

HOSTESSES FIND WAR FRONT BAD FOR HOSTESSING

Meat, Vegetables and Ice
Are at a Premium in
Embattled Shanghai.

BY ALMA EKINS
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SHANGHAI, Feb. 12.—A battle front is no place for a dinner party, and discomfited Shanghai hostesses are beginning to find it out.

Accustomed to a continuous round of social events in Shanghai's famous international settlement, hostesses had a hard time realizing what the Sino-Japanese conflict really means. Now they rapidly are giving up entertaining as a bad job.

If it just were the war time prices and a general lack of food, hostesses might surmount the obstacles. But one difficulty has followed another in such quick succession that social circles are bewildered.

Sets Dinner Hour Ahead

First, there was the early curfew. Dinner hostesses compromised by setting ahead the meal time from 9 p.m. to the outlandish hour of seven. This necessitated drinking cocktails while it still was twilight.

The latest tragedy was when they discovered a growing scarcity of food. Meat is of the poorest quality and ever so hard to obtain. Vegetables likewise are at a premium. Only carrots are available, and one hostess said, "who wants carrots?"

Housewives who have invited company for dinner dash madly about the French concession, the only section where shops have remained open during the fighting. They must do the shopping themselves, for native servants who usually perform the task, are terrified by fears that they will meet Japanese soldiers or marines.

Hoarding Is Evil

Food hoarding is another evil of the buyers' panic. Fearing supplies soon will run out entirely, women are buying in quantities. Prices, therefore, are soaring hourly—

STEMMERS BALKED HERE

Social Agencies Thwart Racketeers

(This is the last of the series about stemmers. In it are contained facts on the system of agencies in trying to smash the racketeers. These facts never have been made public before.)

"I've got to have \$10 right away for rent, and I can't wait for any red tape. My wife is sick and unless the money is paid, we'll be forced out of our rooms."

He excused himself and called the welfare agency.

"Don't give that man money," was the advice. "There's no one at his house, much less a sick wife. Send him back."

The following morning a welfare worker returned to the stemmer's house on the north side.

The worker was told the stemmer and his "sick" wife had started to Florida that morning in their car.

They'll try the same trick in every town they visit!

T still give proper service to the worthy needy, the welfare organization has set up a social service exchange.

The first name was listed on the exchange in 1880. Today there are names of 350,000 individuals and families, who, at one time or another, have appealed and received aid.

Here's an example of what the exchange defeats:

A woman stemmer told a relief agency she wanted coal and groceries for a neighbor man. She gave his address, but hers, taken for reference purposes, was false.

The exchange learned the man roomed at the woman stemmer's residence. He did not need help. The coal and groceries would have gone to the "humanitarian" stemmer.

He is not to be bad at any price, placing another burden on the married hostesses. The meat they bought in advance soon spoils, and they are reduced to pleading with owners of electric ice boxes for storage space. These owners are deluged already, having been bombarded by neighbors' requests for days.

The miniature race for survival has put many feminine friendships to the acid test. It is a strain to smile when your best friend buys the last bit of good steak just before you arrive.

He realizes that, in these days of depression, organized relief groups are blocking the professional racketeers. If he doesn't

get you to contribute immediately after his story, he's looking for another prospect.

There are hundreds of cases of professional stemmers, and their sympathetic pleas are listed in the exchange. Repeaters are out of luck and every agency calls the exchange when a plea is filed. There is no chance for the stemmer to "double" on agencies.

Another popular stemming act is for the stemmer to tell a pedestrian he had neither food, money nor sleep for days. He says it is so late, the agencies are closed.

That is not true. The Wheeler City Rescue Mission is open until 10 and the Salvation Army all night.

Reminded of this, the stemmer will tell you the places are filled.

Then he strikes. Couldn't you give him \$2 or \$5. The chances are you may do it, or you may stop at 25 cents. But if you figure the stemmer tries thirty to fifty times each night and gets something a majority of the times—business is good.

The Chinese may quit fighting by summer, but it'll take that long for the war to show in male garb with the new Hopsack weave. The Hopsack is white linen with a China-silk gleam. It is said to be light and durable.

Palm Beaches Out

"But try as we might we can't keep Old Man Seersucker from butting his way into the summer styles for men. The Seersucker in gray, brown and blue stripes will still hold the stage," said Courtland C. Cohee of Kahn Tailoring Company.

"They're inexpensive and light in weight and that's why they keep favor with men. Palm beaches are through for this year. A day of them and they hang like rags and so men are leaving them out of their wardrobe."

A herringbone of green gabardine, Hockanum flannels matching

BRIGHT COLORS TO MARK MEN'S EASTER STYLES

New Styles, With Lower
Prices, Ready for Gala
Occasion.

BY ARCH STEINEL

It takes a Chinese war, royalty and a few pastels from an art institute to dress Monsieur Easter of Indianapolis when he struts upon the boulevards this spring.

Clothing for men are going with a tinge of war to help things along.

One may like his pastels on canary, but if city tailors are to be believed the males are to be gaunt and gaunt when walking in the business districts.

Suitings will blend with afternoon bridge decks, Bohemian perfumes or lavender shrouds.

Death Threat Alleged

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Feb. 12.—Sylvester Jasicki bought a revolver, and threatened to blow her head off, Mrs. Frances Jasicki alleges in a divorce suit on file here.

She asks \$5,000 alimony and custody of two children.

An appeal from the commission-

ROAD WORKERS SUE FOR WAGES

Court Is Asked to Mandate
County Commissioners.

Suit to mandate county commissioners to pay wages due county highway workers for January and December was on file in circuit court today, as the latest step in the prolonged fight between the board and Charles W. Mann, county highway superintendent.

The occupants crawled from the wreckage and ran, Loper told

the Rockville road, Thursday night, were sought by police today.

The coupe skidded more than 100 feet and crashed into a tree in front of the home of M. Loper, 3610 Crescent drive.

Two men who fled from a small

coupe after it overturned and was

wrecked near Washington street

and the Rockville road, Thursday night, were sought by police today.

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