

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.

It is just 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 as one hostess said, "who wants parrots?"

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,

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."

Rapping on the counter, a poorly dressed, middle-aged man made that demand—no plea—at a relief agency last week.

He was told that if he would wait half an hour, the matter would be handled properly. He would not get \$10 in cash, but the rent would be paid.

"I want the money," he demanded.

The agency workers could get no information from him other than his address. The half-an-hour was to be consumed by a welfare worker checking his story as the first step in checking the stemmer who preys on the relief agency.

Instead of waiting, the man "blew up." He cursed and stormed through the office, and out the door. He was going to spread the story that he could not obtain aid.

HE did, too. He went to a reliable Indianapolis company and explained his situation, protesting violently because he was refused cash and had a thirty-minute wait.

"I'm desperate," he said. "And that agency won't do a thing for me."

consequently, are soaring hourly—even carrels.

Ice is not to be had 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 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.

me. Give me the money, now, I need it."

His tone had become so mandatory that the business man hesitated.

He excused himself and called the welfare agency.

"Don't give that man money," was the advice. "There's no one at his home, 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.

To defeat the racketeers, but 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 1890. 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 does:

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.

POSING as husband and wife, stemmers daily plead for money from business men. When a "family team" wanted \$10 from a local manufacturer recently, he called the exchange. The address was false—in fact, there wasn't even a house at the location. They did not return.

When the victim stalls off the stemmer, the latter never returns.

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 sympathy 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.

INSTANCES in which stemmers "juggle" names by using those of relatives, former husbands and wives and their children are innumerable.

Another popular stemming act is for the stemmer to tell a pedestrian he has 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.

ALTHOUGH all lodging places of the agencies never have been overflowing the same night, if they should be the welfare groups have arrangements with hotels to put up the needy.

A comprehensive system has been built up in the city to halt stemmers, moochers, sympathy racketeers and big-time beggars.

That system will not protect you against soft-heartedness.

But it will inform you whether you are throwing your money into the biggest of all depression rackets or actually aiding some man on whom adversity has heaped its burden.

Indianapolis has been warned. BEWARE THE STEMMER.

(The End.)

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 airy with a tinge of war to help things along.

One may like his pastels on canvas, but if city tailors are to be believed the males will be gallivanting in the soft tones of the Mood of Aphrodite when walking in the business district.

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

New China Weave Shown
Royal blues, browns and more pebbled colors will feature sport sack-coats.

The one-button sack will be the common denominator in spring styles, with yoke and pleated backs showing in sport coats after years of burial.

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 stripings 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 gaberdine, Hockanum flannels matching

with brown and blue coats, are other new 1932 wrinkles for men.

Topcoats for the most part will be double-breasted with small belts across the back.

All suit and topcoat linings will be lighter in weight than heretofore.

Tailors and clothing merchants are unanimous in the declaration that good suitings can be purchased at almost one-half their cost in pre-depression years.

"The suits we're selling today for \$35 were \$75 several years ago. But the \$35 suit is \$28 to \$25."

"Customers are getting better grade cloth at lower money than ever before in the history of clothing—providing they buy good material," one merchant explained.

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.

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.

Pay rolls have been held up by commissioners because the highway superintendency question remains unsettled. Mann was dismissed after a trial before the board, but refused to give up the post to John Mann, a Democrat.

An appeal from the commission-

ers' decision now rests in the circuit court.

The mandate action alleges that salaries totaling \$1,104.75 are due highway workers for January, and that nineteen assistants have not been paid \$1,298.67, due for December.

PAIR FLEE CAR WRECK
Men Abandon Auto After Crash at Western City Limits.

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

The occupants crawled from the wreckage and ran. Loper told deputy sheriffs. A brown hat, bearing the trade mark of a city store, and a brief case containing four license plates, were found in the car. Deputies believed neither occupant was injured.

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\$28.80

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TOPCOATS
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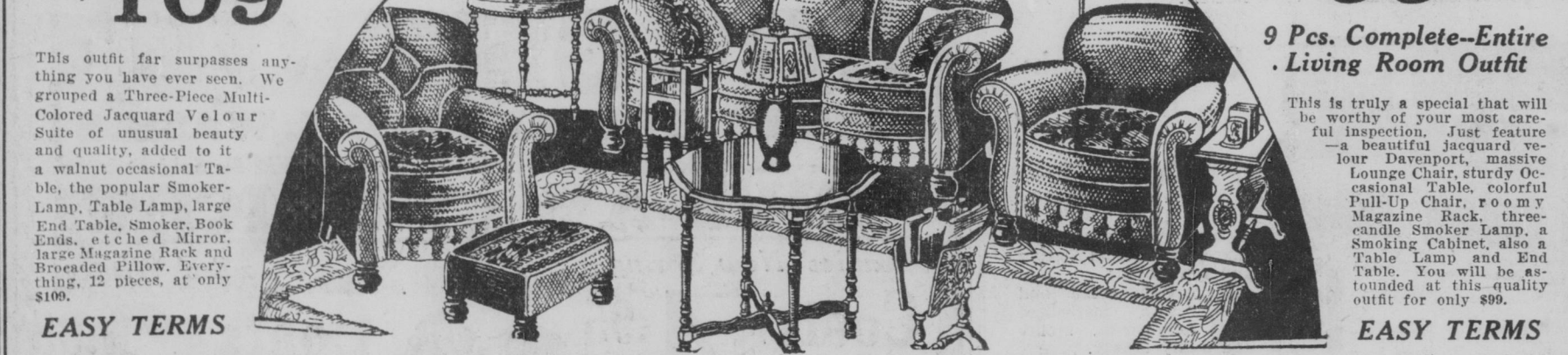
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Featured in our February Outfit Sale is this stately 8-piece Dining Room Suite in walnut; includes Buffet, Table and six Chairs, a 54-pc. Dinner Set and a beautiful Buffet Mirror. Act now! Buy this at **\$77**

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