

The Middle Ground

By MARION RUBINCAM

RE-ENTER DICK.

Chapter 71.

Meantime the spring had warmed into summer. The opera season closed. Amy's salary stopped and Amy's lessons in the opera school ended. Her course in classic dancing stopped, too. The teacher gathered up her more prosperous pupils and went to Aix-les-Bains, where she had a summer school. Amy longed to go. Paris was the one place in the world she wanted to see.

"It's time she rested a bit, she looks fagged," her mother confided to Luther. "Do you know I think I'll see whether your father wants us to come home for the summer—the country air would do Amy good."

The strenuous season had told upon even Amy's glorious health and vitality. Sometimes she touched up her cheeks when her own pretty color was wanting—a proceeding that shocked her mother beyond words at first but that lately she had accepted calmly enough. Amy's pretty brown eyes had blue shadows under them.

But she never missed a performance rehearsal or lesson, and she faithfully attended the Italian class and the French lessons Claire gave her. Piano practice suffered—and her mother suffered from occasional bursts of irritability.

The opera company separated—one star had a shack in the mountains—a shack attended by 30 servants; another had a villa in the smartest seaside resort on the coast; one had a summer home in an old chateau in France, and one went to Italy, taking refuge from the heat among the mountains. Two went to California to work in the movies, and some to South America, where the smart season was on and more gold and glory to be had. And the richest and most famous retired to a small farm in New Jersey and raised chickens during the day and paddled a canoe over a tiny lake when it was moonlight, and where she lived in gingham housedresses.

And Amy alternately wanted to see Newport, California, France or Italy, or any place but the hot city where she lived.

"Wouldn't you like to go back to the farm?" her mother asked her one warm June night.

"Heavens, no! That's the last place in the world!"

Those who stayed in the city did so because they could not afford to go away. Claire had to stay. Her show was running well into the hot weather. Luther's vacation came in August. Adam was building a house on the Hudson, and had rented one nearby to watch the work. He gave occasional week end parties, to which Claire and Jim and others were asked, and Amy as well. Mrs. Talbot refused to let Amy go unchaperoned, her sense of old-fashioned decorum being outraged by the idea. Amy stormed, but obeyed, when Luther added his authority to his mother's.

Adam tactfully asked Mrs. Talbot as chaperon and she spent several week-ends at his much too grand house, feeling uncomfortably in the way whenever she was in the room with the other guests. Claire was not at those special week-ends.

Adam, to Amy's annoyance, was in no hurry to make any agreement with Amy. There was one very pretty blonde, hard, ambitious, but with a great deal of charm, who was, to quote Amy, "after him in the most shameless way. Mother, she is worse than I am, for at least I put a decent front on it."

"I don't see how you are going to make him want to," Amy answered serenely. But this subtlety was beyond the mother.

"He certainly won't at those parties of his; there are always too many people around."

"Exactly. But there is no one around here."

From which Mrs. Talbot inferred that Amy was going to bring matters to a head in her own home. Adam was to call at 11. Jim was to come and they were to motor over to Claire, and a party of them were to speed to a roadhouse where one could dance on cool porches.

Adam came about 9. Amy had put on the dress of golden tissue that he liked. She was seated at the piano ready to sing choruses from the operas, or to try her pretty voice on some (much beyond her ability) or to sing him popular ragtime, as he chose. Adam liked having Amy sing for him; it made him feel like a Turkish sultan to sit on the couch and order the songs he wanted to hear.

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She went to the telephone and called Dick's house.

"Come over, and pretend you just dropped in casually," she said.

Dick appeared, trying not to seem out of breath.

"Hello, Aimee, oh, hello, Mr. Arndt," he said. "Not, isn't it? I just sort of thought I'd drop in and see you. Go on singing, don't stop for me."

Amy went on singing. But there were no pauses between songs, or if there were, they were filled with animated conversation. Amy's eyes

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Please tell me something that is a god skin whitener.

HARRIET.

The following lotion is a very good whitener for the skin: A teaspoonful of tincture of benzoin to an ounce of rosewater forms a well-known lotion, which is excellent for whitening the skin.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Is crude petroleum good for the hair? D. D.

Crude petroleum is often used to prevent falling hair. It does not leave the hair too greasy, but it helps the scalp. Use as little as possible at each application, rubbing into the scalp with gentle massage every night.

Globe-Wernicke
SECTIONAL BOOKCASES

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John M. Eggemeyer & Sons
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Identified as a second rate naval power, and formally forbidden to raise her status in the future.

Facts Needed

It is possible that at this point some way might have been found by the exercise of tact to avoid causing France to feel so badly. France could not resent the present fact that she is now an inferior naval power. But there is a difference between that and being formally and definitely marked as a second rate power, far inferior to Japan and being required to live within that qualification for 10 years to come.

It was especially this formal marking of France as a second-rate naval power that hurt her feelings. Never the less, in the actual action which the French delegates took on this matter of capital ship ratio was very fortunate and appears to be of a nature not to be condoned.

No one can say positively what was the motive of the French in insisting on the right to build 10 capital ships, an insistence which, it was apparent would be a death blow to the whole Hughes plan and would cause the conference to be an admitted failure.

Motive Unknown

The motive may have been of reasonable pride. No one can say exactly what it was, because the motive is wholly a matter within the minds of the French delegates, and from the outside it can only be guessed at.

But some newspaper men who are understood to be more or less familiar with the French point of view, said at the time that the motive was a bartering one.

It was said that France did not really intend to build these ships, and did not even mean to take a final stand on their right to build them. It was said that the motive was one of bartering with the British; that the French wanted to use this threat in order to compel the British to consent to making a treaty with France of the sort that France wanted.

If this motive was true one, it was thoroughly reprehensible and showed a complete failure on the part of the French to grasp the spirit of the conference. This conference, as one of the American delegates once expressed it, a meeting in which nations are expected to give up things—not to get things.

Bargain Deplorable

If France was willing to wreck the conference or even to threaten its success, merely for the sake of a trading point with which she could compel one of the other nations in the conference to make a bargain with her, that was as deplorable as could well be imagined.

It was further said by some who are supposed to be familiar with the French point of view and sympathetic to it, that the French insistence on a larger allotment of submarines was of the nature; that she did not really want them, nor have the money to build them, nor even the intention to build them, but merely wanted to use this opportunity to hold the conference up as a trading point with which to compel the British to make a separate treaty that France wanted.

It must be remembered, of course, that these ascriptions of motives to the French are necessarily in the field of surmise. It is a field in which it is easy to do injustice.

What the American people want to know now is how we should feel about France. Her behavior undoubtedly threatened a conference on the success of which Americans have set their hearts. As a consequence of this and many other things, American feelings have turned strongly against France.

Here again the same thing happened. France had not been in the Anglo-Japanese alliance and in the discussions in this field, France was again relatively out of the picture. Obviously and necessarily the three nations concerned were Great Britain, Japan and the United States, and it was with the delegates from Great Britain and Japan that Mr. Hughes was holding the bulk of his conference.

As a result of all of this, it would not be surprising if Briand and the French felt themselves ignored. One day Briand was absent from his hotel for a few hours. When he returned, the rather excited reporters wanted to know if he had been having a secret conference with Hughes, but it was learned that his absence had been due to nothing more important than a visit to the movies.

There were in the newspapers at the time many allusions to various aspects of this fact that all the important business of the conference seemed to be done among Hughes, Briand, and Baron Kato, and that the French were more or less out of it.

Cause Pique

Such were the superficial and personal things that might readily have caused the French delegates to have a feeling of pique. This was the more true in as much as one or two of the French delegates seemed to be the sort of men who are most quick to take account of anything they deemed to be a slight to themselves, or to their country.

More fundamental and more serious were the public crisis that arose over the French attitude about their naval ratio. The clear fact at this moment is that France on the sea is a second rate power. There is no escaping this fact; it is uncontested. It is a matter of figures.

But there is a difference between France admitting that for the present due to conditions arising out of the war-conditions which she hopes are temporary, she is second class naval power, and on the other hand, admitting that she is to be formally classed

as a second rate naval power, and formally forbidden to raise her status in the future.

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BALLOON PASSENGERS
FROM DAYTON LAND
NEAR FOUNTAIN CITY

FOUNTAIN CITY, Ind., Jan. 28.—Aerial visitors made a call upon Lawrence Mitchell, farmer living south of here Thursday afternoon, when a balloon from McCook Field, with five passengers under command of Captain McIntyre, landed in a 30 acre field in front of the Mitchell house.

Leaving the Dayton field at 10:30 in the morning, the balloon had slowly traveled west until the passengers decided to land during the afternoon, a favorable spot being selected in the level ground south of Fountain City.

A nice landing was made, with no damage to the gas bag, which the aeronauts packed in the basket for shipment before they left. They were aided in the landing by Mr. Mitchell, who happened to be on hand at the time.

The party proceeded by auto to Richmond where they took an interurban for Dayton. No information was given out as to the reason for the trip, or the results obtained. The captain in charge promised to send an auto truck for the balloon Saturday.

FRENCH PIQUE

(Continued from Page One)

tions of the world she was a very weak fourth. The gap between her strength and that of any of the other three was so great that she was in a class apart.

Motives Only Three

Under these circumstances it was natural that Hughes, when he began to deal in terms of naval armament, mentioned only the three great naval powers and ignored France. In this France had reason enough for wounded feelings. She felt that it was only the extent of her exertions on land during the war that had put her in a position so inferior, and she may well have felt a sense of injustice at being treated as an inferior.

Further than this, the fact that Mr. Hughes and the others treated naval armament, especially as regards capital ship tonnage, as being so much a concern of Great Britain, Japan and the United States alone, caused it to happen that during the first week of the conference Mr. Hughes saw a great deal of Mr. Balfour and Baron Kato, but saw very little of Briand, or any of the other French.

Hughes was concerned with the naval ratio and the naval ratio chiefly concerned the three nations, excluding France.

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that after being beneficiary of many and great benefactions from America, France has taken on the familiar psychology of a more or less suppliant dependent, that the more you do for her the more she demands.

There still remains, however, many Americans who point to what they say is the one fundamental factor about France. That factor is her fear that Germany might again grow powerful in an economic political and military sense and may again attack France.

These friends of France say that fear will cause nations as well as individuals to do unreasonable things. They say that if we will give France the one thing that will cure her of fear, namely, a treaty guaranteeing that we as well as Great Britain shall come to her rescue if she is ever again attacked, then France will again achieve a normal and reasonable state of mind.

Never to Make Treaty.

By Associated Press

If this is the only cure for the state of mind that causes France today to be the one impediment to the restoration of the world, then, so far as America is concerned, there is nothing to do about it. America will never make the sort of treaty that France wants. The only means that we will assure to France the kind of future help from America that she has had in the past is to act now that when and if the occasion arises we will have the sort of friendly and sympathetic feeling about her that will lead us to help her.

SPECIAL: Clean-up Campaign Costs Government Over 2 Million

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The cost to the government for the vocational training of men who were disabled in the World War jumped more than two million dollars between the months of September and November, according

to figures prepared by the United States Veterans' bureau.

Col. Charles R. Forbes, director of the bureau, attributes this increase directly to the "clean-up" campaign in which thousands of disabled war veterans, ignorant of the assistance the government offers them, were discovered and placed in schools and shops, where they are receiving instruction

to overcome the handicaps of their disabilities.

On Sept. 1 there were 82,738 men receiving training under the direction of the bureau.

In remote parts of England are still to be seen cottages with sloping walls. They were built slightly out of the true, because of curious superstition that if a house was built exactly square it was bound to collapse.

Another Saving Feature Comes With The Hoosier Store's Big

Monday Sale

Read below what you can buy here Monday at prices that mean dollars in your pocket.

Yes, Monday is the day to Buy These Shoes

SPECIAL: 120 pairs Ladies' black kid or patent kid lace Shoes, welt soles, Louis heels, grey kid tops. These were just bought from a factory that makes nothing cheaper than \$6 shoes: Monday \$1.98

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