

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 upon 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 very 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 had occasion all 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 hours at his much too grand house, feeling uncomfortable 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 little brunette, 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 a man propose if he doesn't want to," Mrs. Talbot observed, with a touch of sarcasm.

"You 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 tulle that he liked. She was seated at the piano ready to sing choruses from the opera, or to try her pretty voice on a staid (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.

Something in the extra brilliance of Amy's eyes warned her mother—that, and the long silences between the songs.

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, Almee, oh, hello, Mr. Arnold," he said. "Hot 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

blazed, but she treated Dick with exaggerated sweetness. Only she called him "Richard," as she always did when she was mad at him.

Monday—A Sense of Justice.

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.

Mentions Only Three

Under the circumstances it was natural that Hughes began to lead 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 or ten days of the conference Mr. Hughes saw a great deal of Mr. Balfour and Baron Kato, but saw very little of Briland, or any of the other French.

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

After the first few days of the conference, the subject that was next taken up was the getting rid of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the substituting for it of an alliance including the United States.

Same Thing Happens

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 Briland and the French felt themselves ignored. One day Briland 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 allusions 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, Balfour, 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 incontestable. 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 class-

ified 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, the official 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 bargaining 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 bargaining 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.

Spoiled Child Belief

In quarters where this feeling is strong, France is spoken of as the spoiled child among nations. It is said

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"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 price **\$1.98**

Men's 1-buckle heavy cloth Arctic, all sizes **\$1.39**

10% DISCOUNT on any Boy's or Girl's brown or black shoe for Monday only. Every pair guaranteed solid leather.

SPECIAL: Ladies' black patent leather lace Oxfords or 1-strap Slippers, low heels, new patterns. Why pay more? Our Monday price is **\$4.48**

One lot of Ladies' black vici kid lace shoes, Cuban or low heels, plain toe or tip, for dress or comfort; four styles of \$4 shoes; Monday **\$2.98**

Misses' black gun metal lace shoes, solid leather, for dress or school, sizes 9 to 2 at **\$1.98**

MEN, LOOK! 50 pairs Men's Shoes, brown and black, new goods, all sizes but not of each style; on table **\$2.69**

Choice of any Men's Dress Shoe in our stock, brown or black, kid or calf, all styles; Monday at \$4.48 **\$5.48**

SPECIAL: Choice of 80 pairs Ladies' black kid lace Oxfords and Pumps, Louis heels, all sizes; not a pair less than \$5 value; Monday **\$2.48**

Yard Goods Values for Monday

20c extra good quality bleached Muslin, far better than Hope, Monday, yard **15c**
25c yard wide Percales, Monday, yd. **19c**
\$1.00 All Wool Serge yard wide, Monday, a yard **69c**
\$2.50 heavy Cotton Blankets, size 64x80; Monday, pair **\$1.39**
20c heavy Outing Flannels for Monday, a yard **10c**
\$1.00 Comfort Cotton in one sheet, size 72x90; Soda Rice, Monday, roll **69c**
Clark's O. N. T. Sewing Thread, spool 5c
25c yard wide Comfort Cretonnes, Monday, yard **19c**
\$5.00 Home Made Comforts, large size, special **\$2.98**
Minerva Yarns in Germantown Silk, mixed and worsted, at special prices.

House Need Values for Monday

\$5.00 Sample Axminster Rugs, 27x54-in., Monday **\$1.89**
\$12.50 guaranteed Felt Mattresses, full size, Monday **\$8.98**
\$1.00 Cocoa Door Mats, good size, extra quality **79c**
Large Cretonne Remnants for Monday, each **10c**
Buy your Spring Rugs now from \$16.00 to \$25.00 saved on room size rugs. Make a small deposit if you don't need one now and we will hold them for you until spring.
Dark Green Window Shades, special **59c**
\$12.50 All Feather Pillows, Monday **79c**
Flat Curtain Rods, each **10c**
Rubber Stair Treads for Monday **15c**

Ladies and Children's Ready-to-Wear Specials for Monday

One lot of Children's Gingham Dresses, long and short sleeves, sizes 7 to 14 years; special for Monday **\$1.00**

Petticoats
Plain colors and figured mercerized Petticoats, special Monday **89c**

Ladies' Winter Coats

All new models in the most wanted shades, all sizes, divided into two special groups for Monday—
\$10 and \$15

Children's All Wool Serge Dresses in navy, with red flannel trimmings, all sizes 7 to 14 years; choice **\$4.29**

One rack of Ladies' Silk and Wool Dresses, handsomely embroidered and braided, all sizes, 16-46; Monday **\$10.98**

Hosiery and Underwear Specials for Monday

Ladies' fleeced high neck ankle length Union Suits, \$1.00 grade, Monday **79c**
Child's 3pc Flannellette Bloomers, **29c**
Ladies' Coutil Corsets, Monday **79c**
Ladies' \$1.00 Strap Wrist Chamofee Gloves, Monday **89c**
One lot Ladies' \$3.00 Glove Silk Hose, black or cordon, special lot to close Monday at **\$1.95**
Ladies' full fashioned pure silk Hose in black or cordon, \$2.25 grade; Monday special at **\$1.95**
Ladies' full fashioned imported mercerized Lisle Hose, plain or lace, black or brown; Monday **89c**
Ladies' Lisle Outside Hose, fine ribbed top, our regular 75c number, black or cordon; Monday **69c**
One lot Infants' Cashmere Hose, black or white, special lot to close Monday **18c**

Men's and Boys' Values for Monday

One lot of Boys' Corduroy Trousers, sizes 8 to 16 years; special Monday, a pair **99c**
Men's heavy fleece Union Suits, sizes 34 to 46; special Monday, a suit **\$1.39**
One lot of Men's Work Trousers, dark mixtures, sizes 28 to 42 waist; special Monday, a pair **\$1.79**
Boys' Flannellette Blouses, plain greys and stripes, sizes 8 to 15; special **45c**
Men's Socks, grey mix, black or brown; very special, Monday, a pair **10c**
Men's and Boys' Sweaters, grey only, all sizes, special Monday **95c**
Men's Corduroy Trousers, all sizes, special Monday, a pair **\$2.39**
Boys' heavy wool mix Trousers, full lined, sizes 8 to 17, \$2.00 quality, Monday, a pair **\$1.49**
Men's Jersey Gloves, seconds, special Monday, a pair **5c**
Men's heavy ribbed or fleeced Shirts and Drawers, all sizes, special Monday, a garment **79c**

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Heart Problems

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

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.

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