

OF INTEREST TO THE WOMEN

BUSINESS WOMEN

By DOROTHY DIX

The assertion is frequently made that women have killed the matrimonial goose that laid the golden egg by going into gainful occupations. Unthinking people claim that when women compete with men in business they lower wages, and thus make it impossible for men to earn enough to marry on, and that if every female could be shoed back out of factory, store and office into her own home, there would be a perpetual peal of wedding bells upon the air.

This is rank nonsense. To begin with, wages were never so high as they are at present. Part of the altitudin-

ous cost of living is because labor is so dear, and Heaven knows what we should have to pay for things if there were no nimble-fingered women weaving silk and cotton and wool, or putting up peas and beans in the canneries. Every man would have to get the salary of a bank president in order to support a family if the woman working outside of the home was eliminated.

If he got more he would have to spend more, so the matter is as broad as it is long even on that basis. The real fallacy of the contention that women's competition with men in business keeps men from marrying proves itself, however, by the fact that it is only wom-

an's ability to support herself that leaves man free to marry in just the cases where this problem arises.

The poor young man who says that women lower wages and because of that he cannot make enough to marry on does not stop to think that if women were not permitted to engage in pursuits by which they can earn money he would not be able to do so, but would be so burdened by a household of dependent female relatives that he would not have a penny to spend upon himself.

The opening up of the commercial world to women has meant the financial emancipation of men just as much as it has of women. Up to the present generation there has been no more pitiful figure than that of the son and brother in an impecunious family. The poorer fellow was driven to death, toiling like a slave, to support a household of women who took his every dollar away from him, and like the daughters of the horse leech, continually cried "More, more!"

He could not think of marrying, for there was barely enough bread to go around. He could not dream of establishing a home of his own, because it was all he could do to stagger along under the burdens already laid upon him. He could not follow any career or fortune that lured him, because he was bound like a martyr on the family altar.

Look at the old bachelors you know, grizzled, lonely, homeless, wifeless, childless, tieless, ending their solitary lives in clubs or boarding houses, and you will find out that nine-tenths of them are men who are victims of the social system that kept women in the home and out of the working world. They were forced to sacrifice love and romance to the family butcher bill.

Look at the old Southern gentleman who has often told me that at the end of the Civil War he was the only man of his blood left alive, and that there were thirteen helpless women dependent on him for their livelihood. He was engaged to be married at the time, but marriage being out of the question, he offered to set his lady love free. She refused and waited for him thirty-five years, until enough of his helpless women folk had died off to enable them to venture upon setting up another home.

It was a tragedy of weary and watchful waiting that could not happen now, because every one of the women who was able-bodied would decline to be dependent, and hustle out and get a job and support herself.

Brother has ceased to be offered up as a sacrificial goat on the family altar. Instead of sitting around and waiting for brother to feed and clothe them and take care of mother and father, the girls roll up their sleeves and go to work, and not only earn their own bread and butter and cake, but contribute far more toward keeping up the house than brother does.

This not only makes the girls self-respecting and independent members of society, but it leaves the men of the family free to live their own lives, to marry and establish homes of their own, which they could not do if they had a lot of dependent women relatives hanging on their necks like old ladies of the sea.

Every self-supporting girl makes it possible for her brother to marry, and she presents some other girl with a potential husband, and so any man stultifies himself when he says that it is women's competition with men in business that is responsible for men not getting married.

He will have to hunt up a better reason than that. That theory doesn't hold water, and cut no wedding cake.

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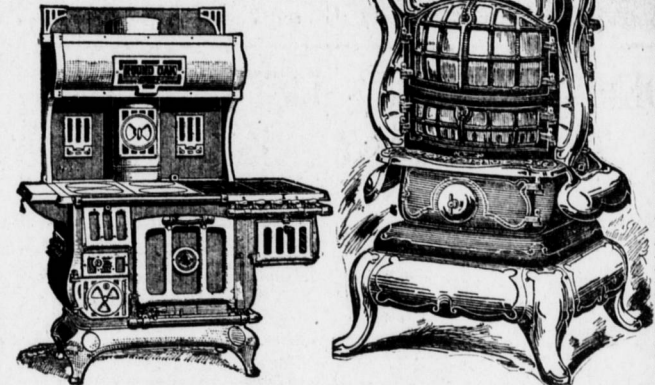
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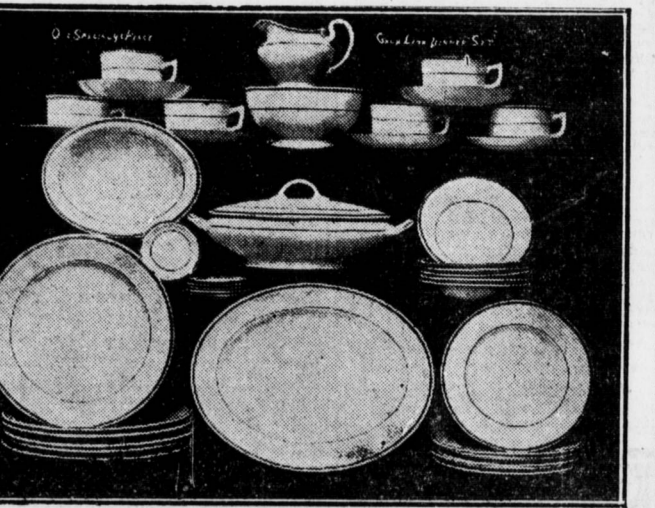
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SPECIAL MACHINE GUN BOARD

Tests to Decide Expenditure of \$12,000,000 to Equip Forces

Washington, D. C., Oct. 13. — The question of adopting the best type of machine gun for use by the United States Army is to be thoroughly investigated by a special board to be appointed by Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War. Secretary Baker has had this under consideration for several weeks.

A statement from Secretary Baker is expected, pointing out the importance of the board in the selection of the best type of machine gun and explaining his desire for a thorough investigation of charges of undue opposition to certain types. In addition to officers representing the various branches of the army, the board will contain civilian members, whose choice has been made with the greatest care.

In the recently enacted army appropriation law \$12,000,000 was included for the purchase of machine guns. Half of this amount is to be applied to equipping the army and half to the militia.

British Use the Lewis Gun
The Vickers and the Lewis guns are in use extensively by the British army in France. It is said that the Lewis gun is being used in first-line work and the Vickers in the second

line. The popularity of the Lewis weapon in the British army has been demonstrated by the large purchases that have been made by the British Government and what they have heard of the Lewis' gun efficiency in actual hostilities has impressed many American army officers who are anxious to have it adopted by this country.

Secretary Baker returned to Washington from St. Louis, Brigadier General William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance of the United States Army, who was expected here to consult with the Secretary over charges published recently that the failure of the War Department to adopt the Lewis machine gun was due to General Crozier's opposition, did not come to Washington. He had been making an inspection of army coast defenses and arsenals north of New York.

General Crozier has denied a statement made by Colonel Isaac N. Lewis, the inventor of the Lewis gun, that Colonel Lewis had offered to supply the army with his type of weapon as a gift.

The disparity in the statements of General Crozier and Colonel Lewis was cleared by a letter from Colonel Lewis. He said that while he had offered his gun free of royalty charges to the War Department through Major General Leonard Wood, then Chief of the General Staff and ex-officio president of the Board of Ordnance and Fortification, he did not make the offer to General Crozier or his bureau.

No Hope in the Bureau, Said Lewis
Colonel Lewis said he "knew from a somewhat bitter personal experience of more than thirty years that it would have been futile and foolish for me or any other American inventor outside the bureau itself to offer any ordnance invention to the Ordnance Bureau in the hope that it would find

encouragement toward development and final acceptance."

Secretary Baker preserved the attitude he has maintained from the beginning, refusing to comment on the charges against Crozier, or on the letter of Colonel Lewis.

It was learned that Secretary Baker was aware that Colonel Lewis had personally offered to furnish Lewis machine guns to the army without accepting royalties, to which he is entitled, from the American manufacturers of the gun, the Savage Auto-

matic Arms Company, of Utica, N. Y.

The expected tests to be conducted by the special board will bring the Lewis gun in competition with the Vickers machine gun of the 1915 model, which is being used in the United States Army. This is an improvement on the original Vickers. The board will be left free to recommend more than one type for issue to the army. The Lewis gun is regarded by many officers as especially suited for aeroplane work on account of its lightness. This also makes it extremely mobile.

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