

A MOST BEAUTIFUL HUSBAND CONTEST THE LATEST THING

(Philadelphia Bulletin)

This country has heard a lot about women's rights. It has given women the vote, and is willing to give them anything else they want. Men as a rule feel that this is the easiest way, since to interpose objections would be futile. What woman wants she will take and that will be that. Now how about paying a little attention to men's rights?

We observe that the Harrison County Farm Bureau in Iowa is going to hold a "most beautiful husband" contest. This is a step in the right direction. It is not exactly clear why a man to be eligible for competition in the matter of pulchritude should have to be matrimonially yoked. The beauty contests conducted at shore resorts are not for married women. Many comely men are unmarried and it would seem only fair that their charms should be exploited. But the Harrison county affair is perhaps an entering wedge, and this phase of man's rights may presently be pressed further.

For every Venus there is an Adonis. Some of them already patronize the places where hair is waved and get themselves permanents; but the average man does not try to improve upon nature because he feels no one would appreciate his efforts. This is a mistake. Do not the women rave over the beautiful heroes of the screen? It is not for their make-believe deeds they are admired—anybody can be a noble character if it is written in the script. It is for their physique, their adorable features, their utter loveliness—the qualities that give male patrons of the movies a pain in the neck.

These movie men cultivate their beauty. Hundreds of thousands of their brothers who never dreamed of even being an extra—one of the mob in the riot scene—could be equally pretty if they were to study the art as movie heroes and women do.

There ought to be beauty parlors especially for men, more attention to styles of wearing the masculine hair, personal study of the relative merits of moustaches and shaven lips, more and better care of the male complexion.

Men's rights are also at a low ebb in the matter of clothing. Women wear what they please and darned little of it. In New York the other day a man was thrown out of a restaurant because he insisted upon eating without his shirt with the thermometer at 95. There are public places which a man may not enter unless, in addition to a shirt, he is wearing a coat. Think of it! Who ever heard of a woman, who wants "rights", being excluded from any place she desired to enter because the management felt that she wasn't sufficiently clothed? Consider the bathing suits now worn at the shore by women, who have attained their rights and contrast them with the garb a tyrannical social custom requires of men.

It is time for man to assert himself, and, not denying any privileges to the feminine part of the population, to insist upon a few masculine prerogatives. Foremost among them should be the right to regulate his attire according to the demands of comfort and to display his beauty as freely as the women do.

THE WRONG COURT

Prince Alexis Midivani visited his brother in Hollywood some time ago and two girl stars were introduced to him at a dinner party.

The first star said when the introduction was made:

"Pleased to meet you, your honor."

"Your honor? Gosh," said the other star, "pull yourself together. You ain't in the divorce court now."

A RETURNED NEW YORKER CHATS ABOUT THE LIKES AND DISLIKES FOUND ABROAD

(NEW YORK SUN)

Dr. Henry Butt again this week entertained some of his cronies of the Municipal Court. His talk, to which the judges invariably listen with marked attention, centered, on this occasion, on his observations during a recent trip abroad. Particularly diverting were his views on France.

"Although usually called volatile people, a reputation largely based on their popular shouts and songs, the French, in many ways," said the returned New Yorker, "are actually conservative. This is shown in their retention of the old usages and laws long after the conditions which brought these customs and statutes into operation have passed away."

"One of these is the imposition still of the octroi, which dates beyond the days of Colbert, designed as a customs collection at the border of the principalities to make their separate existence possible. But today," added the New Yorker, "even a restaurant like Tour d'Argent, a famous institution of France, cannot bring a duck from the Seine-et-Oise without paying the levied octroi at the gate. Of course," said the traveler with a smile, "the tourist pays the added price."

"I lived for a time in Asnieres, whose streets and homes and factories comprise, so far as the outward evidence is concerned, a continuous part of Paris. We bought our coal from the city proper but octroi was added to the bill. Similar practices impose taxation on traffic throughout the republic, the collection of this antiquated duty costing, it is computed, much more than the revenue derived."

Another illustration of the conservative character of the French as well as the customary circumlocution of entrenched bureaus has been manifest in systems growing out of the world war, the New Yorker said. Then he told of an amusing incident of how France, in company with other na-

tions, has retained in peace times vexatious regulations justifiable only in periods of stress and storm.

"Before I relate this incident, let me remind you, gentlemen, that my name begins with B. For that is the point on which the humor hangs. During the war, the French imposed on every one, particularly on foreigners within the borders of the republic, the obligation to keep strictly up to date, several official documents, including a card of identity."

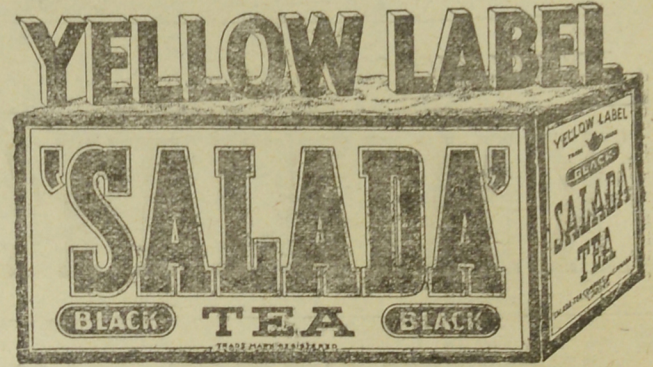
"These were in force in part up to the present year. After the war there was no immediate abatement of the government's vigor in enforcing the regulations, although the original papers were called in, elaborate receipts given in their place with the explanation that after checks and double checks, or words to that effect, new originals would be issued to all of us."

The New Yorker, in France throughout the war and later finally decided to visit England with his family and thought it wiser to call for the new documents. He was received with customary French courtesy, the officials after much speech and many gestures coming back, not with the new papers but with the old receipts countersigned. These, they reassured Dr. Butt, would get him through if properly signed again at the port of departure. Then the officials, forgetting in the cascade of utterance the New Yorker's name, but true to the traditions of French savoir faire, began to explain the seeming delay in reissuance of the regular official documents, which they held for about two years.

The Government, particular in all cases, but impartial, the official said, was working alphabetically, and had not yet come to him. But would in due time—passe encore, mais bientot (Not yet, but soon!)

Mr. Zero, Dr. Butt thinks, would have had a tough time in conservative and careful France.

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But it isn't advisable to follow your natural bent if it makes you crooked. Ofttimes the finest and most delicate literary genius isn't looking for How to increase consumption? Well worldly "opportunity," in fact, can't the fish ignore a hook if you don't use see it at all. It has no huckstering a gaudy fly to advertise it. talent.

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