girl marry a man she had never seen, and would devotion so impersonal satisfy him and stand the strain of everyday life? Did some really kind sympathetic man write to her to point out the drawbacks to what she was so rashly and wildly promising because she felt her heart was broken?

"KNOTTY" PROBLEMS

Sailors Are Experts in Tying Knots That Will Not Slip

Can you tie a good knot? Probably not. Few but sailors can knot a rope as it should be done. Yet knots are just as useful, in a hundred ways, about the house as they are at sea.

The familiar overhand (Fig. 1) is the simplest knot of all. It is the basis of the square or reef knot (Fig. 2), which is more useful and common than any other. In describing these knots, two terms are frequently used

Overhand Knot



Square Knot



Granny Knot

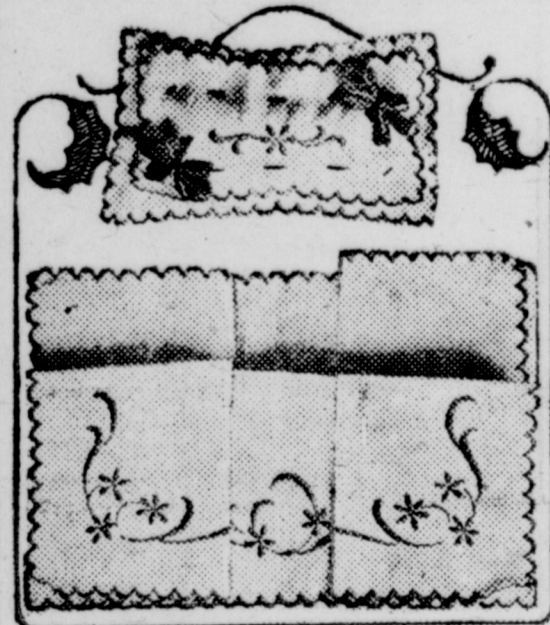


"Bight" means simply a loop, and "standing apart" means the part of the rope to the left of the knot, if the knot is held before you, with the

To make a square knot, using the ends of two ropes, make a bight of the end of one, so that the end and standing part lie side by side. Then pass the end of the other up through the bight, around both parts of the first end, and down through the bight again. The difference between this knot and the granny knot (Fig. 3) is evident, when you study the pictures carefully. Sailors make fun of the granny knot; it is very liable to slip.

Pretty Things for the Housewife

Dresser Set of Embroidered Linen

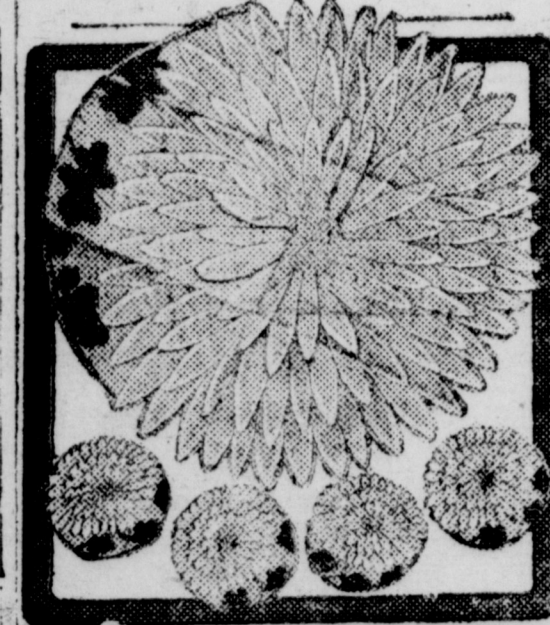


Heavy white linen (or cotton in certain weaves) embroidered with light colored floss, make simple and elegant dresser sets that will delight the heart of the neat housewife. These sets consist of dresser scarf and pincushion cover usually, but glove and handkerchief cases may be made to match and added to them.

The scarf is a length of the linen having scalloped edges buttonhole stitched with light colored floss. A scroll and flower pattern is embroidered at each end and at the center of the scarf, on one side.

A small oblong pincushion is covered with two pieces of linen, one smaller than the other, as shown in the picture. These are buttonhole stitched in scallops about the edges and eyelets are worked in them. A scroll and flower pattern is embroidered in the smaller piece. They are joined by narrow satin ribbon threaded through the eyelets and tied in little bows.

Luncheon Set of Silk Muslin

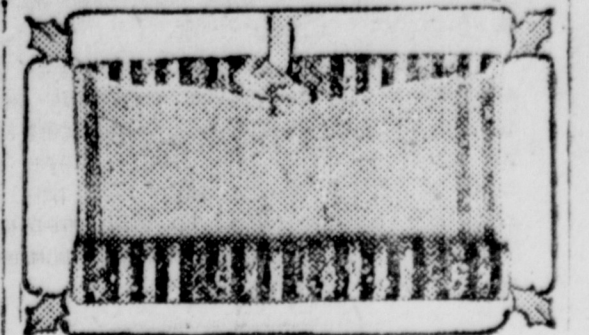


Something new in luncheon sets is made of stiff white silk muslin, very small gilt cord and white and green water color paints. It consists of a centerpiece and twelve doilies to match and is made in a conventionalized chrysanthemum design. The doilies are small replicas of the centerpiece.

A large circle is cut from the muslin for the centerpiece and a few French knots, of dark yellow embroidery silk, are worked in the center to represent the stamens. Three rows of petals are outlined on the centerpiece with white paint and the tiny gilt cord is sewed with yellow silk thread along the outline of each petal. The petals are crowded a little at one side to allow three light green leaves to be painted in. A little white paint is brushed in at the point of each petal and the muslin about the edge trimmed away from them.

The doilies are made in the same way but on a smaller scale.

Roll for Doilies of Cretonne



A doily roll makes a pretty gift for the housewife and is useful to her in more ways than one. It keeps her doilies fresh and easy to get at. Nothing is easier to make, and very few equally pretty gifts cost so little.

The rolls are usually made in two lengths, one for centerpieces and one for doilies. To make one a strong pasteboard tube, such as used for mailing is procured. Circular pieces of cretonne are stretched over the ends and pasted down on the roll.

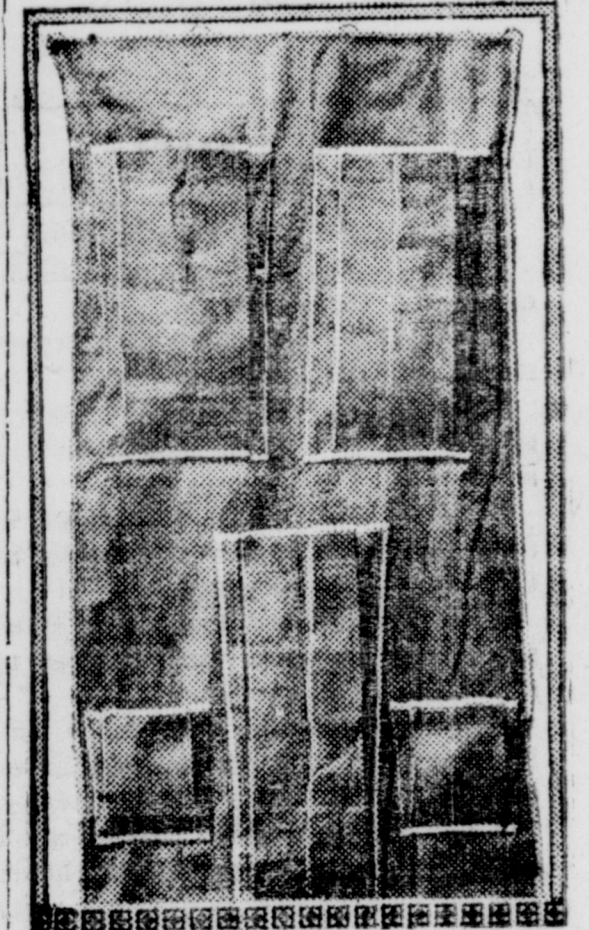
A strip of the cretonne as wide as the tube is long is then cut off of any length desired. One end of the strip is trimmed in a curve and the other left straight. The curved end and sides of the strip are bound with tape.

The straight end is pasted to the roll, the cretonne wound once about it and sewed down to form a casing for it. Ribbon ends are sewed to the curved end of cretonne to form ties for fastening it when the doilies have been rolled.

The cretonne used to make the roll shown in the picture is a striped pattern with small flowers scattered over the surface. Dark backgrounds with gay flowers make rolls that do not roll easily. The ribbon used should match the flowers or foliage in the pattern.

Convenient Gifts for Everyone

Wall Pockets for the Closet



A convenient gift which will be welcomed by either men or women is a group of wall pockets for the closet. A strip of denim or cretonne is cut as long as the maker may choose and bound with tape. Strips of the material, ranging in width and length are bound with the tape and a deep box plait is laid in each one.

These pieces are stitched along three sides to the plain strip to form pockets, as shown in the picture above. The pockets hold slippers, shoes, rubbers, hosiery, corsets, small articles for the laundry. Pockets made to extend the length of the closet door will hold everything which usually finds a place on the floor.

Darning Bag of Silkene



Two squares of figured silkene are placed face to face and machine-stitched together in a felled seam. One