

FIVE CROOKED CHAIRS

By FAREMAN WELLS

SYNOPSIS

Adam Meriston, a farmer's son, articulated to a solicitor, makes a brave but unsuccessful attempt to thwart three thieves in a bag-snatching raid. The bag was torn from the hands of a girl who afterwards explains to Adam that it contains the day's takings of her father's shop.

He attempts to track the thieves and reaches an old warehouse. Adams enters the building while the girl watches the door. Suddenly he hears footsteps.

The man turns out to be Adam's employer—Corville Perkin.

Adam, in his private hours experiments with short-wave wireless.

Walking home, Adam is nearly run down by a large swift car.

He calls on Priscilla Lovell.

Her father recounts the history of five antique chairs he possesses.

THE CROOK'S WIFE.

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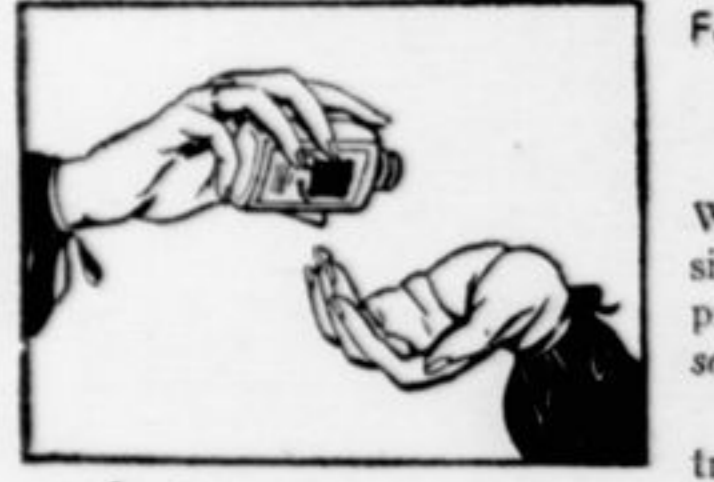
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Ask your doctor about this. And be sure you get ASPIRIN when you buy. It is made in Canada and all druggists have it. Look for the name Bayer in the form of a cross on every Aspirin tablet. Aspirin is the trade mark of the Bayer Company, Limited.



DOES NOT HARM THE HEART

wheeled, "Couldn't you manage to get one of them notes through to the barrister in court for me?"

"It would be as much as my job was worth, and I'm not likely to be in court either."

"Isn't it worth risking a bit to save a bloke what's had years on years of clink and been going straight now for twelve months? If he goes down this time it'll be the end of him, and just as we was getting a nice little 'ome together along of 'im running straight."

"For your own sake, I wouldn't do anything that was against Mr. Perkin's advice. What is it he wants to be asked anyhow?" Curiosity was mastering Adam's not over spontaneous sense of loyalty to his employer.

"What Hagar says they did ought to ask him in when did he last see Mr. Montada."

She paused cunningly and watched for the effect of this extraordinary question on Adam's face.

"He says if they'll only ask him that it will all come out and the judge will see it's a frame-up. Now couldn't you just get a little note about that through to the barrister? If it don't do no good it'll make Hagar's mind easier."

In spite of the perplexity in his mind, Adam bethought him to ask why the man could not mention Mr. Montada himself.

She had her answer ready for that. "You ought to know, sir, as a poor bloke like Hagar can't say what he likes in the dock. They shut you up cruel if you says a word outside the book, them judges and barristers. What's more, Hagar ain't what you'd call a clever bloke with his tongue. Like you legal gentlemen that talks so easy. What he feels is that if he was given a start it'd all come out natural like and they couldn't stop him same as they would if he was to try to bring it out himself. There, you see how it is. Do poor old Hagar a bit of good, won't you? Promise me."

He refused to promise and at last got rid of her, still pleading and beginning to whimper again. Nevertheless he was far nearer to making her the promise she had desired than his manner had indicated. He seemed to smell roguery of some complicated sort, and if any action of his could upset roguery he doubted if his official loyalties ought to be allowed to stand in the way. However, he reflected that leading barristers are not easily got at by junior clerks out of solicitor's offices, and in any case it was extremely unlikely that anyone from the office would accompany Mr. Perkin to the Assizes.

It was a slight chance that influenced him ultimately, merely a glimpse caught of Mr. Montada's chauffeur when leaving the office late one evening shortly afterwards, and then an unexpected opportunity. Mr. Montada's gleaming saloon was standing at the kerb that evening and Mr. Montada's chauffeur was leaning over the open bonnet. Interested to see if the near front axle-cap had been renewed, Adam moved to pass as near as possible to the part on which the man's attention was engaged.

As he sauntered past, the bending chauffeur straightened as sharply as he could, not entirely straight, for that was impossible. He was a hunchback. He seemed to have been rendered suspicious, and he shot a glance of sharp enquiry at the hatless stranger. There was a perplexed frown on his face in the light of the street lamps, and there was an equally perplexed one on Adam's face as he moved away. The man at once turned and bent muttering over the engine once more. And Adam walked on telling himself that he had seen that very person crouched at the corner of Grail St. on a certain miserably wet night only a week or two before.

(To be Continued.)

"It's no use, my good woman, no use whatever. You must make it clear to your precious husband that unless he does exactly what he is told I shall wash my hands of his case altogether. Then instead of an easy stretch of perhaps twelve months, he'll probably go down for three years."

The woman wailed afresh, "I would not mind so much if he was really guilty this time," she blubbered. "But he's been running straight, you know he has, Mr. Perkin, and he ought to get off this time."

"Now that's enough, I've told him what he has to say, and he's got to say it, and if you like to take your case elsewhere, you've only to say so."

"But Hagar's so sure," she persisted desperately, "that if you'll only get the barrister to ask him..."

"Meriston, show Mrs. Hagar out, please," Mr. Perkin cut in and closed the wood with the slam of finality.

The woman stood noisily weeping in the outer office as Adam approached her. "Come along, Mrs. Hagar," he said as kindly as he could. "It doesn't do any good to go against the advice of your legal adviser, you know."

"But he's so set on being asked just that one question, sir," she whimpered. "I seen him only yesterday and he made me promise I'd get it asked for him. Seems to me as he ought to know what it is'd do him a bit of good with the jury."

Adam endeavored to assure her that Mr. Perkin knew best, and layed a hand on her greenish, black sleeve began to steer her towards the stairway. "You can't go against Mr. Perkin's advice in these matters, you know. Look at the number of people he has got to," he cautioned her.

The woman suddenly ceased her weeping and looked up at him shrewdly from her red-rimmed eyes. Her face had gone cunning. "But suppose Mr. Perkin don't want to get him off this time?" she whispered.

"Nonsense. If I were you I'd go straight home and I'd have a cup of tea when I get there. If anyone can get your husband off Mr. Perkin is that man. You ought to feel certain about that."

She reached out a shiny red hand and grasped his sleeve. "Ere, step outside with me a moment," she said. "You're a kind-spoken gentleman and I'd like a word with you."

THE MYSTERY OF MR. MONTADA

Merly to humor her Adam stepped into the corridor and pulled the door to behind him. "Now lovey," she

English Villagers Run Own Movie Theater

Denholme, Eng.—Finding it too expensive to visit the movies at nearest towns, a number of the villagers here have installed their own cinema and work it themselves.

In this way films are shown once nightly on three nights a week, when prices range from 3d. to 9d. On two days in the week old-age pensioners are admitted free.

Elected annually, a committee is responsible for the working of the cinema, which is almost entirely staffed by voluntary helpers. The posters announcing the films are painted by a school-master, and voluntary attendants look after the box office and show patrons to their seats.

Two Laughs WELCOME

Answers Collector—"Shall I call tomorrow?"

Young Lawyer—"Twice, if convenient. I have an idea that folks think you are a client."

LEFT AT THE POST Associated Magazine.

Two colored boys were having an argument about ghosts. One of them claimed to have seen a ghost as he passed the cemetery the night before.

"What was disere ghos' doin' when you las' seen him?" asked the doubtful one.

"Jes fallin' behin', mistah; fallin' behin' rapid."

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"Nothing is more thrilling than activity. Nothing is more fatiguing than passivity."—Emil Ludwig.

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Girl Some Day Will Revolutionize Mathematical World

Speaking of figures, co-eds show much better results than male students, if you'll take the word of Professor Albert Dow of the Boston University College of Business Administration.

Professor Dow said that after 20 years' experience he found women far outranked the men in achievement along the lines of algebra, logarithms and calculus.

The Einsteins of tomorrow, he said, are the girls. "They have a flair for figures, somehow, and some day a girl, not a man, will revolutionize the mathematical world."

Simple passive resistance of priests and believers is enough to render the attack of the State ineffective.—Benito Mussolini.

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Jim Curran Reports On Snowshoe Cats

(J. W. Curran, in the Sault Ste. Marie Star.)

MICHIGNICOTEN FALLS.

This outpost in the Algoma wilderness is desolated today over the death of Johnnie, one of its five snowshoe cats.

It may be useful to point out the difference between the ordinary house-cat and the rabbit, and thus gradually lead up to what Nature has accomplished at Michipicoten Falls.

A cat, and particularly a scared cat, can run. It can gallop also, though this fact is only grasped in its entirety by scientists and the more observant of mankind. But through an Algoma Winter, a cat's swift four-footed gait gets it nowhere fast in deep snow. Probably nothing is more regretted by Algoma cats, and especially Michipicoten cats, where snow is deep and fences scarce—in fact, there aren't any.

In the power plant at Michipicoten Falls there are two immense water wheels or turbines, each of which develop 11,500 h.p. and which in addition to serving a dozen gold properties within a few miles of the falls, provide the Soo with all its electrical energy and electric lights when "needle ice" plugs the turbines on the St. Mary's river inside the city limits.

A splendid pair of cats originally had been left there by John A. Lang, of the contracting firm of Lang and Ross, on completion of the construction of the construction job in 1930. They seemed to be just ordinary cats, but with the well known versatility of the common cat, they regretted their want of ability to snowshoe, for there is occasionally a lot of snow in Michipicoten.

However Irwin Quirk, the superintendent, who has been known in the old days to build a power plant with a pair of pinchers and a piece of stove pipe wire, encouraged the pair of cats to improve themselves. He tied a pair of baby socks onto one of them and his moral support started the cats on their way.

What has been the result?

Today this column examined Frankie and this is the tabulation:

Right fore foot six perfect toes; left fore foot eight perfect toes; and one on an inch back; right hind foot six perfect toes; left hind foot six perfect toes.

Frankie sits like a rabbit—that is he keeps all his weight on the hauncher half of his hind legs. When Rover shoves 'im off the warm tin under the camp stove he hops over to the warm spot under the kitchen stove almost like a rabbit.

Steve Renault, assistant to Mr. Quirk, owns the father of Frankie the present 27-toed cat-rabbit at the power house. The original progenitor had only one extra toe, or a total of 21. The intervening generations steadily ran up the toe count, the father of Frankie having 25. Father also showed a tendency to hop, possibly because his multiplicity of digits made a change of locomotion necessary. At any rate Frankie's hind legs, whether from hopping or not, show something of the rabbit formation.

And here's a queer thing,—Frankie can't climb a tree. And he has never been known to stay out night on the woodshed roof. He never goes serenading. He has never had a brick heaved at him out of a bed room window. He acts almost as if he had fallen arches. His tail is different. He is in short, a puzzle.

But there snoozes Frankie under the office stove, the wonder of the whole Michipicoten mining field, and every day miners and prospectors visit "the Falls" to look him and his two living relatives over, count their toes, turn them over to see their pads. Frankie takes it all good naturedly but he never purrs, a prize freak perhaps, but certainly a most interesting variation of Nature.

When he was born, the litter numbered five. Four had extra toes and wide feet. The fifth was just normal cat.

Hay and Grain

A quantity of hay, about 4000 tons of oats, 75 bus. mixed grain and bushels of barley.

No reserve, everything must be sold.

Terms of Sale:—Hay, grain, all sums of \$10.00 and under, Cash over that amount 10 months or will be given on approved plan, all bearing interest at 6 per cent. annum.

George E. Duncan, Auctioneer

While in the act of using a knife to kill a pig, the animal made quick grab for the hand of P. Kaufmann of the 11th con. of Rick Township, and bit one finger near the joint.

Motors Big Taxpayers

Automobile owners of Ontario, comprise 14.77 of the population paid \$8.70 out of every \$100 collected by the provincial treasurer two taxes alone—gasoline and registrations—in addition to paying a share of all other imposts including Dominion customs' levies, etc., at time they purchased their machine.

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Not By The Mind

Not by the mind have I been taught Profoundest truths I know; Not by the mind, however deep Its sounding lines may go.

For there are depths - of just-be-neath No plumb of sense explores; Oh, there are tides of just-beyond That sweep the being's shores.

These are the floods that tinge and shape The obvious of earth; These give the seen, the heard, the touched Significance and worth.

More sure of these than I am sure Of body and of breath, Ho shall I trust the hand, the eye To tell me about death?

—Adelaide Love in "Voices" (New York).

INGENUITY

Then there's the deaf-and-dumb husband who wore boxing-gloves to bed so he wouldn't talk in his sleep.

From the New PURITY COOK BOOK

Illustrated are Doughnuts, recipe number 59 in the new Purity Cook Book. Containing 743 tested recipes, with numerous household hints and special menus, this new Cook Book, costing \$10,000 and two years of research to prepare, is invaluable in the kitchen. Easy to keep clean and lying flat at the page at which it is opened, this great kitchen help is now sent to you postpaid for 50 cents. Write for your copy today, to Dept. 609, Western Canada Flour Mills Co., Limited, Toronto, Winnipeg or Calgary.