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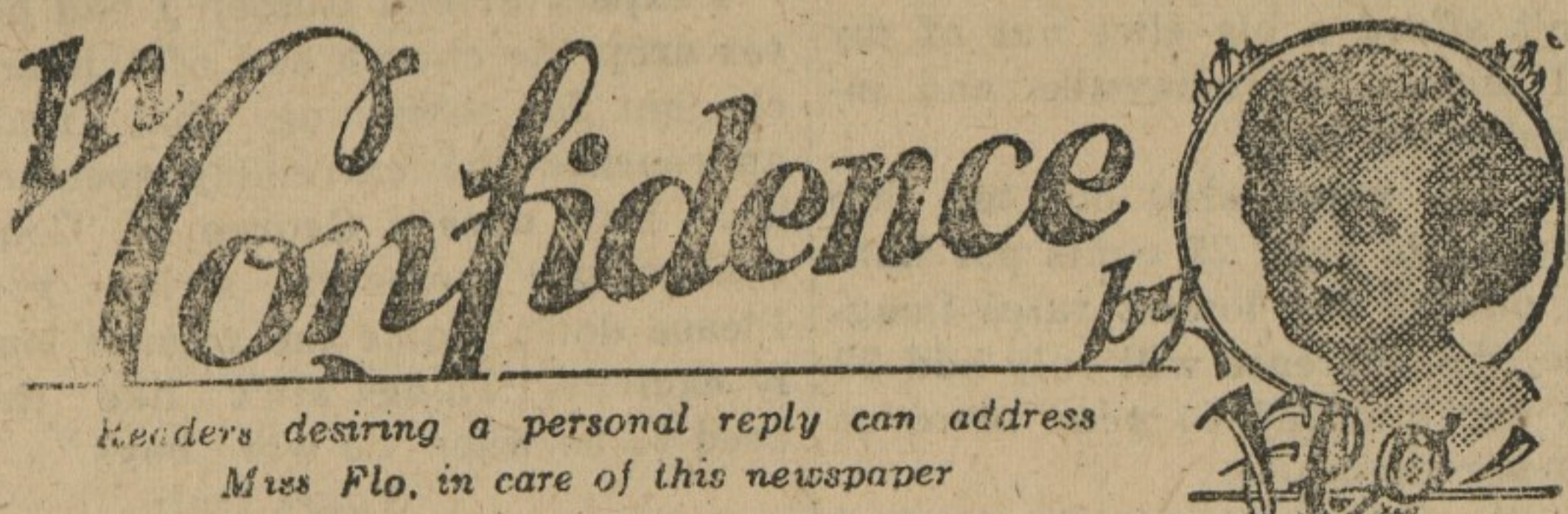
VANITY

By Edgar A. Guest
The more I see it seems to me the trouble with us all is that we grow too big in pride, in trial shrink too small; For when the good Lord prospers us and happiness is ours, We take the credit to ourselves and boast about our powers, But when our skies are overcast and plans have gone astray, We wonder why the Lord above should punish us that way.

We fancy we were born to smile, to dance our way along, That our particular lives should be one endless round of song, And when delight is ours to know and we're victorious, We act as though we'd merely gained what ought to come to us; But let the storms of trouble rage, We wince beneath the blow, And wonder why the Lord above takes vengeance on us so.

Too big in pride; too little in life's sterner tests are we, We strut the world in arrogance when we are trouble free, And then we whimper in despair and falter in belief, Forgetting that to all who live come pain and loss and grief, Although about us day by day we've watched the shadows fall, We blame it on the Lord when we must share the fate of all.

Lord, make me bigger in my loss and smaller in my gain, Teach me to see from Thee each day come both delight and pain, Teach me to understand my tears; To know why they are sent That I may never cry aloud against Thy punishment, Teach me to know that joy and grief walk ever side by side, Let me grow bigger in my faith and smaller in my pride.



Dear Miss Flo: I am a girl of nineteen, engaged to a young man of twenty-three. We have been engaged for a year, and would like to marry in June. However, my parents object, saying that I am still too young to think of marriage. I say it is better for us to get married now than go through a long engagement. What do you consider the proper age for marrying?

The ideal age for marriage is a topic of wide and unending interest, and now it has been submitted to scientific research. Data collected from the Domestic Relations Court and the marriage license bureau of Philadelphia by Hornell Hart and Wilmer Shields offer some interesting conclusions. In their treatise they have fixed the ideal age for marriage at about 29 years for the groom and 24 years for the bride. They say, however, that deviations of four years on either side of the ideal age for the groom, or of two years on either side for the bride, make no noticeable difference, but that marriages in which the bride is under 21 or the groom under 24 become rapidly more dangerous as younger ages are considered, and that marriage in which either party is 19 or younger are from ten to one hundred times as risky as marriages at the ideal age.

These conclusions were based on the fact that premature or delayed marriage is a symptom of permanent character traits which are unfavorable to success in family life, and second, that the boy or girl under 21 has not had sufficiently broad experience or has not reached sufficient maturity to select a mate with whom a successful home can be established.

If this is the correct interpretation, the postponement of marriage until the woman is 21 and the man 24 would be an extremely important preventive measure looking toward elimination of domestic disaster. On the other hand, there are exceptions to all rules, and long engagements are apt to prove more disastrous for both the man and the woman than early marriage. A couple engaged over a period of years, seeing each other continually are sure to get on each other's nerves, and the bloom of romance is bound to wear off, because Romance, being an airy, fairy thing made of cobwebs, will not endure being knocked about.

Also, an engaged couple stand to each other in a position which is peculiarly full of jealousies and which must cause many misunderstandings and bickering, and as a result love and romance just naturally peter out. Furthermore, it is human nature to get tired of waiting for any event too long, and to lose enthusiasm when it drags along over a period of time. As a result, when the engaged couple finally do marry, it is often just because they have become a habit to each other and because everybody expects it of them, rather than because they want it for themselves. Contrary to most theories, matrimony promotes love just as surely as a long engagement kills it, because a husband and wife go into marriage with their love unwasted through years of waiting, and because marriage draws a couple close together.

You are both young, but if you are serious minded rather than frivolous; if you have a full understanding of the duties and obligations of marriage; if the sacrifices in details; if you are financially able to carry on, I see no greater risk in an immediate marriage than is taken in marriage at any age.

Your Birthday
IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY?
MARCH 6-12
If your birthday is this week you are aggressive and headstrong, and have an indomitable will power. You are a magnetic and dominant personality, and you are exceedingly positive in your make-up. You are very shrewd and keen, and when necessary, you can be very secretive concealing your thoughts and motives so successfully that neither words nor expression of face will reveal them.

Your foresight into human nature and your intuitions, are very strongly marked. You are very observant, and small details never escape your notice. You are critical and exacting, and at times very sarcastic. You have a materialistic nature, and love comfort, ease, and luxury. You are pleasure loving, and are fond of the theatre, social entertainment, and public gatherings. You are inclined to be argumentative, and display a very fiery temper at times, when you are contradicted or criticized. You can be extremely stubborn, and seldom give in.

Men born during these dates are better suited for commercial work than artistic work. They become manufacturers, brokers, bankers, salesmen, and politicians. Women born during these dates become teachers, actresses, office executives and saleswomen.

Arthur Gofman, Politician, was born March 11.
Lilly Langtry, Actress, was born March 12.

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Dr. Frank Crane Says

Two Sides—Both Need Attention

The trouble is: We don't have time. We don't have time to get acquainted with those who live around us and we don't have time to get acquainted with ourselves.

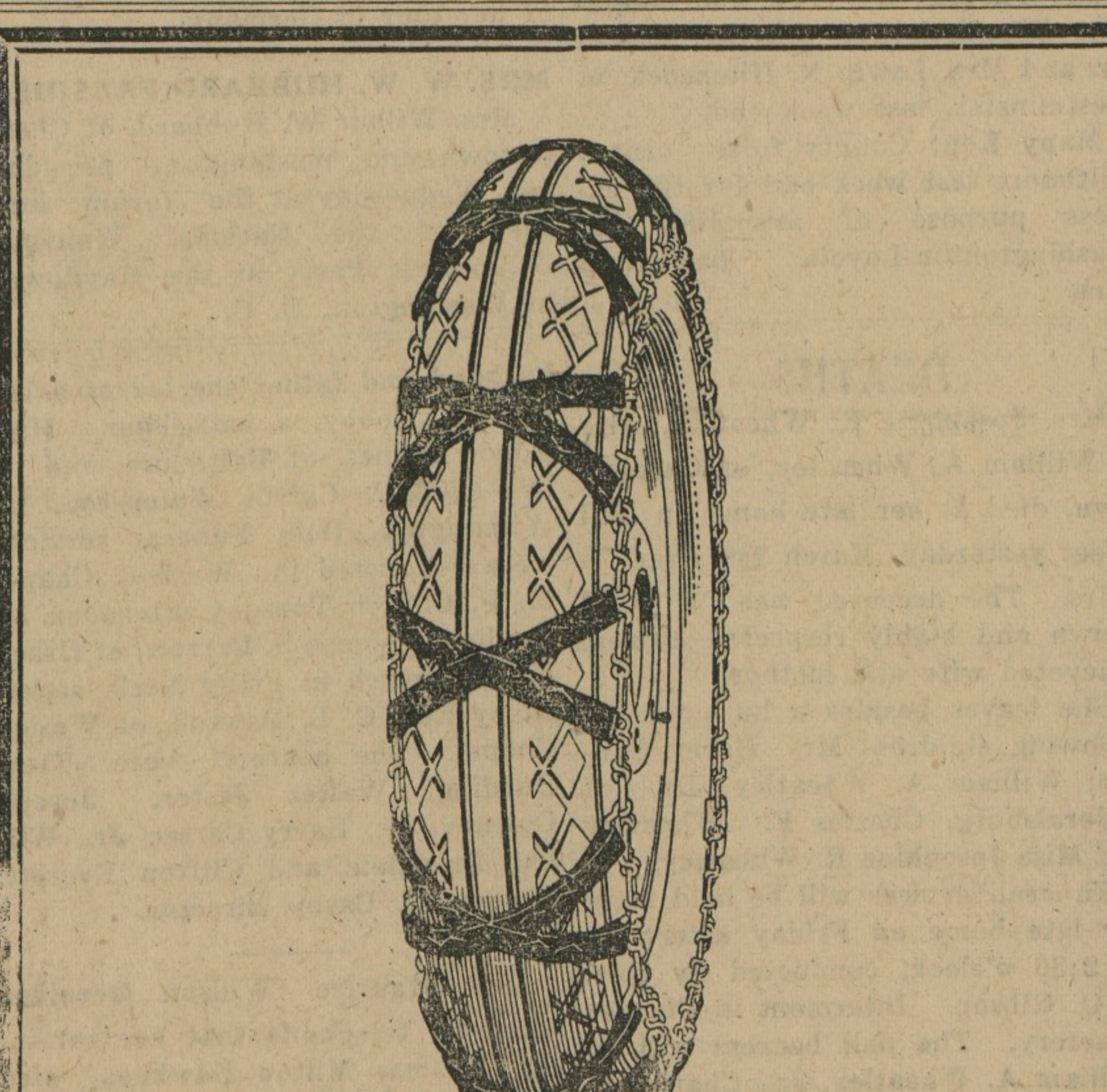
Just keeping the machinery of life going takes all our time. The two sides of our lives are the material and the spiritual. We can have in on the spiritual side easier than we can on the material side. We are propped up on that side with pointed props. We have to eat, and we have to pay for what we eat. The earnest creditor and the importunate landlord dogs our steps. Life is real and life is earnest around the first of each month.

If we shirk our responsibilities on that side of life we come up against hard actuality with a bang. Materialism is not a theory; it is an actuality.

The consequences of shirking on the other side of life—the spiritual—are not so soon apparent, but they are equally disastrous. Those who do become shallow and cold, "And he whose soul is flat—the sky will cave in on him by and by." The thing we need most is time—time to discover ourselves; time to think before we say the biting word; time to put ourselves in the other person's shoes before we make our condemnation; time to romp with the fairies of childhood in the turmoil of maturity. Time is what we need most of all.

And more than any of these we need to visit our own souls, our City of Refuge in times of trouble. Says Matthew Arnold:

50,000,000
Is a big sum of money, but not too big for our bank to advance on Kent's good farms. The amount represent only three months business for the locality. Why such record?
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