

The Free Press Short Story

A MATTER OF RAY

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"Do," announced Willis Coleman, turning toward the outer door. "But, Mr. Coleman," color flooded up to John Delabar's fair hair as he protested the decision, despite the meekly in his employer's tones, and the sudden chiding of his blue eyes—"I can't understand why—" "You do not even collect all the pay of your job—as it is," interrupted Mr. Coleman, stepping out and allowing the wind to slam the door for an effective period to the sentence. John, after a long minute at the office window, walked slowly forward passing Henrietta Crane, who was leisurely fingering a typewriter. He intended to ignore her, but the young lady stopped the form letter she knew by heart and halted him with, "Congratulations in order, John?" "No," snapped the boy, his gray eyes hot. He considered the mischief in the girl's face and voice to be entirely out of place. "That man has a double padlock on his money drawer. My long service, my knowledge of stock, my—"

opened package she had with her. "What have you been doing with your flower seed stock? I thought I misad some." "Our stock?" teased the girl. John did not often use that pronoun with reference to the business. "It is. I've been out getting acquainted with farmers' wives and selling them seeds." "It's a shame, then," he returned ponderously, "you expect me to take out the hardware stock to-morrow and show it to the farmers." "Not at all, Mr. Chairman," Henrietta eyed him with mock gravity. "It isn't necessary. I told the farmers of the fine assortment of tools we had on exhibition." She peered toward the doorway recesses of a back room where tools were kept until called for. "Now I must get out my mail." John hung around, licked her stamps for her, and growled. He stayed after she left, and for the first time in history he was there when she arrived in the morning, watching from the back of the store, the effect on her of the show-window display of tools that had blossomed so effectively over night. There was another display inside. John snarled forward, casually, as she drifted backward, staring right and left. They bumped. "Did you stay here all night?" inquired Henrietta sweetly; then she gave him a full frank glance of appreciation that melted again into mischief. "Race you, on sales. I'll get up a counter that no woman can pass without opening her purse." Her prophecy proved nearly correct. Incidentally she spurred John to declare that not a man should get away, either. Whereas a natural rivalry in sales began; with added deposits going into the local bank. Mr. Green, the banker, actually stopped in to ask about it. On Saturday, John set out their individual wages. He stared at his own bill; then he glanced at the girl's, and met her dancing eyes. Both laughed freely, unrestrainedly, for they had forgotten the pay question. "Here," grinned John. "I increase your salary to five times its bulk." He snatched back the three five dollar bills, and substituted fifteen ones. "You decide," he turned on John. "Go to Mr. Coleman's house. Get the packed bag that is ready and take it to the station. It'll be there for the three-forty."

be going right, here. They look sort of upset. Those seed shelves are not kept up. Where—" "Bold by Henrietta," grinned John, winking at that young lady and explaining in full when the girl sought relief in answering a telephone call. "Hi!" commented Mr. Coleman, which was not constructive. "What have you done with that new tractor I had on exhibition?" "Sold by John," Henrietta laughed musically, as she returned. "Mr. Jamison said you did not wait, John, to make sure he had bought it. He'll drop in later to settle, and to stock up with things needed." "Jamison?" echoed Mr. Coleman, with interest. Henrietta explained. "Hi!" commented their employer, "Suppose you tell me the whole story." By closing time the frequently interrupted tale was completed, and John took the girl home. Mr. Coleman had laughed and asked questions, but had been prevented from final comment by the appearance of Jamison. "Probably another," chuckled John, "the world simply have said—" "Hi!" completed Henrietta. "But it's been fun, anyhow." On the way to the store, next morning, John was hailed by James Creel, and waved to the curb by his long arm. James owned the local mill. "John," he said, "I'm building up the retail part of my trade, and I need a live young man to manage it. Will you take the job?" Two weeks earlier John would have hugged him. Now to his own utter astonishment he found himself saying "That's mighty fine of you Mr. Creel, but I'm well placed as it is."

SOBE LOVE, SOBE HONEY Love and Honey came into the life of Harry Somerfeld but, apparently, he objected to their manner of arrival. Elmer Love and Haycraft Honey were in Love's car when it collided with Somerfeld's. All three men alighted. "Love," testified Somerfeld, "hit me in the jaw, and Honey kicked me."

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DOMINION OF CANADA Income Tax Returns Due April 30th All persons residing, employed or carrying on business in Canada, are liable to a tax on income, subject to the following exemptions: (a) \$3,000 in the case of a married person or householder, or any other person who has dependent upon him any of the following persons: (i) a parent or grandparent; (ii) a daughter or sister; (iii) a son or brother under 21 years of age or incapable of self-support on account of mental or physical infirmity. (b) \$1,500 in the case of other persons. (c) \$500 for each child under 21 years of age who is dependent upon the taxpayer for support, or if 21 years of age or over, is incapable of self-support on account of mental or physical infirmity. (d) \$500 for each parent, grandparent, brother or sister, incapable of self-support on account of mental or physical infirmity, who is dependent upon the taxpayer for support (unless otherwise provided for in the Act). (e) \$2,000 for corporations. NOTE—Where the husband and wife each have a separate income in excess of \$1,500, then each shall receive, not \$3,000 exemption, but \$1,500 exemption. THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT FORMS AS FOLLOWS: Form T1 For Individuals other than Farmers and Ranchers. Form T1A For Farmers and Ranchers only. Form T2 For Corporations and Joint Stock Companies. RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30th, 1931, REPORTING INCOME FOR 1930 Failure to file return renders the taxpayer liable to a penalty of five per centum of the amount of the tax payable with a maximum penalty of \$500.00. Checks must be made payable to the Receiver General of Canada, and must have been previously accepted and marked by the bank on which drawn. Taxpayers are warned not to send bills or loose change in envelopes. Always use Checks, Express Orders, Bank Money Orders, Postal Notes, Postal Money Orders, etc. As this notice will not appear again, taxpayers will accept this as a final warning. File your returns at once and avoid penalties. The Department of National Revenue Income Tax-Division OTTAWA HON. E. B. RYCKMAN, K.C., Minister of National Revenue C. S. WALTERS, Commissioner of Income Tax

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