

TOMMY

Author of "All for a Scrap of Paper," "Dearer Than Life," etc. Published by Hodder & Stoughton, Limited, London and Toronto

CHAPTER I.

The Brunford Town Hall clock was just chiming half-past three as Tom Pollard left his home in Dixon street and made his way towards the Thorn and Thistle public-house. It was not Tom's intention to stay long at the Thorn and Thistle, as he had other plans in view, nevertheless something drew him there. He crossed the tram lines in St. George's Street, and, having stopped to exchange some rustic jokes with some lads who stood at the corner of the street, he hurried across the open space and quickly stood on the doorsteps of the public-house.

The weather was gloriously fine, for a wonder the air in the heart of the town was pure and clear. That was accounted for by the fact that it was Sunday, and the mills were idle. Throughout the week-days, both in summer and in winter, the atmosphere of Brunford is smoke laden, while from a hundred mills steamy vapours are emitted which makes that big manufacturing town anything but a health resort. Tom was making his way up the passage towards the bar, when the door opened and a buxom, bold-eyed, red-checked girl of about twenty-four stopped him.

"You're late, Tom," she said. "Am I?" replied Tom. "I didn't mean to be." "I was thinking you weren't coming at all. Some young man I know of wouldn't have been late if I'd said to them what I said to you on Friday night." Then she looked at him archly.

"I couldn't get away before," replied Tom. "Evidently he was not quite comfortable, and he did not return the girl's glances with the warmth she desired. "Anyhow I am free till half-past five," she went on. "I don't know what father and mother would say if they knew I was walking out with you; but I don't mind. Do you like my new dress, Tom?"

Tom looked at her admiringly; there was no doubt that, after her own order, she was a striking-looking girl, and her highly colored attire was quite in accord with her complexion.

"Jim Scott was here half an hour ago," she went on. "He badly wanted me to go with him, but I wouldn't. Tom looked more uncomfortable than ever; he remembered the purpose for which he had set out, and was sorry that he had called at the Thorn and Thistle at all, even although the girl evidently favored him more than any of her other admirers.

"I just called to say I couldn't come for a walk with you this afternoon," he said, looking at the ground. "You see I have an appointment." "Appointment!" cried the girl. "Who with?"

"Oh, with no one in particular; only the girl's eyes flashed angrily. "Look here," she cried, "you are still sweet on Alice Lister; I thought you had given up all that Sunday-school lot."

"Well, I have noan been to Sunday school," said Tom. "Ay, but you're to meet Alice Lister now, and that is why you can't go with me." Evidently the girl was very angry, and a look of jealousy flashed from her eyes. Still there could be no doubt that she was very fond of Tom and meant if possible to capture him.

"I can't go out with you this afternoon, and—and— but there, I'm off." For a moment the girl seemed on the point of speaking to him still more angrily, and perhaps of bidding him to leave her for good. She quickly altered her mind, however, and seemed determined to use all her blandishments.

"Ay, Tom," she said. "That's too good to throw yourself away on the goody-goody Alice Lister sort. That's too much of a man for that, else I should never have got so fond of thee." "Art a really fond of me Polly?" asked Tom, evidently pleased by Polly's confession. "I'm not goin' to say any more," replied the girl. And then she laughed. "I was thinkin' that after we'd

PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR'S SEED.

Select the Best Part of the Field and Give it Special Attention.

Of 400 farmers visited in Dundas County, Ontario, by the Commission of Conservation, during the summer of 1916, only three were found to be following a really systematic selection of their seed grain; only 23 per cent were saving the best part or parts of their fields for seed. Practically all of the farmers visited stated that they cleaned their grain for seed, but it was found that 74 per cent cleaned it only once through the fanning mill. It is quite plain that sufficient attention is not being paid to the seed grain. It has been shown, time after time, that other things being equal, the best seed will produce the best crops. It is, therefore, surprising that not more than 23 per cent of the farmers were found to be keeping their best grain for seed, and that 74 per cent cleaned it only once through the mill. If the grain from the best part or parts of the fields is stored and then graded or fanned until all the small and inferior kernels are removed, the quality will be greatly improved. By improving the seed the net profit on a grain crop can be greatly increased, such action increasing the yield a little without increasing the cost of production.

It is not much trouble to keep apart the best portion of the crop for seed. It would even pay to give special care to a special lot or small field from which to obtain seed for the following season's crop. There is, perhaps, nothing on the farm that will give a more profitable return than the time spent in securing a supply of good seed. Plan now to save the choicest

of this year's crop for next spring's seeding.

GEA READY THE MACHINERY.

Time May be Saved at Harvest by Being Prepared.

Time is money on the farm at harvest time. Now is the time to repair the mowers, binders and rakes which will very shortly be required for service. All machines should be inspected now and, if any parts are broken or missing, they should be obtained immediately. It is much better to secure what is needed now than to risk having to make a special trip to town during the busy season, thus causing a serious delay and, possibly, extending the harvesting of the hay or grain crop into wet weather. It is also an excellent plan to keep on hand a few extra pieces or parts which need frequent renewing, such as knife sections, canvas slats, reel slats and brass, rivets, etc. These are convenient to have and will often save time and annoyance.

Clean out the oil cups and oil all running parts of the machinery a few days before it is to be used. This will allow the oil to penetrate to the bearings, and permit the machine to quickly get into smooth running order.

The knives should all be sharpened and in readiness. These things should be particularly attended to this year. Help is scarce, production is needed, and if crops are to be saved with as little loss as possible good management must prevail. It is good business to be ready for the harvest season. Do it now.

Some people's idea of war economy is to save ten cents painfully and spend ten dollars joyfully.

PROTECTING WATER SUPPLY.

Catchment Areas Being Re-forested to Conserve the Run-off

The beneficial effect of proper supervision, and particularly of maintaining forest growth, in water-works catchment areas, is being more fully recognized. A recent example is in the state of Pennsylvania, where the Commissioner of Forestry urged the planting of trees on those portions of their water-works catchment areas not useful for agriculture.

Favorable replies were received from one-half and, of the remainder, over 100 had no land requiring planting. To those who replied favorably, all planting facilities were afforded, including the services of a forester, and seedlings were offered at bare cost of packing and shipping, about 50 cents per 1,000 seedlings delivered. Applications were made for a total of 446,100 young trees for use on about 230 acres.—L.G.D.

DIAMONDS

Write for my Illustrated Booklet about—

L. J. POTTS, 1710 Royal Bank Bldg. TORONTO

All He Was Fit For.

In an Irish court house recently an old man was called into the witness box, and being infirm and just a little near-sighted he went too far in more than one sense. Instead of going up the stairs that led to the box he mounted those that led to the bench.

The judge good-naturally said: "It is a judge you want to be, my man?" "Ah, sure your honor," was the reply. "I'm an old man now, an' mebbe it's all I'm fit for!"

The Judge raised his spectacles.

Cabbage, mangels and Hubbard squash all make a good winter feed for poultry.

STORIES FROM WAR-TORN FRANCE

SENT BY AN AMERICAN NURSE IN FRANCE.

Write Letters to Their Former Nurse.

Writing to her friends in the United States, a nurse gives extracts from the letters she receives from French soldiers who have been nursed at her convalescent home.

Our great source of joy is the deliverance of our towns and villages. The letters of some of my soldiers, though often most illiterate, are actually hymns of joy. Unfortunately the gist is lost in the translating. One man writes, "What happiness, my village is now in the hands of our brave French soldiers! But a pang of anguish seizes him, for he has as yet no news of the family he left there—old parents, a young wife and four little children—did they remain there through all the fighting, and will he soon see them? Or have they been taken off into captivity, farther even from him than they were before?"

Many are living through these alternations of hope and fear. Many also have the hope of long months dashed to the ground, and the patient waiting must begin again for them.

Another, a more fortunate one, writes: "I wish to tell you that I have found my little family. They were at C— when the French troops entered, and now we are at last reunited. They suffered greatly during the occupation, but are well now. We will come to see you some Sunday" (this man lost a leg at Verdun. His brother is a prisoner in Germany).

Joy and Sadness.

Still another: "I'm out of it once more, out of the blazing furnace. I was made a sergeant on the field of honor. We entered the town four days ago under the bursting shells. The church bells were ringing all the morning and the few remaining inhabitants had put on their Sunday best. It was a fete day; and we were satisfied that in all this joy there was a good share of our efforts. We have made a big push and captured many prisoners, and even at the rear the number of our celebrated battalion flies from mouth to mouth, and however mud-beatened we may be, a great welcome is given us wherever we pass. . . . You cannot fancy what this devastation means. Even the papers give no idea of it. . . . What was my joy to find my sister-in-law and her child, also two aunts—but alas, my two young girl cousins each with a German baby. Think of the horrible thing! How can they return among us? We dare not think of it, and the future lies before us all terribly blank."

Innocent Victims of War.

One of my faithful young soldiers of twenty-two, who has come to me after each of his three wounds, has just written me: "Your servant is lying in a hospital near the front, not restored yet because of all the blood he has lost, and a bad heart owing to shock from bursting shells. The hospital is outside the town and therefore exposed to the enemy's fire. Most every evening German aircraft are flying above us and we can see the effect of the bombs as they fall on the city. A terrible strain it is for those poor women and children, to be awakened by that infernal noise, to see the flames, and to hear the crackling of the fires lit about them. It wrings my heart to read the terror on the poor haggard faces of those innocent victims."

"For God and Country."

From a Belgian private: "In spite of all we will hold out, for we are fighting for God and country." Time and again my French soldiers have used the same words, proving the same ideal. They are so penetrated with the justice of their cause that they feel that it is actually "for God."

Allow me to close these extracts with one from yet another young son of martyred Belgium, a poor miner of twenty-one: "We feel we are fighting to redeem our dear homes over there. I know you will think me brave, and I take pride in that feeling; and yet I only fight like any other. I sleep in the mud, I fear the shells, and I long for a cozy little bed; but since I must keep on fighting for peace, I will stick it to the end. Should I, however, keep silent some day, do not accuse me of ingratitude. In his turn the little soldier would be dead, that is all."

He Wished to Read.

"Nurse," moaned the convalescent patient, "can't I have something to eat? I'm starving."

"Yes, the doctor said you could start taking solids to-day, but you must begin slowly," she said. Then she held out a teaspoonful of tapioca. "We must only advance by degrees," she added.

He sucked the spoon dry, and felt more tantalizingly hungry than ever. He begged for a second spoonful, but she shook her head, saying that everything at the start must be done in similarly small proportions. Presently he summoned her again to his bedside.

"Nurse," he said, "bring me a postage stamp; I want to read."



About the House

Preserving Cherries.

Cherries are ripening and may be canned, preserved, made into jams, jellies or spiced. To can cherries wash the fruit thoroughly, then drain well. Sort the fruit over carefully, removing all blemishes and all soft cherries. Remove the stems and stones. Pack them into sterilized jars and cover with boiling water or a syrup made of sugar and water, using the formula: One cupful sugar, two and one-half cupfuls water. Place in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Cook for five minutes. Place the rubbers and lids in position, partially fasten them, then place the jars in a hot water bath and process for thirty minutes after the boiling starts. Now remove, fasten the tops securely, invert to test for leaks, then label and store in a cool place.

Preserved Cherries.—Stem and stone the cherries. Weigh after stoning, allowing one-half pound of sugar to each pound of cherries. To each pound of sugar allow one-half cupful of water. Place in a saucepan and stir until well dissolved. Bring to a boil and cook for five minutes, then add two pounds of prepared cherries. Cook after the boiling point is reached for twelve minutes, then fill into glass jars. Place the rubber and top in position and partially tighten; now place the jars in a hot water bath and process for ten minutes after the boiling starts.

Cherry Jam.—Three-quarters pound sugar, one pound stemmed and stoned cherries. Place in a saucepan and cook until thick. Fill into jelly glasses; allow the jam to cool, and then cover the glasses with parowax. Seal and store in the usual manner for jellies.

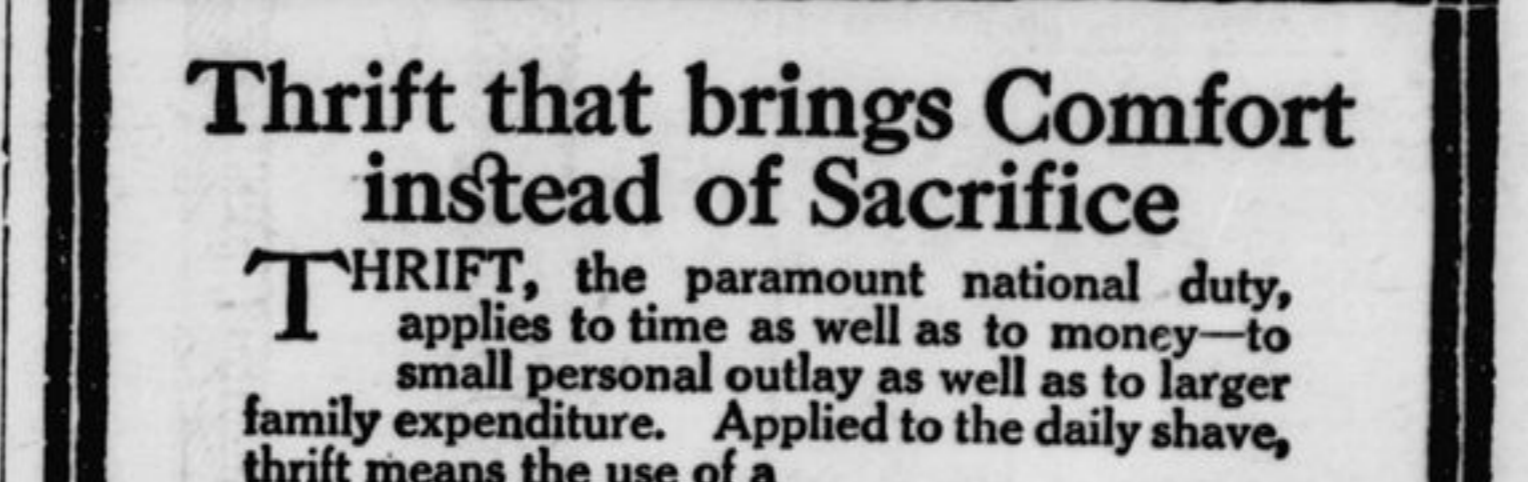
Cherry Jelly.—Cherries do not make good jelly, owing to the absence of pectin. This pectin may be added in form of apples. Peel one large lemon very thin, discarding the peel. Cut peeled lemon in small pieces. Cut a sufficient number of apples in small pieces to measure three cupfuls, then add: Three pounds cherries, one quart water. Place in a saucepan and cook until soft enough to mash, strain in the usual manner for jellies and measure the juice, allowing an equal measure of sugar. Return the juice to the preserving kettle and boil ten minutes. Then add the sugar. Cook until it jellies when tried on a cold saucer, usually about eight or nine minutes. If a thermometer is used, cook until 221 degrees Fahrenheit is reached.

How to Preserve Eggs.

Eggs must be fresh and perfectly infertile; the shells must be clean and free from cracks. A single cracked egg may cause the whole batch to spoil. Get water glass solution from the drug store, dilute with nine parts of cool boiled water and place eggs in small cracks containing the water glass. The solution should cover the eggs to a depth of two inches above the topmost layer of eggs. Cover the crock and place in a cool place where it will not have to be moved about. Repack the water which evaporates with cool boiled water occasionally.

Limewater may be used in place of water glass. Make the solution with 2½ pounds of unsalted lime in five gallons of cool boiled water and use the clear liquid after the lime settles. Containers for eggs must be clean and should be scalded with hot water after washing.

Eggs preserved in water glass or limewater should be rinsed in clean,



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Advertisement for 'Farm' magazine. Text: "The service edged as crops. Add care of ronto, a order in it is a stand a quest

Advertisement for 'Question-V. B.' Text: "Question—V. B.—Will you give me a little advice about pasture? I had a hog lot manured and intend to summer it was clover last year. What is the best to sow on grass pasture for the horse? Can I sow grass seed and pasture next year, and what would be the best to sow? Answer—I would advise you to plow the lot in question, and disk and harrow it. Then a sowing of grass seed somewhat as follows: 10 lbs. common ree 8 lbs. timothy 2 lbs. alsike Total 20 lbs. per acre. This should be distributed and harrowed in thoroughly ground is rather open in I would advise you to roll it follow with a light harrow order to insure a good catch would recommend that you pounds per acre of a fertilizing 2 to 3% ammonia, 8 to 10% phoric acid and possibly 1% Distribute this evenly just ground is plowed, so that it and harrowing will work it soil before the grass seed is sown. Question—E. B.—How orchard grass be sown and tivated? I have twice sown grass with barley without What caused the failure? the best time to sow orchard September, or October or How much should be sown? Answer—If the orchard is of first quality, from pounds per acre is sufficient maximum growth in the pounds per acre. Pro difficultly in seeding orchard with barley is that you much barley and another grass. Do not use over-barley per acre when grass crop as a nurse crop. Orchard grass is rather established. The first very weak. The second stand have developed and increase in good health and maximum growth until the the best time to seed orchard Ontario is in the Spring the usual clover and grass are sown. Question—A. W. B.—much troubled with chess my crops. Will you kindly know the cause and how to it? Answer—Chess or chlo the bromo-grasses which the time the wheat ripens

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