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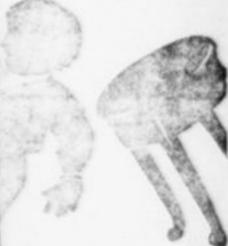
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FOURTH LINE, A. & G. Syrup making is the principal Robins, blackbirds and crows some damage to several roofs. occupation at present.

were visitors last week, but the recent freeze must have chilled

J. Black as recovering from her bered houses came into existence We are pleased to report Mrs. serious illness.

Miss Aggie Harrow, of Owen of all trades sought for signs Lyness, over the holidays. Sound Collegiate, is visiting at attract customers, and the streets

spending the holidays with her the familiar names on signs came

night's visit with her mother, sign painters. Thus, the "Bag of Mrs. McLeod.

skate on the pond on Monday. Mr. Tom. Spicer, of your town,

visited his mother here the first of

The severe wind on Friday scattered the rail fences and also did

QUEER HOTEL SIGNS. Before named streets with num-Mr. Chas. Jones, of Sudbury, is painted and carved signboards way back to his seat to get more the guest of his sister, Mrs. James and figures were most useful, and cigars. of colonial cities were filled with his own double-handful. Mr. Thos. frwin is on the jury at black bears bulldogs, red lions, Mr. Thos. Irwin is on the jury at black bears builded, grand Turks, Inthe spring assizes at Owen Sound. spread eagles, grand Turks, InWith a romance-hater's growl.

"Watch out for your head, then,"
Miss Ruby Stone, of Toronto, is dians and jolly Irishmen. Some of
Miss Ruby Stone, of Toronto, is dians and jolly Irishmen. Some of Mrs. James Fletcher returned to tions of the dialect of speakers, Toronto, after a pleasant fort- or by the mistakes of ignorant Nails" came from the "Bacchana-The hard freeze of Sunday gave lians;" the "Goat and Compass," the young fry a good evening's from "God encompasseth:" "The Carreau."

### EXCUSE ME!

Continued from page 6. people out of dreamland, and he began to fear that if he were discovered spying on the lovers, he might suffer. So he coughed discreetly three

or four times. Since the increasing racket of the train made no effect on the two hearts beating as one, the small matter of a

cough was as nothing. Finally the porter was compelled to reach forward and tap Mallory's arm,

"'Scuse me, but co-could I git b-by?" The embrace was untied, and the lovers stared at him with a dazed, where-am-I? look. Marjorie was the first to realize what awakened them. She felt called upon to say something, so she said, as carelessly as if she had not just emerged from a young

gentleman's arms: "Oh, porter, how long before the train starts?"

"Train's done started, Missy." This simple statement struck the wool from her eyes and the cotton from her ears, and she was wide enough awake when she cried: "Oh,

"That's mo'n I can do, Missy," the porter exportulated.

stop it-stop it!"

"Then I'll jump off," Marjorie vowed, making a dash for the door. But the porter filled the narrow path, and waved her back.

"Vestibule's done locked uptrain's going lickety-split." Feeling that he had safely checkmated any rashness, the porter squeezed past the dumbfounded pair, and went to change his blue blouse for the white coat of his chambermaidenly duties. Mallory's first wondering thought was a rapturous feeling that circumstances had forced his dream into a reality. He thrilled with triumph: "You've got to go with me now."

"Yes-I've got to go," Marjorie as sented meekly; "then, sublimely, "It's fate. Kismet!"

They clutched each other again a fiercely blissful hug. Marjorie came back to earth with a bump: "Ar you really sure there's a minister of board?"

"Pretty sure," said Mallory, sobel ing a triffe.

"But you said you were sure?" "Well, when you say you're sure that means you're not quite sure."

It was not an entirely satisfactory justification, and Marjorie began to quake with alarm: "Suppose there shouldn't be?" "Oh, then," Mallory answered care-

lessly, "there's bound to be one tomorrow." Marjorie realized at once the enor mous abyss between then and the morrow, and she gasped: "Tomorrow!

And no chaperon! Oh, I'll jump out of the window." Mallory could prevent that, but when she pleaded, "What shall we do?" he had no solution to offer. Again it was she who received the

first inspiration. "'I have it," she beamed. "Yes, Marjorie?" he assented, du-

bicusty. "We'll pretend not to be married at

He seized the rescuing ladder: "That's it! Not married-just friends." "Till we can get married-"

"Yes, and then we can stop being "My love-my friend!" They embraced in a most unfriendly manner.

An impatient yelp from the neglected dog-basket awoke them. "Oh, Lord, we've brought Snoozle-

"Of course we have." She took the dog from the prison, tucked him under her arm, and tried to compose her bridal face into a merely friendly countenance before they entered the car. But she must pause for one more kiss, one more of those bitter-sweet good-byes. And Mallory was nothing

Hudson and Shaw were still glumly perplexed, when the porter returned in his white jacket,

"I bet they missed the train; a this work for nothing," Hudson grumbled. But Shaw, seeing the porter, caught a gleam of hope, and asked anxiously:

"Say, porter, have you seen any thing anywhere that looks like a fresh. ly married pair?" "Well," and the porter rubbed his

eyes with the back of his hand as he chuckled, "well, they's a mighty lovin' couple out theah in the corridor.' "That's them-they-it!"

Instantly everything was alive and in action. It was as if a bugle had shrilled in a dejected camp. "Get ready!" Shaw commanded

"Here's rice for everybody." "Everybody take an old shoe," said Hudson. "You can't miss in this nar TOW CAT."

"There's a kazoo for everyone, too. said Shaw, as the outstretched hand were equipped with wedding ammun tion. "Do you know the 'Weddin March'?"

"I ought to by this time," said Mrs. Whiteomb. Right into the tangle of prepara- west

tion, old Ira Lathrop stalked, on his "Have some rice for the bridal

cried Hudson, and Lathrop ducked by all dealers. just too late to escape a neck-filling, hair-filling shower. An old shoe took him a clip abaft the ear, and the old woman-hater dropped raging into the same berth where the spinster, Anne Gattle, was trying to dodge the same et downpour.

Still there was enough of the shrapnel left to overwhelm the two young "friends," who marched into;

the aisle, trying to look indifferent less than for a wedding charivari.

less bedecked his trunk and Mar- May, 2.81; June, 2.92; July, 3.46; jorie's with white satin furbelows and August, 2.62; September, 2.81; Ocludicrous labels. But he could not shelter himself from the white sleet and the black thumps. He could tation for the ten years of 31.87 hardly shelter Marjorie, who cowered inches. April, it will be noticed, er than the romping tormentors.

bunted and shunted here and there, and yelling, "Stop it! stop it!"

uproarious good nature, laughing: "Oh, shut up, or we'll kiss you!" But Shaw was scrubbing his wry

lips with a seasick wail of: "Wow! I think I kissed the dog. There was, of necessity, some pause for breath, and the combatants draped | wet; in summer the showers are themselves limply about the seat-Mallory glared at the twin Benedic. Arnolds and demanded:

"Are you two thugs going to Sa Francisco with me?"

"Don't worry," smiled Hudso: "we're only going as far as Keddle avenue, just to start the honeymoo. properly."

If either of the elopers had been calmer, the solution of the problem would have been simple. Marjoria could get off at this suburban station

satin atrocity. "Love in a bungalow," said Hudson. "Sit down-make your- thus prevented the soi' roads, and selves perfectly at home."

herself into the first empty seat-Ira to make the soil wetter during Lathrop's berth. Mallory followed to 1912 than it has been in many console her with caresses and mur- years murs of, "There's there, don't cry, thorough underdrainage been dearie!"

mony as well as anyone. But when not even be seeded; and some that

have a good cry."

Hudson grinned, and put out his she'd rather."

to weep on. Here's mine, my dear." on application, the only outlay to The impudent Shaw tapped his own military chest: "She can use mine."

pretty pair of friends, you are!" The imperturable Shaw put out a pair of tickets as his only defense: "Here are your tickets, old boy." And Hudson roared jovially: "Wa

tried to get you a stateroom, but it was gone." laughed Shaw, forcing into his fists a who is now on his 120th transconfew pasteboards. "We got your trunks tinental trip from Boston to Calion the train ahead, all right. Don't fornia, has been travelling con-

It was the porter that brought the first relief from the ordeal. "If you gemmen is gettin' off at Kedzie avenue, you'd better step

smart. We're slowin' up now." Marjorie was sobbing too audibly round trips a year. to hear, and Mallory swearing too inaudibly to heed the opportunity Ked. sie svenue offered. And Hudson was yelling: "Well, good-bye, old boy and old girl. Sorry we can't go all the way." He had the effrontery to try to kiss the bride good-bye, and Shaw was equally bold, but Mallory's fury enabled him to beat them off. He elbowed and shouldered them down the aisle, and sent after them one of his own shoes. But it just missed Shaw's flying coattails.

Mallory stood glaring after the de parting traitors. He was glad that they at least were gone, till he real ized with a sickening slump in his vitals, that they had not taken with them his awful dilemma. And now the train was once more clicketyclicking into the night and the

Continued next week.

You can judge a man, not by what he promises to do, but by couple?" said Ashton, offering him of | what he has done. That is the only true test. Chamberlain's But Lathrop brushed him aside Cough Remedy, judged by this standard, has no superior. People everywhere speak of it in the highest terms of praise. For sale

> The income of the King of Spain is \$1,400,000.

Many a fellow who prides himself on being a prominent man is too prominent for his own good.

WHY 1912 WAS WET.

Which is the wettest month of the year in Ontario? Probably nine people out of every ten would name April in answer and prepared for nothing on earth this question, while as a metter of fact it is the driest month Mallory should have done better the whole twelve, according than to entrust his plans to fellows | Prof. W. H. Day, of the Ontario like Hudson and Shaw, whom he had Agricultural College, Guelph. Takknown at West Point for diabolically ing all the stations in Ontario joyous hazers and practical jokers. where records of the rain and Even as he sputtered rice and winced snow have been kept, he finds the from the impact of flying footgear. average precipitation for the varhe was cursing himself as a double years to be as follows: January dyed idiot for asking such men to en- 2.23 inches of rain and melted gage his berth for him. He had a snow together; February, 2.4 sudden instinct that they had doubt- inches; March, 2.22; April, 2.14

behind him and shrieked even loud- has the least precipitation of all. "From these figures," Prof. Day When the assailants had exhausted remarks, "one receives another the rice and shoes, they charged down | surprise to learn that July is realthe aisle for the privilege of kissing ly the wettest month, so far as the bride. Mallory was dragged and actual amount of precipitation is job. month seem the wettest, and the and he had to fight his way back to wettest seem the driest? During Marjorie with might and main. He the winter the snow accummulates. was tugging and striking like a demon, and when it melts in late March or early April it forms several Hudson took his punishment with inches of water, which saturates the soil and drains away very slowly. Besides, in the spring there is cool weather, usually coupled with considerable cloudiness and gentle rains, so that evaporation is largely prevented, and hence the soil and roads remain

heavy, but being few and far between, and as a rule with clear sky and hot weather intervening. evaporation is much greater than even the heavy rainfall, so that the soil and roads become drier and drier. "The year 1912 will go down in memory as an exceedingly wet one, yet as a matter of fact 1902 was wetter, so far as actual rainfall is concerned. And 1909 had within an inch as much rain as 1912. But the precipitation of 1912 was not well distributed. Februand drive home from there. But their ary and March were considerably wits were like pied type, and they below the normal. May had near-

were further jumbled, when Shaw ly twice as much as usual, June broke in with a sudden: "Come, see and July were much below the the little dove-cote we fixed for you." average, while August and Sep-Before they knew it, they were both tember were unusually wet. But haled along the aisle to the white worse than the rainfall was the which retarded evaporation, and grain from "drying out" rapidly "No-never-oh, oh, oh!" cried Mar- between rains, even in the sumjorie, darting away and throwing mer-time These factors combined

"Never perhaps has the value of more emphatically demonstrated Hudson and Shaw followed close that during the past year Land with mawkish mockery: "Don't cry, that was thoroughly tile drained gave splendid crops, despite the And now Mrs. Temple intervened. excessive wetness, while thousands She had enjoyed the initiation cere- of acres of undrained land could the little bride began to cry, she re partial crop was so wet that the membered the pitiful terror and shy grain could not be harvested. shame she had undergone as a girl- Tue effect of this lesson, says wife, and she hastened to Marjorie's Prof. Day, is reflected in greater side, brushing the men away like interest and activity than usual in matters relating to tile drainage. "You poor thing," she comforted. We are holding over a larger "Come, my child, lean on me, and number of applications for drainsome years past, and fresh applications are coming in rapidly, so own arms: "She can lean on me, if that the drainage campaign prom-

ises to be unusually active." Mrs. Temple glanced up with indig- The Department of Physics, of nant rebuke: "Her mother is far which Prof. Day has charge, makes away, and she wants a mother's breast tile drainage surveys for farmers travelling expenses connected with the survey. These are usual-Infuriated at this bride-baiting, Mal- ly small, as generally several surlory rose and confronted the two veys are made on the same trip. imps with clenched fists: "You're a Those wishing surveys should write the Department of Physics, O. A. C., Guelph, for regular application forms,

A MUCH TRAVELLED MAN. Joseph Willett, tourist con-"And here are your baggage checks," ductor of St. Albans, Vermont, mention it-you're entirely welcome." stantly for 46 years. He estimates that he has covered in this time 3,270,000 miles. Mr. Willett makes his trip across the country every three weeks, an average of 15

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HE WASN'T BOSS THEN.

Foreman Builder-Now, then, you; hurry up, can't yer! Laborer-All right, boss: Rome

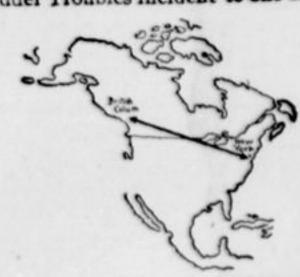
wasn't built in a day, Foreman Builder-No. p'r'aps not; but I wasn't foreman o' that

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