OTTAWA

The Free Press' Short Story

AN EASTER DIVIDEND

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER

NNABEL WEST was twist- until I thought of my disgraceful ing a turban into shape when clothes . . . the girl came into her neat. tiny shop. The girl, Anabel saw at a beaten by circumstances; furthermore her hat had been made in the year one. It was black felt and shippeless, and looked completely de-

_The girl, surveying Anabel, saw different picture. She saw a plain woman with keen eyes and slim, deft fingers. A woman dressed in a frock that was smart because of its very simplicity. She saw a smile growing suddenly in the keen eyes-spreading to a wide, generous mouth. She said in answer to that smile:

"I don't know exactly why I came in, but I saw your sign in the window and-"

"You mean the little sign in the The sign that reads, 'Old Hats Made corner of the window, don't you New'?" Anabel replied with a ques

. "Yes," the girl nodded, "that sign. Although if you can make my ok hat look new you're a genius!"

"Let's see the hat," Anabel laid aside the turban on which she was working, "that is, of course, if it's the one you're wearing. After seeing it I'll diagnose the case. I'm no - genius, but I'm an M. D., meaning 'milinery doctor'!"

The girl removed the shapeless fe from a head of riotous red-gold curls: The April sunlight, slanting through the window, brought out fire and beauty in her hair. She removed the hat, but she hesitated to place It in Anabel's outstretched hands Rather she held it tightly and twisted the brim back and forth. was silent for a brief space before she blurted out:

"How much will the fixing cost And how long will it take? Because I have scarcely any money and even less time."

"This is my busiest week of all the year," Annbel glanced at the clock on her worktable. "The week that preceeds-Easter, you-know, is-extraordinarily full for a person in . my profession. It's eleven now, and the woman for whom I'm making this turban-" she indicated the half completed creation that she had laid by, "is coming in for it around noon. Maybe late in the afternoon-"

"Late afternoon won't do me a bit of good," the girl with the red-gold curls broke in. "My appointment is balance." at noon, also, you see. Anyway," she managed a rueful laugh, "I probably couldn't have afforded you. All the traffic will bear is -fifty cents. I've got just sixty cents in my purse and I'll need ten of it for car fare.'

Her laugh wavered into oblivion. "Sit down, youngster, and give me that hat!" Anabel West was on her her face. "The woman who is comher time-while you, I take it, are dimpled. "You," she said, "are a snap me up from under his very the price could not rise on this bonnet of yours, you tell me artist!" your problem."

lem?"

"Everyone has some sort of a problem these days," Annabel replied evenly, but she was thinking, "How do I know_it.". I know it by the shubbiness of your shoes and your suit and this hat I'm holding in my hand. And by the droop of your mouth and the fear in your gaze."

extracted a coin. at the black felt the girl, recounted for this. But you've got to take it? spend half my time making 'em!" 34 cents as a fair level. her story. It was a rather usual story in this period when, as the finished turban that had been laid. "I'll be tickled to death to have to provide an alternative market for milliner had said, everybody has a problem. It was the story of a girl who had been an efficient and well- well as an inestimable amount of paid office assistant in a business three dollars' worth of material, as One Blind Man girl with many others-had been turnished felt hat. She said, "I havetold Anabel. Her dismissal had applied a second to space I couldn't st peared in the light of a vacation thrown out of employment.

enforced, but a vacation neverthe- and pay me. I'mssure that you'll be less. As the weeks and months had able to pay me with good news as gone by and her savings had dwindied, and her clothing grown threadbare and demoded, she had become panicky. As the savings had become She turned on her heel and ran from to farm through the snow to collect a thing of the past a vague memory her panie had increased. ----

"Last night," she said in conclusion, "I struck bottom. I'd broken my last dollar-bill and I didn't have any prospects. I thought of a million crazy solutions - all the absurd, dreadful ideas that come to a person faced with hunger. And then I fell on my knees and prayed as I never prayed before, and went to bed as calmly as possible. This morning I I'm glad that you were tardy."

. The felt hat was ripped apart now Anabel West was diving into a great glance, was shabby, discouraged and box of straw braid and trimmings and artificial flowers. -- Her face was hidden as she asked!

> "Why should shabby clothes onsidered disgraceful

for me is a martinet about the per- been wrongly chosen. sonal appearance of his office force. she's nent. My dress is black and shabby girl as she made her exit. -very boots. I went out of the house glanced only occasionally at -- the ganizers in their constituencies for

cessories. She said crisply:

worked on a queen's coronet. She girl's supplication, Anabel West took the aura of last winter and win- found herself praying. In the stillter before last away from the felt ness of her shop she spoke afoud. for cunningly applied sections of straw. It was in shiny sort of straw anything have happened to her. And been tragically drooping into a ture. Let the girl have had a good jaunty curve, a curve designed to reason for not returning. Let-" derneath the brim, close to the curls, the shop burst open to admit

it," she said as she worked, "and you carried in her hands. shall have it to pin on the lapel of "Oh, Dr. West," caroled the transyour packet. The one on the hat is formed voice of the erstwhile disjacket must be on the left lapel, for |-a dividend!"

cheeks and hope lighted a candle in turbed.

"I can't, afford the flowers, really to know, calmly." I can't. I know they must have cost you lots of money, leaving your profit out of it entirely!"

feet. Sympathy was stamped upon trash," Anabel snorted. "I was about said-" the girl was all one smile- Only a few months ago declining ready to throw them out. You're that he didn't went to take ing in at noon can wait; she's got doing me a favor by wearing them." camee on letting one go out for that age and the government set 35 cents nothing more important to do with The girl dimpled. Yes, actually some firm of fatinon artists would a pound as the level beyond which

black felt. She asked a trifle sulten- of the shiny straw where it would do I'm using his very, words for has ers are urging that a minimum level ly, "How do you know I have a prob- the most good and allowed herself a wife." small exclamation of satisfaction.

to keep your appointment."

Anabel West reached for the un-; She said aloud: have let this girl know that some flowers!"

how to put if coin in my cash box and that's the truth! Drop in on Called On Farm After Farm Till At first she had not worried, she your way back from the interview well as with money."

The girl tried to speak and then swiftly her eyes filled with tears. Cumberland man trudged from farm the shop, and Anabel was left alone, £610 (\$2,714) for a district war sewing in the spring sunlight. She weapons week was told by Lord was putting the final touches on the Kindersley, president of Britain's Naturban when her wealthiest cus- tional Savings Committee. tomer, for whom it was intended,

came puffing in. customer. "I hope being late didn't day, led by his trained collie dog to inconvenience you, Miss-West." . Anabel answered, "It didn't incon- . He carried a braille outfit with

erence to a job. I was wild with joy been enough to swing the employ- every contributor.

ment-altuation, and the girl in her young despair, had done something desperate. By mld-afternoon Anabel was so distraite that she tacked the wrong shade of tulle upon a bridesmald's hat which she was constructing.

"Oh, I'm sorry," she shid to the bridesmaid, "but I'm more than a triffe worried. I've just realized that don't know-her name!"-

The bridesmald asked. name?" and-Anabel found telling the story. "The girl went nwny," she finished lafter a brief resume, "and she never returned. And there's no manner in which can tract her.

The bridesmald was a sophisticated young woman. She giggled. "You're a sap, Miss West. That girl never had any intention of coming back. Her story about a job, and her pitiful fifty-cent piece, were a racket! She was out to get her hat made

Momentarily Anabel was touched with an unreasoning doubt. "They're not," the girl answered. doubt changed to a feeling of cross-"Oh, indeed, I don't consider them so, ness at the bridesmald. For a sec-Miss West, but this man who sent one she was glad that the tulle had

"You." she said to be the sophisti-And-" she smiled wanly, "he's es- cated young lady, "are an uncharitpecially hat conscious. If a woman able person." That's all she did say, has on a smart hat he's not apt to but she was remembering the tears notice the rest of her, so long as that had touched the lashes of the unobtrusive. My shoes are old, but. Four o'clock changed to five, and I can keep them out of sight by sit- five to five-thirty. Anabel did not ting close to his desk. But my hat sit idle, watching the clock-no, in--and it's the only hat I have left- deed! It was the week before Fac- campaign April 14 will provide some is unspeakable. When I put it on ter, open season for milliners, and work for members during the recess. this morning my heart sank into my she was at her busiest. Though she They have been asked to serve as orthinking that God's answer to my shop's timeplece, she was acutely the drive to round up the nation's prayer was an Illusion. Then I pas- aware of-it. Her worry about the waste materials to aid the war efsed your window and saw the sign girl, try as she would, was begin- fort. ning to be tinged with her young Anabal West interrupted by em- customer's skepticism, but the stitcherging from the box of millinery ac- es that she took in silk and straw on their desks while they attended "Come over in front of the mir- and nent. Even as she doubted, her ance Minister Itsley will be among ror, child, and sit down. I've some mind was crowded with reflections the busiest, His budget for the presfitting to do on that very attractive and memories of all the girl had said. ent fiscal year is to be presented hend of yours. And remember this It could not be a racket; she reason--no answer to a prayer is ever an ed desperately, as she sewed. Why, illusion. This hat, when Tve finish- no one who was insincere, recounting ed with it, will be concrete proof of a pathetic hard-luck story for the sake of a hat, would have told that Anabel West worked for half an tale about an answered prayer! At hour on the shapeless black felt. She the mere thought of the red-haired

"Dear God," she prayed, "don't let that might linve been made of cello- God-don't let-me be disappointed in aid Western farmers at the expense. phane. She cut a brim that had her-and, through her, in human nashow a tangle of red-gold curls. Un- Even as she prayed the door of-

she placed an ivory-tinted gardenia. young person whose shabby black It was so real looking, that gardenia, suit was nullified by the modish, hat that one could almost imagine its that she wore, and by the wealth of April flowers jonguils and narcis-"I've another gardenia exactly like suses and tulips, real ones-that che The field was cleared for agricul-

side—the one that you wear on your pay for my hat. These flowers are March 31-the largest sum assented Anabel West exhibited such a plac-

the mirror. Color rose in her, wan sed that she had been frightfully dis- brought down. "Dividend on what?" she wanted-

girl told her. "I was hired-and out product as the "flush season" and to work at once. And my new boss its attendant heavier stocks draws "They were in a box of assorted gave me a week's pay in advance. He near.

busy. Suppose, while I'm working dear, Dr. West, as well as a great nose. And he asked for the address of my milliner-I told you how he as herds move to pasture. To in-Anabel West knew her cheeks was about hats! He wants to have sure a fair price for the farmer in The girl relinquished the limp were pink, also. She placed a how you make an inspiration like mine the heavy-production months produc-

"You'll pass muster, my dear; you She was not a plain little woman, the Dairy Products Board to fix a most certainly will! And now go now. She was nearly as attractive minimum price and two suggestions long with you. You've barely time as her guest. She was thinking, "I'm for the minimum already have been going to do this sort of thing often, made. The National Dairy Council The girl rose from her chair, as my way of helping. This is my of Canada and a group of Ontario, Carefully she pinned the extra gar- Easter resolution: I'll make hats for Quebec and Maritime dairy organidenia to the lapel of her jacket. She girls who are down on their luck so zations propose that the price be 31 that they'll find new courage and cents a pound, while the Canadian As Anabel's clever scissors ripped "Fifty cents," she said, "is a joke new jobs. I'll advertise the fact. I'll Dairy Farmers' Federation suggests

aside. Not for worlds would she a new customer. And I adore my butter at this minimum price,

And Collie Dog

They Had Tidy Sum for British War Savings

LONDON, (CP) - How a blind

Relating the episode Lord Kindersley said the man whom he identified "I'nt late," wheezed the wealthy only as "Jonathan," set out every visit outlying forms near Carlisle.

venionce me in the least. In fact, him. At the end of the campaign "Jonathan" produced in braille an woke to find a letter asking me to. The noon hour passed. The early accurate account of all the money LEWES, England, (CP) - Michael call at the office of a man who, in afternoon came, and Anabel, listen- collected in the form of subscriptions Lawlor, a Newfoundland fisherman, the past, had been a client of our ing for the step of a red-headed girl, to-government securities. He had and Canadian Iron-worker and coal defunct firm. He made an appoint. knew acute anxiety. Maybe the hat full details of every transaction in miner, tried 26-times to enlist and ment at noon, and said it was in ref- -successful though it was-had not cluding the name and address of failed, but was accepted on his 27th

WAR The Week at

Specially Written for The Action Free Press by BY LLOYD MACDONALD Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, (CP)-The Enkler Re cess leaves members of pariliment free to return to their homes thi week for a fortnight and, enables them, to give their constituents first-hand picture of the work complished since sittings resume

February 17. Aside from debate on the war fort, discussions of agricultural prob lems took a large share of the mem bers' time during the past month and-a-half. Those from rural tidings doubtless will be anxious "to hear their constituents' reactions to the

1911-42 farm policy..... Members from the west will on hand when preliminary arrangements for carrying out the govern ments wheat acreage policy are being made. Farmers the prairie provinces and the Peace River block of British Columbia will he planning their operations for the venr-deciding how much wheatland they intend to summerfallow or sow to coarse grains and grass to take advantage of the 1941-42 bonus plan.

For most cabinet ministers the re-

cess gives no respite. Work piled up and erepe de Chine were accurate sittings of the House sessions. Finsoon after the Commons reconvenes. In the last few days before adjournment, agricultural problems got a thorough airing in discussion of the \$35,000,000 estimate to finance the acreage reduction plan and the want-of-confidence-motion-introduced several weeks ago by Mark Senn

> (Con. Haldimand) --The bonus plan met criticism which crossed party lines. members contended the plan would of those in Eastern Canada. Chles western critics were C. C. F. and New Democracy members, but Harry Leader (Lib. Portage La Prairie) feli a the plan would work to the advantage-of-mon-with-large-mechanized farms and not to the small farmer whose costs of summerfallowing would be high.

tural discussion after disposal of money bills authorizing expenditures, totalling \$1,550,000,000 for the presplaced, as you can see, on the right couraged girl, "I've come back to ent fiscal year and the one ended to at one time in Canadian history. How the money will be raised won't The girl stared at her reflection in | id face that no one could have gues- | be disclosed until the budget is

Await Butter Peg

Canada's butter producers are still "On my first week's salary," the waiting for a price peg on their

Now production is due to mount

Anabel West was smiling, also, 1. The government had authorized

Both groups ask the government available stocks cannot be sold to the trade when production reaches its peak.

Canada's Farms

Predominance of agriculture in the prairie provinces is demonstrated amongst the wealth of facts about Canadians provided by the national registration. Almost half the men registered in Manitoba. Saskatchewan and Alberta know how to handle horses, tractors and farm ma-

The government can rely on 410,-250 proficient agriculturalists from his area. Of the 869,690 men registered in town and country only 152,-560 said they had no farming experience at all.

Incidentally, the prairies boast 11,-860 women among 759,230 registered who can milk and handle tractors and machinery besides.

25 Years Ago

2nd Canadian Division Suffered Severely in Battles Among the Craters at St. Eloi-

> BY H. H. GORDON Canadian Press Staff Writer

Heroic soldiers of the 2nd Canada ian Division battled against heavy dds around the mine craters of Eloi in the First Great War 25 years Flung into the sharp salient thrust into the German positions northern France, the Canadians waged a bitter duel with the enemy over terrain-pitted-with-shell-holes-and deep in mud.

Late in March the 3rd British vision had bored into the Germa line in a series of actions and Canadians under Mal.-Gen. R. E. furner took over the area early trenches running alongside some craters created by a German explosion on what became known at St

When the overseas troops moved into their positions most of the craters were behind thom. The Germans poured, a heavy concentrated artillery fire on the area for three days die fighting rather than to and succeeded in recapturing two of dying." Eddie Rickenbacker, Prest the craters. Mistakes regarding the dent Eastern Air Lines.

location of the craters resulted. poor artflery co-operation and counter-attacks by the 6th Brigade under Brig.-Gen. H. D. B. Ketchen unauccessful.

Guns Brought Relief

The 6th Brigade was relieved the 4th under Brig.-Gen. Rennie on April 7. Several flerce attempts were made to recapture the craters, but it was not until Brig.-Gen. David Watson's 5th Brigade received adequate artillery support that the area was recaptured on April 17.

During the "Battle of the Craters" Canadian casualties mounted to mor han 1.000.: The 29th ... (Vancouver) Battallon and the 27th (Winnipeg) Battallon suffered severely, but Ontarlo, New Brunswick and Nova Scothe battallons also played a-big part ross the Plains. in the protracted actions. "The story of the craters is like

that of most of the Battle of St. Eloi, one of misfortune for the 2nd Division, but it is not one of blame, wrote_Sir_Max_Aitkon_(now-Lord Beaverbrook), the Canadian --- Eye-Witness. "The successive regiments who held the outposts were from he very outset at a great disadvantage compared with their enemie They were not, and could not, properly supported by their own gunners while the enemy artillery was pounding them to pieces."

"We had better prepare today t

U.S. Planting Millions Trees

Great Shelter-Belt From- Canad to Teyas Being Formed to Beat Winds

LINCOLN, Neb.: (CP)- The greatest U.S. tree planting job of the spring let the setting out of an additional 35,000,000 trees in the prairie states shelterbelt.

In six years approximately, 200 000,000 trees, will have been planted in this six-state project to create r natural barrier against the strong winds, hot and cold, that blow a

The trees have been planted in strips which, if placed end to en would reach 16,600 miles.. They protect 27,930 farms. Roughly, the shelterbelts are being planted across the eastern portions of North, and South Dakota and Nebraska, across central Kansas, western Oklahome and a strip of Texas.

You Roll Them Better With CIGARETTE TOBACCO



BACON Carroll's 1-lb. pkg. 27° LARD

1-lb. pkg. 7C

COFFEE Chase & Sanborn's PEAS Aylmer Sieve 4

1-lb. tin 49°

Syrup 16-oz. 27c

Vi-Tone in 24°, 43°

Oil bil. 14°, 23°

Soap 2 cakes 9c

Delicious Beverage-

Odex Antiseptic

Soap 2 cakes QC

16-oz. tins 25C Old Colony Maple

Sodas 2-lb. 29° "A" Large Christie's Hot Cross Buns 6 for 13c EGGS

Christie's Marshmalldw Bars Each 15c Weston's Normandie

Creams 16. 17c Catarac Dry GINGER

McCormick's Dairy Cream

Ale 2 bil. 19° Deposit Extra

PORK BEANS Libby's 3 20-oz. 20° HADDIE Chicken 2 1-lb. 27°

SALMON Clover Leaf 2 1/2-lb. 29° "MAGIC" BAKING 16-oz. 28°

AMMONIA avex CONCENTRATE 16 oz. Bottle Makes GALLON

_2' pkg. 9° SUNLIGHT Soap 10 bars 49° KLEENEX

Pkg. 10°, 29°

Cleanser



Cocoa New Lew Price tin 14° 1-lb. 24° CARROLL'S FLAKES

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FRESH PINEAPPLE, Each

SEEDLESS

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2 Bunches 15c

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Also Fresh Radish, Beets, Onions, Spinach, Mushrooms Fruit and Vegetable Prices Until Saturday Night Only