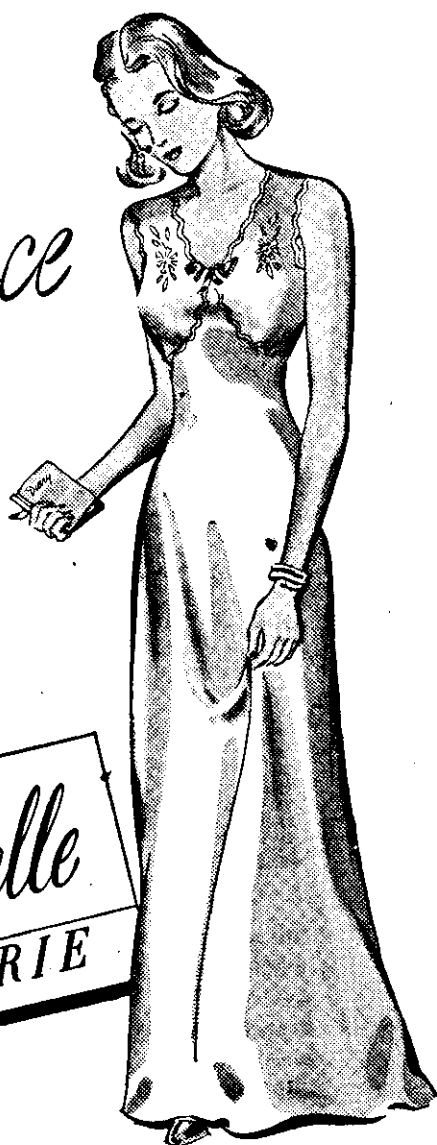


Elegance



A TEAKETTLE FOR A TYPESETTER



WE reprint this article by Everett M. Smith in the "Christian Science Monitor" (Boston) not because it is likely to have a very close parallel in New Zealand, but because a good story is worth repeating anywhere.

THIS is the story of an editor who swapped a teakettle for a typesetter—and got plenty to boot. It came about this way. Last spring, John Gould, whose "Dispatches From the Farm" are a regular feature of *The Christian Science Monitor*, became owner and editor of what is, perhaps, the most archaic newspaper in the State of Maine, the *Lisbon Enterprise*. He took into partnership with him a printer friend, Jesse Goud, to run the shop.

They needed a typesetter. Miss Selma Ey, who had served in that capacity under the paper's previous owner for more than 25 years, had hired out to do housework.

"When we decided we wanted Miss Ey to share our fate," said Editor Gould, "Miss Ey's new employer didn't altogether like the idea, hired help being what it is lately. But Miss Ey's new employer had just burned the bottom out of her teakettle, and teakettles were even harder to get than help.

Back-shop Genius

"We had a teakettle. We thought we'd rather have Miss Ey than the teakettle. We made the swap, and ever since she

has been our back-shop expert, setting all our news by hand.

"Selma's a genius in her own right," Editor Gould continued. "She is one of the few compositors, if not the only one, of the atomic age who can set logotypes. She has a font of these curios—scarcely known even to veteran printers to-day—with words and parts of words on separate slugs. If she sets 'Mr. and Mrs. Jones spent Sunday in town,' the only letters she really sets are those in 'Jones.' The rest of the sentence is made up of logotypes, and she knows where to find Mr. and Mrs., spent, Sun, day, in town. 'Sunday' is made in two moves instead of six. Selma has logotypes for many of the more common words, and for most of the prefixes and suffixes."

However, while the swapping, of the teakettle for Selma is regarded by the *Enterprise* editor as one of his most advantageous transactions, he also acquired many other odd chattels when he took over the paper.

Besides the several old presses and heaps of miscellaneous print-shop equipment of the post-Civil War days, there are fonts upon fonts of outdated type faces, and old-fashioned ornaments and cuts by the painful. More than this,

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