

This Week

By Arthur Brisbane

A BETTER NATIONAL TUNE.
BEVERIDGE AND PHILLIPS.
WHEN BABIES TWIDDLE TOES.
RAILROADS AND BUSES.

Someone not satisfied with the "Star Spangled Banner" offered \$1,500 for a better national tune. Nine hundred and fifty one composers tried and failed. The "Star Spangled Banner" will continue to make Americans stand up. To do a thing well you must get excited about it. Socrates, greatest Greek teacher of oratory, said, "To convince others, be yourself convinced." There will be no improved "Star Spangled Banner" until real danger inspires somebody to produce the right song.

Albert J. Beveridge died last week, sixty-four years old, of heart disease. An automobile stops when the engine stops; a man, when his heart stops. One hundred men understand a motor engine for one that knows his own heart. There is no "resale" price on a second-hand heart, and heart disease is increasing as consumption diminishes. Doctors can cure many diseases, but you must cure your own heart, once you have been warned.

Beveridge and David Graham Phillips, were schoolmates in Indiana, and represented their State well. Phillips in literature, Beveridge in national politics. Both are gone. It is "entirely illogical," as some say, to hope that they have met again, or is it, as others say, "a perfectly reasonable hope?"

A young Women's Christian Association committee says: "The modern wife who works after marriage and continues to bring money into the home is the best type of young wife, better than the young wife who sits at home twiddling her thumbs." Real wives can testify that there is little time at home for twiddling thumbs, especially after the first baby begins to twiddle its toes. Every young man ought to be able to support one woman, and proud to do it, while she takes care of the children. Working wives, respectable and admirable, should not be necessary.

This country treats the Mississippi problem as a poor man treats his farm, never spending enough to get it in good shape. Scores of millions have been spent on patch work against flood danger. Now comes a flood causing five hundred million dollars' damage. That sum properly spent, under one comprehensive plan would have prevented this flood and future floods.

Railroad men, doing their best to help stockholders, as they are bound to do have concentrated on getting increased passenger fares and freight rates from the public authorities, and that has seemed good business. The time is not far off when good business will consist in finding a way to carry passengers and freight for LESS and thus making more money.

The danger to the railroads is a small ridiculous looking thing on four wheels running along the highway, paralleling the highway on a "right of way" that costs the motor omnibus and motor truck nothing but the price of their license. Every day four motor buses leave Los Angeles carrying passengers to Chicago. That doesn't amount to much. But they can carry twice as many passengers as there are on this magnificent Santa Fe "Chief" Express. And the bus overhead is one man driving and another man to relieve him. Omnibus travel is uncomfortable and will never compete with the express train. But WHAT ABOUT THE FLYING MACHINE that will soon be here?

And what about freight hauling by omnibus? On the Mojave Desert farmers buying agricultural machinery from Los Angeles do not ask the railroad to carry it. The farmer calls up the truck line at Victorville. The freight motor truck delivers the mowing machine, plow or "seed drill" right in the farmer's barnyard. The freight bus costs a little more per hundred than the freight train. But what you order today you get tomorrow and it is delivered at your door.

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In Confidence

Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper.

The Happy Medium—In Spending

Dear Miss Flo: Which wife helps her husband most—the one who saves and looks shabby, or the one who spends and looks smart. My husband doesn't earn much, and it has been necessary for me to sacrifice clothes, good times, and even necessities, in order to save a cent. Naturally, I present anything but a well-groomed appearance. On the other hand, I have a sister who is always dressed beautifully, even though her husband doesn't earn any more than my husband. They don't however, save any money. My sister says that my shabby appearance ruins my husband's chances for success, whereas her appearance is an asset to her husband. May I have your opinion in the matter?

Perhaps there is no more difficult problem to be solved by a woman whose husband has a small income than the question of just how much she is justified in spending on clothes and personal requirements. Most married women feel that since they have no way of earning money, the only way in which they can be of any assistance to their husbands is by saving. That is why many wives who are ambitious for their husband's success become actually penurious, and cut every expense to the bone.

Parsimony and extravagance are equally to be condemned. If one must lean to one side or the other, however, it is perhaps better to be too stingy than too liberal, for the person who is stingy doesn't harm anyone but himself.

There should be, however, a happy medium in spending as in everything else. Those who achieve it are indeed fortunate, for they know when to spend money and when to save it; they are liberal always but never extravagant, and while they live within their incomes and save something for the proverbial rainy day, they do not make the accumulation of money their first and only consideration.

The wife who eliminates every pleasure and everything beautiful in life—who actually scrimps the very food they eat, and whose only then, instead of her husband and children appreciating the sacrifices she makes for them, and being grateful for the things she has done, they invariably look upon her with contempt.

A man's wife is his display window—and she indicates whatever success he has had. Naturally, it isn't a good thing for his credit if she is shabby and badly dressed.

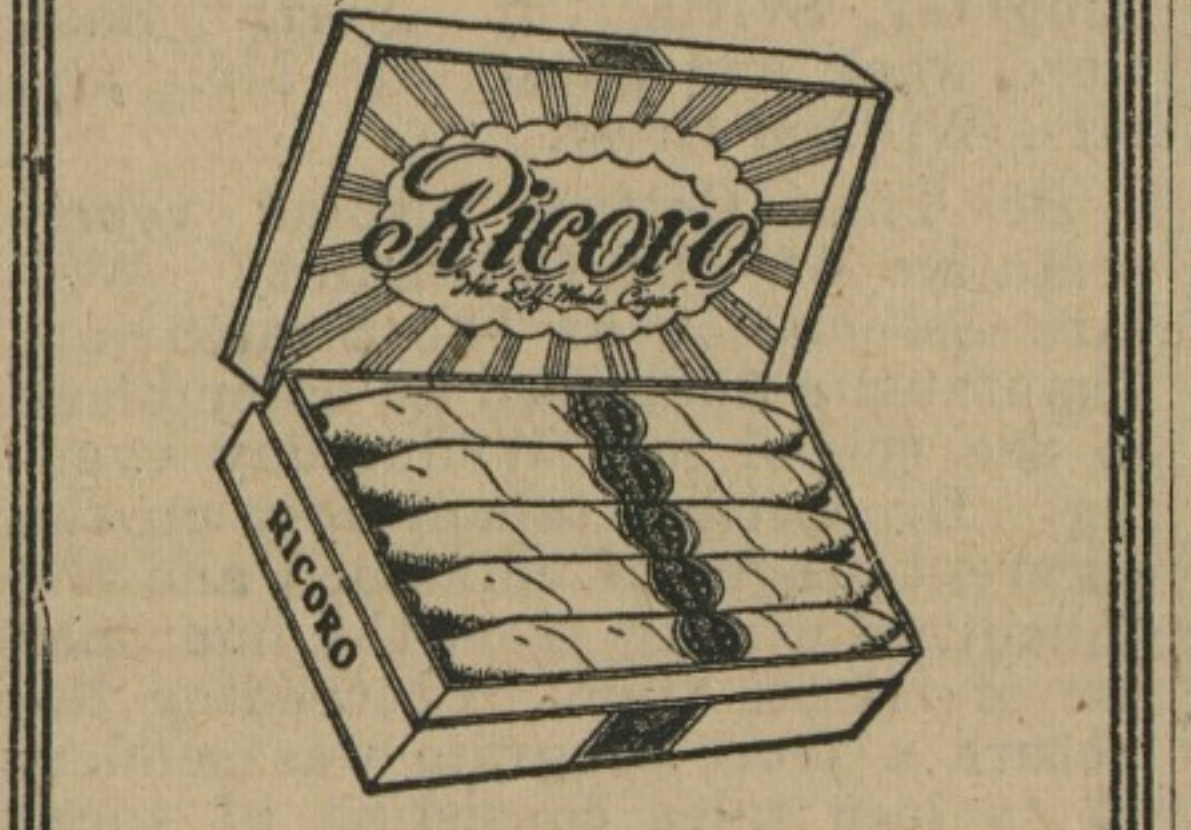
On the other hand, the wife who fails to help her husband save—who spends everything on clothes and good times, is failing in her duty as a wife.

So in the end it comes back to the necessity of keeping to the middle course. The best way is to decide what you can afford to spend after you have saved a certain amount against the future. Then spend what you can on good clothes and good times.

wife. She works so hard that she has time for nothing else, and she thought is money, is not the ideal tempt.

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