

The Free Press' Short Story

THE EMPTY BUILDING

GEORGE ETHELBERT WALSH

THE inheritance from Uncle Paul, a store on Main Street, had turned out to be a white elephant. It was a dilapidated and expensive liability instead of an asset.

the lease, holding it poised for a moment. "By the way," he asked, "what does Mr. Pierce want to use the store for? I mean, what business is he in?"

"Business is picking up slowly all over," was the smiling comment. "We'll soon be on the road to prosperity again."

"None! You're too old-fashioned in your ideas. Beer has been declared a legal beverage and the man who sells it is just as worthy as another who sells food or clothing."

"No, Vincent, we must wait until the outlook is brighter. I have a small job, and I'll cling 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."

"You call it a whim, Mr. Drew?" smiling wryly. "Well—it doesn't matter what you call it!"

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"The following day the real estate agent brought the lease to be signed. Vincent glanced over it. These legal documents always seemed involved and full of 'wherefore' and 'foreward' terms or the rest part of some party. He took out his fountain pen to sign

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

"I'm up against a knotty problem, Carlene," he said. "I'll take the rest of the store fallen through," she asked quickly, turning a shade paler.

"No, I haven't," he replied. "But I will." He paused a second, and then smiled. "I guess the answer is plain enough," 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."

She nodded slowly, and then looked up with bright and shiny eyes. "But I love you, dear, more than I can tell you. Suppose now we finish lunch, she added gayly. "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'll make it a feast. It's a sort of milestone in our careers."

An illuminating answer to the question why a family spends four cents a week for a subscription to its local newspaper is furnished in the following editorial from the Canadian Statesman, of Bowmanville:

Four cents a week means just a little more than half a cent a day. It's a small amount. The average child wastes more than that every day. A special sale, advertising a 30-cent item for 23 cents, will save seven cents, paying the cost of the newspaper and giving a profit of three cents. You pay more than three cents a day to rent a book.

NO RESTRICTIONS ON TOURIST TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Tourist traffic continues to flow freely across the international boundary between Canada and the United States, according to the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, which reports that 3,882,489 visitors entered Canada from the United States during September, October and November—the first three months of the year.

The international boundary between Canada and the United States is the most peaceful in the world, with no guns or armaments to be found along its 5,500-mile length. Each 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.

HELPING THE NEWSPAPER

A contemporary remarks that when one stops to consider the matter, it is very plain that a newspaper can only print news items that somebody has brought, phoned or sent in, or which some member of the staff may have witnessed.

Therefore, the community paper, as well as the daily, must depend to a very great extent on the kindness of the general public to pass on interesting news items of the office. Without this 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 fall absolutely to see any news value whatever in the occurrence—when else 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 communities would be interested in these incidents.

One might add that a newspaper is a public utility which, for the small sum of a nickel or a dime a week, gives a very important service—Kirkland Lake News.

SEA-BIRD COLONIES ATTRACT TOURISTS

Sea birds nesting on Porce Hook and Bonaventure Island off the Gaspé Coast continued to be a popular tourist attraction during 1937, when approximately 21,500 persons visited the region compared with about 10,000 in 1936, according to the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. More than 10,000 of this year's visitors took motorboat trips to get close-up views of the thrilling spectacle provided by the large sea-bird population.

Porce Hook, with its sheer sides rising directly from the water for almost 300 feet, and its great arched passageway 30 feet wide, through which small boats may pass, is a feature of rugged grandeur in itself. The bird colonies, which have been included in a sanctuary established by the Dominion Government and the Province of Quebec, include about 14,000 gannets—great white birds as large as geese, with black wing tips. Resembling great snowbirds at a distance, multitudes of these birds nest close-packed on the lofty ledges, while hundreds of others soar and wheel majestically over the sea below the precipice. Many other species of sea birds form part of this remarkable assemblage.

This interesting sea-bird colony is so situated that it may be observed and photographed conveniently without harming or disturbing the feathered inhabitants. Sea-going motorboats carry parties of visitors past the steep cliffs where the gannets nest, and excellent points of vantage may be gained at the top of the cliff and on the crest of the mainland cape opposite Porce Hook.

Blended For Quality

"SALADA" TEA

REVEAL AGE OF COW

Farmers use several methods in telling a cow's age, but perhaps the most reliable is by noting the appearance, development and wear of her permanent teeth which are fully developed at five years of age. Cattle have eight incisor teeth. They are all in the lower jaw, the centre pair sometimes being called the "pinions." Next to the pinions are the first intermediates, then the second intermediates, and finally the corner teeth.

At birth a calf has two or more incisors and after the first month, the eight make their appearance. They are temporary and are replaced gradually. By the end of two years, the middle pair, or pinions, are replaced by permanent teeth. From six months to a year later, the permanent first intermediates are cut, being fully developed as a rule at

three years of age. At 3 1/2 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 half to five years the corner teeth are replaced by permanent, and by this time the cow has a full set of permanent teeth.

Between five and six years, the pinions become levelled, the first and second intermediates are partially levelled, and the corner teeth begin to show wear. The arch shaped row of incisors now begins to show its contour. Between seven and eight years, the pinions are definitely worn; from eight to nine, the intermediates, and by ten years the corner teeth are likewise shorter, and by twelve years the arch of the teeth becomes practically straight. Meanwhile the teeth have become triangular with spaces in between and show increasing wear with advancing age.

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A VICTORIA JANUARY IDYLL



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-and-a-half-year-old daughter, and only child of Commander R. A. ("Tony") Wright, R.C.N., and Mrs. American 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.