

The Free Press Short Story

THE TEST

ETTA WEBER

At the sound of wheels in the driveway, Jean Sterling drew the teakettle forward over the blaze and peeped into the oven. She hoped the biscuits were not overbaked. Her glance seeking the old-fashioned clock on the kitchen wall, revealed the fact that she had been expecting her brother for the last forty minutes.

Ward came in presently smelling of cold air, medicine, and horse blanket. Approaching the kitchen stove to warm his hands, he remarked, "Going to be a wet night."

Jean taking biscuits from the oven, looked up at him anxiously. His voice had no elasticity, but it was the earnestness of his expression which bothered her most. "What kept you?" she inquired.

"Baldy cast a shoe and I had to hammer it on myself. There are no blacksmiths anymore. Everybody seems to drive a car—but myself." With this Ward climbed the stairs to clean up for supper.

Jean spilled boiling water as she filled the teapot. Her hand was not quite steady. It was hard for the boy to have to poke about the country behind old Baldy, who grew each day more delirious, in spite of generous feeding.

Jean looked into her teacup intently. During the year since the son succeeded to his father's practice in Southwick the household had not been disturbed a single night by calls. The daytime calls had been few and far between.

She waited for the clatter of Baldy's hoofs, but another sound made her turn. The outer door of the office had opened and a blanched, bareheaded little girl popped in out of the storm.

"Oh, Miss Sterling!" the child panted. "Tell the doctor to come quick. Granny's fallen down cellar!" She ran out forgetting to shut the door behind her.

Baldy was coming. Jean flung up the window and leaned out. "Ward!" she cried. "Pitchers want you; granny has fallen down cellar. Hurry! I'll look after Baldy." She snatched a shawl and scrambled over the low sill, but even as her feet touched ground, she heard the doctor running down the street.

Jean backed the horse into the barn, hitched her fast, and returned to the house. As she entered the telephone bell again rang.

Mrs. Bolton was calling. The woman's voice was thick with fright. The doctor must come at once; the baby was in a convulsion.

Jean said something comforting, but she was seriously ill. She would see what Ward had to say.

suspected iron pills, and was clawed by brambles, but her purpose was as great as her purpose. A half mile farther on she was able to take the road again and then she proceeded faster. The last bit of the way all breathless, though she was, she entered the shanty, where Mrs. Bolton was holding the baby, while Mr. Bolton was stoking the fire under the wash boiler.

The young pair must have been astonished to see this disheveled, wet young girl instead of the doctor they were expecting. Jean's manner was so professional that she gained their instant confidence.

An hour later the baby was on his way to recovery. Promising that Ward should come in the morning, his sister returned down the mountain, accompanied by Mr. Bolton.

The torrent had nearly worn itself out. The buggy had escaped injury, having become anchored against a tree. The young woman hitched up Baldy and Jean started for home. At three o'clock they arrived.

Warm and dry and quite composed, the girl was drinking a cup of hot coffee and eating bread and butter when Ward came in.

"Did you go?" he asked. "Yes. Just got back. Baby is good as new. Have some coffee?"

Ward accepted the steaming cup. "Granny is coming on finely," he offered, helping himself to bread and butter. "Well, we've had quite a night of it."

"How is your cold?" Jean touched his wrist. "Temperature gone, I should say."

ONTARIO BUYS WESTERN CATTLE Ontario farmers are being encouraged to buy feeder cattle from Western Canada for finishing for local or export markets under a plan of financing announced by the Ontario Government Department of Agriculture. It is stated that arrangements have been completed with the Canadian banks whereby Ontario farmers will be able to borrow money with which to purchase feeder cattle from the Prairie Provinces. It is expected that this arrangement will result in increased supplies of well-finished cattle, suitable for export to the British market. The plan goes into operation immediately and an official of the Ontario Department of Agriculture has been sent to Western Canada to supervise purchases.

TWO SPECIES OF WHALES GET DIFFERENT RECEPTION There are whales and whales and this is a story of two species whose respective arrivals had somewhat different receptions. Recently a large sperm whale in some manner was cast up on shore on Fish Island and the inhabitants proceeded to capitalize their stroke of luck by killing the whale and salvaging the oil. More than 50 gallons of this valuable product of the sperm whale was obtained. But this in value was negligible compared to the ambergris of which one man is said to have collected a pound and a half. Ambergris has a market value of \$500 a pound and is used largely as a vehicle in manufacturing costly perfumes.

A different reception, however, awaited some blackfish whose scientific name is Bicepsphala Melana or caving whale, which came up the Avon River and got stranded on the flats after high water near Windsor, according to the Natural Resources Department of the Canadian National Railways. They range from fifteen to twenty-five feet in length and vary in weight from 200 to 500 pounds. The blackfish came up the Avon River in noisy fashion, blowing and caving as they splashed their way up the tide. About 120 became stranded and were killed. The odor arising from the dead mammals proved too much for the towns people so the carcasses were towed down the river and cast adrift.

Bladder Weakness Troublesome Nights Swiftly Relieved If you are troubled with a burning sensation, Bladder Weakness, frequent daily annoyance, getting-up-nights, dull pains in back, lower abdomen and down through groins—you should try the amazing value of Dr. Southworth's "Uratabs" and see what a wonderful difference they make! If this grand old formula of a well known physician brings you the swift and satisfying comfort it has brought to dozens of others, you surely will be thankful and very well pleased. If it does not satisfy the druggist that supplied you, he is authorized to return your money on first box purchased. "Uratabs" are a ten-day test formula of "Uratabs" without risk of cost unless pleased with results—so, if you would know the joys of peaceful, restful sleep and a normal, healthy bladder, start the test to-day. Any good druggist can supply you.

Notice to Creditors In the Matter of the Estate of Thomas Aitken, late of the Township of Erin, in the County of Wellington, Retired Farmer, Deceased. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the statute in that behalf that all creditors and others having claims against the Estate of the said Thomas Aitken, deceased, who died on or about the 2nd day of June, 1932, are required to present their claims to the said John A. Wilson, of the Village of Fergus, in the County of Wellington, Solicitor for Charles Aitken and John Gear, the Executors of the last will and testament of the said deceased, and that immediately after the said last mentioned date the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have notice. Dated at Fergus, Ontario, October 26th, 1932. JOHN A. WILSON, Solicitor for the Executors. 17-4

VILLAGE OF ACTON Proposed By-law to Adopt Daylight Time in Each Year in the Municipality of Acton, between Midnight on the Last Saturday in June, and Midnight on the First Monday in September. Take notice that the votes of the electors, (consisting of those who appear on Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Last Revised Voters' List) will be taken on the said By-law on Monday, the First Day of December, 1932, at the same time, in the same places and in the same manner as the votes in the annual Municipal Elections. And that the Reeve will attend at the Clerk's Office at 10 a. m. on Friday, November 25th, 1932, to appoint persons to attend at the Polling Places and list the final summing up of the votes by the Clerk. And that if the assent of the electors is obtained thereon, the said By-law will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Council after one month from the 3rd day of November, 1932, being the date of the first publication of this notice. Dated at Acton, Ontario, the third day of November, 1932. H. N. FARMER, Clerk. 18-3

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK? By Edson R. Waite, Shawnee, Oklahoma After all, what is the price and what are the spoils of war? Centuries before the dawn of Christianity, Chinese philosophers had come to the conclusion that military victory only impoverished the nation and wars of aggression did not pay. Take the recent World War, for example. The fruits of victory and the fruits of defeat are almost identical. The countries formerly comprising the allies are not much better off to-day than those which comprised the central powers, not only in a financial way but in loss of life and leaving in its wake its disabled war veterans, many of whom are neglected and looked down upon by the countries they served so well. History proves that a war of aggression seldom pays, although a war of defense frequently does. We should keep prepared for defense, no matter what it costs. We should take proper care of our disabled war veterans, no matter what it costs. National defense and care for its disabled veterans should be the first duty of the Government. These duties cannot be passed by in the name of economy or any other reason, for only through them can the safety of the nation be preserved.

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT Brown—Come in and tell me what you think of my loudspeaker. Jones—I'd love to, old man, but I have to meet mine at 7.

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND "SALADA" TEA "Fresh from the Gardens" J. Cadesky OPTOMETRIST WILL VISIT ACTON ON Monday, December 5 Anyone suffering from Eyestrain, Defective Vision or Headache should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eyesight specialist. Appointments may be made with Mr. A. T. Brown, Druggist. CONSULTATION FREE Office Hours—9 a. m. till 4 p. m.

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