

The Big-Town Round Up

by

William MacLeod Raine

Illustrations by
Irwin Myers

Copyright by William MacLeod Raine

(Continued from last issue)

CHAPTER XX

On the Carpet.

The question at issue was not whether Beatrice would break with her fiancé, but in what way it should be done. If her father found him guilty of what Durand had said, he was to dismiss him brusquely; if not, Beatrice wanted to disengage herself gently and with contrition.

Whitford summoned Bromfield to his office where the personal equation would be less pronounced. He put to him plainly the charge made by Jerry and demanded an answer.

No lie could save him. The only thing he could do was to sugarcoat the truth. He set about making out a case for himself as skillfully as he could.

"I'm a man of the world, Mr. Whitford," he explained. "When I met an ugly fact I look it in the face. This man Lindsay was making a great impression on you and me. Neither of you seemed able quite to realize his deficiencies, let us say. I felt myself at a disadvantage with him because he's such a remarkably virile young man and he constantly reminded you both of the West you love. It seemed fair to all of us to try him out—to find out whether at bottom he was a decent fellow or not. So I laid a little trap to find out."

"Not the way Durand tells it," answered the miner bluntly. "He says you paid him a thousand dollars to arrange a trap to catch Lindsay."

"Either he misunderstood me or he's distorting the facts," claimed the clubman with an assumption of boldness.

"That ought to be easy to prove. We'll make an appointment with him for this afternoon and check up by the dictagraph."

Bromfield laughed uneasily. "Is that necessary, Mr. Whitford? Surely my word is good. I have the honor to tell you that I did nothing discreditable."

Whitford leaned back in his swivel chair and looked steadily at the man to whom his daughter was engaged. "I'm going to the bottom of this, Bromfield. That fellow Durand ought to go to the penitentiary. We're gathering the evidence to send him there. Now he tells me he'll drag you down to ruin with him if he goes. Come clean. Can he do it?"

"Well, I wouldn't say—"

"Don't evade, Bromfield. Yes or no."

"I suppose he can." The words came sulkily after a long pause.

"You did hire him to destroy Lindsay's reputation?"

"Lindsay had no business here in New York. He was disturbing Bee's peace of mind. I wanted to get rid of him and send him home."

"So you paid a crook scoundrel who hated him to murder his reputation."

"That's not what I call it," defended the clubman.

"It doesn't matter what you call it. The fact stands."

"I told him explicitly—again and again—that there was to be no violence. I intended only to show him up. I had a right to do it."

Whitford got up and walked up and down the room. He felt like laying hands on this well-dressed scamp and throwing him out of the office. He tasted something of his daughter's sense of degradation at ever having been connected with a man of so little character. The experience was a bitterly humiliating one to him. For Bee was, in his opinion, the cleanest, truest little thoroughbred under heaven. The only questionable thing he had ever known her to do was to engage herself to this man.

Colin came to a halt in front of the other.

"We've got to protect you, no matter how little you deserve it. I can't have Bee's name dragged into all the papers of the country. The case against Durand will have to be dropped. He's lost his power anyhow and he'll never get it back."

"Then it doesn't matter much whether he's tried or not."

That phase of the subject Whitford did not pursue. He began to feel in his vest pocket for something.

"Of course you understand that we're through with you, Bromfield. Neither Beatrice nor I care to have anything more to do with you."

"Don't see why," protested Bromfield. "As a man of the world—"

"If you don't see the reason I'm not able to explain it to you." Whitford's fingers found what they were looking for. He fished a ring from his pocket and put it on the desk.

"Beatrice asked me to give you this."

"I don't think that's fair. If she wants to throw me over she ought to tell me her reasons herself."

"She's telling them through me. I don't want to be more explicit unless you force me."



"Of course, I'm Not Good Enough. I Know That. No Man's Good Enough for a Good Woman."

"Of course I'm not good enough. I know that. No man's good enough for a good woman. But I'm as good as other fellows. We don't claim to be angels. New York doesn't sprout wings."

"I'm not going to argue this with you. And I'm not going to tell you what I think of you beyond saying that we're through with you. The less said about it the better. Man, don't you see—I don't want to have any more talk about it? The engagement was a mistake in the first place. Bee never loved you. Even if you'd been what we thought you, it wouldn't have done. She's lucky to have found out in time."

"Is this a business rupture, too, Mr. Whitford?"

"Just as you say about that, Bromfield. As an investor in the Bird Cage you're entitled to the same consideration that any other stockholder is. Since you're the second largest owner you've a right to recognition on the board of directors. I'm not mixing my private affairs with business."

Bromfield rose, pulled on the glove he had removed, nodded good-bye without offering to shake hands, and sauntered out of the office. There was a look on his face the mining man did not like. It occurred to Whitford that Clarendon, now stripped of self-respect by the knowledge of the regard in which he held him, was in a position to strike back hard if he cared to do so. The right to vote the proxies of the small stockholders of the Bird Cage company had been made out in his name at the request of the president of the corporation.

Continued in next issue

Subscribe for The Daily Pioneer.

Improvement in Train Service

Through Train Connections for
Chicago and All Points East and South

Beginning July 2

M. and I. night train No. 34 will leave International Falls, Bemidji, Walker and Pine River as at present, connecting at Brainerd with Northern Pacific train No. 12, leaving at 4:05 a. m., arriving St. Paul 8:53 a. m. and making direct connection for Chicago.

Dining and Sleeping Cars

Dependable Comfortable Service



Northern Pacific
Railway
Minnesota and
International
Railway



This is Yellowstone Park's Big Year
Go While Travel Costs are Very Low

TENSTRIKE

Last Sunday the Nebish baseball team threw a forfeit game to the Tenstrike sluggers. This means another victory for Tenstrike. Next Sunday the Tenstrike team journeys to Northome.

On July Fourth the locals will battle against Blackduck with Joe Graves. On Sunday July 9th Hines will cross bats with the locals for the first time this season.

On Tuesday a large crowd attended the auction at Ben Shute's place northwest of town.

Last Friday evening the Walter League met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Lundgren. Games were played after which a delicious lunch was served.

Mrs. Wm. Travis motored to Bemidji one day last week.

Delbert Tufford purchased the Chevrolet of Paul Hauptzok last week.

The new house of H. D. Sorenson which is being built on the east side of the viaduct is progressing very rapidly.

The base ball boys held a meeting in the C. C. C. hall last Monday evening.

The Equalization board met in the C. C. C. Hall Monday.

The road which is being constructed around the sink hole on the state road is practically completed.

The Bemidji base ball team evidently covered too much territory when they asked Brainerd for a game. Bemidji evidently prefers to be in the same class as the so called "stump blowers."

Eli Ritchie of Turtle River visited here Tuesday.

Alice Fellows returned home from Eagle Bend, where she has been visiting relatives.

Homer Walter leaves Saturday evening for a visit with his parents at Osseo.

Harry Fox, Tilman Gregg and Mr. and Mrs. R. X. Betz motored to Bemidji Monday.

Miss Margaret Hampl entertained Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Betz Monday evening.

P. E. Mattison of Nebish was a business caller here Tuesday.

Burt Noble of Nebish made a flying trip out of here Monday morning, after a short business visit. He was expecting to see some of the Tenstrike baseball boys.

W. Rice of Bemidji visited here Tuesday.

W. A. Rice motored to Duluth Sunday. Both he and Mrs. Rice, who visited her parents at Duluth are expected back this week.

Henry Krahn has bought a new Ford Car.

Delbert Tufford started for Bemidji Sunday evening. His destination was not reached because some unnecessary tack sought a good roosting place in his front tire and not having any experience in changing tires as they do on the race track it took a little time in fact too long a time to enable him to get to Bemidji to see a show.

George Shulke motored to Bemidji Saturday evening.

C. J. Wild and E. E. Shulke attended the potato association meeting in Hines Wednesday of last week.

There was a special meeting of the trustees of the Presbyterian church last Saturday evening.

Miss Esther Krohn and her mother left last week Thursday for Minneapolis and Kasota.

The R. W. Fellows family motored to Kelliher, Red Lake and Redby last Sunday.

AARDAHL LADIES' AID TO HOLD PICNIC JULY FOURTH

The Ladies' Aid of the Aardahl Lutheran Free church will hold a picnic, July Fourth at Ole Hegland's place, two miles east of Rosby. Lunch, ice cream and lemonade will be sold by the ladies, the proceeds to go to the church. A program of sports has been arranged for the boys and girls. A large attendance is invited.

Perennials in Flower Now

You are invited to see the
Flower Gardens of the

Beltrami Nursery

Baby's Breath, Coreopsis, Canterbury Belle, False Indigo, Gaillardia, Larkspur, Peonies, Pinks, 10c, Sweet Williams 10c, Shasta Daisy.

We are located opposite the
School Farm.

We Sell Cut Flowers

It Makes Things Grow

Fertilize the lawn. Use commercial fertilizer containing a large per cent of nitrogen. Sheep manure is also good for the vegetable garden. We apply it for you.

Beltrami Nursery

OTTO BROSE, Prop.

Phone 363-J. 2004 Irvine Ave.

A song is sung; a speech is made; and the face of a loved one fades from the mind; BUT A PICTURE!—that lives forever!



HAKKERUP.

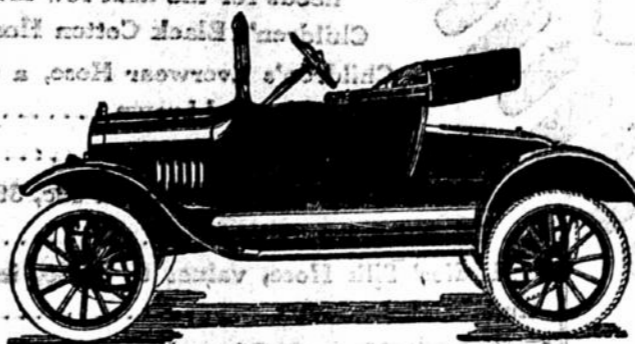
The Photographer in Your
Town.

Ford

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Get Your New Ford for July 4th

We can make immediate delivery on practically all models.
BUY A FORD, Pay Less—get more than any other buy, bar none!
Just step into our salesroom and ask to be shown the different models—you are under no obligation if you just wish to look at them.



Ford Roadster

\$319

F. O. B. Factory

\$393.96 Here

\$143.03 down, bal. in 12 mo.

ROADSTER
Equipped complete, \$414 (f. o. b. factory).

TOURING CAR
Regular, \$348 (f. o. b. factory).

SEDAN
Equipped complete, \$645 (f. o. b. factory).

TOURING CAR
Equipped complete, \$443 (f. o. b. factory).

NEW COUPE
Equipped complete, \$580 (f. o. b. factory).

IF YOU WANT A CAR, THE FORD IS THE LOGICAL ONE TO BUY

C. W. JEWETT CO., Inc.

BEMIDJI, MINN.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS

BAGLEY

CASS LAKE