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CANADIAN CHAMPION

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W.M.S.: 2nd Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.
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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REV. JAMES N. MOFAUL, MINISTER. Sabbath Services: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sabbath School and Bible Class: 2.80 p.m. Young Peoples' Society: Monday, 8 p.m. W.F.M.S. meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. Happy Helpers Mission Band : Wennesday of every month at 4.80 p.m.

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Girls, Mondays, 7.80 p.m. Y.P.S., 1st & 3rd Wednesdays. ALL SAINTS-MILTON HEIGHTS. Sunday Services—Fourth Sunday, Holy Communion at Sp.m.; First and third Sunday, evening prayer and sermon at Sp.m.; Second and fifth Sunday, Litany and sermon. Holy baptism and churchings, Sundays, at

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BURN



BY EDISON MARSHALL

(Copyright, 1920, Little, Brown & Company) WHEELER sessed a greater mastery over his own nerves. His heart leaped somewhat fast in his own breast; but this was the only wasted motion. It isn't easy to advance through such thickets without ever a misstep, without the rustle

of a branch or the crack of a twig. Certain of the wild creatures find it easy; but men have forgotten how in too many centuries of cities and farms. It is hardly a human quality, and a spectator would have found a rather ghastly fascination in watching the lithe motions, the passionless face, the hands that didn't shake at all. But

there were no spectators—unless the little band of wolves, stragglers from the pack that had gathered on the hills behind-watched with lighted eyes. Dan went down at full length upon the snow and softly removed his snow shoes. They would be only an impediment in the close work that was sure crust, clear to the mouth of the lean-to. The moonlight poured through and showed the interior with rather remarkable plainness. Cranston was sprawled, half-sitting, half-lying on a tree-bough pallet near the rear wall.

There was not the slightest doubt of. the man's wakefulness. Dan heard him stir, and once—as if at the memcursed in a savage whisper. Although he was facing the opening of the leanto, he was wholly unaware of Dan's presence. The latter had thrust his Agent for the Chamberlin Metal Weather head at the side of the opening, and up, too. So he did the next most t it was in shadow. Cranston seemed arming thing. MILTON to be watching the great, white snow tields that lay in front, and for a mo- lean-to. ment Dan was at loss to explain this "Good evening, Cranston," he said

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS ment tran was at loss to explain this dood e seeming vigil. Then he understood, pleasantly. valleys. Cransta, had evidently anemergencies. There might be sport to aim it.

Frunk Ticket Agents or C. E. Horn- jectures in regard to Snowbird. Both ment Cranston could find no answer. the little package of cheese, the boxes would want us to do. Besides—it Dan's eyes encompassed the room: the piles of provisions heaped against the wall, the snow shoes beside the

leaning against a grub box possibly do you want?"

hoped for-for the sake of Snowbird, rifle-also your snow shoes and your not himself-was that he would be supplies of food. And I think I'll take conditions could be greatly worse than for them?" Cranston asked. His lips they were. If Cranston had actually drew up in a smile, but there was no had the weapon in his hands, the odds smile in the tone of his words. of battle would have been frightfully against Dan. It takes a certain length he stepped nearer. "Not only for of time to seize, swing, and aim a ri- that. Cranston. We're face to face at fle; and Dan felt that while he would last—hands to hands. I've got a knife be unable to reach it himself, Crun- in my pocket, but I'm not even going ston could not procure it either, with- to bring it out. It's hands to handsupon him. In all his dreams, through between us." the months of preparation, he had pic-

ready to fire: and the loss of a fracwanted both hands free when he made

diate leap on the shoulders of his adversary, running the risk of Cranston the end!" reaching his hunting knife in time. But the second that he would require to get to his feet would entirely offset

this advantage. Cranston could spring



"Good Evening, Cranston."

He sprang up and strode into the

of the long ridge that the three of same instant. His instincts were en- was a curious pounding, lashing sound know we must face the truth. Better them would pass their way to the tirely true. He knew if he leaped for in the evergreen boughs. It seemed one of us die than both. And I promhis rifle, Dan would be upon his back merciless and endless. in an instant, and he would have no But Dan got up at last, in a strange, won't take your pistol with me either." would attempt to march out—even it chance to use it. The rifle was now heavy silence, and swiftly went to Her thought flashed to the clasp he hadn't guessed they would try to out of the running, as they were at work. He took the rifle and filled it hunting knife that he carried in his take the helpless Lennox with them— about equal distances from it, and with cartridges from Cranston's belt, pocket. But her eyes lighted, and she

have with Dan, unarmed as he was. Dan's sudden appearance had been supplies of food—the sack of nutri- "We'll stay it out," she told him. Full information from all Grand And his eyes were full of strange con- so utterly unlooked for, that for a mo- tious jerked venison like dried bark, "We'll fight it to the last-just as Dan His eyes moved to the rifle, then his belt where hung his hunting knife. that still lay on the pallet.

out giving Dan an opportunity to leap you and I-until everything's square "Perhaps you've forgotten that day tured it thus. It was the test at last. on the ridge?" Cranston asked. "You

The gun might be loaded, and still- haven't any woman to save you this "I remember the day, and that's part tion of a second might enable Cran- of the debt. The thing you did yesterston to reach his knife. Thus Dan day is part of it, too. It's all to be setfelt justified in ignoring the gun alto- tled at last, Cranston, and I don't begether and trusting—as he had most lieve I could spare you if you went to desired—to a battle of hands. And he your knees before me. You've got a clearing out by the fire-big as a prize ring. We'll go out there-side by side If Dan had been erect upon his feet, And hands to hands we'll settle a his course would have been an imme- these debts we have between us-with no rules of fighting and no mercy in Get your feet properly fitted. We carry from A A

They measured each other with their eyes. Once more Cranston's gaze stole to his rifle, but lunging out, Dan kicked it three feet farther into the shadows of the lean-to. Dan saw the hands clenching, the shoulder muscles growing into hard knots. And Cran-Christless creed by which he lived-

clutching him at last. He saw it in the position of the sta wart form before him, the clear level eyes that the moon light made bright cartridges was expended in the right as steel, the hard lines, the slim, pow- way. self could not imitate or pretend. The she simply tossed the ax through

weakling and a degenerate, but the ob- She turned to coax the fire. And then scene words he sought for would not she leaned sobbing over the sled. come to his lips. Here was his fate, and because the darkness always fades won't come back. What's the use of before the light, and the courage of fighting any more?" leaped for his knife on the blankets what I want you to-"

Dan was upon him before he ever "You're able to climb a tree, and reached it. He sprang as a cougar you'd take these coats, you wouldn't spings, incredibly fast and with shat- freeze by morning. If you'd only have tering power. Both went down, and the strength-" for a long time they writhed and struggled in each other's arms. The pine

boughs rustled strangely. ghastly weight had come at his throat, ing words, Snowbird. You're a brave the lungs, inflicting a mortal wound. and his tortured lungs sobbed for girl-always have been since a little The Double Track Route The white field before him was part | Cranston was also upon his feet the breath. Then, for a long time, there thing, as God is my Judge—and you

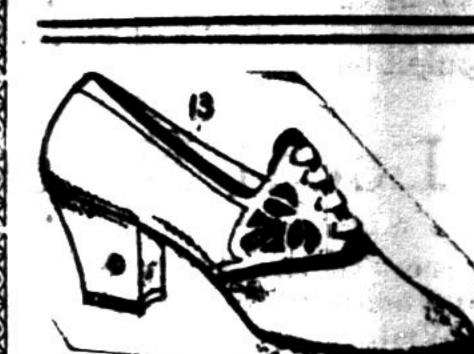
> and he wished to be prepared for neither would have time to swing or Then he put the remaining two boxes bent and kissed him. And the wolves of shells into his skint pocket. The leaped forward even at this. sacks of prepared flour-he tied, with me, in a little while. I couldn't cling a single kettle, into his heavy blan- up there forever-and Dan won't come kets and flung them with the rifle upon back." his back. Finally he took the pair of * coldly, swiftly, all the time munching the fire. Only by dint of the most at a piece of jerked venison. When he had finished he walked to the door

It seemed to Dan that Cranston whi pered faintly, from his unconsciousness, as he passed; but the victor did not turn to look. The snow shoes crunched away into the darkness. Or the hill behind a half dozen wolvesstragglers from the pack-frisked and leaped about in a curious way. strange smell had reached them on the wind, and when the loud, fearful steps were out of hearing, it might pay them to creep down, one by one, and investigate its cause.

The gray circle about the fire was growing impatient. Snowbird waited to the last instant before she admitted this fact. But it is possible only so long to deny the truth of a thing that all the senses verify, and that moment for her was past.

She noticed that when she went to her hands and knees, laboriously to cut a piece of the drier wood from the rain-soaked, rotted snag that was her principal supply of fuel, every wolf would leap forward, only to draw back shen she stood straight again. She worked desperately to keep the fire ourning bright. She dared not negfect it for a moment. Except for the single pistol ball that she could afford to expend on the wolves-of the three she had—the fire was her last defense. But it was a losing fight. The rain-

soaked wood smoked without flame, the comparatively dry core with which Dan had started the fire had burned down, and the green wood, hacked with such heart-breaking difficulty from the saplings that Dan had cut, needed the most tireless attention to burn at all. Her nervous vitality was flowing



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But when she stooped to pick it up-she didn't finish the though

"What's the use?" she cried.

"What?"

"And see you torn to pieces!" "I'm old, dear-and very tired-and I'd crawl away into the shadows, where But the words wouldn't come. A you couldn't see. There's no use mincise-I'll never feel their fangs. And I in the region of her hip. But she

She was wholly unable to gain on

heart-breaking toil was she able to secure any dry fuel for it at all. Every length of wood she cut had to be scraped of bark, and half the time the fire was only a sickly column of white

cult to swing the ax. The trail was ness, and she thought that the deep-"He ening cold presaged dawn. Her fin-

smoke. It became increasingly diffi-

gers were numb. wickedness always breaks before the "There's always use of fighting," her saplings, but she stumbled and almost courage of righteousness, Cranston was father told her. He seemed to speak went to her face at the first blow. It afraid to look it in the face. The fear with difficulty, and his face looked was the instant that her gray watchof defeat, of death, of heaven knows strange and white. The cold and the ers had been waiting for. The wolf what remorselessness with which this exposure were having their effect on that stood nearest leaped—a gray grave giant world administer justice his weakened system, and unconscious- streak out of the shadow—and every was upon him, and his heart seemed ness was a near shadow indeed. "But, wolf in the pack shot forward with a to freeze in his breast. Cravenly he dearest-if I could only make you do yell. It was a short, expectant cry; but it chopped off short. For with a

half-sob, and seemingly without mental process, she aimed her pistol and A fast-leaping wolf is one of the most difficult pistol targets that can be imagined. It bordered on the miraculous that she did not miss him altogether. Her nerves were torn, their control over her muscles largely gone. Yet the bullet coursed down through The wolf had leaped for her throat: but he fell short. She staggered from thome in her soft flesh. The wolf

rolled on the ground; and if her pistol had possessed the shocking power of a rifle, he would have never got up again. As it was, he shricked once, then sped off in the darkness to die. Five or six of the nearest wolves. catching the smell of his blood, bayed But the remainder of the great pack -fully 15 of the gray, gaunt creatures

-came stealing across the snow toward her. White fangs had gone home; and a new madness was in the (TO BE CONTINUED)





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