

Candy Girl

By R. RAY BAKER

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The Mutual Consolation club was in session. The members, four in number, were deflected.

Mattie Melvoude was the reason for the Mutual Consolation club. Mattie was the "candy girl" of Abonvale and the most sought swimmer in the matrimonial sea. She was the "candy girl" in two respects. She was declared to be the sweetest and the neatest, but also the most elusive, belle that ever wrung the heart of a man.

Her abode was on Turnip Hill, but Mattie spent little time there. She was not a social idler. She believed in work, and she did it before a high desk and a proportionately high stool in the business office of the Bon Ton Candy factory.

Mattie had rejected the four most desirable young men in the village. They were desirable by their own admission and they had bank books to prove it. The bank book, however, had proved of no more avail in the wooing of Mattie than so much waste paper.

Each member of the club had spent money like sand in the desert in his campaign to make Mattie his wife. She accepted all the attentions until they wearied her, and then she calmly and



Suddenly Pointed Out the Window at a Lanky Figure.

scornfully rejected the quartet of admirers. The collective rejection was as follows:

"You go about trying to win a girl's affections just as a boiler-maker would operate a typewriter. Think I'll marry a man with no more initiative than you? I should say not, emphatically. I want a husband who gets an idea now and then. The fellow who thinks up something new in the way of courting a girl is the one that catches me."

Then the Mutual Consolation club came into being. Each of the four discovered simultaneously that the others were after the fair Mattie. It happened that they came together just outside the Melvoude residence at the top of Turnip Hill.

Tom Grayson was peering over a long box of roses. Fred Hooper was juggling a chafing dish he had procured from a Chicago mail order house. Sam Upkins puffed under the weight of a table lamp, while Albert Terry looked sheepish because all he had to offer to the god of love was tickets to the county fair, and they didn't make much of a showing in his vest pocket.

They compared notes and were about to draw lots or flip a coin to decide which of them should have the honor of keeping his engagement for the evening with the idol of their hearts when the idol in question appeared on the porch and delivered the extemporaneous address quoted above.

Thereupon the bride-seekers adjourned to the insurance office of Sam Upkins, at the foot of Turnip Hill, and the roses were put to repose in the garbage can, while the chafing dish came into use as an ash tray; the lamp fulfilled its mission by dispelling the gloom which was fast gathering in the office and in their breasts, and the fair tickets were utilized to carry fire from the one match which the quartet possessed to the cigars which furnished the ashes which were deposited in the chafing dish.

By mutual consent each of the four delectables detailed his journey along the brink of matrimony in quest of a place to plunge in. Each had undergone the same experiences, invested in the same presents for the elusive Mattie, and met with the same results.

Under the self-constituted presidency of Mr. Terry the club thereupon took upon itself the task of discovering a key to the padlock on Mattie Melvoude's heart.

"She wants some one who has inventive genius—some one who has an idea," said Terry, addressing his fellow members. "Thereupon, it behooves us to collaborate and find some novel way to her affections. When we have come upon a scheme that looks feasible, we will hold a lot-

tery and the lucky man will be allowed to try, without interference, from the rest, to win the prize of Turnip Hill. If the scheme fails, we will try another, using the lottery again. In that way none of us will encroach on the preserve of the other and one of us ought to make our dream of happiness come true. Collaboration—that's it."

The club adjourned to the next day when each of the members was to submit his plan for the capitulation of Mattie Melvoude.

Promptly at two o'clock in the afternoon Messrs. Grayson, Hooper, Upkins and Terry assembled in the insurance office. Each of them looked expectant, for, having failed to evolve an idea of his own, each expected there would be three other plans submitted.

When the session was called to order and the deplorable situation became known, four bright smiles turned to four dejected frowns, and four pipes were lighted and eight feet deposited on the mahogany table.

"What's to be done?" inquired President Terry. "Have none of us any initiative? Are we going to let this girl escape marriage with one of our four most desirable men in the village? Are we going to let her wear her life away, her beauty and charms unappreciated, in that sordid candy factory?"

The other three drew long and gurglingly on their pipes and wreathed themselves in smoke and said nothing.

Finally Grayson reached out and plucked the Abonvale Weekly Times from the table.

"I tell you, I'm about ready to give up," he announced, and to prove he had lost interest in love, he opened the paper and began scrutinizing it with an air of absolute interest.

The others smoked on in silence, which was broken suddenly by Grayson, whose feet hit the floor with a resounding bang, and who rose clutching the newspaper with one hand and his hair with the other.

"Listen to this, would you?" he fairly shouted. They withdrew their feet from the table and pushed back their chairs, all with due deliberation, for the Mutual Consolation club was a scheme to divide Niagara into two counties.

Many articles stolen from Geneva merchants are being quietly returned by conscience-stricken residents of that city.

Genesee county tractor school has opened in Batavia with 50 students in attendance.

Box office records show that 75,000 people go to the movies in Rochester on Sunday.

Silver Creek wants to borrow \$75,000 on a bond issue to erect a village and fire hall.

Livingston county's home defense committee will compile a war history of the county.

Hornell reports that ten more crews of six men each are to be laid off near there by the Erie.

Shifting of the village election date from spring to fall has upset the wets in Mt. Morris.

Spring fishing will get an early start near Dunkirk, practically all the ice having left Lake Erie.

H. Phillips, superintendent of insurance, made public in Albany.

The state's new system of accounting will be installed in North Tonawanda's city books soon.

Palmira is going to have a list of men in service prepared and it is planned to make it official.

Rochester enthusiasts expect to induce numerous clothing firms to move to that city from New York.

Leroy W. Kingham, editor of the Owego Gazette, died at his home in Owego. He was 78 years old.

Co-operative sales agencies may be established by state bean growers whose delegates met in Rochester.

At the Elm Farm, Grand Island, a son of Roy Apple Kordyke brought 11,500. The calf was six weeks old.

Miss Mary A. Stewart of Cananauka has been elected vice president of the New York state photographers.

Agitation for the state to establish a monopolistic form of workmen's compensation is criticized by Jesse

The 1918 grape crop was the smallest in the history of the Chautauque belt was announced at Dunkirk.

Yates county's memorial committee has decided to accept Liberty bonds and war saving stamps as contributions.

Announcement is made in Geneva that on and after March 16 the price of milk in the city will be 13 cents a quart.

Principal Wilcox of East High school in Rochester says German is far from a popular study in that institution.

Charles W. Knappenberger of Dansville has been appointed chairman of the Livingston county war stamp committee.

J. S. Spaulding & Sons of Tonawanda, fibre paper board manufacturers, will build an addition to their plant costing \$500,000.

According to plans arranged by the Orleans county farm bureau, henceforth the ghost will walk more regularly for farmhands.

The Genesee Courier, Democrat, of Le Roy, has suspended publication. It was established in 1870. Le Roy now has but one newspaper.

Jamestown's paid firemen are granted one day off each week for recreational purposes. They have petitioned for every third day off.

NEW YORK NEWS

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State.

Palmer, a suburb of Jamestown and a village of 3,500 residents, will run its affairs for the next fiscal year on an expenditure of \$16,000.

L. D. Stafford has been appointed publisher of the Seneca County Press a paper at Geneca Falls in which Congressman Gould is interested.

None but citizens or declarants will be permitted to work in paving, sewer and other public improvements in Dunkirk, except in case of scarcity of labor.

At the suggestion of Assemblyman Herbert Zimmerman of Buffalo the assembly adopted a resolution to open the barge canal April 1, or sooner if the weather will permit.

Druggists of Buffalo do not want the right to sell or dispense alcoholic liquids. They ask, along with druggists from all over the state, that they be eliminated from the prohibition enforcement bill.

On and after July 1 out-of-town letters may be sent for the old rate of two cents, according to a bulletin received by Postmaster Meyer of Buffalo. The curtailment of two-cent postal cards and three-cent stamped envelopes will be effective the same date.

Ten million young forest trees raised by the conservative commission in the seven state nurseries are ready for shipment to persons throughout the state who will use them for reforestation purposes, according to Conservation Commissioner George D. Pratt.

Assemblyman Miller of Genesee has introduced a bill amending the tax law, obliging county treasurers to forward to the state treasurer the third installment of the state tax on or before May 15. The requirement in this respect varies in the different counties at present.

If necessary highway repairs at a railway crossing are not made within 15 days after notice is served on the railway company, the work may be done by state, city, village or town authorities and the expense charged to the railroad company, according to a bill introduced by Senator Davenport.

Light wines have been officially relegated to the discard in the legislative fight for wet administration of the federal prohibition amendment in New York state. Legislative leaders are said to be bending every effort toward co-ordination of sentiment back of a bill which will permit the use of beer only.

Senator Knight and Assemblyman Miller have introduced a bill amending the agricultural law in relation to the licensing of stallions and breeding of horses. It requires a certificate of soundness of the breeding horse, as well as a certificate of registry of pedigree and prohibits after Jan. 1, 1920, the licensing of scrubs and mongrels not previously licensed.

The state hospital commission is considering the deportation of about 1,000 insane aliens now cared for in state institutions. The state charities department also announced that aliens who are public charges and safely can be deported, are being returned to their home countries. Deportations are being made to practically all countries on the globe.

Louis McKinstry, one of the oldest and best-known newspapermen in the state, died at his home in Fredonia, Wednesday afternoon, March 6. He had been in failing health for a number of months, but was actively engaged in the publication of the Fredonia Censor until late in January, when he sold the newspaper to Frederick C. Bickers. Mr. McKinstry was born in Fredonia on Dec. 9, 1844.

Senator Samuel Ramapberger of Buffalo, would have the secretary of state prepare a new state map and to this end he introduced a bill in the upper house authorizing the secretary of state to prepare a base map of the state upon which may later be shown various improvements and important features by colors and symbols. It is to show boundaries, lakes, rivers, streams, railroads and highways.

Building activity in New York state took a decided upward bound from December, 1918, to January, 1919. The increased expenditures for this period, as reported by the building departments of the first and second class cities to the state industrial commission, amounted to 123 per cent. The only cities which failed to share in this rise were Albany, Troy and Utica, where the amounts expended for building declined 20, 1 and 50 per cent respectively.

"How are we going to keep them on the farm after they have seen the big town?" is no longer a question with farmers of Cattaraugus county. Farm hands will be paid every week hereafter. There will be no more waiting until products are sold in the fall. With the movement back to the farm of the boys who left to get big money in munition plants, Manager Crofoot of the Cattaraugus County Farm bureau association is starting a movement among farm owners to establish a regular pay day.

Service ribbons of a design to be adopted by the governor, adjutant general and chief of the bureau of war records would be provided for New York state citizens who served the colors in the world war, under the bill of Senator John J. Boylan of New York, which passed the senate. The ribbons would be purchased by those authorized to wear them. The measure also would provide for the presentation of bronze medals to families of men who died in the service.

J. Robert O'Brien was elected president of the Niagara Poultry and Pet Stock association in Lockport.

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