DID YOU

EVER STOP

TO THINK

How Much

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In Confidence by Flo

Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper

ARE CHILDREN SELFISH OR PARENTS GREEDY?

Dear Miss Flo—I am the oldest daughter of a large family, and since I was seventeen, have been helping support my parents and the rest of the family. I went to business school at night, working as a clerk during the day, turning over my salary envelope to my mother. I am 28 now. My other brothers and sisters are working. I feel that I have done my share, and that I should be permitted to keep my own salary, paying a fair board, of course. If my brothers and sisters will do the same thing, the family should be able to get along nicely. However, whenever I mention the subject, they all object strenuously. Do you think I am selfish in insisting that I have done my share and am now entitled to a bank account of my own? I never complained about those first hard years, when I worked day and night, giving up all youthful pleasure, and getting in return only scoldings and complaints.

Please tell me what to do. Marie.

* * *

Of course you aren't selfish to want to keep your own money, Marie. It is the only intelligent thing to do. Certainly at your age you are entitled to take care of the money for which you are old enough to work. I think you have been very generous indeed with your family. Although it was plainly your duty to help them when they needed it, there is no reason now why your brothers and sisters cannot share some of your burden now. You have your own future to consider—now is the time for you to begin saving against the proverbial rainy day—which may never come—or perhaps even the happier day. You may want to marry some day, and if you have a little bank account of your own it will buy a trousseau, or perhaps make a payment on a little home. And if you do not marry, there will be times when work is slack, times of sickness and the time when you will be too old to work, and, if you have not saved something for old age, you will have to eat the bitter bread of dependence. Don't let your brothers and sisters fool you into thinking that you don't have to worry about old age—that they will take care of you when you need it.

Nobody treats the person without money as they treat the person with money. One of the chief things that money will buy us is consideration and respect from others. This is true even in the close relationship of parents and children.

The cold-blooded remedy for your situation is for you to hold on to your pay envelope and pay your parents a fair board instead of turning over all your money to them. When you give them all you earn, you become little more than their slave.

The kinder, and most human way to solve your problem is by showing them a great deal of affection and appreciation and sympathy. Keep in mind how hard your parents' lives have been, raising a large family of children, toiling and sacrificing, always torn with anxieties in their effort to keep the children fed and clothed. Of course you have a duty to your parents—and you owe them a great deal more than you can ever repay in money.

Be good to her. Be patient. Tell her that you love her—that you appreciate her, and are grateful to her for the things she has done. You will find that most of your domestic troubles will vanish.

Try to explain the situation to your mother and father. Your sisters and brothers need no explanation. If they are so selfish that they cannot understand your position they deserve no consideration. But you have a big duty to your parents. They deserve every consideration.

OUR HIRED MAN

I'd like to meet the feller at the dairy who counts the bacteria. Some job.

The boss says every dairy farmer oughter keep a diary—not about himself, maybe, but about his herd.

I remember the time I used to think a bale of hay on the head and a bucket of water in each hand was balanced rations.

Says the boss, "Come cold weather, we'll have heaps of time to give the milk cows a grand cleaning." Huh! I notice that once clean, a cow is lots easier to keep clean right along.

When I asked the boss what was he laffin' at, he said, "Jim Henkin's wife asked him for a new fur coat. Mebbe he'll put his machinery in the shed this winter. He'll save enough to pay for the coat."

Funny how every October I get a hankerin' to plough corn.

Ever since I learnt to do things without bein' told, I like my bosses better.

SAVE YOUR MONEY

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