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"Jack," Hazel pleaded, "don't take that tone with me. I can't stand it-J won't. I'm not a little child to be scolded and browbeaten. This morning when you telephoned you were almest insulting, and it hurt me dreadfully. You're angry now, and suspicious. You seem to think I must have done some dreadful thing. I know what you're thinking. The Gazette ining me. If that didn't make me an- "Oh, oh!" she gasped. "I hate you—

of. I've got nothing to conceal." know whatever there is to know if lie staring, wide-eyed, into the dark, I'm going to marry you. You don't every nerve in her body taut, her mind seem to have any idea what this sort abnormally active. Grief and anger

Her heart pounded sickeningly, and hurt pride and rising anger choked her for an instant. But she managed to speak calmly, perhaps with added calmness by reason of the struggle she was compelled to make for self-

We are able to meet your need know all there is to know. Have I - refused to explain? I haven't had foolishly care for you."

explaining these things."

jumped at the chance." "Jack!" she protested. ing but my hands and my brain. But them in a drawer, dressed herself, and

suppose you did refuse him. How does went down to breakfast. She was foo that account for the five thousand dol- deeply engrossed in her own troubles "I think," Hazel flung back passion- change was becoming manifest in the ately, "I'll let you find that out for attitude of her fellow boarders. The yourself. You've said enough now to worst, she felt sure, had already over

make me hate you almost. Your very taken her. manner's an insult." Barrow retorted stormily. Then he a package of Barrow's ring and a few cut his sentence in two, and glared at other trinkets which he had given her. her. The twin devils of jealousy and This she addressed to his office and distrust were riding him hard, and it posted while on her way to work. flashed over Hazel that in his mind She got through the day somehow, she was prejudged, and that her ex-struggling against thoughts that would her arms around Hazel, "There,

add fuel to the flame. What did it matter, anyway? She was knew, was her only salvation. than useless to explain.

glance, he had disappeared.

gested her when she opened it: "Package for Miss Hazel Weir."

fore over trifles, too. She meded none to understand.

on he finger drew her gaze. She you're not afraid of work."

of Toronto, has got out a new face in the silver frame smiled up at shaded bench beside the lake. People going to take a furnished cottage for a chance at one or two-she found in both too young to help or the silver frame smiled up at shaded bench beside the lake. map of the County of Halton, 16x24 her. She stared at the picture for one passed and repassed—couples, young a while. Though, between you and me, the Manitoba paper, but centering her that they would soon be to alone. kind before.

## MAGIC Contains no alum

Bertrand W. Sinclair hinted at some 'affair' between me and sweep of her hand, dashed it on the better, and each day would have With Mr. Bush; that possibly that was a floor, and stamped it shapeless with seemed less hard. But there was no Regular. Champion sort of left-handed reparation for ru- her slippered heel.

gry, it would amuse me—it's so absurd. I hate you! I despise you!" Haven't you any faith in me at all? I And then she flung herself across haven't done anything to be ashamed the bed and sobbed hysterically into "Don't conceal it, then," Barrow Through the night Hazel dozed fitmuttered sulkily. "I've got a right to fully, waking out of uneasy sleep to

of talk that's going around means to Hazel stopped short and faced him.

"If you are going to marry me," she repeated, "you have got a right to much chance to explain yet. Have I refused to tell you anything? Would any reasonable explanation make an impression on you in your present frame of mind. I don't want to marry you if you can't trust me. Why, I couldn't-I wouldn't-marry you any time, or any place, under those conditions, no matter how much I may

"There's just one thing, Hazel," Barrow persisted stubbernly. "There must Flung Herself Across the Bed and tated herself bodily upon Hazel. Bush. You're not helping yourself by getting on your dignity and talking by turns mastered her, and at day- cried. about my not trusting you, instead of break she rose, heavy-lidded and phys-

quietly, "Mr. Bush asked me to marry alighted was the crumpled photo in its talk our heads off. him. I refused, of course. He-"

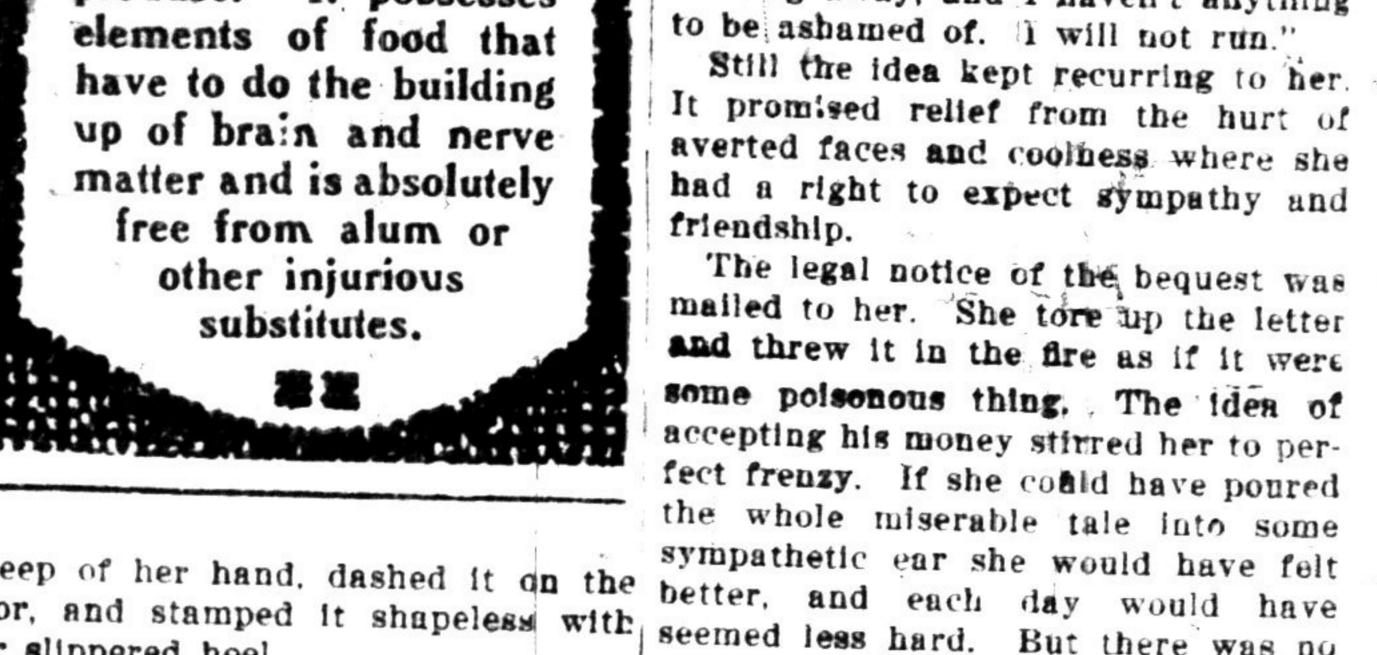
cynically. "Most girls would have sudden fury in which she had de-"Well," Barrow defended, "he was She gathered up the bits of broken The Champion Job Dept. almost a millionaire, and I've got noth- glass and the bent frame, and put

"If you don't like my manner-" that time she devoted to making up

two blocks, she stole a backward macy with any of them during her stay last two weeks you'd sing a different She returned to the boarding house. little after the first supersensitiveness "I hate-I-" The parlor door stood wide, and the wore off. But her own friends, girls curious, quickly averted glance of a with whom she had played in the pina dulged in the luxury of turning herself girl she knew sent her quivering up to fore-and-pigtail stages of her youth, her room. There was only one cheer- young men who had paid court to her ful gleam. She loved Jack Barrow. until Jack Barrow monopolized her-She believed that he loved her, and she did not know how they stood. She she could not believe—she could not had seen none of them since Bush the park down to that evening. conceive him capable of keeping launched his last bolt. Barrow she aloof; obdurate and unforgiving, once had passed on the street just once, and e got out of the black mood he was in. when he lifted his hat distantly, she She was still sitting by the window, looked straight ahead, and watching the yellow crimson of the him. Whether she hurt him as much

toor. A uniformed messenger boy would be hard to say. She signed the delivery sheet. The not one of all her friends had dropped address on the package was in Jack's in, Hazel twisted her chair so that she by you, knowing you as they did; yet remained in the bottom of her trunk hadwriting. A box of chocolates, could stare at the image of herself in or some little peace offering, maybe, the mirror. That was like Jack when he was sorry "You're in a fair way to become a when there's a man in the case. That's visit, she found herself itching to turn

inches, exclusive of border. It is print- long minte fixedly, with unchanging sters, old people, children. It made dear, knowing people as I do, I can't hopes on the country west of the mother died believe and the mother died ed in colors, and metaled at top and expression and suddenly she swept her lonely beyond measure. She had blame you for wanting to be where Rockies. Her savings in the bank lance could be summo.





Sobbed Hysterically Into a Pillow.

ically weary. "A short time ago," Hazel told him The first thing upon which her gaze up to your room, dear, where we can page she found a diminutive sketch "What a country!" she whispered. shattered frame; and, sitting on the "You refused!" Barrow interrupted side of her bed, she laughed at the

> stroyed it; but there was no mirth in her laughter. to notice or care whether any subtle

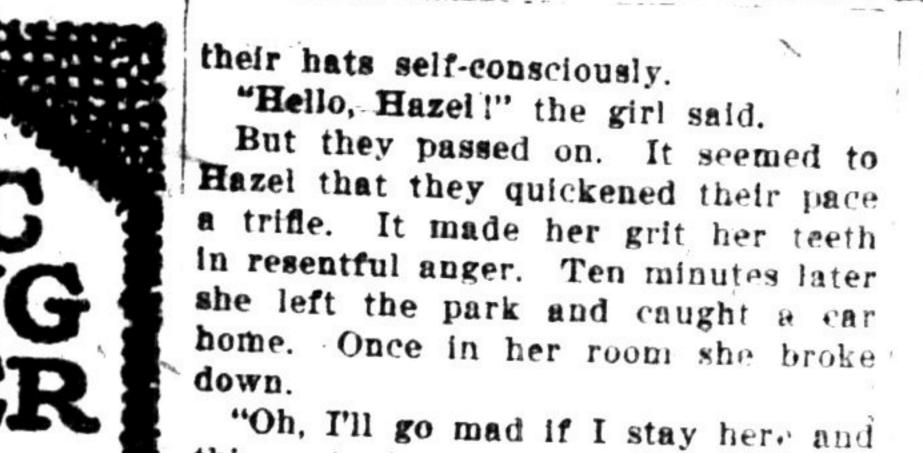
She had a little time to spare, and

planation, if she made it, would only persist in creeping into her mind and stirring up emotions that she was de-She turned abruptly and left him. termined to hold in check. Work, she too proud to plead, and it was worse And so she got through the week. always meaner than a man, dear—just

Even so, womanlike, she listened, ex- home, dreading Sunday's idleness, with how things were going- with you. up behind. She could not imagine him Stout's establishment, she plainly cent fellows—and you've got one comletting her go like that. But he did saw, were growing a trifle shy of her. ing." not come, and when, at a distance of She had never been on terms of inti- "If you'd had my experience of the Then She Turned to the "Help Want. Briggs, as Hazel discovered when she there, hence their attitude troubled tune," Hazel vehemently declared.

maset, when someone rapped at her as she did herself by the cut direct When Sunday noon arrived, and the phone had failed to call her once, and

for anything. They had quarreled be- pariah, it seems," she said bitterly a weakness of our sex, dear. Well, her back on Granville and its unpleas-"What have you done, I wonder, that you aren't working. Come and stay ant associations. She did not attempt The sparkle of the small diamond ence? You've got two good hands, and you, but I think I'm just about ready her suffer most.



this sort of thing goes on!" she cried We unhesitatingly realoud. "Why? What's to keep me commend Magic Baking here? I can make my living any-Powder as being the best and purest baking powder possible to "I won't run away. That would be running away, and I haven't anything produce. It possesses to be ashamed of. I will not run." It promised relief from the hurt of averted faces and coolness where she

> The legal notice of the bequest was mailed to her. She tore up the letter and threw it in the fire as if it were some poisonous thing. The idea of accepting his money stirred her to perfect frenzy. If she could have poured the whole miserable tale into some

friendship.

such ear. Her friends kept away. Saturday of the second week her pay envelope contained a brief notice that the firm no longer required her services. There was no explanation, only perfunctory\_regrets; and, truth to tell, Hazel cared little to know the real cause. Any one of a number reasons might have been sufficient.

A sudden thought struck her.

"Why should I stay here?" she said

"But, no," she asserted passionately,

Still the idea kept recurring to her.

But she realized how those who knew her would take it, what cause they but could not be so bad as what had al. her independence and rose to go. her thinking again.

an assorted lot of Western papers noon. By-by." arm, she turned into the boarding ville and making her home elsewhere less sky, that attracted her. rushed out of the parlor, and precipi came her way.

"Kitty Ryan! Where in the wide, ing room light-heartedly, and when the told her that she would have to stage

wide world did you come from?" Hazel meal was finished came back and fell it a hundred and sixty-five miles north where," Miss Ryan replied. "Take me World. In a real-estate man's half- Meadows.

pleased to have you address me as on the far Pacific. herself in a chair in Hazel's room. "So you're married?" Hazel said. "I am that," Mrs. Kitty responded Wanted" advertisements. And down one not even Kitty-until, like a emphatically, "to the best boy that ever drew breath. And so should you be, dear girl. I don't see how you've escaped so long-a good-looking girl like you. The boys were always crazy

after you. There's nothing like having a good man to take care of you, "Heaven save me from them!" Hazel answered bitterly. "If you've got one you're lucky. I can't see them as anything but self-centered, arrogant,

treacherous brutes." "Lord bless us-it's worse than I there-don't waste a tear on them. know all about it. I came over to see you just as soon as some of the girlsnasty little cats they are; a woman's Saturday evening came, and she went as soon as they gave me an inkling of pecting to hear Jack's step hurrying its memories. The people at Mrs. Pshaw! The world's full of good, de-

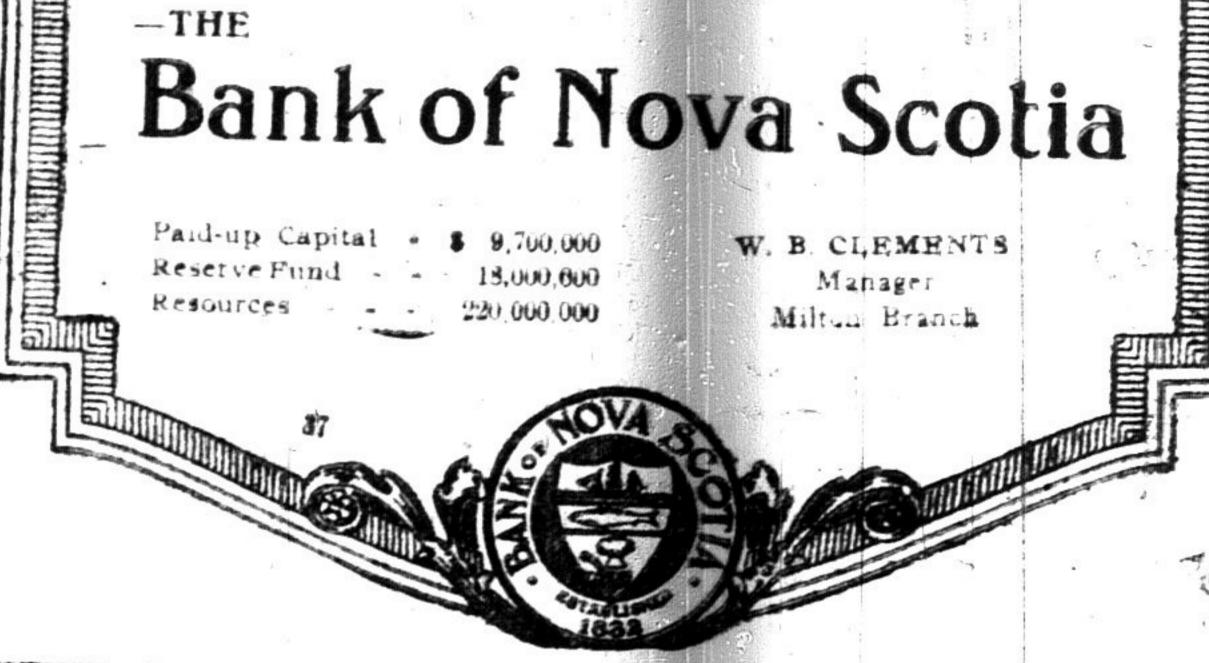
And then she gave way, and inloose on Kitty's shoulder. Presently the province. she was able to wipe her eyes and relate the whole story from the Sunday

you see they were ready to think the ever since. worst of you. They nearly always do Unaccountably, since Kitty Brooks'

to go away from Granville." worked his ring over the knuckle, and She walked out to Granville park "Well, come and stop with us till oughly over the papers and writing milk. NEW MAP OF HALTON.—The Map dropped it on the dresser, where the after luncheon, and found a seat on a you do go," Kitty insisted. "We are letters to various school boards, taking Amidst it all two child. - I played.

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But mazel was obdurate. She would plies to her letters of inquiry. The herself on the one friend fact that each and every one seemed would ascribe. It did not matter, she had left. And kitty, after a short bent on securing her services astonthough. The very worst, she reasoned, talk, berated her affectionately for ished her.

a position was a trifle. But it set stop to think that it was near teatime, forth the natural beauty of the counbut came straight here Jimmie'll try as much as he did the advantages She stopped at a news stand and think I've eloped. So ta-ta. I'll come of the position. The thing that perbought the evening papers. Up in the out tomorrow about two leb - to haps made the strongest appeal to Hatop rack of the stand the big heads of confab with a house agent in the rote zel was a little kodak print inclosed caught her eye. She bought two or Hazel sat down and actually smiled The building itself was primitive three on the impulse of the moment, when Kitty was gone. Somehow a enough, of logs, with a pole-and-sod

So that Hazel went down to the din- a purely local name. But the letter

"From the United States and every. the Western papers was a Vancouver would meet her and drive her to the plan of the city on the shores of Bur- "It's wild; really, truly wild; and ev-"And, furthermore. Hazie, I'll be rard inlet, Canada's principal outpost erything I've ever seen has been tamed and smoothed down, and made Mrs. Brooks, my dear young woman," "It's quite a big place," she mur- eminently respectable and conventhe plump lady laughed, as she settled mured absently. "One would be far tional long ago. That's the place. enough away there, goodness knows." That's where I'm going and I'm going Then she turned to the "Help it blind. I'm not going to tell any.

> bottom of the column she bear, I've gone over the mountain to see what I can see." Within an hour of that Miss Hezel Weir had written to accept the terms offered by the Cariboo Meadows school district, and was busily packing her



ed" Advertisements. happened on an inquiry for a school- decidedly monosyllabic. But he could

"Now, that-" Hazel thought. She had a second-class certificate "Schoolhouse's over yonder." Briggs Mr. Bush stopped and spoke to her in tucked away among her belongings, pointed out the place—an unnecessary Originally it had been her intention to guidance, for Hazel had already Kitty nodded understandingly. "But | teach, and she had done so one term marked the building set off by itself the girls have handed it to you worse in a backwoods school when she was and fortified with a tall flagpole. "And than the men, Hazel," she observed eighteen. With the ending of the term here's where we live. Kinda out uh sagely. "Jack Barrow was just plain she had returned to Granville, studied the world, but blame good place to crazy jealous, and a man like that that winter, and got her second cer- live." can't help acting as he did. You're tificate; but at the same time she had Hazel did like the place. Her first really fortunate. I think, because you'd taken a business-college course, and impression was thankfulness that her not be really happy with a man like the following June found her clack- lot had been cast in such a spot. But that. But the girls that you and I ing a typewriter at nine dollars a it was largely because of the surroundgrew up with—they should have stood week. And her teacher's diploma had ings, essentially primitive, the clean

She opened it hastily. A swift heart- you've lost your lover, and that Alice with me. Hubby's got a two-year con- to analyze the feeling. Strange lands, Free Hospital for Consumptives dissinking followed. In the small card- and May and Horicose and all the rest tract with the World Advertising com- and most of all, the West, held alluring covered a particularly sad case. board box rested a folded scarf, and of them keep away from you? Noth pany. We'll be located here that long promise. One thing was certain: On a dingy street, in a hovel thrus in it a small gold stickpin- ing-not a thing-except that your at least. Come and stay with us." Granville, for all she had been born which they called 'home' the mly thing she had ever given looks attracted a man, and the man "Oh, no, I couldn't think of that, there, and grown to womanhood there, a mother dying of consumption. Jack Barrow. There was no message, threw stones when he couldn't have Kitty!" Hazel faltered. "You know was now no place for her. The very The house was in a hilling conhis way. Oh, well, what's the differ I'd love to, and it's awfully good of people who knew her best would make dition, soiled garments, why ashed She spent that evening going thor-

never been isolated among her own their nasty tongues can't wound you." amounted to three hundred odd dol-

But the reply from Cariboo Meadready happened—could be no more dis- "For." said she, "I didn't get hold of ows, B. C., the first place she had agreeable than the things she had en. this thing till Addie Horton called at thought of, decided her. The member dured in the past two weeks. Losing the hotel this afternoon, and I didn't of the school board who replied held in the letter, showing the schoolhouse.

without any definite purpose except grievous burden had fallen off her roof. But it was the huge backto look them over out of mere curi mind. Likewise by some psycholog- ground, the timbered mountains rising osity. With these tucked under her lead quirk, the idea of leaving Gran to snowclad heights against a cloudhouse gate, ran up the steps, and, upon no longer struck her as running away. She sat for a long time looking at opening the door, her ears were glad under fire. She few that she could the picture, thinking. Here was the dened by the first friendly voice she adventure forth among strangers in concrete, visible presentment of somehad heard—it seemed to her-in ages, a strange country with a better heart, thing that drew her strongly. She a voice withal that she had least ex. knowing that Kitty Brooks would put found an atlas, and looked up Caripected to hear. A short, plump woman a swift quietus on any gossip that boo Meadows on the map. It was not to be found, and Hazel judged it to be

to reading her papers. The first of from Ashcroft, B. C., where the writer

### CHAPTER IV.

Cariboo Meadows. tall man, sunburned, slow-speakmet Hazel at Soda Creek, the end her stage journey, introducing himself as Jim Briggs. "Pretty tiresome trip, ain't it?" he observed. "You'll have a chance to rest decent tonight, and I got a team uh bays that'll yank yuh to the Meadows in four hours 'n' a half. My wife'll be plumb tickled to have yuh. They ain't much more'n half a dazen white women in ten miles uh the Meadows. We keep a boardin' house. Hope you'll

like the country." That was a lengthy speech for Jim rolled out of Soda Creek behind the "team uh bays." His conversation was Hazel found herself at Cariboo Mead-

TO BE CONTINUED WHAT A NURSE FOUND.