

Aunt Harriet's Old Table

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

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"WHO is that man turning in at the gate, Aunt Harriet?" asked Lois curiously from her rocking chair by the window.

Aunt Harriet peered out through the ruffled curtains. "Oh, shucks, I do believe it is that crazy dealer who is after my kitchen table. He pesters the life out of me. Always— But the man was at the door."

"Good morning, Mrs. Bemis. Love-ly day. Haven't changed your mind about that table yet, have you?"

"No, I haven't," said Aunt Harriet shortly. "As I've told you before, it belonged to my great-aunt Maria, who died over in Lewiston and I'm fond of it."

"Offering a good price today, Mrs. Bemis. Seventy-five dollars," he urged seductively.

"Can't help it," said Aunt Harriet. "I'll keep it a while longer."

When he had left Lois lifted the cloth and examined the table beneath. "Doesn't look like much of an antique to me," she said. "But I'm not up on such things. Jimmy now—"

"Oh, never mind him," laughed her aunt good naturedly. "Your Jimmy doesn't know everything. When I need the money I'll sell. If I can get \$75 from this fellow I can get \$80 from somebody else. Looks to me like a plain ordinary kitchen table, but you never can tell."

But that evening when her Jimmy came Lois showed him the table. He regarded it quizzically. "There's some joke about it," he said at length. "That table isn't worth anything."

"Then you don't know as much as I thought you did!" flared Lois. "That is a rare piece of furniture. A man offered my aunt \$75 today for it, and she refused him."

Jimmy tapped his temple suggestively. "Both of 'em," he said with unmistakable meaning, "and you, too, if you believe it. Come now, Lois, you're kidding me or letting them kid you."

Now lovers' quarrels have begun over far less trivial things than a kitchen table, much less one that had at least a tentative value of seventy-five dollars. Before either realized just how they had arrived at so sad a destination they had reached a grave misunderstanding, to put it mildly. Jim had departed in wrath and Lois had dissolved in tears.

Aunt Harriet learned all about it the next morning. She reflected for a moment, then spoke with decision. "I'll tell you what I'll do," she said. "And it will satisfy my own curiosity. I'll find out what other dealers will give me."

Seven dealers looked at the table in the course of the day and their verdict was unanimous. "A plain ordinary kitchen table. The man was crazy."

And Aunt Harriet and her niece decided so, too, when they searched the telephone book as well as the entire directory up at the corner store without finding listed any Jasper Soldan with a store on Wooster street.

A month dragged by. No Jimmy, no Jasper Soldan. Then, unexpectedly, the latter appeared on the back step. "Good morning, Mrs. Bemis. A beautiful day. How about our kitchen table? Worth \$80 to you?"

Lois sprang forward, but her aunt checked her. "I am not sure," she said coldly. "I'm thinking of selling it elsewhere."

A glint of fear showed in the man's eye. "Better sell to me," he said quickly.

Aunt Harriet shrugged her shoulders. "All right," she yielded. "I will."

A moment later she and Lois watched great-aunt Maria's table being hoisted into a wagon.

Lois called Jimmy immediately. "Oh, Jimmy, I'm sorry we quarreled. And we sold the table. Yes, for \$80. To that Soldan fellow. He is just carrying it away."

Jimmy came up that evening. He had a few satisfactory moments alone with Lois first, then Aunt Harriet came in and he heard the table story all over again.

He listened amusedly. "A clear profit of \$80 is not bad for a day's work," he admitted. Then his expression changed to one of gravity. "Don't, however, delude yourself," he said, "into thinking that there was anything intrinsically valuable about that old table. Your common sense and seven dealers told you that. The facts of the case are these" (he paused and placed together the tips of his fingers): "Your great-aunt Maria left a will bequeathing all her property to a step-nephew out West. But it could not be found. Neighbors declared that she had hidden it in a piece of furniture and told him so when he returned. That would have invalidated whatever share of the legacy you received, Aunt Harriet-to-be. This Jasper Soldan is really that step-nephew, whom you had never seen. One by one, he has been tracing all your great-aunt's furniture. If you never hear from him you will know he never found the will but gambled the \$80 and lost!"

Lois, who had been sitting breathless on the edge of her chair, fairly gasped. "How did you find out all this, Jimmy?"

Jimmy shrugged his shoulders. "Oh, it is the business of a lawyer to unravel such mysteries," he said gravely.

But between you and me and the lamp post, I think he made it up.

Unusual Situation In Clothing Trade Seen

An unusual situation in the clothing trade as forecast in the following semi-annual report of the Washington Woolen Mills company, on conditions affecting clothing values:

"The Clothing Trade is at the threshold of an unusual situation in clothing due directly to a world-wide shortage of wool and indirectly to improved business and economic conditions throughout the world."

The shortage of wool is a matter of reliable statistics and not a theory, and the advance in raw wool in recent months has been more rapid than during the War, while neither manufacturers or dealers have large supplies. It is a well known fact that more than half the wool crop of 1925 has been bought on the Sheep's back six to eight months before it will be sheared.

The Dawes plan is putting Europe rapidly on its feet, the demand for wool throughout the world is unusually large, while the flocks of Australia and this country have been decreased. The present high price of wool, which will cause an advance of 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in cloth for the coming season, is fully warranted and it is only a question of how much higher wool will go during 1925, as the crop cannot be materially increased in less than two years.

Another factor in the situation is that the enormous Government war surplus stocks of wool, blankets, cloth garments have been completely absorbed.

Labor costs will not decline materially until after a period of unemployment which is not now in sight.

There is not a cloud visible in the business sky of this country, and in view of the confidence inspired by the recent election and the unprecedented financial strength of the U. S. A., it is as plain as anything can be that the recent bull market in Wall Street is the historical notice of good business a few months hence.

The only question that seems pertinent is "what will the attitude of the consumer be to a further advance in price of clothing?" and our answer to this is, that the men of this country have not been free purchasers of clothing during the past two years, and if we are to have good general business with full employment, men will buy more freely, even at some what higher prices, than they have bought during the past year or more when there has been a general feeling of uncertainty.

Only once before in the history of these reports have we positively advised liberal purchases of all classes of woollen goods and that was at the beginning of the World's War, when clothing values, as we stated at the time, were lower than any merchant was liable to see again during his lifetime, and we unhesitatingly go on record now in predicting that clothing is lower today it will be at any time during the next two years.

The foregoing is issued not to sell merchandise, but as a matter of record to which can recall your attention in future years.

The fad for Fancy Overcoats and Sport Suits has about run its course. They will be prominent for another season, but the blue Serge Suit and the dark Overcoat with velvet collar begins to appear on the discriminating well-dressed man, and by contrast appears more of a novelty than light fancy colored garments.

Cheviots and Cassimers will continue to have the advantages over Fancy Worsteds, as the necessary advance in the price of cloth will be less noticeable in the former.

The business in odd trousers should increase, as a new pair of trousers often adds a season's usefulness to last year's coat and vest, and a return to serges and more staple suitings will revive the demand for Fancy Worsteds.

Medium grade fancy wools from Europe are beginning to appear and are likely to be an increasing factor in labor in this country continues on its present basis.

Textile mills in their efforts to absorb increasing costs have not been operating profitably, as is shown by the omission of dividend by the American Woolen Company and the financial statements of less prominent mills.

COUNTY HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. Lillian Reynolds, 516 North Fifth street, underwent an emergency operation, Sunday afternoon.

Phillip Armantrout, of Bryant, underwent an emergency major operation, a 4 o'clock this morning.

Miss Frances Lambert, of Monroe, underwent a major operation this morning.

John Baasserman, of Monroeville, entered the hospital Sunday for medical treatment.

Mrs. Florence Weyer, of Dixon, O.,

underwent an operation for removal of her tonsils at the hospital Saturday.

The condition of Mrs. Robert Chronister, who was seriously injured in the accident at the Adams street crossing of the Pennsylvania railroad here a week ago Sunday when Thomas Baker, 9, was killed, remains unchanged. Mrs. Chronister is in a critical condition yet. Mrs. Frank Baker an dson, Walter, 8, who were also injured in the accident, are improving satisfactorily.

Indiana Schools Fourth Among Nation's Schools

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

Columbus, Ind., Jan. 19.—Indiana schools rank fourth among the schools of the nation, according to an article published today by the "Indiana Teacher," official publication of the Indiana State Teacher's Association.

The Hoosier schools jumped from seventeenth place in rating among the schools of the various states in 1918 to fourth place last year, the article says, and is preceded only by California, New Jersey and Ohio.

The rating is made in a survey conducted under the supervision of the Russell Sage Foundation in which data compiled by the United States

Bureau of Education is used.

"The shift of Indiana from seventeenth place to fourth place was not an accident nor the result of local initiative or leadership," the article says. "It was the result of three carefully planned laws which were formulated and urged by members of the teaching profession and passed by the legislature because the need of such legislation was convincingly demonstrated by school men and women of the state."

"The three measures were the school attendance law, the minimum wage law of 1920 and the so-called Johnston home rule bill."

"The latter measure prevented financial disaster in hundreds of Indiana school corporations and made possible the large advance of Indiana under several points considered in rating the schools."

"Indiana's present educational rank is largely due to the initiative and public spirit of members of the teaching profession and it is safe to say that every important advance in school legislation and practice since 1852 has been due in large part to the efforts of professional organizations of teachers."

"A careful study of available statistics clearly shows that Indiana would have ranked second had a modern county unit system of rural schools been in operation."

The points on which the rating is

made are:

1. Per cent of school population attending school daily.
2. Average days attended by each child of school age.
3. Average number of days schools are kept open.
4. Per cent. that high school attendance is of the total attendance.

NOTICE TO

OUR GAS CUSTOMERS

Commencing with the January bills, we will for the convenience of our customers, deliver gas bills to your homes and places of business. This will mean more prompt service when you call at our office to pay your bill.

Always be sure to bring your gas bill with you; this is very important, for otherwise there will necessarily be some delay in our being able to wait on you.

If desired you can tear stub off bill and mail stub along with your check to this office.

If you do not receive your gas bill by January 28th please phone or communicate with the office and duplicate bill will be mailed.

NORTHERN INDIANA GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

"The Gas Co."

Phone 75.

16-19-21-23-26-28

5. Per cent. of boys in high school in comparison with girls.

6. Average annual expenditure per child attending.

7. Average annual expenditure per child of school age.

8. Average annual expenditure per

teacher employed.

9. Expenditure per pupils for purposes other than teachers' salaries.

A 10% penalty is added on

City Light bills that are not paid by Jan. 20th. City Light Department. s-m

These Children Keep Well All Winter By Taking FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE



"I am glad to tell how Father John's Medicine helped our babies. Last spring they all had the whooping cough real hard, and all they took was Father John's Medicine. It sure helped to keep them looking well, and they didn't lose much sleep at night. It is a blessing, and we give it to the children every winter. We always keep it on hand." (Signed) Thomas Barton, Monticello, Ohio.

Remember that for over 69 years Father John's Medicine has been successfully used in thousands of families for colds, coughs and as a body builder.



Today Monday, January 19th is Bank Day

There are two very necessary accounts to have with a bank. A CHECKING ACCOUNT and a SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

The checking account enables you to pay your bills in a business like way—your cancelled checks are receipts for paid bills.

A savings account encourages you to save systematically—so that little by little you will soon amass a safe nest egg. A savings account pays you interest on your money, so while you are not using it, it is earning more for you.

Save steadily each week, or month—no matter how little—never decrease the amount—when you feel that you can afford it—increase it, but not until you can continue to save that same amount each week.

A CHECKING ACCOUNT WILL HELP YOU PAY YOUR BILLS—A SAVINGS ACCOUNT WILL KEEP THE WOLF FROM YOUR DOORS.

Old Adams County Bank

THRIFT

WEEK