Just then a heavy fist thundered or

worms. She also knows that if some

cellent preparation for this purpose

worms from the system and set up stim-

GOOD AGAIN

Wife-"En't that splendid!

e buy with it this time?"

Mubby-"The bank has returned that

further over the snowy sea

## The Free Bress Short Story

## TOWED UNDER

BY ROWLAND THOMAS

down his sixth mug of tea half-emptied see in the channel between the little and looked about the mess-room thought-

"There's something about Christmas." ine began-

deep all over him. thing beside this one, two thousand two with that ground-swell, there was maybe: but she's the fastest of the trans- prospect of a wet passage when we should port fleet, and a cleaner, nicer ship for start back in the afternoon.

dock than the Wayne was that trip, and or two Sandy said: aboard." The Admiral flapped the heels night." of his big carpet-slippers meditatively. passengers to know how a ship's crew goes around sign' them up on the quiet," brace alongside him can tell you whether seen enough!' his shoes have been half-soled or not

one to last us out the whole sixty days. his hammer. I doubt if one man was sound. ever hated more to the square yard "Our passenger almost looked surpristhen that man was by the crew of the ed.

"After he got over being seasick he put man?" he usked at last. in his time rummagin' over the ship as # she belonged to him, and he suspected and half turned around, with his eyes rope. The lauch rode easier the minute some one was trying to spoil her. He'd stickin' out of his head. His jaws opened she was free of the drag of it, and I spend hours watchin' a gang at work, all right. and at last they got pretty sore over it. It wasn't his lookin', but the way he at the trees. 'W-I-n-d. Wind! Does worth winkin' an eve for.

"We made all the regular transport stops that trip, Gibraltar,-Malta, Said, passenger, but never a muscle of his face then the passenger picked him up and Aden, and the rest. Most of the pas- moved.

his disposition being so prying in most jump. She was lyin' just off the outer and out slow, as if he'd started a joint things, but at last we-made out that edge of the bar, it seemed, and for a and his plates were workin'. But in a he dish't think much of foreign colonics moment we thought she must be minute he was as calm-looking as ever when we got to the Phillippines he began The five-mile channel outside was one he could to stop the bleeding. he had the ship.

they got to thinkin' of the society and on to pick us up. los plant in Manila; but the old man, dumur. .

Manile by the end of Christmas after- Admiral commented mikily, "but they arms of his and sat down with him noon, and you wouldn't think anyone who ought to learn to shoot with their eyes cuckled up against his breast like could get away would stay on that coast, open. But this friend of ours had heard of a "We run on a quarter of a mile and river thereabouts with some special kind were close on the bar when they gave man's face was dirty clear down to his of timber on it, and nothing would do us another volley. There was a chug- waist, where that shovelful of ashes had

and she .It; rounded to under the lee of a little him, but Sandy simply headed her feel like laughing. You could see he'd taland about five miles off shore and straight for the bar with his right hand. forgotten the faunch, and the sea, and dropped us overboard. Sandy MacMurray, the fifth officer, was in charge. He ordered. 'Bill and the passenger stand was a red-headed Scotch boy with a by to bail.' And we struck the smother little louder. 'Peyther!' I can't get the bad temper. There was a coxswain and a on the bar.

opposite Sandy, staring straight shoul. smoother I Yound the passenger in my He didn't look round even when Sandy bock-pit, calm as ever, while water was shoulder. It'll be Christmas the morbegan talking to me for his benefit, washin our unkless. 'Give her all the stoum she will carry,' he said. 'We'll go laster than 'we'll com! by the look of the sky. It's an innocent 'It's all day with us if the water reaches half surprised and a whole lot ushamed. place to send a lalinch, anyway."

"It did not look promising. It's a bad little steam pump in action." coest there, all filled up with uncharted "But I watched him out of the corner of all the pretty smiles I over saw that coral reels and sand banks. The tall of of my eye as I worked. He was a good old man had the prettlest right then. a typhoon had based but into the man with a bucket, and his long arms "'Yes, son,' he said, 'it'll be Christman

lazy swell was runnin down out of the his shipboard dignity—set northeast and breakin' into a good bit island and the coast of Samar."

"But it wasn't the swell that bothered us. The whole current from the China "Cut eway the soft talk and get on the San Bernardina Strait right therewith the story," the sallow young fellow Pive knots an hour it'll get to the eastwho sat beside me called impatiently, ward at times, and it'll take the biggest name, and the heavy ship off her course as easy as the eddles hand of London had graven its mark below a milidam sweep a wherry round. "Well it was on the Wayne." the clouds, and the knowledge that the tide Admiral began, sliding down into his would be makin' from the Pacific by swivel chair and throwing his feet across noon, and meeting that San Bernardina the corner of the table. "She's a little current, and the whole thing mixing up

"We went out from New York by way any other kind of medicine and ran in .. "'Give her more steam,' Sandy yelled ressmen. You'd find 'em on the bridge, When we reached the bar at the mouth ugain, and pokin' round the stoke-hole, and of the river Sandy took the wheel from minin' with the crew in the forec's'l, the coxswain and sent the other hand back of Sandy. 'Why don't you let the and wherever you missed a Congress- forward with the soundin' pole. We while tow us now?' he asked. man you'd run against a Benator. It ploughed up and up that river, halfwas some kind of a committee of inves- speed most of the time, and Bandy steertigation going out to look at the Philip- in' all the way. He was a good man sined a year or two after the treaty with a boat, or we'd have hung up early and down with his one hand. was signed, and find out how bad-wo'd in the game. I never saw a worse changot stuck on the bargain. There never nel. The river was like an endless strast was a edk-hatteder ship pulled out of a between the big trees, and after an hour

el course it made the crew good and "'It's all like this. We'd better but bappy to have all that crowd of owners back, if you want to make the ship to newer, and I could see the passenger

"I've often thought it would interest at him, just kept borin' his eye into the of steam on, and mostly we kept

"'I'm usin' this lauch for purposes chair, and the sailor who's cleanin' the 'and I must decide for myself when I've an inch of turning turtle.

"Sandy's jaws came together with a We damaged the character of all of 'em, snap, and I knew they wouldn't open impartially, and finally we settled on till his feelin's blew 'em unart.

"We kept on going till about noon, "Old oiler-plate, some one called him, and we must have been thirty miles mutter. and the name stuck. He had a nice upstream when all at once Sandy put movable sort of a face that worked on his helm over and awang her downhinges, and dignified, important expres- stream without a word. I glanced out sion that looked as if it had been weld- under the awnin' and saw what was the ed on and then reinforced with rivets. matter. It was still enough on the river. There were dents here and there where but the tops of the trees were shaking. the blacksmith had got careless with und the air was full of a low humming versation till I'm through steering, will

"What is the meanin' of this, young

"'Wind,' he shouted, waving his hand Sandy's knees seemed to double up.

Jackson? "I stood by for an explosion from the ..

sengers went ashore and made an in- "We kept on downstream, faking att and began cutting away his left sleeve spection of each port, but old oller- the speed we could, but it's harder takin' with the big knife. I never want to see plate would just lie in a long deck-chair a bad channel with the current than a worke sight than Sandy's forearm was and size 'em up, and you could tell by against it, and it was well on toward The bullet had torn it all to pieces, but the look of his eye that he thought such sunset when we swung into the last the boy had just hung to his wheel with places was mighty lucky to have a man stretch and the wind caught us for the one hand and never knew he was hurt like blot look at 'ont even from a dist first time. It was blowin' a livin' gale. | bud-till-his boat was safe. --

- "We couldn't understand it for a while, siren, and looked downstream with a at it those dents, in his face moved in

who was a chairman or something, kept the channel hugged the west bank and Island, where we know the Wayne would weavin' the ship in and out among the deepened, and we were running down it lay to and wait for us blands, and on the morning of Decem- at more than full speed, when something "When we were about halfway across ber 74th, just a little over a your ago, happened. A dozen putts of smoke burst Sandy moved a little on the bench and of all un-Christmassy places, we found out of the brush to port, and the bullets began to mumble something. The pain ourselves on the northeast coast of sung overhead, as usual. That may and loss of blood had driven him delirisound like a fairy tule, but those out- ous, I guess. The passenger stooped over "The trip was all but ended; there laws down there have a way of doing him and seemed to listen, and after a was just time to crowd on and make such things. Samar's a bad island." the bit he picked the boy up in those long

"'Go forward to catch the line,' he everything.

deckhand, and I was running the engine. "How we got through it I don't know, "Our friend sat in the cockpit forward, but we did, and when it got a little his lower. 'Yes, son,' he says.

"What shall I do?" he usked. "Take that bucket and bull, I said.

fairly flew. Once he straightened up And you'll see many a merry Christmas with a grint-and peeled off his long black hereafter, if you and I get out of this." coat. It, went flyin' down wind as he And Sandy, I supose, dreamin' he was a picked up his bucket again. He had the voumester again back at home, sort of cocknit dry quick as a pump could do it. half opened his eyes and smiled kind and then he ripped off his collar and weak and for once in his life Sandy was tore open the front of his shirt. Evidently he was warmin' up, though his face didn't change.

"'What next?' he asked. '. "Heave some of these sahes over- jerk board with that scoop. I said.

"The big shovel scraped on the iron, water-tender, as softly as his big voice and I straightened up for a look ahead | would let him. But I'ducked again quick, for I thought I'd poked my head into a melted hall the Congressman got the idea, someway storm. I turned round to say something, that Sandy was a good man. He hapbetter than to heave loose nahes to wind- Sandy's second officer on one of those ward in a gale. But he was digging a new boats, and he'll be a captain by the hot cinder out of his neck, so I kept time he's thirty."

"By the time he had the ashpit clear of the table and drew as long a breath and the end of a heaving line came rat- in out the Christmas party, wich time across the awaing. The first of- just a syme to please the kiddles,"

"Take the hawser aboard and hang story: E was all right, that old bloke, on ' he shouted to Sandy. 'It's your only an', the young Scotch chap, 'e was all chance. If we find you can't tow, we'll right, too. Give me chaps as aln't cut on this end. You hang on till softies, every time."

"Like most portable launches, the one the door of the mess-room, and a we were in was a bit top-heavy, and roared. "Eight bells! Pirst relief to the when the wind caught the awnings it engine room," and they all got up stiffly just canted her, over to starboard, and and shuffled down to their steel-bound the minute the hawser tautened she prison, to drive the old-ship a water

of the Suck and we had a cargo of Con- shore in a very bad temper, us I've said, and hi a second the hawser was slark

"The Congressmen was standing right knows when her child suffers from

"Sandy flung his head half round and harm will result to the infant. An extossed his little speech over his head mouthfuls as he figgled the wheel up Miller's Worm Powders. "'Ever see a patent log?' he asked, ulating and woothing effects so that the

Ever see the sphiner on it spin? No child's progress thereafter is painter out takeing a bath and Warshing my harm of course, but make us-too dizzy and satisfying, to swim well.

"Sandy's remarks didn't. call for an keeping a weather eye on that bit of "Our friend didn't even bother to look rope, as we all were. I had a full head adjoat; but it would lift ut times, and or once when the crest of a wave slower us be said. "A man lies easy in his deck- investigation, Mr er-Officer," he said, she felt the bite of it and came within

> "Sandy began to hall the deck for the first officer, but of course he was busy forward, and we got no answer. "'Why don't you cut it?" asked the passenger, getting on to what was the

> "Orders,' said Sandy shortly, swinging hor a bit to meet a sea. The passenger looked at him sharp.

> "'It ought to be cut?' he asked. "'Sure,' said Sandy, 'unless we want to be towed under. Just slow your con-

"The passenger looked at Sandy's back again, and then he pulled out a big chap-knife-blg us a cleaver, it seemed -and crawled out on the overhang and "Sandy let go the wheel with one hand began hacking away at the two-inch was thinking everything was right when

"'Take the wheel, coxswain,' he said tooked, starin' straight through you with that leak through your armor-plate? Is dazed-like, and sank down in a little that immovable face, as if you weren't it you or the engine that's gettin' tired, heap in the water that was sloshin' round the cock-pit.

"For a minute be stared at Sandy and laid him down along the seat, all limp,

"All at once we heard the Wayne's "As the old fellow stood looking down anyway and was saving up his energy aground. But she was risin' and fallin' and began cutting strips from his own to spend on his own possessions. For with the sea, and we soon understood, thirt and tying up the arm the best way

to look the islands over just the way stretch of breakers, and the captain had "All this time the coxswain had been done what not one skipper in fifty would bucking her into the seas, and we'd "No place was too small or far away dare to try, und not one in a hundred worked off short a little. She made very for him to have a stare at. The rest could do-stood over through those reefs bad weather and went very slowly, but of the crowd dropped off one by one, and swing her in-shore with sternway skill she went, and after a while we saw We had a good fightin' chance to get "Down toward the mouth of the river across that channel into the lee of the

"It was a funny sight, for the old but he must have the launch and go ging sound, and Sandy's left hand fell hit his wet skin, and Sandy's blazing from the wheel as if someone had jerked head lay against it like some new We were a sore lot when the Wayne it loose. The toxswaln jumped toward fungled flower, But somehow I didn't

> "After a bit Sundy spoke again, Scotch sound of it.

"The passenger bent that hard face of "Sundy moved his head a little on his row,' he said.

"The passenger unuggled him up closor wal booked at the boy hard, sort of the grates - And I turned to put our and then all at once his face kind of split open in the middle, and Y tell you

SLATS DIARY BY ROSS FARQUHAR

Priday-Are teecher was makeing all at are house Today and she telling ma that unclse they get sur Munny the akool is a going to The Admiral picked up his thick mus cut out 1 of are studys in skool. mechanically, took a nip of the luke witch study I wood drather do with warm ton and straightened up with a out. I sed I diddent care just so the a wood leave us keep on studying Jograffy Mil agreed with me that Joggarffy was emportent study becaus it tot you where "Sandy!" echoed the Adamiral. "Oh, overy country was Located at and ect

good place to hide a Pirate story if you want to read in akool time. Selerday - Ant Emmys sister with moved to the city last week had a dis sanointment the 1st week, she went to Sammy took his elbows from the edge

Well mebby she is rite but it all so i

take a bath with and his wife told him the water in the bath had been tirned off mince Thanksgiving.

Munday-Ma was bragging about how bowtiful Miss Glancy is sence she has went away to Collidge and pa agreed with her and we got a cold sour Crout in the forests. ..

Tourday-Sandy McCrary was up or

the golf corse all day Munday he told

that if he was lucky enuff to find cuple Twee he mite play golf next summer mebby. Every careful and observant mother ward to a very dull Crismus but her hus-

> Crismus and she rote to Ant. Emmy and help for the Hollowdays. Thirsday - Ma give me the dickens books I went to the party last nile with-

We cannot make any real and perman-

tentimber told the this party was a coformal

ENEMIES OF CANADA'S FORESTS

"There is reason to believe that the average annual damage to the forests Canada, caused by insects, may anroximate in value that caused by fire. Their Protection Against Insect Pesta." the forest wealth caused by insect pests since 1930. constitutes a most serious drain one one-

of the most valuable of the Dominloon by the grain and fodder crops, but these truction is not readily realized by the in sugar book. Hay and didyer account the bank and tryed to open a Charge | forest authorities, nor by those engaged od for a gain of 37 million dollars, wheat in the forest industries. He emphasized advanced 381/4 million dollars by value. Sunday-Joe Hix got 15 sore at his the economic value of the work of en- outs were better by 31 million dollars, of biological control, is proving one of value of the potato crop is placed 9 the most effective means of direct attack, million dollars lower than in 1933, desand maintained that great credit is due pite the higher production in 1934. to the Dominion Entomological Branca or what has been done in this field. Fungi is also another cause of great loss ocption of Prince Edward Island, where

The forests of Canada cover 1,150,000 square miles, or about one-third of the total land area of the country. The tand of merchantable timber is estima ed at 165,880,000 cubic feet, valued \$1.689.000.000. The young growth placed at 400,000,000 cubic feet. Pro-Wensday-Effy Brent was looking for- the standpoint of forest economy it is remedy be not speedily applied much bend-got his Leg broke a week before stands of trees from insects, fungi and fire, the three principal causes of loss, sed she had found her husbend a grate for the future of the forest industries depends on these young treek. About 82 per cent. of the accessible timber of commercial size is conferous trees, 11 per cent. is intolerant hardwoods (white teath. well it was all her Palt becuz birch and poplar) and seven per cent. tolerant hardwoods-yellow birch maple

> Mix 1 teaspoonful of cornstarch with What can ent change in human life unless we I cup of salt for table use and it will educate the young for it .- If. G. Welli, not gather dampness, the salt, of course, it recems less wicked.

CANADIAN FIELD CROP VALUES

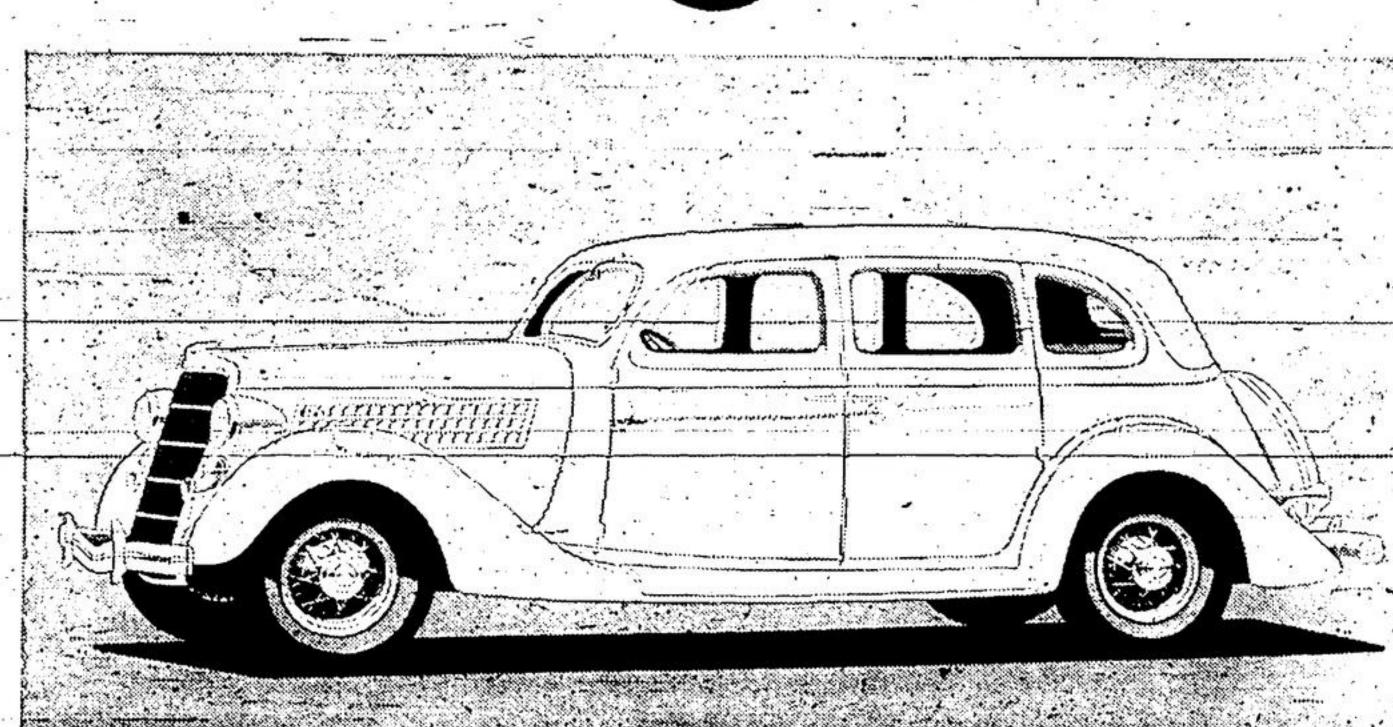
Carmda's field crops for 1934 show an estimated gain of \$112,901,500 in value. This improvement is attributed which averages nearly \$10,000,000 and mainly to better prices for farm products qually," said R. D. Craig in a paper and some improvements in yields, and ead at one of the sessions of the con- may be regarded as a significant and ference of officers of the Dominion En- hopeful step in the recovery of Canadian tomological Branch, Dominion Depart- agriculture. According to a crop second ment of Agriculture, held recently in issued by the Dominion Bureau of Ottawa Mr. Craig's paper was entitled Statistics, the value of the 1934 field "The Porest Resources of Canada - crops is estimated at \$536,498,600 compared with the 1933 valuation of \$423. Continuing, he said that the loss to 597,000, and reaches the highest lev

MAKE LARGE GAIN

The greatst value increases are shown natural resources. The extent to which are offset to some extent by a sharp insects can carry on their work of des- decline in notatoes and a lesser decline tomologists, and said that in his obinion and barley showed a gain in value of the introduction of parasites, as a means 10% million dollars. The estimated

All of the provinces reported increases in the value of field crops, with the exa very slight reduction was shown. Both Nova Scotla and New Brunswick show increases due mainly to the improvement in hay prices. In Quebec a fairly general betterment in yield and m caused an increase of 80 million dollars or 45 per cent. in the value of field crops In Ontario, higher prices for grains and fodder offset the lower production, and most important to protect the young the estimated value of field crops is up 1714 million dollars, or 14 per cent. Munitobah yields were also down, but with generally higher prices, the value of field crops is placed 1614 million dollars, or nearly 50 per cent. higher than in 1933. A similar condition prevailed in Saskatchewan which shows an lmprovement of 16 million dollars or roughly 20 per cent. Alberta field or values are estimated to be blober about 37 per cent, or 28 4 million dollars. British Columbia shows a slight betterment over 1933 valuations.

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