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Czechs Plan to Establish Prague as Air Capital

Prague—The third international air-craft exhibition recently concluded here, served to emphasize the effort of the Czechoslovak government to make this city a center of European air travel on both the north-south and east-west routes, already in operation or contemplated.
English, French and German firms were among the 88 exhibitors. Mr. Srb, the minister of public works, in an address at the opening said that the movement to make Prague the junction for European air routes was gaining ground and it was now only a question of the conclusion of suitable treaties between the various states.
A new route between Brunn and Marisch-Ostrau is soon to be established and a great airdrome is to be built.

BEN WAS AWAKENED AT LAST

By MYRTA DAVIES

Nobody ever called Ben Flanders a success socially, and no one was further from calling Ben a success socially than Betty Huntington, only daughter of the Huntingtons of the Avenue, and sister of one of the managers of the firm where Ben worked.

Betty was as lovely as a June morning, as sweet of disposition as a pink-and-white rabbit, but, withal, with a mind of her own. Ben knew all these things, but what was a fellow to do? He knew he was "nuts" in the social world, and he knew that Betty knew, and he knew that Betty knew that he knew. Otherwise, why wouldn't she sometime invite him to at least a small party and give him a chance to see her, if nothing more than see her surrounded by the bunch of adoring males who knew how to act, and did it?

Betty was no snob. It wasn't because Ben was just a rising mechanical engineer with an invalid mother to support and not even a bowing acquaintance with the Avenue, that Betty didn't let him see her often. Since he had met her at the annual festival in Music hall, he had called twice, and had had the joy of seeing Betty alone. Suitors and relatives had been miraculously dispensed with. Moreover, with Betty's power of intuition, she probably realized how beastly uncomfortable poor, unsociated Ben would have been among them.

Anyhow, there had been something about that second call that had made Ben postpone his third, not indefinitely but, at any rate, till he got more light on the best means of pursuing his suit with the only girl in the world who was just close enough to perfection and who possessed a warm, glowing loveliness besides.

Ben was no slacker. But until he was sure—Caution was Ben's slogan, and the fact that the fellows laughed at him for being so quiet and slow did not diminish the caution.

Nor did it lessen the discouragement to meditate on the gay aliveness of every one of Elizabeth's favored friends, all of them lending rose and orange lights, never toning down the garishness.

"I couldn't live up to that music—not in a thousand years," groaned Ben, and dug into the mechanical engineering with greater vim than ever. Ben hustled.

It counted. Ben was promoted again, was given charge of half a dozen older but less skilled workmen, and all the while Ben did not fail to remind himself that he was doing it all for Betty.

It was exactly a week before Thanksgiving that it seemed to Ben, cautious as ever, that the time had come to make that postponed call on Miss Elizabeth Huntington on the Avenue.

Ben went, without asking if he might, only finding out casually from Betty's brother that she would be home. Ben was flabbergasted, and the jubilant assurance and welcome vouchsafed by Miss Betty flabbergasted him more.

"Do come in," Betty urged when the maid called her to the hall to meet Ben. "We hadn't heard from you for so long, I didn't know—Now you're here, oh, please stay for the party. It's informal, anyway, planned on the spur of the moment. I do like informal things. I really do. It's—It's my engagement party, Ben—"

Ben gasped. Away went his caution to the winds.

"Your engagement—party?"

"I really can't discuss it now," beamed Betty, "but I never was so happy in my life. Come on in and make me happier."

Benjamin Flanders squared his shoulders. "You bet I'll come in," he said, and marched. And, marvelous thought, for the first time in his life, as far as society usage and behavior was concerned, he did not feel in the least uncomfortable. Something more important engrossed him. Betty engaged! What a fool he'd been. He might have known if he waited he'd lose out. But confound the man who'd get her; engagement wasn't marriage. He'd give him a close chase. If he could win out in business by sticking to it, working like a Trojan, with Betty the incentive, give him the chance—

Ben was a revelation that night to the people at Betty's party. He fitted into the hilarious, unorganized affair like the last and most essential part of a huge jigsaw puzzle. Before he came there had been a queer, indefinable nervousness in the air, a wondering shared by everybody about what was going to happen next. With Ben's arrival a change took place. Everybody was just as interested, even the meek little girl in brown, obviously a guest in the city, but things were less helter skelter. The unaccustomed informality that had evidently mixed up the whole party took to itself a charm that led the old-fashioned games and charades, a whole-hearted, joyous evening, with refreshments coming hours too soon.

The instant those refreshments were

announced up danced Ben to Betty. "I don't care who the man is you're engaged to," he declared, "and I don't want to see him. I don't want to watch him take you in for eats, either, and I'm not going to. I've been a cad, and I'm ashamed. I've always dreamed about your marrying you and L. Some-how or other Betty Huntington, I believed you could learn to like me. Not as much as I care about you, but some. When you told me tonight it was your engagement party, I vowed I'd give the man a close chase. I'm sorry. I don't have to be dishonorable if I have been a fool. You said this was an informal, impromptu party, didn't you?"

"I did," said Betty.

"Anybody know it's an engagement party yet?"

"Yes," said Betty.

"Who?"

"I know it. I invited the folks."

"Of course. When did you invite them?"

Betty gazed steadily into Ben's eager eyes. "I like you calm. You aren't worked up about anything, are you, Mr. Flanders?"

"Ben, if you please. Yes, I am worked up, but I'll calm down again when you answer my question. When did you invite these folks?"

"Two minutes after my brother told me you'd asked him if I would be at home tonight," said Betty unashamed.

"You mean—you wanted to hurt me—you wanted me to suffer—because I'd been so slow? I deserve it."

"Not that, Ben. I wanted you here for a party—a real party—the informal, home sort that counts, the sort I've always known you like best, the only kind where everybody has a good time. And, besides, Ben, I did want to give an engagement party."

"Yes," said Ben steadily. "Go on."

"But it didn't go off till you came. Folks expect formal things here, you know. As soon as you came I knew everything would be all right, Ben, you—"

"Get it over with. I change my mind. Who are you engaged to, Betty?" Ben swallowed hard. "He's just as lucky as I thought he was. Tell me. I'm going to congratulate him. Who is he?"

"Nobody," said Betty softly.

Swift the change in Ben's tortured face. "Who is engaged?" he demanded.

"That little girl in brown over there," Betty told him, "and nobody ever gave her any kind of a party. I wanted to, and—"

"And you wanted to—wake me up by making me think I was coming to yours? Is that it?"

"Partly."

"You know what that means?"

"I ought to. Those calls of yours made me feel as if I'd always known you, and I was so happy when you came tonight. I told you so. I've always known everything you've done at the factory. My brother says I'm a nuisance asking about you every time I turn round."

"We'll relieve him hereafter," said Ben jubilantly.

Nobody watching Benjamin Flanders escorting Miss Elizabeth Huntington in to dinner would have mistreated any lack of social ease and prestige. Ben was at home with the girl he loved.

Worrying Over Trifles; How We Get That Way

A month after their wedding, when they were fairly established in their new home, they decided to give a party. Thereupon he went around inviting everyone he met to come, with a "Be sure to drop in—She is a peach and I want you to meet her right away!"

As soon as she caught on to this state of affairs she began to get panicky.

"We must count chairs," she objected.

"Noses, you mean, my dear," laughed he.

But she didn't even crack a smile; she was off on an old tack that she hadn't followed since her marriage.

"Everything must be planned out—every detail must be thought of—things must go smoothly."

So she got a sheet of paper and began a list. Then she went over all her plates and cups and saucers and arranged her two rooms with an intention in every angle of furniture, and for the sixth time counted pennies.

Mrs. A. as soon as she arrived—and she would arrive first—was to be ushered in and settled on the sofa by the fire; when Uncle B came, he could be set to entertaining her. Then the C twins must be put in different rooms, and Miss D and Mr. E must not be separated.

The great moment arrived. Mrs. A came last; Uncle B from first to last monopolized the twins and all three clung together happily and unconsciously. The cracked plate went to the most formal guest, who never noticed, and the ice cream came just as they were all preparing to break up. That created a diversion and the party continued two hours past scheduled time—and the last part of the occasion was by far the jolliest of a very jolly evening.

"Oh," said she as the door closed on the last visitor, "I had planned for Mr. E to take Miss D home!"

How do we get that way? By executive ability gone wrong. True executive ability plans for the main issues; sufficient unto the day are the little things thereof.

(© 1924, by the Eastman Syndicate.)

Time to Learn
He (fervently)—And when are you going to allow me to kiss you?
She—Come around Friday. That's amateur night.—Progressive Grocer.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Eugene.—A court of 12 bungalows will be built on a plot of ground bordering on the millrace by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Keffler. It was announced here Saturday.

Salem.—There were three fatalities due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending August 14, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission.

Port Orford.—Port Orford's homecoming celebration and pioneers' reunion, which closed Saturday night after a three-day observance, not only was a complete success, but is considered one of the most unique ever held in Oregon.

Salem.—Members of the Oregon state fair board at a special meeting held here Saturday, decided to reduce the cost of attending the night horse shows at this year's fair. The charge has been cut in half.

Dallas.—Seven carloads of green prunes were shipped by Denney & Co. Saturday. Buyers who have entered the field recently have already purchased about 100 carloads of prunes, and expect to take as many as they can secure in this territory.

Kalama.—Finke Brothers' Coopers company started three shingle machines Monday. The coopers plant is running 24 hours each day and the shingle machines can be run with but little extra expense, it was said. About 25 extra men will be employed.

Dallas.—William Dodge, 72, was severely burned about the face and arms when an oil stove on which he was cooking breakfast exploded. The accident occurred at the home of his son, Rufus Dodge, near Lewisville, where the elder Dodge was spending the summer.

Klamath Falls.—The annual state dairy congress will be held in Klamath Falls this year in conjunction with the Oregon irrigation congress and Klamath products show on September 6, 7, 8 and 9, according to word received from drainage congress officials Sunday.

Pendleton.—The need of closing some of the smaller streams in Umatilla county until they have had time to restock themselves with trout was stressed Friday night at a meeting of the Umatilla County Fish and Game Protective association by W. H. Albee, deputy game warden.

Medford.—Indications are that the Owen-Oregon Lumber company of this city is making ready to begin operations soon on its holdings in this territory. The company has just received a large locomotive for logging operations, and will purchase a red locomotive for its main line.

Salem.—The fourth annual allocation conference to discuss prison problems will be held in Salem Thursday and Friday, September 4 and 5, according to letters prepared by Governor Pierce to be sent to the governors of California, Washington, Arizona and other western states.

Salem.—Prune and hop pickers are more plentiful in Marion county at the present time than for many years past, according to local employment agencies. It was estimated that fully half of the hop and prune pickers who have applied for employment in the local yards are from California.

Salem.—Glen Adams was elected president and U. S. Dotson secretary of the Iowa association which held its annual picnic at the state fair grounds here Sunday. More than 200 former residents of Iowa attended the picnic. A literary programme, followed by an outdoor dinner, featured the programme.

Hood River.—L. C. Baldwin, local contractor, has been awarded the construction of a new \$25,000 concrete grade school at Antelope. Mr. Baldwin has started to assemble a crew of carpenters and concrete workers from local artisans. Work on the school building will last about three months, it was stated.

Harrisburg.—The first dirt has been taken from the site where the center piers of the Pacific highway bridge across the Willamette will be sunk. In six weeks, according to those in charge, the first pier will be completed and the second will be done shortly thereafter. The Portland Bridge company, contractor, has machinery installed.

Pendleton.—The extremely dry season that has prevailed on the bench land on Weston mountain this summer has given eloquent demonstration of the worth of correct cultural practices in tillage and rotation of crops, according to Fred Bennion, county agent. Only during the past few years have farmers diversified greatly on the mountain, and this year potatoes that are on ground plowed up out of red clover and alfalfa are far ahead of those where the rotation has not been so favorable, he said.

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Smart Small Girl.
Small Girl (as sister's fiancé slips on banana skin)—Look, mamma, he's worshipping the ground she treads on!—London Answers.

Oh, You Cynic.
J. M. writes: "Someone predicts that this is to be a bad year for bachelors. Does that mean that a lot of them are going to get married?"—Boston Evening Transcript.

Greatness.
One is never done with knowing the greatest men or the greatest works of art—they carry on and on, and at the last you feel that you are only beginning.—T. R. Glover.

Delta of a River.
A delta is a triangular-shaped tract of land at the mouth of a river, so called from its resemblance to the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet.

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