Second Time West

T. C. BRIDGES

CHAPTER XXVII

RINGED BY FIRE men were still standing, that volley what we're up to we'll be on top." would have pretty well finished the He led and the rest followed. In felt stronger. Then when the next fashion, in a circle round the stones, ahead in order not to lose him. firing as they rode.

said bitterly. "They must have got the they were going down hill, which ed. He started down the slope. Mex boy, learned what we was doing, meant they were already in the gorge. It was the craziest venture, more and fixed up this ambush. Don't look What a triumph if they could reach especially since he had lost his pistol like any of us'll get out, alive."

come pretty close to see us."

Ward told him. "That'll see our fin- to get them out.

know what I'm saying, son."

right, they were trapped and it seemed right started quickly in that direction. and saw a light beneath him. It was certain that not one of them would live The ground gave way beneath him, a window with a lighted lamp behind to see another sunrise. Farne had his he made a frantic effort to recover it. So far as Jim could see all the chance and would make the most of it. himself but failed. Instantly he knew other windows were dark. His watch Once he had wiped out Ward's lot, he what had happened. He had walked had stopped but by the height of the could concentrate against the Painted over the edge of the creek bank. He moon he judged that nearly two hours Cross and destroy it. This meant that expected to plunge into swift water; had elapsed since the rain-storm broke Joan would fall again into Farne's instead he crashed upon hard ground, and it looked as if all the excitement hands and this time he would never let His head struck rock, sparks flashed was over and Farne's men had gone to her go; nor would there be anyone left before his eyes and after that he knew their bunks. If that was so the chances to help her. The thought made Jim no more.

Drum killers, pelting bullets upon the though he lay in shadow there was men penned in the centre of the circle. light to see his surroundings. As he There were few return shots for Ward had suspected, he had fallen over the had passed the word for all to lie flat creek bank. He lay on a mass of rocks and take what shelter they could find, and earth which made a little pro-So far as Jim knew, no more had been montory at the bottom of the bank. hit since the first volley, but by this His feet were in the water which swirltime all the horses were down. The ed past, roaring sullenly. The creek screams of one that had been wounded was rising rapidly, swollen by the room. The harness-room would probechoed terribly through the night until storm Carson crawled near enough to put a Jim took some minutes to absorb a rope in the sheds. merciful bullet through its head.

ing for death, and Jim racked his functioning sluggishly. It occurred to brain for any way out, but could not him that it was time he moved, for the find one. By this time he had given water was coming up fast and would up all hope of Dave Condon coming to very soon cover the stone on which he the rescue, and certainly there was no lay. He tried to rise only to fall back one else who could do so. His thoughts with a groan. The stab of pain which kept going back to Joan, and he blamed shot through his head was sheer agony. himself bitterly for not having written. He rested a few moments, breathing full details to Bill Beverley. He knew deeply, then made a second attempt Bill well enough to be sure that, if call- and this time struggled to his feet. He ed on, he would move heaven and earth was so giddy he had to cling to to save Joan from Farne.

face brought him out of his black | Jim put a hand to the back of his head. thoughts. He raised his rifle and took His hair was matted with blood and his a snap shot at a dim shadow that head so sore he could hardly bear to whirled past. It struck him that it touch it. A man less fit than Jim was darker than ever. Then, all of a Chernocke would have been unable to sudden, a great drop of warm rain help himself, but Jim was tough as splashed upon his cheek and next in- leather and presently felt equal to the light, which had escaped injury in his stant the very cisterns of Heaven were task of climbing the bank. emptied upon them.

Like a flash Jim turned to Ward. to clear out.

down."

they'll look for us."

"By gum, it's a notion! But can we was dead find it? It's dark as dirt."

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Ben Cottle crept up.

"Yes, reckon I can find it," he said the face of the bluff he saw the mouth But for the rocks among which they "It's a good notion, Ward. If we can of more than one cave. The sensible

to Ward Haskell's place. Opposite, in

Drum corral. The odds were all against

had quite upset his powers of judg-

The sharp pain in his head had dull-

ed to a steady ache, his strength was

coming back and he found himself able

to walk. Presently he rounded a curve

of getting a horse seemed fairly good.

Jim went on quietly, keeping as much

one thing in his favour. In the old

days he had visited the Kettle Drum

more than once, so he knew the lie of

the land. The house stood on rising

ground on the west bank of the creek,

and in front was a solidly built bridge,

and there was a row of shedding close

by with stables, sheds and harness-

ably be locked, but Jim hoped to find

He reached the shadow at the back of

the sheds without trouble and stood

locking at the house. Not a sound

came from it or from the large bunk-

what had become of the S. Bar S. men.

It was too ghastly to think that they

seemed clear that they were not in the

ranch-house, what else could have hap-

More anxious than ever, Jim crept

along the sheds and rounded the east-

ern end, the one furthest from the

house. The moon shone brightly here.

and Jim hesitated before venturing out

of the shadow. Yet all was so quiet

that he gained confidence, and, slip-

ping round the end of the building

inside. Luckily, he still had his flash-

fall, and, switching it on, looked round

His relief was great when he saw a

asso rope hanging against the wall.

He was still more pleased to find a

bridle, old but still serviceable. Now.

an unpleasant chill down his spine.

Next minute the riders had arrived.

and he heard them reining in their

horses and springing to the ground.

The curious thing was that none of

them spoke. All Jim could hear was

the heavy breathing of hard-ridden

horses. At last came a voice.

gassed again in a raid.

had all been finished. Yet since it

whole lot of Ward Haskell's party. As single file they slipped away from the night came, he might be fit for the long it was three men went down and five cluster of rocks. Jim walked last of tramp horses. Jim and Ward both escaped all. His heart was thumping. If they, He staggered across, found shelter though a bullet lifted Jim's hat from got through Farne's men, the battle and sat down, yet in less than 10 minhis head. They and the other survi- was more than half won. But a single utes was on his feet again. Those few vors flung themselves down in what shot would betray them and that would minutes had each seemed like an hour shelter they could find and opened a be the end. There was no wind, the and the idea of spending the rest of return fire. It was chancy shooting in rain fell perfectly straight, drumming the night and all to-morrow in this the dark and at men spaced out as on the ground with a steady roar of suspense was flatly out of the question. widely as their attackers, but some sound. It was so dark that it was He must know what had happened to damage was done for two horses raced barely possible to see a hand lifted in Ward and the rest. He made up his past with empty saddles. The rest of front of one's face and Jim had to mind to go down the gorge and see if Farne's men started galloping, Indian follow almost on the heels of the man he could steal a horse from the Kettle

There were no shots and Jim's spirits | finding a saddle, yet if he could get a "Trapped like jack rabbits," Ward began to rise. By the feel of the ground mount of any sort that hardly matterthe Kettle Drum buildings without and was unarmed, but at this mo-"It's not that bad," Jim answered. Farne realizing that they had escaped! ment Jim Chernocke was in no condi-"We have some cover and they have to The odds were that the house would be | tion to give reasonable consideration to deserted except for the cook, and, once what was before him. The blow on " The moon'll be up in an hour," inside, Farne's men would have a job his head, added to his intense anxiety

Full of these cheering thoughts, Jim ment "It will cut both ways," Jim declared, realized of a sudden that he had lost "It won't. They're three to one. I his guide. He paused a moment straining his eyes through the wet darkness, Jim could find no answer. Ward was then hearing something a little to the

When Jim's senses came back the Round and round went the Kettle rain had ceased, the moon was up and

these details for he was still in a very It was intolerable to lie there, wait- dazed condition and his senses were

twisted root projecting from the bank. A bullet that spattered earth in his The giddiness passed by degrees and

It was steep, but there were plenty of hand holds and in a short time he was "Here's our chance. Pass the word safe on top. He looked round but there was no one in sight, nor could he hear "But our horses are dead. This rain anything except the river rushing past. won't last long. Then they'll ride us He wondered greatly what had happened to Ward and his men. If they had "Yes, if we take to the open. Make reached the Kettle Drum there ought for the gorge. That's the last place to be sounds of firing; if they had failed the odds were that everyone of them

For the life of him Jim could not "Ben Cottle can do it. Tell him. decide what to do. It was no use Don't waste a minute. As you say, this dreaming of finding his way to the is too heavy to last. And warn the Painted Cross. The distance was at boys not to shoot. One shot will give least 10 miles and in his present state the whole show away." Ward hesitat- he doubted if he could walk one. It ed no longer. He passed the word and would be equally impossible to return

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Strong Position of **Confederation Life**

Increase of Nearly a Million in New Insurance.

Toronto, Jan. 31.-The strongest balance sheet of the post-war period was presented last week at the 66th annual meeting of the Confederation Life As-Sociation, culminating a year of continued steady growth.

New assurances totalled \$48,443,831, an increase of almost \$1,000,000 over had tied their horses and where the fetch the ranch house afore they know course seemed to be to take refuge in 1937 were \$411,141,459, an increase of \$12,641,886 for the year.

> Assets were \$120,700,00, an increase of \$7,728,000. The Association continued its conservative practice of carrying them into the balance sheet at their book values, which are \$2,500, 000 less than their actual market values as ascertained by the federal insurance

R. S. Waldie, vice-president, was chairman and delivered President C. S. the latter through illness. Mr. Macdonald pointed out the substantial increase in every phase of operation, not served. only in 1937, but over the last decade. In the last 10 years, business in force total income 154%; payments to policyholders, 221%; dividends to policyholders, 154%, and surplus, 134%.

Commenting on present low interest rates for long-term loans, Mr. Macdonald warned that investment in such securities would present uncomfortable problems in the future.

"Interest rates will not always remain at their present low levels, and when they rise, the securities having long-term maturities will show heavy capital depreciation," he predicted, explaining that Confederation Life was meeting this problem by shortening the maturities of its portfolio by purchases and ex changes of shorter term securities. .One-third of all Confederation Life bonds will mature in 10 years and two-thirds in 15 years, he stated. Bonds and debentures comprise 63.29% of assets. Five years ago this group comprised less than 50%. Investment in bonds has increased over \$30,000,000. Government and muni-

tion bonds amounting to 10%. as possible in the shadow. There was The Association holds \$22,000,000 in securities payable in more than one currency, thus being able to advantage of the exchange market with certainty of profit—a desirable position.

cipal bonds account for 53%, corpora-

"Good mortgages are difficult to obtain. This difficulty will remain in Canada so long as legislature continue meratorium legislation and impair their security by ranking ahead of the return to the mortgagee charges for services properly payable by the mortgagor," said the prseident, explaining why mortgage investments have fallen from 15.6% to 12.3% of the assets "Our mortgage investments have been house close by, and again he wondered

In five years, investments in preferred and common stocks have increased from \$3,300,000 to \$5,350,000, from 3.59% to 4.34% of the assets. Mr Macdonald stated this investment in stocks is most modest, under Canadian law Confederation Life could carry 15% of the ledger assets in stocks, or

As dominion and provincial securities make up 30% of assets, Confederation Life has a vital interest in governmental finances, the president asserted. With increased internal business, lower relief costs, rising revenues and lessened interest charges of \$16,-000,000 due to refunding operations by the federal finance department, Mr. Macdonald looked forward to possibility of a balanced budget and the hope that the Dominion will soon be pay-

if nothing interfered, he could catch a "It is not to be expected that taxahorse and ride it. Carrying his spoil, tion will be reduced immediately, but he was leaving the shed when, through rather that first attention will be the quiet night came a sound of horses directed to reduction of the national travelling fast. He stopped and listdebt. It is to be hoped that no new ened. About a dozen horses were comburdens will be incurred until old buring, and they were coming down the dens are eliminated or materially regorge. It was almost certain that they were Kettle Drum men, and Jim felt

"Those who are demanding that the Dominion should assume increased or Since flight was out of the question, new responsibility with increased exhe must hide, but the question was penditures would do well to ponder the where. There was no loft here as there fact that the public and guaranteed had been in the stable at Loomis; there debt of the Dominion has increased was no hiding place of any sort. He 50 % in the last 10 years and stands at started out and tried another door. 41/2 billions of dollars—a staggering This was not locked, and entering, he total for a young and sparsely populatfound himself in a feed room. Wired ed country. In the last 25 years our bales of hay were stacked against the per capita debt has increased 500% walls, and on one side sacks of oats and our population only 50%. Canada were piled. He squeezed in behind the is a young country, and while it may sacks and crouched down. It was a continue to mortgage the future, it poor sort of refuge, but better than cannot do so indefinitely.'

He observed that, notwithstanding drought in the West, Canada had enjoyed two prosperous years in 1936 and 1937, due principally to rapidly expanding foreign trade. Aid from the federal government and the east had made the west realize, as perhaps never before, that it was part of a nation, not standing alone. "A strong, happy, turn in the tide has come and that

Huntingdon Gleaner: A Prague wo- to the end that its recommendations man, Marie I is seeking divorce may lead to legislation which will enon the grounds that her husband has able Canadians to realize the ideals of

months to wear a gas mask in bedt V. R. Smith, general manager, stated The husband was twice gassed in the that the increase of business in force Great War, and the wife states he is was 10% greater than the increase for obsessed with the danger of being 1936. Premium income stood at the highest figure in Confederation Life

history, \$16,665,000. Total income from all sources, \$22,573,292, was the greatest for any past year.

Improvement in world conditions was reflected in a marked decrease in cash surrender values, which were 11% less than in 1936 and 48% less than 1933. Rate of termination was the best since 1930 and, as a percentage of business in force, the best since 1928. Policy loans amount to but 11.69% of the total assets, the lowest point in 30 years.

"It is essential that the policyholder shall be able to obtain in a crisis the maximum loan; therefore it is to his interest to repay loans as quickly as possible, so that he may be able to obtain another cash loan the next time

He noted a marked movement to the bia, Quebec, New Brunswick and participating type of insurance. 1933-4-5, more than three fifths of new business was on the non-participating plans; in 1937, less than two-fifths of new business was in this class.

Discussing modern insurance trends, gains in new business. notably "social security," Mr. Smith found among employers a growing con- of agencies, commended Ontario agen- She is more fain to be at rest sciousness of responsibility for em-Macdonald's address in the absence of ployees' old age. This concern was reflected in the striking growth of Confederation Life group pensions, he ob-

> In eight years Group pensions have ncreased 500% and net reserves are now almost \$1,000,000—thirty times as great as at the end of 1929. Group sickness and accident insurance has increased 20 times since 1930 and the number of lives insured has grown from 400 to more than 10,000 in seven years. He explained that Group insurance is "Wholesale insurance at wholesale rates," and predicted its continued rapid expansion in the field of industry.

Difficulty found by individuals in making satisfactory investments had led to increased public demand for immediate annuity contracts. Confederation Life annuity business has increased nearly 10 times since 1930.

statements, Mr. Smith said the directors had continued the form of statement introduced last year, which had received favourable comment from press and policyholders. The latter valued the company's efforts to give them complete information so they could judge for themselves the company's progress, he stated.

a crisis arises," pointed out Mr. Smith.

interest to all intelligent employees. deserved special mention, he said. Six Many thoughtful employers have re- branches in Great Britain had made cognized a moral obligation on their outstanding progress, stated Mr. Depart and have taken active steps to vlin, announcing that the objective for assist their employees and to co-oper- new business in 1938 was set at \$50,ate with them in achieving the maxi- 000,000. mum security possible within the financial resources of both employer and employee."

Pointing out that the Association has had a contributory staff savings and benefit fund for the salaried clerical staff, Mr. Smith announced that the plan will this year be broadened to set up a pension fund for managers.

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C. D. Devlin, general superintendent cies. In new business, Windsor, Port Arthur, Hamilton, Timmins, Brantford, Beneath her lids the pictures flit St. Catharines, North Bay, Peterboro Of memores far away: and two Toronto branches registered Her look has not a hint in it splendid gains. Eastern Quebec, West-"Social securtiy is a matter of acute ern Quebec and Sherbrooke divisions

If You Like

Books (By A. H.)

and like to hear its music and listen to being discussed. Those present disits thought, are wont to cut out a page | cussed plans for a Valentine whist drive here and a page there in a magazine to be held in the hall on Thursday, or paper when they find a poem they February 10th. like. There are several people in town who have collections of poems, many of the poems being such as are not so well known. One young lady who has a scrapbook of poems, said to me one day, "Why haven't you ever quoted the poem "Old Jane," in your column?" Imagine having to admit that a poem someone treasures, is one that you have never heard! That was the case. Unfortunately the speaker did not remember the author of the poem, so it seemed rather a difficult task to find it. And, now, (it must be luck), the

poem turns up in an old school-book Old Jane (by T. Ashe)

I love old women best, I think: She knows a friend in me-Old Jane, who totters on the brink Of God's Eternity: Whose limbs are stiff, whose cheek is

Whose eyes look up, afraid; Though you may gather she has been

A little laughing maid.

Once, and her heart of hope; I love to look on her-Asks, "Buy a pencil, Sir?"

Her smile is as the litten West. Nigh-while the sun is gone; Than here to linger on: Of what she sees to-day.

Perhaps you have a poem that you would like to see printed in this column. If so, mail it to this column in care of The Porcupine Advance, Timmins, and it will be a pleasure to quote it and to have other readers become acquainted with it.

Rebekahs to Hold Valentine Whist Drive on Feb. 10th

The Gold Nugget Rebekah Lodge held their regular meeting in the Oddfellows' hall on Thursday evening. A large number of members were present Most people who appreciate poetry, at the meeting, a great deal of business

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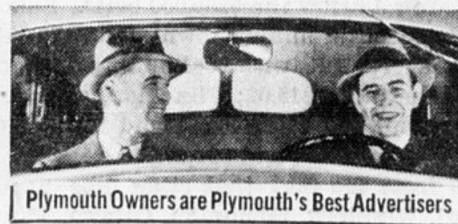
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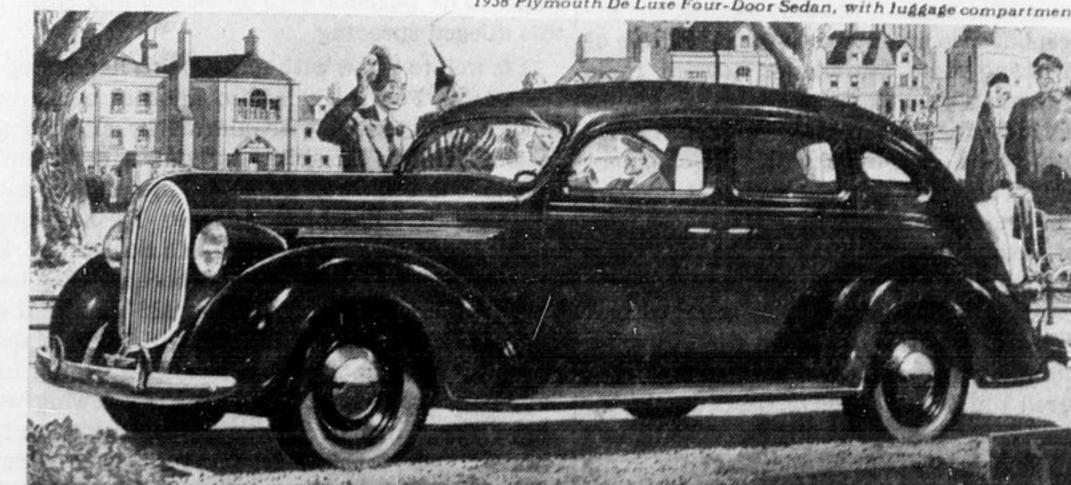
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"This is a mess, Buck!" A quiver FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1938 ran through Jim. The speaker was solvent west must be built if Canada Farne himself. is to be one great nation. Fortunately "It's no fault of mine," retorted Buck Tickets to U.S. Destinations sold subject to Passengers meeting Immithere are excellent indications that the Coulton, sharply. "If it hadn't been gration Requirements of U.S.A. Going and Canada Returning. for that storm we had them all ends 1938 will be a better year in western Bargain excursion tickets NOT GOOD on Pool Trains No. 6 and 15, be-Canada. I believe that eastern Cantween Toronto and points East thereof. "We've lost them now," said Farne, ada knows that much of its success is Bargain excursion tickets to Peterboro good only on C.N.R. exclusive grimly. "You, Kinney, give my horse due to development of the west and trains between Toronto and Peterboro. a feed of oats. As soon as I've had a that it is prepared to co-operate in drink I must go straight to Loomis.' Bargain excursion tickets NOT GOOD on "The Northland"assisting the west to find methods of A man entered the feed room. Jim rendering less onerous the fluctuation Trains 49 and 50. heard him open the food bin. of western economic life." RETURNING "Curse!-it's empty!" he growled, Briefs before the Rowell Commission and slammed the lid down. Then he had a wide national outlook, indicat-Leave destinations up to and including Monday, February 7th., EXCEPT turned to the pile of sacks behind ing that Canadians took a serious view as follows: from Windsor, up to 1.00 a.m., Tuesday, February 8th.; from of the national problems involved, he Port Arthur, Jellicoe, Geraldton, Beardmore, Nakina, Tashota and Longhich Jim was hidden. lac, up to Wednesday, February 9th, 1938. (To be Continued) commented. The Commission should receive the support of every Canadian Children 5 years of age and under 12, when accompanied by Guardian

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