Why did Alf want a white-collar job?

These days, people who do manual work often receive far more money than people who work in offices.

People who work in offices are frequently referred to as 'white-collar workers' for the simple reason that they usually wear a collar and tie to go to work.

Such is human nature that a great many people are often willing to sacrifice higher pay for the privilege of becoming white-collar workers.

This can give rise to curious situations, as it did in the case of Alfred Bloggs, who worked as a dustman for the Ellesmere Corporation.

When he got married, Alf was too embarrassed to say anything to his wife about his job.

He simply told her that he worked for the Corporation.

Every morning, he left home dressed in a smart black suit.

He then changed into overalls and spent the next eight hours as a dustman.

Before returning home at night, he took a shower and changed back into his suit.

Alf did this for over two years, and his fellow dustmen kept his secret.

Alf's wife has never discovered that she married a dustman, and she never will, for Alf has just found another job.

He will soon be working in an office.

He will be earning only half as much as he used to, but he feels that his rise in status is well worth the loss of money.

From now on, he will wear a suit all day, and others will call him 'Mr. Bloggs', not 'Alf'.

When he got married, Alfred Bloggs told his wife he worked for the Corporation.

Though he dressed in a smart black suit every morning, he changed into overalls at work and spent the day working as a dustman.

Then he took a shower and changed back into his suit at night.

This lasted for two years and his fellow dustmen kept his secret.

His wife will never learn the truth because her husband will be an office worker in future.

One morning, Alf and three other dustmen were collecting rubbish in Merton Street and they stopped outside Mrs. Frost's house.

Though Alf didn't know it, his wife was visiting Mrs. Frost at the time.

She and Mrs. Frost were old friends, though Mrs. Frost had never met Alf.

Alf was just getting out of the dustcart to go into Mrs. Frost's backyard when he saw his wife leaving Mrs. Frost's house.

He quickly returned to the dustcart and hid in the driving cabin.

While he was hiding, his fellow dustmen helped him by collecting Mrs. Frost's rubbish.

Meanwhile, Alf's wife and Mrs. Frost talked on the doorstep.

It looked as though their conversation would never end!

At last, Mrs. Bloggs said goodbye to Mrs. Frost.

She waved to one of the dustmen whom she recognized and she went towards the dustcart to greet him.

The dustman waved back and gave her a big smile as the dustcart drove off.

Mrs. Bloggs stood on the pavement and watched the dustcart disappear down the street.

Then she began to walk home.

“It's all right, Alf,” his friend said.

“She can't see you now.”

“Thanks, Jim,” Alf said.

“That was a lucky escape!”

I've been living in this flat since last April.

How many postcards have you sent up till now?

Your mother has just phoned.

Do you want to call her back?

Have you ever visited Xi'an?

I haven't been there yet, but I intend to go one of these days.

John described the film to his aunt.

He said nothing to her.

She explained the position to me.

They proposed the idea to us.

Is it worth five pounds?

Is it worth buying?

Your car is not worth £5,000.

I don't think it's worth going to all that trouble.

What does the case of Alfred Bloggs illustrate? People often care more about the status of a job than the salary.

What did Alfred Bloggs do for over two years? He led a double life.

Why did Alfred Bloggs consider wearing a suit all day and being called 'Mr. Bloggs' so important? He feels that other people will respect him more.

Alf was so embarrassed that he did not say anything to his wife.

Manual workers often receive much higher wages than people who work in offices.

His workmates kept his secret.

His rise in status more than compensates for the loss of money.

He wanted to be addressed as 'Mr. Bloggs', not 'Alf'.