

Kathleen Norris Says:

From Today On

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With an almost blind husband, a mother-in-law, a small daughter, an English boy, a house to manage, Alice will have her hands full.

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

IF YOU have not been saving kitchen fats and taking them in tin cans to your butcher, do it—from today on.

If you haven't been setting aside superfluous warm, plain clothing for the next clothing drive, do it—from today on.

If you haven't been investing every spare penny, and some that you cannot spare in this great war to free all peoples and settle all boundaries, then commence to do it—from today on.

If you should not be dieting, or balancing your domestic budget, or writing regularly to your soldier, or taking on a part time job as assistant nurse, then begin to do it—from today on.

One great trouble with us American women, who have known so many years of security and plenty, is that we are apt to think about all these things and a thousand others. "I wish I'd begun that—years ago. Saving dimes. Studying Spanish. Having the children's friends in for simple hospitalities. Walking two miles a day. Look at all the time I've lost! If I'd had any idea how useful it was going to be to me—or how happy it would have made Tom—or what help I could have given that poor child—or how welcome that extra money would be now—"

Chance for Fresh Start.

Some lives are spent in this sort of useless regretting. But the smart woman eventually learns that whatever the mistakes and omissions of the past, there is always today. Today may be the beginning of the new time—the time of quiet accomplishment, friendship, study, saving, building.

"I don't write him half often enough!" says the busy woman in the market. She is deciding between frankfurters, salmon, or curried eggs for dinner, the place is full of bustle and gossip and morning light; her heart goes for a moment to the man overseas, then she forgets him again. To son or husband she is apt to write often, but this man is her nephew, or a friend's son, or the casual Christmas guest who begged so wistfully for an occasional letter.

So she doesn't write, and perhaps presently learns that the chance as far as that particular sailor is concerned, is gone.

What we ought to remember is that today is as powerful, as filled with opportunity, as any yesterday was, and that a few months' concentration on the saving, the diet, the child, the foreign language, is still in our power.

In a letter yesterday I received an illustration of this and can only advise Alice M., who wrote the letter, to start all over again—from today on.

Alice is the wife of a young naval officer, she has a child of three. She writes that she adores her husband, adores her child. She has a comfortable home, and is busy with the usual activities of housework and baby care, Red Cross and canteen. Archie has been away for 15 months.

Last fall Alice met an army man who is married and has grown children; on neither side was there any pretense of great love, or any suggestion of divorce. They were lovers for a brief space; Alice does not excuse or defend this, she merely tells me that for a few weeks of what now seems to her insanity she and the major met at various times and

START NOW

Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow may never come. Today is the time to begin. If you have been delaying and excusing yourself for a long time about doing something you should—buying bonds, or rolling bandages, or saving fats—right now is the time to start. Don't bother with regrets over the past. Don't make grandiose plans for the distant future. Act today. This is Miss Norris' advice to women on the home front.

Even in a seriously complicated domestic situation, as in the case outlined in this article, the only sensible thing to do is to start over as well as possible. A young wife of a naval officer has been carrying on an affair with a middle-aged major. There was never any real love in this liaison, and it is now ended. Alice now wants to forget it, but she is afraid this unsavory episode will cloud the future. She has just heard that her husband, Archie, is returning from service, almost blind. He is bringing his widowed mother with him, and her adopted son, an English boy. This will mean two children in Alice's household, as she and Archie have a three-year-old daughter.

Miss Norris tells Alice to start today, determined to hold her marriage together, and to try to make everyone as happy as she can. There will be much for everyone to forgive and forget after this tragic war period ends.

places and carried on a secret affair. He has now gone to Africa, and her hope is that she will never see or hear from him again. Her shame over this episode is equalled only by her fear that Archie will end their marriage, always so happy and harmonious, and take her child away from her.

Archie is Coming Home.

Now comes the news that Archie is on his way home, almost blind, and that his mother, recently widowed, is about to join the family with her young adopted English son, one of the babies who was evacuated six years ago. Alice writes me in complete distress; must she tell Archie, and how to handle the long deception if she doesn't.

Well, my advice would be to pick up this complicated problem and work it out as if there was no secret to hide—from today on. We're all going to have to forget a lot of everything if this world is to be rebuilt. With an almost-blind husband, probably studying for an entirely new profession, a mother-in-law, a small daughter, an English boy, a house to manage, Alice will have her hands full. If she will go straight ahead, trying to make them all happy, trying to make each day perfect in service and love, she need never tell Archie anything at all, except that she is the wife who loves him, and who is determined to help him to blot out the cruel years that have so scarred him, and create a perfect life together—from today on.

Sources of Vitamin C

Tomatoes and oranges—both rather scarce at present—are not the only source of vitamin C. Fresh raw cabbage and turnips have been found to be just as rich as citrus fruits and tomatoes. The buffalo berry of North Dakota is outstanding in content of this vitamin, while good guava powder is phenomenally rich, with 3 per cent. The Russians and British have made a jam from rose hips. A Russian nut containing 3 per cent is being utilized also.



A secret affair with a major. . .

Washington Digest

Specter of Starvation Stalks Liberated Europe

Hunger Already Rampant in Many Nations; Relief Dependent on Sacrifices of United States and Canada.

By BAUKHAGE

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The size and shape of the postwar food emergency which the world has been generally anticipating and fearing is now beginning to take shape. As this is written in mid-June, a swelling cry is coming across the Atlantic, "We're hungry. Send us food." In one day's issue of the New York Times there were special dispatches stating:

1. That the liberated European nations were meeting in London to hear the facts of the world food situation from British Food Minister Llewellyn. He had spent three months in Canada and the United States surveying the world picture. It was said that he would inform the delegates of the liberated countries that there is in prospect a world shortage of 2,500,000 tons of meat, 1,000,000 tons of fats and oils and 1,500,000 tons of sugar. A shortage, that is, in terms of what is required to maintain a quite frugal, though fairly health-giving diet.

2. That European nations were being urged to produce to the maximum in order to offset the lack of imports for their winter's food supply.

3. That the new food minister of France (Christian Pineau) was coming to the United States to urge the American food industry to sell food to France.

4. That the Bavarian food ration was down to the low minimum of 1,150 calories a day (the average American diet contains 3,200 calories).

Need Is Acute In Many Areas

The need for food is acute in many areas throughout the continent of Europe. The people living in German-occupied Holland have been suffering from outright starvation for months. The physical condition of many was so serious immediately following liberation that they were no longer able to digest ordinary foods. The whites of eggs in powdered form were shipped from the United States to provide special treatment for these starvation victims. Britain also shipped to Holland a special food consisting of solutions of predigested proteins, glucose and vitamins.

In Yugoslavia, when UNRRA supplies arrived and were being unloaded from the first shipment, food was so scarce that the women brought brooms and brushes to sweep up the grain that spilled from the sacks of wheat. When cans of beans were distributed to the people, the Yugoslav weighing officials were so careful in measuring out portions that it was common to see a single bean removed from the scales in order to give each person no more than his fair share.

In May, the office of foreign agricultural relations of the United States department of agriculture reported that this year's output of food in Europe will be the smallest since the beginning of the war. It may be as much as 10 per cent under the 1944 production. As the war has come along, machinery is worn out. Factories have been kept out of most of Europe by the lack of transportation and the shortage of materials.

Manpower has become scarcer. In the final agonies of the conflict, farm animals were slaughtered or stolen by the retreating Nazis. Hence, the production of the continent will reach the low point of this winter in the current crop year.

Sharpening the difficulties is the breakdown of internal transportation to move what food is produced from the countryside into the cities and towns. In the final phases of the war the Nazis systematically destroyed railroads and rolling stock behind them as they retreated; the Allied air forces systematically blew bridges and burst locomotives. The result is that in Greece, for example, there were for months no railway lines operating. Even now, when some of the tracks and bridges are repaired, there are less than 20 locomotives and less than 500 good cars in the country. More are being rushed there, but the railway transport will be far below even the wartime normal. The highway service has disintegrated and the bridges are blown. Trucks are so scarce that

they are number one priority in the relief schedules of UNRRA and of the countries which pay for their own imports.

An UNRRA worker in Yugoslavia reported that he saw girls 12 and 15 years old carrying hundred pound sacks of grain on their backs for five kilometers. In Greece, women and children hitched themselves to carts of supplies and hauled them over mountain roads that were so full of bomb craters that trucks could not travel them.

100 Million People Hungry on Continent

In the face of this situation, it is evident that, as Colonel Llewellyn told the British House of Commons on June 13, "There are a hundred million hungry people in Europe today." Hope for relieving hunger is in imports this summer and next winter. Will the imports be forthcoming from the world outside?

The best answer that can be given at present seems to be "not in the volume desired." To provide enough food to bring the populations of liberated Europe and the Far East up to the prewar level—or even to a rather low minimum level for full health and strength—would bring the civilian food supplies in the major nations down considerably from their present level. The British ration has already been reduced in a number of items—and it was a tight ration before the reduction. Australia has cut down butter and meat rations still further within the last 60 days.

A good part of the answer to the plea of hungry Europe and the Far East depends on how much sacrifice the civilians in the United States and Canada are willing to undergo. President Truman, in issuing the report of Judge Samuel Rosenman on relief needs in western Europe, pointed out that the American people need to understand the dire plight of the people in these Allied countries in order to be prepared to accept continued control on our consumption here. The coming months will give the answer to the extent and severity of controls that are imposed.

Food—Not Money—Remains Scarce

Relief for liberated countries is not a matter of financing. The countries of western Europe have their own financial resources and are seeking in vain to buy—particularly such items as canned meats, dairy products, fats and oils and sugar. The liberated countries of eastern Europe which do not have the foreign exchange resources to pay cash for their supplies are receiving them from the uninvaded United Nations through UNRRA. UNRRA has financial resources contributed by the uninvaded nations. The trouble is that supplies are not forthcoming in the scarce food lines at a desirable rate.

Incidentally, the director general of UNRRA, in a somewhat justified didactic vein, has lately pounded home in his public utterances the fact that if UNRRA fails to provide supplies, it is not because of UNRRA's shortcomings, but because the member nations do not come through with the supplies.

"UNRRA," Director General Lehman says, "is not a superstate with resources and powers of its own. Far from it. It is the servant of the governments which created it."

There is one bright spot amid the encircling gloom of the food situation. This is the fact that the world has plentiful supplies of wheat. This member of the bread grains has been produced in bumper quantities for several years in succession by the farmers in the U. S. and Canada. The crops have been average in other exporting countries. The result is that wheat is not even under allocation and the full amount needed for a normal diet can be supplied to the people of liberated Europe. But man doesn't live by bread alone. For health and vigor, you and I and everyone need some fats and proteins in our diets. Will we be willing to cut down on our—by the standards of Europe—rather lavish consumption of these things so that our liberated Allies can come through the next winter with a minimum loss of health and strength?



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ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Based on standard time, when it's 12 noon in Chicago, in Tokyo it's what time?
2. What is meant by a woman's coterie?
3. What country ranks next to the United States in population in the western hemisphere?
4. With what type of cases does the Appellate court deal?
5. From what source is saccharin derived?
6. What was the White House first known as?
7. How many islands are there in the Philippines?
8. From what does the word camera come?

The Answers

1. Three a. m. the next day.
2. Her set, or circle of friends.
3. Brazil.
4. With appeals.
5. Coal tar.
6. The President's Palace.
7. About 7,000.
8. From the Italian word camera which means chamber.

English Isn't Easy, Says Stranger in Our Midst

English looks and sounds easy to many of us, but the man from another country could tell another tale. Perhaps this little rhyme, written by a foreigner, will show what strangers to the language have to contend with:

"Will you please explain it to me
Why in 'debt' you should use silent 'b'?
I cannot as yetb the hang of it gebt;
In fact, I'm completely at sea!
You say that the ocean is blue,
Is a warship, then, manned by a crew?
Do you give a receipt to the man in the streipt?
It puzzles me all the day through.
If a man dies you say he is dead;
But a book, not the color, is read.
Still, I think that's enough of this terrible stough,
Good buy, Sir, it's past thyme for bead."

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Buy War Bonds

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Domei (official news agency) broadcasting station in Tokyo reported transmitter trouble. Static or B-29s?

Importers of French lace ordered and paid for before the occupation of France will be assisted in locating it by the foreign economic administration. The frills will help pay for the necessities.

Slide fasteners, hooks and eyes, buckles and other closure items will soon reappear and then we'll be all fenced in again.

A large increase in the production of bicycles in the third quarter of 1945 is doubtful, according to the WPB. So you will have to use your pedal extremities and not your pedals for a little longer.