

Woman's Page

Dorothy Dix Talks

MOTHERS OF MEN.

By DOROTHY DIX, The World's Highest Paid Woman Writer

All hail Brooklyn, home of the Spar-tan mother!

For years the cartoonists and the wis have made merry over the Brooklyn rubber trees and baby carriages, but it appears that among the woman who tend the rubber trees by the Brooklyn front windows, and push the Brooklyn perambulators there are those who were the lineal descendants of the mothers who, in sending forth their sons to war, bade them come back with their shields, or on them.

A Brooklyn woman, of whom I have personal knowledge, had a son enlisted in the army. He was a big, strapping lad, but under age for the draft, and not finding army life all the beer and skittles he had imagined it to be, he wrote to his mother that he thought she could get him discharged on account of his age and that, anyway, he believed that he was beginning to develop flat feet.

To this his mother replied that she thought that what was the matter with him was that he was beginning to develop a yellow streak, and that no son of hers would ever have feet flat enough to come back to her when he ran away from his duty to his country.

know that their mothers wouldn't weep tears of sympathy over a coward. They would shrivel him up with their scorn.

All life is a battle, and it's hard on the young and weak. There come times of discouragement when every boy and girl feels like throwing down their weapons and surrendering, and whether they do or not depends absolutely on the kind of a mother they have.

When Johnny's work gets to the place where it's a dull, monotonous grind of daily labor, with lots of unpleasant things in it; when he doesn't get very well paid and things look discouraging, mother can pity him until she makes him as soft and spineless as a dishrag, so that he goes half heartedly and sullenly about his task, or leaves his place in the vain hope that he will find that mythical job that has big pay and no work attached to it. And Johnny by means of mother's sympathy qualifies for the roaming ne'er do well class, who never get anywhere.

Or mother can say to Johnny, "Of course your work is hard. All work is hard, but you are man enough to go through with it without a whimper. Of course you're not being well paid, but the way to change all that is to put every ounce of your strength and intelligence into your work so that you will work out of the ill paid class. You have to pay for success in this world, my son, with your heart's blood, but it's worth it. I'm backing you to win, because I know you've got the stuff in you to carry on, instead of being one of the weak ones that fall by the wayside."

That kind of a mother puts iron into the souls of her sons. She makes them unafraid of but one thing in the world, and that is that they won't come up to their mother's measure.

And it's mother's pity that is first aid to the divorcee. A spoiled young girl who has not been taught that she has any duty to any human creature, or any responsibility, or that she's expected to do anything but amuse and indulge herself, gets married. She finds that matrimony is not a picnic; that it calls for self sacrifice and self denial, and she rebels against it, and runs home with her tale of woe to mother. And mother weeps over her, "poor Mary's" her, and regards her as a martyr. The end of it is a broken home and divorce.

But ninety-nine times out of a hundred Mary wouldn't run home to mother if she knew that mother would say: "Of course marriage brings care and responsibility. It's the serious business of life. Go back and do your duty that you swore to at the altar. And there would be no divorce."

What we need is not mother's sympathy. It's mothers with nerve to hold their children up to doing the right thing. God send us more mothers of the Brooklyn type.

Now comes the story of another Brooklyn mother who promptly telephoned the police and had her son arrested as a deserter when he ran away from camp and came home.

These are the kind of women who are the mothers of men, who turn the weakness of their children into strength, and give to the world the heroes who do, and dare. A monument should be built in their honor, not only to commemorate their virtues, but to stand as an inspiration to all other mothers.

For we have glorified mother's love, mother's tenderness, and mother's pity so long that we have lost sight of the fact that motherhood has any other function than just being a soggy mass of maudlin sympathy. Sometimes it is a mother's highest duty to her child to nail him to his cross and force him to carry it on.

Nobody will dispute that mother's sympathy is a salve to our wounds, and that it is a precious, and comforting thought that there is somebody whom we can go to when things go wrong with us, and who will blame everybody, and everything else on earth but us for our failures.

But this very mother's sympathy, that is such a salve to us, is a dangerous and deadly narcotic that kills our energy and ambition, and paralyzes effort, and makes weaklings and failures of us.

What we need when we come to the hard sledding in life, where we must put every ounce of grit that is in us into our work, is not a mother who sheds tears over us, or "poor dears" us, and tells us how it breaks her heart to see us having to put our back into things, but a mother who gives us a bright and cheery smile, bids us go to it, and do a man's or a woman's part in the world, instead of being a quitter and a slacker.

Everything depends on the point of view. Work is a glorious adventure or it's the curse of Adam, according to the way you look at it. You can achieve everything, or the fates are against you just as you believe it. You believe that the world is a fine place in which a man takes what is his own by the strength of his good right hand, or you despair, and whine about the unequal distribution of wealth, according to the way you are brought up.

It all depends on your mother's attitude towards life. If she begins sobbing over you in the cradle telling you how she grieves her that you can't have the things that rich children have, and if she tells you how you have to attend night school instead of going to college; and if she is drenched in woe because you have to go to work when you are a boy, instead of joy riding around in an automobile, she inevitably engenders in you self pity, which is the most fatal mental affliction that anybody can have.

It renders its victim morbid, pessimistic, envious, and morally and physically flabby, and kills every prospect of success. There's no pep and ginger left in such a person. Nothing of the spirit that makes him want to go over the top, and fight his way to victory, nor is there in him one quality that draws him to another human being, and gives comradeship that makes anyone give him a hand up.

Mother's sympathy has made more failures than any other one thing in the world.

On the other hand, the mother who gives her children a brace instead of pity when they face the hard duties of life, breeds in them the qualities that makes success. Do you think that those two Brooklyn boys whose mothers held them steady in the ranks when they got wabby, and wanted to drop out, will make good soldiers? Never a doubt of it. They simply wouldn't dare to come back and look their mothers in the face if they showed the white feather. They would

STATE AID FOR ROAD WORK MAY BE GIVEN

State aid may be forthcoming for the relocating and improvement of the fifteen-mile stretch of road in Park Valley on the last Utah lap of the Over-land trail, according to members of the good roads committee who went to Salt Lake yesterday to confer with the state roads commission and Governor Bamberger concerning that and other questions. The Ogden committee men returned last night and reported that the meeting had been successful, they thought.

Governor Bamberger expressed himself as not disfavoring such road work at this time and it was intimated that the state would aid financially in the project. The committee men informed the commission and the governor that about \$10,000 would be necessary for the work. Suggestions were also made of using convict labor and the interned German prisoners at Fort Douglas in the road building.

A. P. Bigelow was chairman of the committee, which included prominent men from Weber, Davis and Box Elder counties and he also acted as spokesman.

The matter of completing the hard surface road between Ogden and Salt Lake through Davis county was also called to the attention of the governor, who expressed himself as favorable to the work. County Commissioner Moroni Skeen also broached the subject of securing aid from the state for the hard surfacing of that section of the state highway between the northern city limits and North Ogden.

W. H. Harris of the Ogden Rotary club spoke for that organization, and D. G. Bolton of the Salt Lake branch appeared for that branch.

Before the delegates returned home, they were informed that the matter would be taken under advisement for an early decision.

The members of the committee who attended the conference are the following:

Ogden—A. P. Bigelow, chairman; O. J. Stillwell.

Weber county—Moroni Skeen, chairman; Bishop D. H. Ensign, M. P. Brown.

Box Elder county—Brigham Wright, chairman; Albert Holmgren, Bishop A. R. Capner.

Brigham—Mayor J. W. Peters, J. Francis Merrill.

Tremonton—Mayor Charles McClure.

Garland—Mayor L. W. Preston, J. W. Lewis.

Park Valley—Fred W. Herrington.

Davis county—Arthur Heas, Horace Van Fleet.

Kaysville—Hon. J. W. Thornley, mayor; W. P. Epperson, J. G. M. Barnes.

Farmington—Mayor J. D. Wood.

Pleasantville—Mayor Quale Cannon, James E. Burns.

Woods Cross—Richard Stringham.

Rotary club, Ogden—W. H. Harris, W. R. Kimball, Salt Lake City—C. A. Quigley, D. G. Bolton, F. L. Gardner.

CONFERENCE OF THE REORGANIZED CHURCH

Members of the Reorganized Church of the Latter-Day Saints will hold their annual conference here Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The principal speakers will be Apostles J. F. Curtis and W. W. Green. The conference will be held at the church, Fifteenth street and Washington avenue.

Apostle Green has just returned from a trip through Palestine and his address on Friday evening will be largely a lecture upon the Holy Lands.

EXAMINATIONS OF MEN IN THE DRAFT

The physical examinations of several men referred to the medical advisory board from the city district have resulted as follows:

Qualified for limited service: Leland D. Thomas, Walter Thurston, John Mocho, Harry de Roi Jackson, Gerrit Vander vliet.

Qualified for general military service:

Charles T. Moore, Bert Ray Miller, Spencer Collins, Marinus Van de Graaf, Merlin C. Edvalson, Sylvester Swift, Frank Chase, Marion C. Smith, Daniel W. Knighton.

Rejected for physical disability: R. E. Shorten.

Of the Weber county registrants examined by the medical advisory board, two passed for general service, four for limited service and three were rejected. Those passing for general service were the following:

Lawrence Waymott, Walter Griffith, Scott N. Hurd, Levi Farrow, Henry T. Williams, Hyrum E. Reynolds, Cease J. Martin, Simon Hernandez, Earl Miller and Calvin Cragun.

For limited service: Merrill Ure, Virgil Homer Nelson, Albert Leonard McFarland, Edgar Fell.

Rejected: Joseph Earl Arava, David Widmer, John Louis Saunders.

ENFORCED LOYALTY ON BUSINESS BASIS

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 28.—(By mail.)—Enforced loyalty has been placed on a business basis in Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery counties in southern Illinois, where the activities of pro-German propagandists recently became so pronounced that vigilance committees in numerous towns have forced hundreds of suspected persons to make public manifestations of their allegiance to the government. In one town two alleged leaders of seditious movements were tarred and feathered. Branches of the American Defense society operating through vigilance

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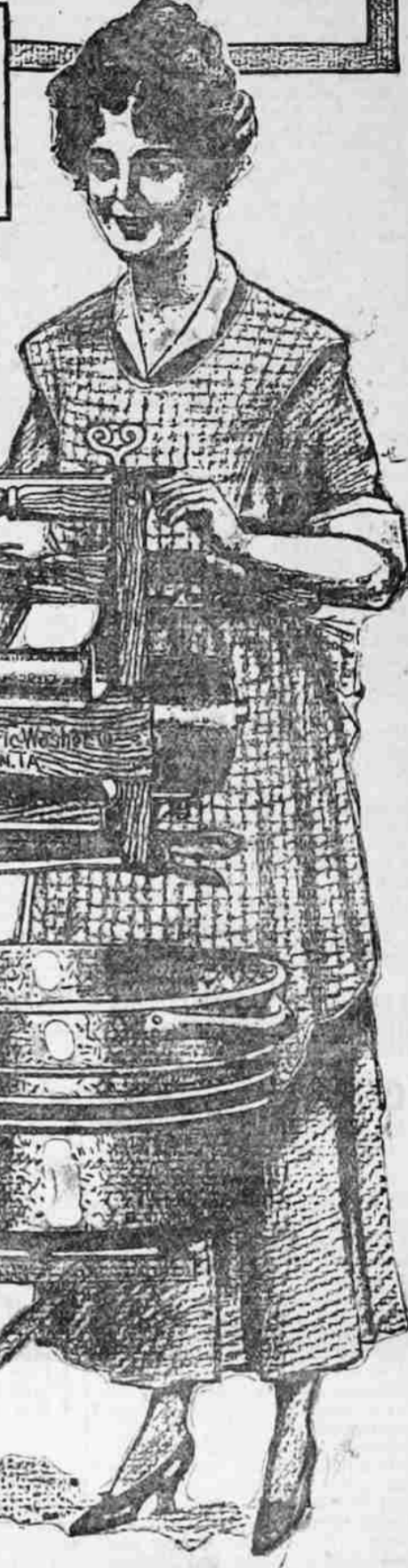
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DUTCH PAID FOR LOSS OF STEAMER

THE HAGUE, March 8.—The Dutch foreign office announces that it has received compensation from Germany for damage to the property of the Belgian relief commission resulting from a submarine attack on the Dutch steamer Rijn dijk on April 7, 1916.

DEAF AND BLIND ARE GIVEN RECOGNITION

The Utah Eagle, a monthly publication issued by the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind, is just out for the month. It gives a keen insight into the lives, ambition, joys and little problems of those deprived of their senses so dear to the child.

These children are by no means shut in from the world; they take trips of inspection to factories, raise poultry, and from the little stories written about their activities, there is practi-

DEAF AND BLIND ARE GIVEN RECOGNITION

callly no difference in the viewpoint of the unfortunate children and those with their full quota of senses. They have a sense of humor, and generally speaking are moderate in their wants. One little girl told with great pleasure that she received all she wanted for Christmas—a set of tin dishes and a doll.

The reports show a healthy condition of the schools and good marks attained in all subjects by the children.

RUMANIAN PEACE CHEERED

BASEL, Thursday, March 7.—Announcement of the conclusion of a preliminary peace with Rumania was received with cheers in the Austrian lower house. After the outbreak of enthusiasm, Dr. Wimmer, minister of finance, arose and spoke of the necessity of the chamber granting additional war credits to the government.

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