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"SLUGGER" SMITH

By R. H. WILKINSON

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"NO MAN," said Elmer Stone, "was ever more proud of his sobriquet than David 'Slugger' Smith."

Slugger was a small man, puny, almost emaciated in appearance—a friendly sort of person, the type of man toward whom you instantly warm without knowing why; a man, great of spirit and generous of heart.

"Sam Cook just called David, 'Slugger.' It was toward the end of the annual baseball game between volunteer Hook and Ladder No. 1 of Dexter and Hose 3 of Bartlett. David, an ardent follower of the big leagues, himself an enthusiastic player and a third baseman of whom all Dexterites were proud, stepped up to bat in the last half of the ninth, with the score 2 to 2, and slugged out a home run.

"Sam, who was seated beside me in the bleachers, exclaimed: 'What a slugger that guy turned out to be!' The name seemed to suit David fine. It was sort of catchy and somehow suggestive of the reason for its origin.

"There was, as usual, a celebration that night in the firehouse, and David was the hero of the hour. Sam proposed a toast to 'Slugger' Smith, and everybody cheered and applauded and thought the moniker well bestowed.

"David was ordinarily a modest and reticent type of man, but that name tickled his vanity. He grinned from ear to ear, and you could tell by the look in his eyes that he was mighty proud to be called 'Slugger.'

"That night after the celebration David went home and, emboldened by the flattery of his teammates (a boldness augmented by several generous mugs of Peter Sayles' very best home brew) woke his wife, Dora, from a sound slumber, and apprised her of the great honor that had been bestowed upon himself.

"It was, I suspect, the home brew that freed David's tongue, for Dora Smith approved not at all of her husband's enthusiasm and interest in the national sport. She frowned upon his association with such ordinary people as myself and Sam Cook. And since the day of their wedding, five years before, she had never ceased trying to convince him that baseball was a degrading and vulgar pastime.

"For Dora had social ambitions. She wanted to be somebody, to travel in smart company, to be distinctive and aloof. At that time Dexter had no group of people that could be classed as aristocrats, but Dora had dreams of such a group, with herself in the role of social lion.

"And so when David, with boyish enthusiasm and righteous pride, told how he had earned his sobriquet, his ardor was almost instantly squelched by cold and condemning stares, by harsh and cruel scolding, by unsympathetic and unfair upbraiding. Fortunately, David had fortified himself with enough home brew to dispel any oppressiveness which might have been his reaction to such a rebuff, and, more fortunately still, Dora had that evening received a letter, the contents of which had excited her to a high fever and left little room in her mind for other matters. Hence the tirade was cut unusually short, and David crawled into bed to dream blissful dreams of slugging home runs for Hook and Ladder No. 1.

"Dora woke him early the next morning. Fully clothed she sat on the bed's edge, and held the letter in her hand. Even to David's sleep-drugged brain was borne the knowledge that something important was about to happen. He rubbed his eyes, sat up and prepared to listen. Dora beamed.

"'David, it's happened! We're rich.'

"David blinked. 'Rich?'

"'Richer than I'd ever dreamed. David, just listen to this: Uncle Thomas, my mother's brother, who lived in Boston, died two weeks ago, and bequeathed us his entire fortune. Nearly a million dollars!'

"David looked concerned. 'Say, that's a shame. Tom was a good egg. What ailed him?'

"Dora's glance hardened for an instant, and then she was beaming again. 'Think of it, David, a million dollars! Think of what it means! Travel! Meeting smart people! Mingling with the highest of society! Oh, David, we'll be the envy of everyone in Dexter!'

"David wasn't exactly agog over the idea, and protested at giving up his job and accompanying his wife on a trip abroad. But he was a mild mannered man, easily persuaded in preference to asserting himself. During the next two weeks, while Dora was packing and making preparations for their tour, he went around town with a doleful look on his face, a look that brightened only when some one addressed him by his newly acquired sobriquet. If some one on the opposite side of the street shouted at him: 'Hi, Slugger!' you'd see a grin appear that would warm the cockles of your heart.

"We hated to see David go. He was a regular fellow, liked by us all, a good mixer, an unselfish friend. He told us they were to be devoted to acquiring culture and a snooty attitude.

"And despite the fact that none of us could ever conceive of David as an aristocrat or anything more superior than the hero of Hook and Ladder No. 1's baseball team, we felt sad the day of his departure. Somehow it seemed he was stepping out of the role in which we had always known him and into another and stranger character.

"This fear was substantiated when, from one source or another, we began to hear news of the Smiths' social climb. Due mostly to Dora's determination and initiative they had advanced far and succeeded in making an impression on some of Europe's high society.

"This news was further supported when it became known that Dora had invested several thousands of dollars with a genealogy expert and acquired among other things, a coat of arms, and a large book containing details of the Smith family as far back as Capt. John Smith. A little later we were advised that mail addressed to Mr. or Mrs. David Smith would be ignored; if we wanted to communicate with Slugger we must address the envelope to D. Richard Smythe, which was, Dora discovered, the correct way of spelling and pronouncing the good old name.

"This latter information was disturbing. It forced us to admit that our conjectures regarding 'Slugger' Smith were wrong. He had succumbed at last, gone high hat, become an aristocrat, would undoubtedly look down with scorn and contempt upon his one-time cronies.

"Our last remaining hope was dashed asunder when one day the train from Boston deposited Slugger and Dora at Dexter's depot. Those of us who, as usual, were gathered on the platform to check up on the train's arrival, were saddened by what we saw. There was Slugger in a cut-away coat and striped trousers, carrying a little snow-white Pomeranian dog under his arm. He followed Dora across the station platform and looked right through us as if we had been so much thin air.

"It was sad. None of us addressed him. We would have felt uneasy doing so. He seemed strange and unreal; he wasn't the man upon whom we had bestowed the sobriquet of 'Slugger' and who had been proud of the honor.

"Several times we met this strange being about town during the next few days. And always he looked through us or failed to turn his face in our direction at all. We did not attempt to renew old friendship; we were too fearful of being humiliated and scorned.

"The thing might have gone on indefinitely had not Bob Terril, who had secured a position in Boston shortly after the Smiths departed from Europe, returned to town one day and confronted David in the post office that evening. Bob of course had no news of David, was not aware of the great transformation that had taken place in the one-time crony to us all, and at sight of him he let out a whoop and came across the floor. 'Slugger! I'm a son of an ox! By all that's holy, what is this a masquerade?' he ejaculated again and reached out and whacked David between the shoulder blades.

"And then something very surprising happened. Instead of spurning Bob's greeting with a look of scorn and contempt, an expression of serene happiness appeared on his face. He grinned from ear to ear and thrust out his hand.

"'Thanks, Bob,' he said, his tone husky, 'thanks. I—I was afraid every one had forgotten about that name of mine. I was afraid to speak to anyone; afraid they wouldn't call me 'Slugger.'"

Frozen Grasshoppers in Glacier for Many Years

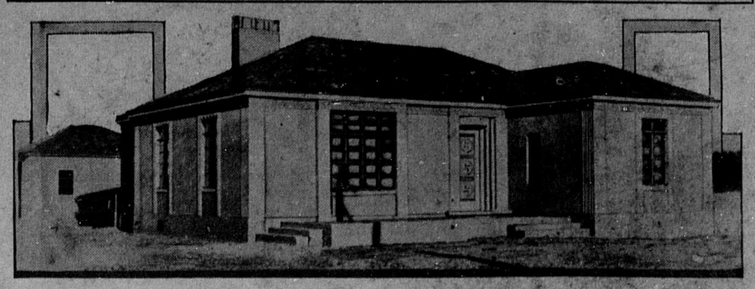
Probably one of the most curious sights of the world is a glacier full of frozen grasshoppers. This is known as Grasshopper glacier, and is to be seen in Montana, observes a writer in the Montreal Herald. The huge mass of ice, under the crush of which the grasshoppers are buried, is under the shadow of Granite peak, a 13,000-foot mountain. Millions of grasshoppers are embedded in the ice of the glacier, and no one knows how many thousands of years they have been there. Those near the surface are plainly seen through the clear ice.

Just how the grasshoppers came to be in the ice is a matter which has long perplexed scientists. One idea is that the insects were suddenly killed by a cold blast of air when crossing the mountains on one of their periodic flights southward. Falling, they became buried in ice and snow.

Hottest Spot on Earth

Not far from Asab, Eritrea, heat-ridden city on the south coast of the Red sea is the hottest spot on earth. It's called the Plain of Salt and legend has it that beneath its sands are buried the cursed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The plain is 350 feet below sea level, and its temperature frequently reaches 212 degrees F.

Pre-Fabricated House of Concrete Panels



AMONG the newest developments in the attempt to transform residential construction into a mass-production industry is a pre-fabricated house of concrete panels, the first example of which has just been completed on Colesville Pike, in the outskirts of Washington, D. C. With 32 panels of concrete, each 2 inches thick, 9 feet high and from 4 to 10 feet wide, John J. Earley has assembled the walls of a five-room bungalow, for which many advantages are claimed in the way of low initial cost, low upkeep cost and permanence. The window casements are cast solidly into the panels in the course of their prefabrication in the factory, so that when the walls are assembled and the roof is on the workers may proceed with the interior finish regardless of exterior weather conditions. After the foundation is made, a skeleton of studding, either of wood or steel, is set on it to furnish a frame against which the panels are placed. Light reinforced concrete columns are then cast behind the joints between the panels, which are attached firmly to the columns. The panels of the average house can be put in place in one day, according to the sponsors of the new method.

BEDTIME STORY FOR CHILDREN

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES

It does no good to just regret
If your mistakes you soon forget.

DANNY MEADOW MOUSE had learned this by hard experience. Now whenever he makes a mistake he wastes no time regretting that mistake, but neither does he forget it. He tucks it away in his memory so that he never will do the same thing again, and then he puts his wits to work to get him out of the trouble his mistake has got him into.

As he peeped out of the hole in the far bank of the Smiling Pool, where

"I Certainly Have Got Myself Into a Heap of Trouble This Time," Thought He.

[illegible] had hurried at [illegible] time that [illegible] stayed at home, so [illegible] to do was to try to find a [illegible] of his present difficulties. His home was some distance away on the Green Meadows on the other side of the Smiling Pool. On the other bank he could see Reddy Fox. Down in the Smiling Pool he could see the Big Pickerel, who had so nearly caught him when he was swimming across. There also was Snapper the Snapping Turtle. To make matters worse he caught a glimpse of Billy Mink swimming along closer to the opposite bank. A fat Meadow Mouse for dinner would tickle any of these.

Then to make matters worse he happened to look up and there sailing round and round high overhead was Redtail the Hawk, and there is nothing in the world that Redtail likes better than Meadow Mouse for his meals. Danny sighed, but he took care that that sigh couldn't be heard more than a few inches away. It was a very gentle sigh, a very gentle sigh indeed, but in it were expressed all Danny's feelings—fear, worry and vain regret.

"I certainly have got myself into a heap of trouble this time," thought he. "I'm surrounded by enemies. Yes, sir, I'm simply surrounded by enemies, and, if I don't watch out there won't be any Danny Meadow Mouse. I had no business to come over here to the Smiling Pool, but here I am. I got myself into this trouble and now I've got to get myself out of it. Nobody else can or will. If a fellow didn't have to eat things would be easier. I could stay right here until I could be sure of a safe trip home. But goodness knows when that time will come and I'm hungry this very minute."

Then as once more he caught a glimpse of Billy Mink a dreadful thought came to him. Billy Mink might take it into his head to come over on that bank of the Smiling Pool and peep into all the holes there, a way he has of doing. "He would surely find me then," thought Danny, "and that would be the end of me. I don't dare go and I don't dare stay. Whatever shall I do?"

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MOTHER'S COOK BOOK

SEASONING AND FLAVORING

THE most delightful dish otherwise may be ruined by the addition of a bit too much or a bit too little of just the right seasoning or flavor. Browning was not using it in this connection, but how well the couplet expresses just the idea of well-seasoned foods:

Oh, the little more and how much it is!
And the little less, and what worlds away!

Success in cookery depends upon the nice taste of the cook in the adding of seasoning, spice or flavoring, without which the food is zestless and flat. Here are a few hints gleaned from various sources which will be suggestive when serving these familiar dishes. A mere trace of nutmeg added to fresh lima beans improves them. A trifle more may be added to the dry ones. Add a small piece of mace to panned or creamed oysters. Remove it before serving. Add both ginger and mustard in Boston baked beans. Ginger for zest, mustard for flavor. The ginger takes the place of pepper.

Drop a small piece of cinnamon in the oatmeal while cooking. Remove this so that no one will discover what makes it taste so good. Add a bit of grater lemon rind to the musk that is to be fried for breakfast.

Grated orange peel or the preserved skin added to ginger bread makes a most delectable flavor; add it to a spiced cake or currant or raisin loaf flavored with lemon extract.

A small bit of sugar, half a teaspoonful or less added to vegetables while cooking will improve the flavor, also it improves soups, roasts are given a more appetizing brown.

A pinch of salt improves almost any food, custards, applesauce, and other sweet fruits. Add a few grains of salt to cocoa, coffee and chocolate for cake filling, to fudge and to icings as well as all forms of candy. When butter is not used more salt will be needed. Adding salt to cooked fruits will save on sugar, for salt brings out sweetness.

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Because You Love Me

By ANNE CAMPBELL

BECAUSE you love me, I can bear
The lack of everything I thought
I should possess to make life fair.
The trifling gift that you have brought
Is lovelier in my fond sight
Than jewels sparkling in the light.

The gentle touch of your dear hand,
A tender glance from your warm eyes,
And somehow I can understand
The quality of Paradise.
Just to sit near you is to be
A part of divine harmony.

Because you love me, I can find
A rainbow in the darkest sky.
The troubled days I do not mind
As long as you are standing by.
My smiles will always shine through tears,
If you will love me down the years.

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Nifty Sports Outfit

Buttoning down its entire front length and featuring short cool sleeves and a kerchief collar, this one-piece dress is excellent for sports wear. It is crocheted in fancy stitch of yellow and brown mercerized yarn.

Call for Man-Tailored Jacket Suit

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

FIT yourself out with a neat, trim man-tailored suit to which give "class" with accessories that are eye-filling and chic down to the minutest item, then—on with the Easter style parade!

It is not that the strictly man-tailored short-jacket suit is the only type sponsored by leaders in fashion for the new season. On the contrary, suit-buying is a bewildering problem these days. The range takes in every known species from the softly styled bolero, cape-sleeve jacket, also with-a-cape sort, to the tailored one-piece-dress variety which, when topped with its inevitable jacket, is so styled as to look the part of a jacket-and-skirt tailleur. Then, too, the swagger-coat suits are as smart as the smartest. In fact any costume is in fashion this season just so it's a suit.

However, there comes the crucial moment in the life of every fashion-following woman when she must arrive at a definite decision as to "what to buy" in way of a new spring outfit. Reducing generalities as to style trends in the suit realm to a concrete unit we are inclined to believe that the advice offered in the first paragraph of this discourse on suits is as about as safe and sane and style-promising as any we can suggest. We assure you that there is a decided flair among the best-dressed women for the strictly man-tailored jacket and skirt versions, two pleasing exponents of which we present in the illustration herewith.

There is no need to dwell upon the satisfactions the whole season through that one gets out of a neat dated-up-to-the-moment suit such as pictured to the left. A classic type such as this is the very foundation of a successful wardrobe. No matter how many frills and furbelows and sweetly feminine pretty-pretty clothes one may possess, when it comes to "something to wear" which will prove equal to every daytime occasion, there is nothing which can take the place of a good-looking suit, as is this model. It is tailored of slate blue men's suiting with a white overcheck. The jacket has that easy-at-the-waist look which is indicative of the newest silhouette. The blouse is white challis printed in red and black dots with an ascot scarf neckline.

The companion suit to the right accents the vogue for contrast. Also it is a smartly feminized interpretation of a masculine fashion in that the black broadcloth of a man's dinner jacket is combined with the striped fabric of formal trousers. Under this ultra chic braid-trimmed jacket milady wears a very dainty batiste blouse which has a jabot and collar with fine val lace-encrusted edge.

The beauty of a strictly tailored suit is that miracles can be worked in its appearance by varying the accessories worn with it. For example, fancy how stunning the double-breast tailleur will look when its owner tops it with one of the stunning new natural chamois hats, tying a stitched scarf of the identical chamois about her throat, carrying a chamois handbag and wearing gloves of matching chamois. A navy blue sailor of the new rough spun-glass straw, with navy blue footwear and other accessory items would likewise prove a pleasing diversion.

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QUESTION BOX

by ED WYNN, The Perfect Fool

Dear Mr. Wynn:

On my next birthday I will be twenty-one years old. I am torn between two thoughts. I am keeping company with a girl and expect to marry her. On the other hand my father wants me to join the army. What shall I do?

Yours truly,
LEW TENNANT.

Answer: The only difference is, that if you join the army you'll get paid for fighting.

Dear Mr. Wynn:

A crowd of boys and girls are going on a picnic next Sunday. We must each bring something to eat. I am supposed to make some "hash." Can you tell me the best way to make "hash"?

Truly yours,
IKE ANTCOOK.

Answer: My dear boy, "hash" is not made. "Hash" is an accumulation.

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PAPA KNOWS—

"Pop, what is a palet?"
"Local color."

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MINUTE MAKE-UPS

By V. V.

Sachet powder has various uses. Many people forget that it imparts a subtle fragrance when used on the skin. You may rub just a little under the armpits and enjoy a fragrance that will last throughout the evening.

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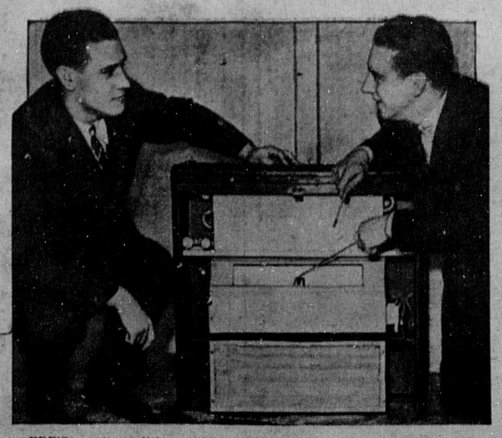
An Air Conditioner for Rural Use



HERE'S an air conditioner that utilizes cold well water for summer cooling and heat in the winter, when connected with a heating outlet. Besides it will humidify and dehumidify the air, as desired. It was developed by Walter P. Chrysler, Jr., right, son of the motor car manufacturer, who is showing the inside of the new unit to his brother Jack.

SPRING SUITS ARE OF RABBIT WOOL

Fifth avenue shops already are showing rabbit wool suits for spring in soft pastels. The favorite style consists of a one-piece dress on shirtwaist lines, with a loose hip-length jacket in a deeper tone of the same color. The frock is tailored to the last notch, has short sleeves, a monogrammed ascot of self-material, a saddle-leather belt and a kick pleat in the skirt.

The jacket, in a darker tone, is loose and casual, and may be worn admirably with springtime prints or sweaters and skirts.

The new spring weight rabbit woolens come in soft, silky shadow checks and stripes, diagonal and otherwise, are soft as the proverbial kitten's ear and as light as a spring zephyr.

There's a putty color that is grand in combination with a dark brown jacket, felt crusher hat, brown leather belt and brown accessories.

Three-Piece Ensembles to Be More and More Popular

Three-piece ensembles continue to be more and more popular. As a change from the winter woolen or fur coat with one-piece dress, there are novel ensembles for all hours of the day, composed either of a full jersey or woolen dress with cape to match, sometimes with an additional sort of waistcoat or cardigan jacket, of three-quarter or rather seven-eighths coat in the same material as the dress underneath, or matching as trimming; also of very smart afternoon velvet coats trimmed with fur and shorter than the dress in the same velvet, completed by a lame or rayon chenille tunic.

Rug Into Coat

Cashmere rugs used for sports clothes are a novel idea for spring. The soft silky rugs, resembling camel's hair, are used in tones of beige and brown to fashion loose three-quarter length coats and trim suits.

PEACH-BASKET HAT

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

If anyone asks you to describe the new peach-basket hat just tell them it has a crown which narrows at the top and a brim which slopes to the edge. An inverted peach basket inspired this new shape which is quite the topic of conversation among milliners here and abroad. The model pictured has one of the very narrow brims although some peach-basket chapeaux widen their brims into picturesque and flattering mushroom effects. Belting ribbon and a stiffened mesh veil trim the navy blue milan straw peach-basket hat here shown. Many of the wider brimmed models are made of stitched fabric, either crepe or taffeta and some few navy or black satin models are to be seen.

Scarf the Thing

The scarf is among the indispensables of this season's wardrobe. Plain materials and plaids, every shape and size, are augmented sequin and ostrich feather scarves.

Suits for Spring

Fashion says "Suits for spring with a capital S." Jacket suits, cape suits, topcoat suits—all are in favor.

Abyssinians Have Historical Record That Antedates Dawn of History

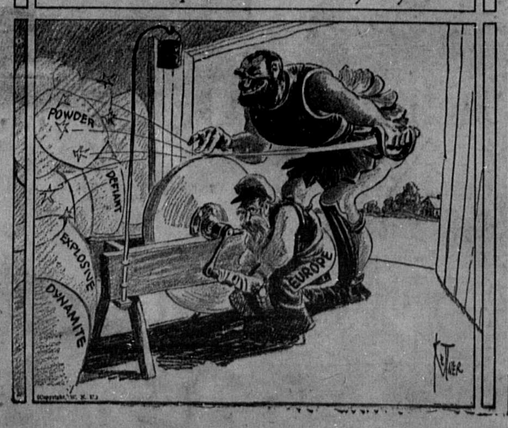
The Abyssianians, the Ethiopians of the ancient world, have inhabited their present mountainous tableland surrounding the headwaters of the blue Nile since before the dawn of history. In early times, says a correspondent in the New York Herald Tribune, they were more or less connected with the Egyptians of the upper Nile and afterward assimilated incursions of the Hebrews at the time of the Egyptian captivity; the Phenicians, from whom they are said to have derived their alphabet, and the Greeks who had planted colonies along their seacoat. Christianity was introduced in the Fourth century and gradually spread throughout the land. This primitive faith, mixed with many customs of Judaism, is the principal religion there today.

In the Seventh century the Mahommedans conquered all of Egypt and the Abyssinian coastal possessions. The Abyssinians were driven into the interior mountain fastnesses, there to remain nearly a thousand years until their very existence was almost forgotten. About 1500 a Portuguese expedition seeking a mythical eastern Christian kingdom penetrated the country and entered into a relationship sufficiently friendly to permit the establishment of missions. To these Portuguese belong the credit for many churches, bridges and other public works constructed at the time and also to the fanatical zeal of their priests must be attributed the destruction of the ancient literature the Abyssinians are said to have had. This domination of the missionaries lasted nearly a century and a half, when religious disputes arose and the Portuguese were driven out, the Abyssinians again retiring to remain in seclusion until about the middle of the last century.

Milky Way Appears White

The Milky Way is composed of so many stars that it appears white.

Let the Sparks Fall Where They May



THROUGH A Woman's Eyes

By JEAN NEWTON

WHAT PRICE ROMANCE?

"DEAR Jean Newton.

"Did you read about the man after twenty-three years in prison going back to Italy to marry his childhood sweetheart who faithfully waited for him all that time?

"Who said that today romance is dead?"

I wish I could, like our reader, react only with a romantic thrill to the story of the miner who on the eve of sending for his sweetheart in the Old Country inadvertently killed a man and had to postpone his wedding twenty-three years—who now, at the age of forty-seven, is to go back to marry that faithful sweetheart.

You can see the picture in the mind of the girl who has been waiting—the picture of the brave, hopeful young emigrant going forth to battle the world and establish for her a haven of peace and security in the promised land? Let us hope that the interval has not too much altered the subject of her devotion to make possible a happy ending to the story.

The man twenty-three years in prison has had little in his mind, naturally, but the dream of the girl he left behind him. With the years that dream has remained, doubtless, of the sweet young thing, clinging to him, full of hope and faith in the goodness of life and the strength of her lover. Let us hope that he is somewhat prepared for revision of at least outward aspect of the middle-aged woman who will meet him on his return.

Lifelong devotion is beautiful—particularly on the part of this woman out in the world who made the sacrifice. But when it comes to romance, I'll take my chance on the couple growing old together against the reunion of sweethearts after twenty-three years.

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Latest Tips From World Fashion Centers

Hand-knit purses are popular.

A bumper crop of bumper brimmed hats is anticipated.

"Relief" prints have been designed for variety in the print picture.

"Waterskin" is a new fabric which Schiaparelli uses for raincoats this season.

White ermine collar and cuff sets will go with a good many of the new navy suits.

Fur capes are going to be seen everywhere.

"Femininity first" is Chanel's slogan for spring chic.

Horsehair hems are something to talk about in spring fashions.

Printed linens are being shown extensively for sports and country wear.

Fans are welcomed once again into the ballroom fashion picture this season.