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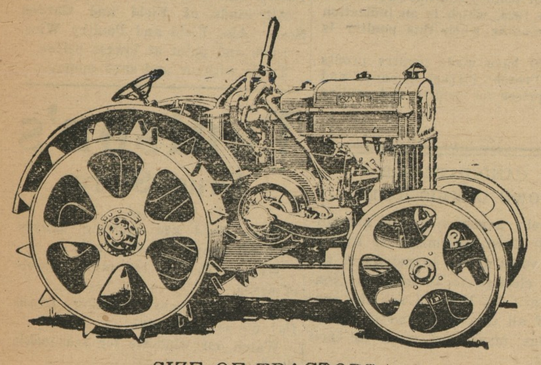

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Defeated, but Winners

By H. IRVING KING

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IT WAS election time and there was a triangular contest on. Three separate nominations had been made for member of the legislature from the Sixty-ninth district. The machine had nominated Hon. Judson Dartmore to succeed himself. The other party had nominated Roscoe Varnum and the Citizens' party—a "reform movement"—had nominated Miss Laura Eldred.

When Roscoe Varnum heard that Laura Eldred was going to run for office he was shocked. Laura and he had been intimate friends for some time. But Roscoe was decidedly mid-Victorian in his ideas; for the woman in politics he had no use. He put on his hat and hurried right over to the Eldred house, bursting in on Laura in both sorrow and anger. He begged, he commanded her to withdraw her name from the ticket.

"What!" Laura cried, "Withdraw at this stage of the game and leave the party in the lurch? No, indeed. I intend to go through with this thing—and, what's more, I intend to be elected. Perhaps you think my withdrawal would make your own election more probable—is that the idea? Well? Well, I'm not in a self-sacrificing mood today. Besides, I am embarked in a holy cause. Both the old parties ought to be defeated, and you know it."

"Bosh!" said Roscoe most impolitely. "They are only making use of you to catch the woman vote."

"And they only nominated you because you are rich and they want to use your money," retorted Laura. And with these few kind words they parted, each one determined to go through with the matter in spite of everything. But they cooled off pretty rapidly when they came to think things over. "Oh," thought Laura, "I wish I had never meddled with politics. I can't run against Roscoe and defeat him—as I know I shall—and spoil all his political prospects. He is much better fitted for the legislature than I am."

And Roscoe thought: "How in the name of all the furies can I run against Laura? The machine is all cracked to pieces. The contest will be between Laura and myself, and there is not the slightest doubt but that I will defeat her. But she would never forgive me, and I think more of Laura Eldred than of all the legislative seats in existence."

So Roscoe sat down and wrote a letter to Laura offering to withdraw—and Laura sat down and wrote a letter to Roscoe of like tenor. And the messenger boy bearing Roscoe's letter to Laura met the messenger boy bearing Laura's letter to Roscoe, and stopped to shoot craps with him before resuming his march.

"How dear she is," thought Roscoe when he read Laura's note. "Of course, I won't think of his sacrificing himself."

"How dear she is," thought Roscoe when he read Laura's note. "Of course, I won't let the dear girl do anything of the sort."

The managers of the Citizens' party and the other party got wind of what was going on and flew to arms. One set of managers descended upon Roscoe and the other set of managers descended upon Laura—and the way they talked was withering and awful.

When Roscoe's managers had departed he went over to see Laura and found her in tears. Her managers had just gone. "Oh, dear," sobbed Laura, "I am afraid we will have to see it through."

"I am afraid we will," replied Roscoe dolefully. "The machine hasn't the ghost of a show—one of us is bound to be elected—and what does it matter, anyway, you or I?—we both are fighting for civic righteousness."

"And we'll make it a 'gentleman's campaign,'" added Laura with a laugh.

The scene of this story is a small town. On election night the returns were read in the town hall. Roscoe and Laura and the Hon. Judson were there to hear them. They came in slowly at first from the voting districts. First Laura would be ahead and then Roscoe; the machine votes were scattering. At last, however, the returns really began to arrive. And when they did, Laura and Roscoe disappeared as factors in the election. Never in its history had the machine had such an overwhelming victory. Roscoe gave his arm to Laura and they went up to where the Hon. Judson stood surrounded by his satellites and congratulated him upon his election. "Thanks," said the Hon. Judson. "Rather expected it; rather expected it."

Then Laura and Roscoe left the hall and Roscoe walked home with Laura. There was silence for a while, and then, as they approached the Eldred house, Roscoe said: "I am afraid I am not cut out for a politician."

"And I have come to the same conclusion with regard to myself," said Laura. "Still, if we had run on the same ticket—"

"Suppose we do," said Roscoe "from now on until death do us part."

"I think we would be winners," replied Laura with an hysterical little giggle, which Roscoe smothered with a kiss.

If Australia could be placed in the Atlantic ocean it would fill up all the space between America and the British isles.

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NOTICE

The annual meeting of the policyholders of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Kent County, Md., will be held at the Company's Office in Chestertown, Md., on Monday, May 3, 1926, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the election of directors and such business as may come before the meeting.

a3 E. F. PERKINS, Secretary.

POOR HEALTH A HEAVY HANDICAP

Periodic Physical Examination May Prevent Future Disability.

Dr. William Cabell Moore, Medical Director the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

"The average business man regularly takes an inventory of his business in order that he may know where he stands financially. Is it not just as important, if not more so, that he should also take regularly an inventory of his health, that he may know how he stands physically? For after all there is nothing as desirable in this life as good health and nothing else really matters quite as much as health. With good health anything is possible, while poor health is a heavy handicap to any undertaking," says Doctor William Cabell Moore, medical director of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

The periodic physical examination should enable disease to be recognized in an incipient stage when the symptoms are trivial, and when proper management and treatment will hold out the best hope of cure. It should enable the tendency to disease of some organs to be recognized before the disease becomes active, and this, called to the attention of the individual with directions as to habits, diet, work, exercise, may minimize this tendency, and may prevent future disability.

Actual organic disease itself, unsuspected by the individual, may be found, but as a rule when actual disease is present, it has been suspected before. Unless an especial point is made to have it done periodically, the examination may be postponed from time to time for a more convenient time, and may not be done at all, or until some emergency arises. The wise thing is to be forehanded.

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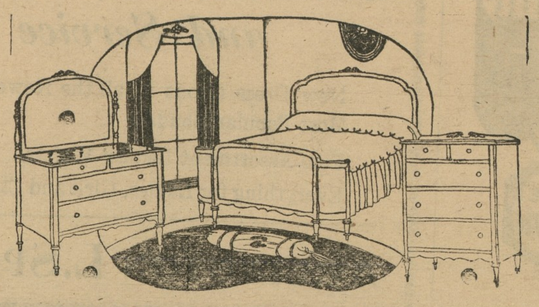

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