

North of Fifty-Three

BY BERTRAND W. SINCLAIR
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CHAPTER XIV.—Continued.

He rolled away in his car, and Hazel watched him from the window, a trifle puzzled. She recalled Bill's remark at luncheon. In the light of Brooks' explanation, it was hardly surprising. On the other hand, the new Bill Wagstaff was not prone to jump at rash conclusions. He objected to certain manipulations of the Free Gold Mining company, his objection being likely to be based on substantial grounds. At any rate, she noted nothing disagreeable, would come of it.

So she put the whole matter out of her mind. She dressed, and went heartily about her own affairs. Dinner time was drawing near when she returned home. She sat down by a window that overlooked the street to watch for Bill. Six passed. The half-hour chime struck on the mantel clock. Hazel grew impatient, potted plants, aggravated. Dinner, waiting, she served in twenty minutes. Still there was no sign of him. And for lack of other occupation she went into the hall and got the evening paper, which the carrier had just delivered.

A startling headline on the front page attracted her attention. "Straight across the tops of two columns it ran, a factitious caption: WILLIAM WAGSTAFF IS A BEAR."

Under that the subhead:

Risky Mining Man Tumbles Prices and Breaks Whips Four Men in Head

Change, His Mighty Fists Subdue Society's Finest. Finally Lands in Jail.

The body of the article Hazel read in what a sob sister would describe as a state of mingled emotions.

William Wagstaff is a mining gentleman from the northern wilds of British Columbia. He is a big, powerful, natural-born fighter. To prove this he inflicted a black eye and a split lip on Paul Lorimer, a broke news editor, on the morning of the city strike. Prior to the general election in the broad street office Wagstaff walked into the office of the Free Gold Mining Company, which set all the broken by his ear. Lorimer, who had just received his discolored optic there, reported his presence to Wagstaff. He strode up to the post where Lorimer was standing.

"I serve police on you right now," he said loudly and angrily, "what if you sell me a dollar for my eye?"

Lorimer appeared to lose his temper. Some words were passed which, rather than peace, seemed to have the effect of a challenge. Wagstaff, who smote the broke and the broke smote the floor. Wagstaff's punch would do for a champion pugilist. From the execution it wrought, the immediate result was a broken nose and a split lip. The street was described by sounds of combat. The Free Gold Mining Company, which set all the broken by his ear, Lorimer, who had just received his discolored optic there, reported his presence to Wagstaff. He strode up to the post where Lorimer was standing.

"None of the men concerned would discuss the matter. From the remarks dropped by Wagstaff, however, it appears that the policy of marketing Free Gold stock was inaugurated without his knowledge or consent."

That as it may, all sorts of rumors are in circulation, and Free Gold stock is as high as a dollar forty, found few takers at par when the market opened. There has been a considerable speculative movement in the stock, and the speculators are beginning to get nervous. There is a new lull in the company affairs.

Wagstaff's case will come up tomorrow before the grand jury. He is a big, powerful, natural-born fighter. To prove this he inflicted a black eye and a split lip on Paul Lorimer, a broke news editor, on the morning of the city strike. Prior to the general election in the broad street office Wagstaff walked into the office of the Free Gold Mining Company, which set all the broken by his ear. Lorimer, who had just received his discolored optic there, reported his presence to Wagstaff. He strode up to the post where Lorimer was standing.

Hazel dropped the paper, mortified and wrathful. The city jail seemed the very fit place for her. And the lurid publicity, the lifted eyebrows of her friends, maddened her in prospect. Plain street hawking, such as one might expect from a chaman or a fakir without, not from a man like her husband. She involuntarily assigned the blame to him. Not for the cause—the cause was of no importance whatever to her—but for the act itself. Their best friends, she could hardly realize it, Jimmie Brooks, joyful Jimmie, with a broken nose and sundry bruises! And Paul Lorimer, distinguished Paul, who had the courtly bearing which was the despair of his fellows, and the manner of a dozen generous acts of culture wherewith to charm the women of his acquaintance. He with a black eye and a split lip! So the paper stated. It was vulgar. Brutal! The act of a cave man.

CHAPTER XVI.

The Note Discarded.

Bill had directed himself to the door. He smiled as a man who had solved some knotty problem to his entire satisfaction. Moreover, he bore no mark of conflict, none of the conventional scars of a rough-and-tumble fight. For a moment he looked forward, self-believing the Herald story a pure snarl. But as he walked across the room her searching gaze discovered that the knuckles of both his hands were bruised and bloody, the skin broken. She picked up the paper, and getting in jail as all. Haven't you any consideration for me—any pride?

"Yes," he said deliberately. "I have. Pride in my word as a man. A sort of pride that won't allow any bunch of lily-fingered crooks to make me a party to any dirty deal. I don't propose to get the worst of it in that way. I won't allow myself to be tarred with their stick."

"Bill, how could you?" she cried, "I'm simply disgusted. Brawling in public like an arson lawyer, and getting in jail as all. Haven't you any consideration for me—any pride?"

"I'm not trying to give you the worst of it," he burst out. "Visions of utter humiliation arose to confront and madden her. 'You've insulted and abused our best friends—to say nothing of giving us all the benefit of newspaper scandal. Well be notorious!'"

"Best friends? God save the mark!"

CHAPTER XVII.

A Letter From Bill.

All through the long night she lay awake, struggling with the incredible fact that Bill had not been trying to absolve herself from blame; flaring up in anger at his unyielding attitude, even while she was sorely conscious that she herself had been stubbornly unyielding. If he had truly loved her, she reflected, he would have made it made it an issue between them. But that was like a man—to insist on his own desires being made paramount; to blunder on headlong, no matter what antagonisms he aroused, and then, when completely in the wrong, she reasserted.

"Listen to me," he said sternly. "I've stood about all of your nonsense I'm able to stand. I've had to fight a pack of business wolves to keep them from picking my carcass, and what's more important to me, to keep them from handing a raw deal to five men who wallowed through snow and frost and all kinds of hardship to make these shares a fortune. I've got down to their level and fought them with their own weapons—and the thing is settled. I said last night I'd be through here inside a week. I'm through now—through here. I have business in the Klappan, to complete this thing I've set my hand to. I'm going to the ranch and try to get the bad taste out of my mouth. I'm going tomorrow. I've no desire or intention to coerce you. You're my wife, and your place is with me. If you care anything about me, and I want you. You know that, don't you? I wouldn't be begging you like this if I didn't. I haven't changed, nor had my eyes dazzled by any false gods. But it's up to you. I don't bluff. I'm going, and if I have to go without you I won't ask you back. Think it over, and just come yourself honestly if it's worth while."

"I drew her up close to him and kissed her on one anger-fused cheek, and then, as he had done the night before, walked straight away to the bedroom and closed the door behind him. Hazel slept little that night. A horrid weight seemed to rest suffocatingly upon her. More than once she had an impulse to creep in to the where Bill lay and forget it all in the sweep of that strong arm. But she choked back the impulse angrily. She would not forgive him. He had made her suffer. For his high-handedness she would make him suffer in kind. At least, she would not crawl to him begging forgiveness.

When sunrise laid a yellow beam, all full of dancing notes, across her bed, she heard Bill stir, heard him moving about the apartment with restless steps. After a time she also heard the unmistakable sound of a trunk lid thrown back, and the movements of him as he gathered his clothes—so she surmised. But she did not rise till the mid muffled on her door with the eight o'clock salutation: "Good-morning, ma'am."

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CHAPTER XVIII.

Standing With His Hand on the Knob, He Turned.

Bill's hand was on the knob, but he did not turn. He stood there for a moment, his hand on the knob, his eyes fixed on the door. He had just heard the sound of a trunk lid being thrown back, and he had just seen the movements of him as he gathered his clothes. He had just seen the unmistakable sound of a trunk lid being thrown back, and he had just seen the movements of him as he gathered his clothes.

CHAPTER XIX.

CHAPTER XX.

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CHAPTER XXX.

STATE SIFTINGS

Five hundred carpenters struck at Cleveland for a wage increase. Fire at Mattox Corset company's factory, Toledo, destroyed stock valued at \$10,000.

Flinday plumbers struck for in case of wages. John J. Albertson, 82, mother of Dr. Argus Swisher of Marysville, is dead.

Plumes damaged the Keibel-Wilson dry goods store at Findlay to the extent of \$10,000. John J. Albertson, 82, for many years marshal of Millersburg and sheriff of Holmes county, is dead.

At Toledo, Patrolman Louis Jewe, 26, was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest a prowler, who escaped.

Harry Beatty, 26, railroad worker, whose home was in Gilbert, was instantly killed at Zanesville when he fell from a railway bridge.

Crackmen blew open the safe of the Hanover Shoe company store, on the public square, Cleveland, and secured \$1,500 in cash.

A special election at Bellefontaine the proposition to issue \$105,000 for school purposes carried by a six to one majority.

Dr. Irving Brandon, vice president of Miami university and professor of French, has been called to France for duty with the U. S. C. A.

Refusal of the Lorain Employers' association to sign a new wage scale, caused 200 members of the building trades union to go on strike.

Fire losses in Ohio last year amounted to \$8,490,031, an increase of \$1,500,000 over 1916, according to State Fire Marshal Fleming.

Postmaster General C. B. Bailey, 53, to help enlist 4,000 men for military rail way transport service. Men between 20 and 40 are needed for such service.

Accused of talking against the liberty loan and spreading German propaganda, William S. Bailey, 53, was arrested at Steubenville by federal agents.

Captain Abe Newlove, formerly of the Rainow division arrived at his home in Marysville from France. He recently was discharged because of defective hearing.

A powerful wireless outfit, capable of sending 750 miles, was found by secret service agents on an apartment building in Lima. It was screened from the street.

Upon the discovery of ground glass and suspected poison in a can of tomatoes, officials of the city council ordered the rest of the stock and sent it to federal authorities in Cleveland.

Two Socialist councilmen, Noah Mandelcorn and John Willett, were expelled from Cleveland council on charges of disloyalty, disorderly conduct and violation of council rules.

Sixty prisoners from the penitentiary have been sent to Guernsey county to work on the National highway. The Mansfield reformatory will send 50 men to aid the prisoners from Columbus.

At Cleveland the court of appeals reversed a decision of the Commercial Pleas Judge Pearson granting the city an injunction restraining the Cleveland Railway company from increasing its fare.

State Senator Adam Oberlin, for whom a ration-wheat search had been conducted since his recent disappearance from Canton seven months ago, has been found in Norfolk, Va. He will return to Ohio.

A dry plank in the state platform, a dry state and ratification of the federal prohibition amendment are three aims of the Republican Dry Federation, as announced at the meeting of the executive committee at Columbus.

Gas exploded in the home of L. Lowman in Cincinnati. Mrs. Kate Powers, 45, was killed, and Lillie Schumaker, 22, was injured. The victims were employed at the Lowman home.

Maize, a stry buyers at Chardon, Geauga county, increased the price of bulk syrup from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per gallon, the highest price on record in Geauga county. Only 60 per cent of a normal yield is reported this season.

H. C. Willing, 32, motorman, was shot in the abdomen by a negro passenger, who made his escape by diving head first through a window of a street car. Willing probably will die.

William F. Mehlis and W. F. Davis, councilmen arrested at Youngstown, charged with accepting marked money from a detective representing himself to be an official of a jewelry company, were released on bond for arraignment in court. They were held over to the grand jury.

Seven city councilmen were indicted at Youngstown on charges of soliciting bribes. M. W. E. Ashburn, 87, widow of T. Q. Ashburn, former Ohio supreme court judge, and cousin of General Grant, died at Cincinnati.

Fire at the village of Savannah, north of Ashland, destroyed the town hall electric light plant. William Past's hardware store and three dwellings, with a total loss estimated at \$50,000. The fire broke down and the villagers had to fight the flames with buckets. A hard rain saved the rest of the town.

Captain James Ritty, 51, Dayton, civil war veteran and known as the inventor of the cash register, is dead. With the arrest of a merchant, Cleveland police believe they have taken the first step to break up a crowd of alleged silk thieves.

Body of Frederick Pemberton, 65, prominent Roseville merchant, who disappeared March 13, was found floating in the canal near Zanesville. Hanchester Building and Loan company has been placed in receivership of a receiver. One officer is alleged to be \$8,300 short in his accounts.

Steubenville, East Liverpool and Beaver Valley Traction company increased the fare to 10 cents on the East Liverpool-Chester, W. Va., line. The old fare was 5 cents. The new fare was 5 cents.

A. C. Willing, 23, Columbus patrolman, died from a bullet wound in the abdomen. Willing was shot on a streetcar by Thomas Mack, 28, colored, who claims self-defense.

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IN MISERY FOR YEARS

Mrs. Courtney Tells How She Was Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Oakalosa, Iowa.—"For years I was simply in misery from a weakness and awful pains—and nothing seemed to do me any good. A friend advised me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I did so and got relief right away. I am now a healthy woman and can do any work I wish to do. I have done such good work for me and I know it will help others if they will give it a fair trial."

Mrs. LIZZIE COURTNEY, 108 5th Ave., West, Oakalosa, Iowa. "I certainly recommend this valuable medicine to other women who suffer. It has done such good work for me and I know it will help others if they will give it a fair trial."

Why will women drag along from day to day, year in and year out, suffering from such a condition, backache, nervousness, or who is passing through the Change of Life should give this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, a fair trial. For special advice write Lydia E. Pinkham, Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. "The result of its long experience is at your service."

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HORSE MEAT IN NEW YORK

Although There Is Much Opposition to Its Use as Food, the Demand Increases.

It is now nearly two years since the board of health lifted the ban on the sale of horse meat in the effort to reduce the cost of living, observes the Brooklyn Eagle. The introduction of the food has been slow, but five shops, two of them in Brooklyn, are now reported to be advertising horse meat for sale.

The demand for this cheap meat has been increased by the wartime food shortage. In Manhattan, where the horse meat stores are issuing circulars denouncing the new food and stirring up prejudice against it. Whether as a result of the circulars is not clear, but one of these horse-meat stores on West Avenue, Manhattan, has been attacked, its window having been smashed in two successive nights.

Neither the circulars nor the attacks are likely to interfere with the spread of the demand for the new food. The manager of the company which is introducing the substance into the city, says that when he opens a new store and that in one case he had to call on the police to keep order among his would-be customers. In cases of food scarcity horse meat has been eaten in many countries.

The great prosperity of the United States has kept it out of our markets heretofore, but the wartime scarcity and high prices are likely to establish it as a regular part of the diet of people who can't afford to pay for beef.

The objections to it are sentimental and not hygienic, says the writer. High prices, its use is to be welcomed.

This Will Comfort You.

Fearing that perhaps the public will not know the precise character of the horse meat, the board of health has explained in large quantities, we hasten to explain that it is snow, or in French, neige; in German, schnee; in Dutch, sneeuw; in Slavonic, snieg; in Italian, neve.

In small quantities it is harmless and beautiful. In amounts such as are at present with us, it defies description in polite language. Snow, neige, sneeuw, etc., etc. is water-vapor condensed from the atmosphere and precipitated upon this already troubled condition. The article we know as snow is produced when the process of condensation and fall occurs in a temperature below 32 degrees.

We might add, by way of making this explanation complete and clear, that the crystals vary greatly in form and belong to the hexagonal system. They are formed upon a nucleus in the same way as a raindrop.

This, we feel, ought to make certain recent events and present conditions much easier to bear.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Birds' Nest Soup.

The birds' nests from which the famous Chinese soup is made are built by a species of swallow that abounds on the coasts of Java, Ceylon and Borneo, and consists of a gelatinous substance obtained from marine plants.

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How Primitive Man Got Fire.

Fire was known early in human history. Primitive man probably first learned to produce it by rubbing pieces of wood together.

POET MADE WAR HIS THEME

Washington Audience Somewhat Surprised That Masfield Couldn't Spout His Own Verse.

The visit of John Masfield, poet and soldier, to Washington recently attracted the attention of scores of people who crowded through his headquarters of the sea and other stories in verse form.

The auditorium was packed by the hundreds who came to see what a live poet looked like. The national poet, Masfield, who claims to be a simple, frank, good-natured fellow who had all the earmarks of a successful young business man.

So this time they wondered what Masfield would be like. Would he spout his own verse, or would he recite the poetry of other poets? He was scheduled to read his poems.

Masfield talked about the war. He had been through it, and talked from personal experience. He said several words concerning his poems.

At the conclusion of his talk some one insisted that he give them several of his poems.

"I'll have to have a copy," he said, simply.

Finally, after much search through the audience, one lone copy of the book needed was found.

Canadian Fisheries Had Record Year.

Owing to the greatly increased demand for fish and the higher prices, Canadian fisheries for the last fiscal year constituted a record. It amounted to \$39,208,375, according to the annual report of the fisheries branch, issued recently. This was \$3,347,670 greater than the value for the previous year.

The total value of the sea fisheries contributed \$44,380,013, and the inland fisheries, \$4,823,363. The British Columbia catch headed the list, with a value of \$14,637,946, the figures for the rest being: Nova Scotia, \$10,092,292; New Brunswick, \$3,656,839; Quebec, \$2,991,824; Ontario, \$2,658,983; Manitoba, \$1,244,170; Saskatchewan, \$231,946; Alberta, \$144,317, and Yukon, \$90,210.

As usual, the salmon catch was more valuable than any other, amounting to \$10,882,421. Lobsters contributed to the value of \$5,508,054; cod, \$4,490,064; herring, \$3,050,421, and halibut, \$2,263,573.—Fishing Gazette.

Optimistic Thoughts.

Recollection affords the purest of enjoyments.

EASY MONEY

FARMERS - WOMEN - CHILDREN - Gash - Home - Bank - for Medicines

When You Think Flags

Think of Factory Price