The Free Bress' Short Story

THE EMPTY BUILDING

GEORGE ETHELBERT WALSH

HE inheritance from Uncle Paul, the lease holding a store on Main Street, had phent. It was a distinct and expensive liability instead of an asset. It had been without a tenant for two years, and unless business ploked up remarkably it promised to remain an unprofitable inberitance for another year.

The store had a small mortgage on the interest of which Vincent Young had managed to acrape together and Hen on the property by the town threat-Libe thousands of other places, Stormouth needed the taxes to pay its OWN MIR.

him with a smile on Thursday morning and announced, "I've found a tenant for your store. Vincent. hundred and after a month!"

"That's the first bit of good news I've had in a month of Sundays, Mr. Drew. Vincent replied happily. "I'm about at the end of my resources. I didn't see my way clear to carry the above another

over," was the smiling comment, "We soon be on the road to prosperity again. "That seems to be the general feeling. but so far it's been largely hope."

"I suppose somebody else will be pleased by the news," winked the agent, an old friend of the family. "I've heard

there's a wedding in the offing." Vincent laurhed good-naturedly. H had made no secret of his engagement to Carlene Hadley, one of the prettiest girls in Stormouth. Vincent considered himself lucky in winning her love, but the postponement of their wedding on ac count of the prolonged depression has irled him. He had been willing to take the chance of sharing life with her when "love in a cottage" would have been translated "love in a tenement":

Carlene had been sensible. "No Vincent we must wait until the and I'll oling to it. I don't want to handicap you. When business improves we'll have a quiet wedding and begin living in a simple way."

It was the common-sense way to look at it. With so many families without thoughtless couples separated shortly after their wedding, to rush into matrimony seemed like inviting trouble. The blan had not been easy to follow. Sometimes the eager, wistful look in Carlene's eves when the two were together made him almost desperate.

Now his first thought was "We can get married." With the store rented they would have plain sailing ahead. His mind was already making plans for

the immediate future. "Who is the prospective tenath?" ask

rd Vincent absently. Mr. Drew. "A Mr. Pierce. But he's responsible. I've looked up his record. need to worry about the rent. I'll make out the lease and bring it up to the house for you to sign to-morrow. Hap-

"Surely! I was never happier in my ife. I'll sign the lease as soon as it's

The men parted as old friends and went their separate ways, Mr. Drew to his office, and Vincent to see Carlene: It was nearly noon and he knew where Carlene took her lunch. She worked half a day in Judge Pinch's office as stenographer, and then took her lunch at a small restaurant near by before going home or to the mission school on Lake Street where she taught a class of girls

twice a week in the afternoons. "This hunch is on me. Carlene." laughed Vincent as he sat down at the table. "I feel like a bloated millionaire. Our

troubles are all over." "What's happened? Inherited another

store from your uncle?" "No, but the one he left me has found s tenant, a good one too. Mr. Drew hypnotised him into paying a hundred

and fifty a month for it." "Oh Vincent!" Carlene breathed. squeezing a hand. "I knew things would come out all right. They always do if

we have faith." "Sure, but sometimes it's hard to be lieve It Now set the wedding day." Carlene flushed and shook her head. "Let's wait until the lease is signed.

Then you can present it to me as a wedding present." "I'll have it framed and hang it alongside of our marriage certificate. It will help to remind us of all we've been

through." The kinch was in the nature of a pre-wedding feast, consecrated to love and devotion. All through it they planned for their future. When they finally parted they were in a gay, happy

Vincent glanced over it. These legal documents always seemed involved and

moan, what beginess is he in?" "Marchandies of course." Mr. Drew cleared his threat.

"What kind of merchandise?" "Why or be plane to make it a first class headquarters for boldled stuff." Vincent looked up suspiciously, "Bot-

tled stuff! Not House!"

"No, nothing like that. Just beer "Beer!" Vincent schood, "Why that-"Now don't let any stilly idea get int your mind, Vincent. Beer is legal today. Nothing unlawful in solling Mr. Pierce intends to make it a first-

Vincent frowned. He was silent, deep logal, as you say, but it goes against my conscience, Mr. Drew," he said. "In a sense I'd be a silent

"Nonsenet You're too old-fashioned is just as worthy as another who sells

food or clothins." Vincent ploked up the loase. "This is for five years," he said after inspecting

"Now that the prohibition amendment is repealed." Vincent added alowly 'couldn't Mr. Pierce sell liquor as wel as beer?"

"Why er yes I suppose so." "Then that would put me in the lique business!" Vincent shot back quickly 'As owner of the store, I would-." He started to tear up the lease, but Mr.

Drew snatched it. "Don't be so hasty!" he said. needn't sign 'the lease now. Think over, and talk with Carlene about it You want to get married don't you? So does Carlene. Well, here's your chance You may not have another opportunity to rent that store for a year. Are you you going to throw away a chance like

"You call it a whim, Mr. Drew?"

"Well-er-it doesn't matter what you

their property to Mr. Pierce. In turning the family, from nine years of age iown the proposition, he was not block-

another block on Main Street.

He glanced at his watch. Ten minutes or tobacco."

of noon. He had time to meet Carlene again at huncheon. This time he greeted her with a furced smile and lugubrious shake of the head

"I'm up against a knotty, problem, Carlene," he maid.

"Has the pental of the store faller through " she saked quickly, turning s shade paler. "Not quite but pretty nearly." They

secured a table in a scoluded corner where no one could overhear them. Vinbroke the bad news guickly. "So I've come to you, Carlene," he finished. "to help me out of the diffi-

"What can I do about it. Vincent?" "Advise me. I'll do what you eay." "You mean." asked the girl leaning forward, 'you want me to decide for

"Yes, that's it" he answered correly Her eyes gamed steadily into his unti he grew uncomfortable; then she smiled and shook her head. "No, it's for you to decide. I won't even give you a word of advice. It's your problem."

"In life, Vincent, we must face some issues alone," ahe said gently. "If I said anything to influence you I might live to regret it. Have you asked divine "No.- I haven't!" he replied. "But

"It's yours as much as mine!"

will." He paused a second, and then mough," he added. "I've known it all along, but I was rebellious. I didn't want to listen to my conscience. Well' sighing, "it's all over. I'll destroy the lease to-morrow.

"Oh Vincent!" she exclaimed squeeting his hand. "I'm proud of you! For a moment I was afraid. If you had signed the lease, I think our wedding would have been postmoned indefinitaly.

"It's postponed indefinitely now." "I-I mean" she stammered in confusion, "forever."

"You'd do that?" She nodded alowly, and then looked up with bright and shiny even. I love you dear, more than I can tell you. Suppose now we finish hunch," she added gayty. "Why, we have hardly touched a thing, and I'm as hungry as a wolf."

"And a clear conscience has given me a big appetite, too," he laughed: "We vill make it a feast. It's a sort of milestone in our careers."

Carlene nocided, and looking in her fine eyes Vincerat knew his decision had deepened her love for him and broad-

FOUR CENTS A WEEK

An illuminating answer to the tion why a family spends four cents newspaper is furnished in the following editorial from the Canadian Statesman

it. I'm sure she'll tell you to sign it, small amount. The average child wastes more than that every day. A special "I'll ask her." Vincent nodded, "but sale, advertising a 30-cent item for 23 After the interview, he slumped down cost of the newspaper and giving a profit in his seat and glared at the lease he of three cents. You may more than three had refused to sign. All of his plans to cents a day to rent a book. The home the thought that plenty of other store who didn't lay it aside promptly when owners would jump at the chance to rent | the newspaper came? Every member children, parents, grandparents -- find ing the sale of liquor in his home town, something of great interest in the home; Even on the big dailies with a dozen but merely shifting its distribution to newspaper. That can't be truthfully reporters or more, it is a safe bet that "It would be different if I could stop ical. It costs more per week for any of ished is furnished by the public either the traffic," he reasoned. "But I can't." the following than it does for your home in the form of reports on community

The templation to yield was so strong newspaper, four cigarettes, one package or social events or of a tip on the "moose through?" she asked quickly, turning a of gum, a bar of candy, one cigar a coming into the backyard." drawer and got to-his feet. "I'll see cup of coffee. When you've finished One might add that a newspaper is a Carlene," he muttered. "I'll let her reading your newspaper, every other public utility which, for the small sum

A VICTORIA JANUARY IDYLL

NO BESTRICTIONE ON TOUBIST TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Tourist traffic continues to flow freely somes the international boundary between Canada and the United States. secording to the Immigration Branch the Department of Mines and Resources which reports that 3.682.489 vialtors entered Canada from the United States during September, October and November the first three months of the war. Although Canada is at war, and her

industries have been reorganised on a war basis, no restrictions of any kind have been imposed on the entry United States citizens into the Dominion as tourists. While citizens of enemy countries are naturally subject to special regulations, the movement of buna-fide tourists from Blendly or neutral countrice has not been restrained in any way. The international boundary between Canada and the United States is the most peaceful in the world, with me runs or armaments to be found along its 5,500-mile length. Bach year it is crossed by millions of visitors travelling by automobile, train, boat, and airplane. and both Canadian immigration and customs regulations are framed to make the entry of such persons just as free of "red tape" and restriction as possible. Austomobiles may be brought into Cansda under tourist's permit for purposes under his state license for a generous period. Persons visiting Canada may bring with them such articles of touruta' outfits or sportsmen's equipment they may require for their own use and not for eain or hire upon reporting same

HELPING THE NEWSPAPER

to customs officer at port of entry.

one stone to consider the matter, it is very plain that a newspaper can only prant news items that somebody has brought, phoned or sent in, or which some member of the staff may have witnessed. How very seldom a reporter just happens to be on the spot when an accident happens, a house takes fire, a horse goes through the ice, or a moose walks into the front yard!

Therefore, the community paper, as well as the daily, must depend to a very great extent on the kindness of the help the local division of the news in

any paper is seriously handicapped. Unfortunately, however, there are things happen in the presence of many folk who fail-absolutely to see any news value whatever in the occurrence-when she horse goes through the ice or a moose appears in the yard." Such incidents may happen in their neighborhood so many times that they are no longer news to them. They forget that folk in other places villages cities and other

But that really is not the type of indifference to news of which we had intended to speak. We were thinking of the person who sees a very interesting going to the first telephone and giving

said about any book or any other period- | 50 per cent. or more of the news pub-

member of the household can still use it of a nickel or a dime a week, gives a You can't say that about gum, candy very important service. -Kirkland Lake

SKA-BIRD COLONIES

Sea birds notting on Perce Rook and Bonaventure Island off the Gaspe Coast continued to be a popular tourist attraction during 1939, when approximately 21,500 persons visited the region compared with about 10,000 in 1938, according to the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. More than 18,000 of this year's visitors took motorboat trips to get close-up views of the thrilling spectacle provided by the large sea-bird

Perod Rock; with its sheer sides rising directly from the water for almost 300 feet, and its great arched passageway 80 feet wide, through which small boats may pass is a feature of rugged grandour in itself. The bird colonies, which have been included in a amotuary ostablished by the Dominion Government and the Province of Quebec, include about 14,000 gamnets great white birds as large as goese, with black wing tips Resembling great anowbanks at a distance, multitudes of these birds nest close-packed on the lofty leden while hundreds of others sour and majestically over the sea before the procinice. Many other species of sea birds form part of this remarkable assem-

situated that it may be observed and photographed conveniently where the cannots nest and excellent or pincers, are replaced by permanent comes practically straight. Meanwhile points of vantage may be gained at the top of the oliff and on the creet of the mainland cape opposite Perce Rock.

ATTRACT TOURISTS

This interesting sea-bird colony is a

Blended For Quality

TEA

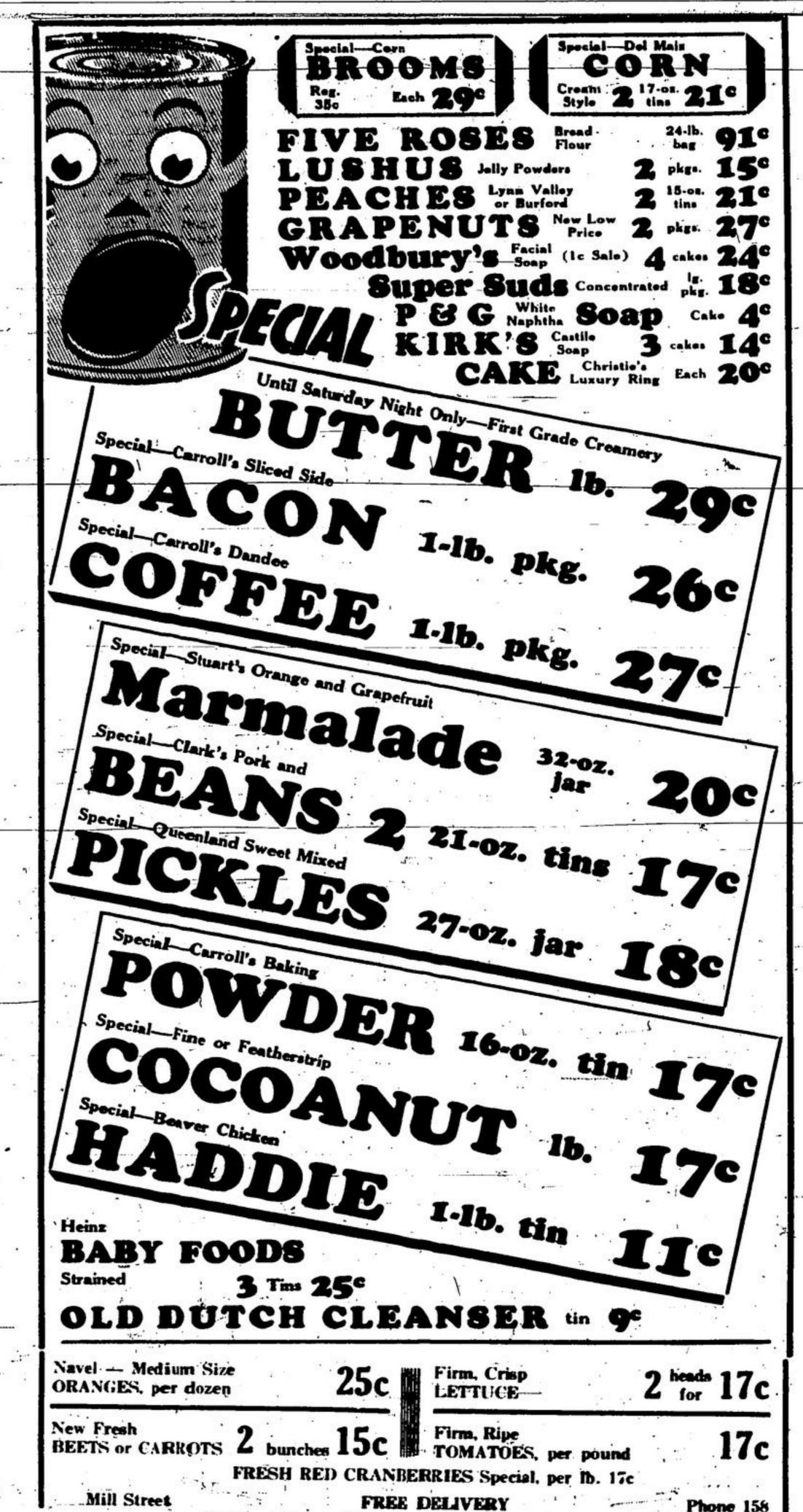
TKIL-TALE TEETH REVEAL AGE OF COW

cow's age, but perhaps the most reliable is by noting the apperance, development and wear of her parmanent tooth which are fully developed at five years of are. Cattle have eight inchor teeth. They are all in the lower law, the centre pair sometimes being called the "pincers." Next to the pincors are the first intermediates, then the second intermediates, and finally the

At birth a calf has two or more incisors and after the first month, the temporary and are replaced gradually. By the end of two years, the middle pair, twelve years the arch of the teeth beteeth. From six months to a year later the teeth have become triangular with the permanent first intermediates are spaces in bewteen and show increasing cut, being fully developed as a rule at wear with advancing age.

three years of age. At 314 years the second intermediates are cut. They are on a level with the first intermediates and begin to show wear when the cow is four years old. At from four and a calf to five years the corner teeth are replaced by permanents, and by this time the cow has a full set of permanent

Between five and aix years, the pincers become levelled, the first and second intermediates are particulty levelled, and the corner teeth begin to show wear. The arch shaped row of incheors now begins to lose its contour. Between seven and eight years, the pincers are definitely worn; from eight to nine, the



Fruit and Vegetable Prices Till Saturday Night Only!

Vancouver Island's reputation as Canada's Evergreen Playground is upheld by this idyllic scene photographed January 6th at Victoria, B.C. The lamb is a real one, only six days old. It was born January 1 on the farm of E. J. T. Woodward, near Victoria. The pretty little lady is Sally, two-anda-half-year-old daughter, and only child of Commander R. A. ("Tony") Wright, R.C.N., and, Mrs. Wright Esquimalt. The flowers were picked in the gardens of the Empress Hotel. Canadians and Americans are visiting Victoria in large numbers this winter; the ideal weather permitting them to enjoy winter golf, tennis, fishing, riding and hiking under splendid conditions: