

The Free Press Short Story

THE FATAL SPARK

By Dorothy Arno Baldwin

As the strong wind sweeping through the river channel caught his canoe and swung it out of the rushing current...

It was a heart-breaking business, this creeping at a snail's pace after the fiery monster that leaped and raced, licking up the timber with terrible speed...

The north woods had always held a great attraction for Bob. Every summer since early boyhood he had camped and tramped in the Maine forests and fished in the innumerable lakes and streams...

Now it was being stripped in far more thorough fashion because the boy himself had neglected to carry just one more essential item...

As Bob poled around the last bend that lay between him and the fire, his worst fears were confirmed. Driven by the fitful wind, the flames had spread in both directions from his camp fire...

Benching his canoe and setting his ax, Bob plunged into the woods and tore his way through a place where he might head off the fire. A crew was already fighting it, having come in from the lake, and Bob took his place among them...

"If the Dexter Lumber Company ever get hold of the feller that started that, there'll be something done!" remarked one of Bob's black visaged companions...

The remark struck like a blow on Bob's consciousness. Throughout the desperate battle against the flames, the sense of his personal loss, and the realization of the physical anguish brought upon the wild creatures whose home was in that area had driven out all other thought...

Now, for the first time, the young fellow thought of the material loss, the loss in dollars and cents. By the state law, whoever was responsible for starting a forest fire, must pay in full the owner of the land for everything destroyed...

the mouth of the winding stream, and river and the pursuers were almost immediately lost to sight.

Quickly making shore, Bob shouldered his canoe and concealed it in the woods well back from the stream. Then, keeping a sharp lookout to guard against surprise, he scrubbed the soot from his face...

As time passed, the tension relaxed, but there was no peace for Bob in the forest where always before he had found it. He had betrayed his best friend. He was an alien, there where he had before been most at home...

The word came to him with a shock. That was what he was, that was what the hours slipped by, Bob sat immovably on the margin of the stream, seeing nothing, hearing nothing. The sun set; stars glimmered in the tree bordered lane...

A few days later, his long journey to the settlements over at last, the boy stepped into the lumber company's office and asked for Mr. Dexter. His son was in the office, and Bob saw, without consciously noting it, that the latter's hair had been scored about his forehead.

"I set the fire at Clark's Carry, Mr. Dexter; that is, it spread from my camp fire," Bob began abruptly as soon as he was in the presence of the big man. "Here is my personal check, which represents my entire bank account. It is not enough to cover the value of that timber, but I will give you the rest if it takes my lifetime to earn it."

"I know that," said Bob, simply. "I've been carrying it, too, until now, and I tell you it meant something to me. I love every inch of this wilderness."

Mr. Dexter nodded. "So do we," he said earnestly, then smiled at the look on Bob's face. "I know what you're thinking. You've taken it for granted that because we are a lumber company, our affection for the woods goes only as far as our pocket-books, and that we shall ruin the future usefulness and beauty of every spot we touch. On the contrary, my son and I shall spare no pains to protect the natural beauty of the country wherever we operate, and so to carry on the work as to improve, rather than despoil the forests. We were talking, as you came in, of the chances for reforesting the burned district. By the way, you're a trained forester, I understand, and the man for us, I should say, from all I have been able to learn of you. Will you undertake supervision of the work?"

"Well, then," as Bob gave his eager assent, "let's tear up this check and get down to business."

A WIZARD IN GLASS Travellers come many miles to see the glass flowers in the Peabody Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They are worth going far to see since it is admitted that they are the most wonderful and beautiful flowers in glass ever seen, and are not likely to be duplicated. Almost if not equally as remarkable, are the reproductions of the curious marine flowers made by Mr. Herman Mueller, who works entirely for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. These flowers are formed around the pillars supporting old wharf piles and grow without soil of any kind. Mr. Mueller's skill in reproducing them in glass gives him the distinction of being one of the most remarkable glass blowers in the world. He can take a bit of organism, no larger than the eye of a needle and reproduce it in a much larger size. This he does with no instrument or help of any kind but a brass tube about three-fourths of an inch long into which a smaller tube is inserted. The larger tube supplies the gas for the blast lamp while the smaller one supplies the air.

FILING UP THE EVIDENCE Hammond—Why does Mrs. Meekly continue to live with her husband when she beats her so often? Cabagago—She wants a divorce, and her lawyer has advised her to get as many beatings to her credit as possible before going to court.

BLISTER-BEETLE-OUTBREAKS MEN-ACES GARDEN CROPS Injurious attacks by blister beetles on garden and house plants have been reported during the second and third week of July in Montreal, Quebec, Winchester, Berwick, Vanleek Hill, Monkland, Hurndon's Bridge and Fort Francis, Ontario, according to the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

There are several species of blister beetles. In general they are soft-bodied, smooth-backed, narrow, elongated beetles from about 7/8 to an inch in length, with distinct heads.

The most common species causing injury in eastern Canada this year are gray, grayish-black or black in color. These beetles are widely distributed throughout Canada and the United States east of the Rock Mountains. They occur at irregular intervals in sudden swarms sometimes in great abundance. They eat a variety of plants including potatoes, beans (particularly the blossoms), tomatoes, carnage, mangold, cabbage, corn, onions and garden flowers. They also feed on pigweed, ragweed and meadow-rue. The beetles usually become abundant during the month of July. The eggs are deposited in the ground in the late summer or fall by the females, in the clusters of from 80 to over 100. They hatch in two or three weeks. The larvae feed on grasshopper eggs, in this way they are beneficial.

As the adult beetles are very active they are somewhat difficult to control. Paris green or arsenate of lead have been found to be effective against this pest and if the infestation is severe it may be necessary to repeat the spray as the insects which are killed are soon replaced by others flying in from outside. Paris green should be used at the rate of 1/4 pound to 40 gallons of water adding 1/2 pound of fresh lime to prevent foliage injury. Arsenate of lead is best used at the rate of 1 1/2 to 2 pounds to 40 gallons of water.

The poison should not be used in the control upon plants such as beans with edible parts exposed. In this case a pyrethrum spray should be substituted. This is made with 1 1/2 ounces of pyrethrum powder in a gallon of water which when used as a spray would probably kill the insects without injuring the human beings who might consume the sprayed products.

For small gardens many of the insects can be destroyed by beating them from the plants into a pan containing water with a little coal oil on the surface. It is interesting to note that most blister beetles contain a substance known as cantharidin which has the property of blistering the skin, hence the name blister beetle. The Spanish-fly of commerce consists of the dried bodies of certain species of blister beetles.

FREEZING HELPS EXPORT New Zealand and Australia may yet become strong competitors with Canada in the bacon trade. During the past few years those countries have been sending forward to the Motherland increasing quantities of pork. Various methods of preserving the meat have been tried, but the only successful one seems to be that of freezing, which according to a recent report of the Empire Marketing Board, does not injure the product for the making of bacon.

Attempts have been made to send over mild cured bacon in the green condition. This however, according to the report, has proved unsatisfactory unless transported in the frozen condition about 14 degrees F. Even at this low temperature, spoilage occurred by the fat developing a rancid condition even when the storage lasted only six weeks. This, it is explained, is due to the fact that the fat of bacon continues to take up oxygen even when frozen. In the experimental shipments that were made it was found that the fat of smoked bacon keeps better than un-smoked, but rancidity develops even in smoked bacon after it has been stored for nine weeks at 14 degrees F. The conclusion has therefore been reached and is recorded by the Empire Marketing Board, that the transport of mild cured green bacon in frozen condition from Australia and New Zealand cannot be carried out satisfactorily by ordinary commercial methods.

Worm Exterminator is acceptable to children, and it does its work surely and promptly.

WHEN BARLEY SAVES MONEY IN FEEDING BEEF STEERS When the price of barley is equal to or lower than the cost of a good meal mixture it is economical to feed to beef steers, according to studies carried out by the Dominion Experimental Station at Lennoxville, Quebec.

The results obtained at Lennoxville during the past four years show that the gains in beef cattle fed a grain mixture as compared with a similar lot fed barley as the principal grain, made practically the same gains, but that with barley at 1931 prices a saving of 3/4 of a cent per pound was effected.

With barley as the principal feed the ration per steer was 12 pounds of hay and 20 pounds of oats-peas-vetch ensilage per day with a grain feeding at the rate of 4 pounds per head from January 1 increased by 1 pound per day as from the first of each following month until the end of the feeding season, in May.

IMPRESSING THE BOSS "Boss—Charles, you wear a very old-fashioned coat in the office."

"Olek—Yes, it is out of date. I bought it the last time I got a raise."

Friday—Ant Emmy is threatening to run for Lejalachure next Fall once she dissents no what kind of a debate or Platform to run on. Pa suggested that she promise to Repel the on-written Law and now she is all Enthusiastic about it.

Saturday—Pa was tasked in to betting a \$ on a Horse race to-day. Mr. Gillem told him to Bet on Mary Ellen because she was such a nice horse to bet on and so Pa put a \$ on Mary Ellen. Pa was right becuz Mary Ellen is a very nice horse once she is to Nice becuz she Walked Home the way it looks to him.

Sunday—well I gess Hard Luck is follering us kids all rite becuz I herd the superintendent of skool tell pa this after noon that the Taxers munny had been coming in pretty good and they was a going to be able to start on Time this fall.

Tuesday—well Clem Mullen went and tuk a Civil service Examination a few weeks ago. he got a good grade in Algebe and Botany and histry and public speaking so now he has ben give a Job running a steam shulte on a big Dam sum wear.

Wednesday—Pa has disided that they must of played bridge sevral 1000 yrs ago becuz he seen a picture of a lot of stuff took out of a Egiphtan Tomb and he says they must of bridged prizes becuz nobuddy coupd find no use for them.

SEE SIGNS OF INCREASE IN CATTLE PRODUCTION Certain conclusions may be arrived at from a study of the cattle data presented in the twelfth annual report on the Origin and Quality of Commercial Live Stock Marketed in Canada in 1931, issued by the Dominion Live Stock Branch.

Intentions to increase production are indicated, not so much in the fact that store cattle purchases were some 10,000 more than in the previous year and the heaviest since 1928, but more because of a very marked curtailment to the liquidation of cows and heifers. Despite an increase sale over the previous year of some 23,400 cattle of all kinds, there was a decrease in the number of cows and heifers of 33,655 head or of approximately six per cent.

A RETAINER A father and his little boy were having a discussion on legal matters. "What is a retaining fee?" asked the boy.

The father replied: "A retaining fee is a fee paid to a lawyer before he will undertake to do any work for a client."

"Oh!" replied the boy; "like putting a shilling in a meter before you get any gas."

kind of trip to be made, whether one-requiring much-effort and experience, or one quite free from rapid transport, the canoeist has only to select his route.

Easy of Access Although railways and the automobile have provided a means of rapid transport, there are countless places in the quiet of the forest, out of reach of either. It is such places, approachable only by canoe, that invite the adventurer to partake of the wonders of nature. The railways and the development of good roads have, however made the majority of canoe routes in Canada easily accessible, and one need not travel far from the majority of Canadian cities before reaching the embarkment point of an enjoyable trip.

SLATS DIARY BY BOSS PARQUAR Friday—Ant Emmy is threatening to run for Lejalachure next Fall once she dissents no what kind of a debate or Platform to run on. Pa suggested that she promise to Repel the on-written Law and now she is all Enthusiastic about it.

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TAKE A CHANCE, LADY "In my view, all the nicest men are married already."

"Don't talk nonsense, my dear. There are as good fish in the sea as ever come out of it."

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why not get the best?

YOU are always sure of Kellogg's Corn Flakes. For 25 years Kellogg's have been the standard of quality.

Kellogg's Corn Flakes are made in modern, sanitary plants... always open to inspection by visitors. Kellogg's have the finest materials, expert workers; and wonderful machinery it has taken years to perfect. Plus a patented sealed WAX-TITE bag that brings the flakes oven-fresh to your table!

Guaranteed by W. K. Kellogg: "If you do not consider them the finest and freshest corn flakes you ever ate, return the red-and-green package and we will refund your money." Made by Kellogg in London, Ontario.



Canoe Trips in Canada

Lakes and Rivers Provide Numerous Attractions

Opportunities for an Enjoyable Vacation Almost Unlimited

amid the constant change of beautiful scenery. Fish and Game in Abundance Canadian lakes and rivers are renowned for the variety and abundance of their fish. Brook and lake trout are numerous, the latter often weighing from fifteen to thirty pounds while other species of fish are plentiful. Eastern Canada is well provided with waterways, well suited to travel by canoe. Canal systems, rivers—large and small, rapids, falls, lakes, stillwaters and all the requirements for an enjoyable canoe trip, await the devotee of the paddle. Whether it be a cruise through a well settled region, or an adventurous journey through the wilderness, the canoeist will find an almost unlimited number of lakes and streams.

The waterways of western Canada, in days gone by, suggested materially in unveiling the mystery of the great country between lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean. Radiating from lake Winnipeg, are routes of romantic interest. Nestling among the mountains of the coast are many beautiful lakes, also streams that wind through the hills, where sport for the angler and hunter may be found.



HERE IS YOUR INVITATION CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION TORONTO AUG. 26th SEPT. 10th 1937

See the Show Window of the Nations, mingle with the two million delighted visitors, seize the spirit that grips and thrills, experience the enthusiasm that permeates this gorgeous 350-acre lake-side park and its scores of permanent and costly exhibition edifices.

"Greatest of 'em'—'em', 'em' Great Britain's finest brass band and thirty other leading military and concert organizations; four appearances of internationally famous 2000-Voice Exhibition Chorus; Kaye Don with 'Miss England III'; 'The Triumph' 1932 inspiring Exposition pageant; Olympic athletes from this year's games; Seventh Marathon Swim for world championship; two Art Galleries; all branches of Agriculture; Engineering...

What programs, entertainment, education, recreation. To avoid disappointment and inconvenience in management have arranged to accept advance reservations for Grandstand Seats for THE TRIUMPH, every morning between Saturday Aug. 27 and for only \$2.00 per seat. Exhibition Chorus concerts, Aug. 27, Sept. 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, Sept. 10.

GRANDSTAND RESERVED SEATS: 50c and \$1.00—Box Seats \$1.50 each (5 chairs in each box) 2000-VOICE EXHIBITION CHORUS Grandstand reserved 75c. \$1.00 for Box Seats. Send cheque or money order without delay to Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto.

WILLIAM INGLIS H. W. WATERMAN President General Manager

Free Information The National Development Bureau of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa, has prepared a series of four booklets entitled "Canoe Trips," copies of which may be had by our readers, free of charge. The series covers the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada. Further detailed information is available to those who require specific data on any particular trip.