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THAT YEAR OF FREEDOM

BY MILDRED BARBOUR

THE DENOUNCEMENT

At Nan's incredulous cry: "Whatever do you mean?" the man who called himself Seeley, looked at her more closely. She felt as if his eyes were boring through to her brain.

She noticed also that he was carefully taking in every detail of her appearance—smart, little evening frock, her hair, the jewels on her slim fingers. But most of all, he studied her eyes and she looked back at him squarely.

"How long have you known this Russian woman?" he demanded, without answering her question.

Nan told him.

"How'd you come to meet her?"

Nan explained about Louis Brandan's studio, and added:

"Really, Mr. Seeley, I can't understand your right to cross-question me in this manner. Remember, you haven't stated who you are or why you are here."

"That's so," he agreed blandly, "but I wanted to find out what you'd spill if I took you unaware. Personally I don't believe you've got a thing to do with this Russian woman's activities. But you never can tell. Maybe she used you because you look innocent and honest; maybe, on the other hand, you're clever enough to fake it."

Swift, angry color swept into Nan's cheeks. Her eyes blazed.

"You are insulting, Mr. Seeley. Please state your business at once—or go."

"Not so fast," he said soothingly, but there was an undercurrent of iron in the smooth words. "My business is just this: I've been sent here by the Russian interests in this country to investigate this woman who calls herself Polinska."

"You—you are a detective?" faltered Nan.

"Well," he said with a slight smile, "not the flat-footed sleuthy work is concerned with international crooks, like this Polinska woman."

"But," Nan protested indignantly, forgetting her resentment against Madame Polinska now that she was so abruptly attacked, "what proof have you that she is a crook?"

He answered deliberately:

"She's collecting money for a certain charity that is supposed to feed the starving Russians, isn't she? Well, there is no such charity, see? She claims to be the widow of a certain Polinska of Petrograd. There was no such man, and moreover, the funds that she has been raking in hand over fist from those rich society swells are missing from the bank, every darn penny of them, and the lady is missing from her home since morning."

A great light broke over Nan.

"And my car is missing from the garage," she added softly, wonderingly.

The man shrugged.

"Figure it out for yourself, it's simple as A B C."

"How I was deceived," Nan murmured, amazed at her own credulity.

The man watched her narrowly.

"I'm beginning to believe you were. At first I thought you were a confederate she left behind to delay us and maybe throw us off the scent, but now I really think you are just a nice girl who has been made a fool of by a clever crook."

Nan sank down nerveless on a convenient divan.

"But she has ruined me," she said in a horrified voice. "She has left me with all her bills to pay and they are terrific. This afternoon the owner of this house was here and demanded three months arrears in rent, and this morning one of the servants told me that none of the staff had been paid for weeks and weeks."

"Tough luck," he said as he laid a heavy hand a moment on her shoulder. "I'm sorry for you. You seem a nice little thing, but you certainly are caught in a jam. This Russian woman took good care to introduce you everywhere, I understand, so you can't very well crawl out of your association with her. I guess you will have to pay up, Miss Farraday."

"But the fund for the starving children?" Nan lifted terrified eyes, "surely I can't be expected to make that good?"

"Certainly not," he shrugged, "but I am afraid you will come in for a lot of unpleasant comment because you used to help her collect it, remember. Of course, if we catch the woman, we'll force her to square you up nicely, but she got a mighty good start on us in that car of yours. No one knows what direction she took. I guess she scented what was in the wind, alright, because she sure jumped quick."

When he had gone, Nan went up to her room and cried for the first time since she had begun her year of freedom. She was lonely and frightened and she yearned for a good, comfortable, masculine shoulder on which to rest her weary, perplexed head.

(To be continued)

BE EARLY THURSDAY IS BE EARLY

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Street Gingham and Chambry House Dresses, assorted shades and styles. Sizes 36 to 40 only. DOLLAR DAY $1

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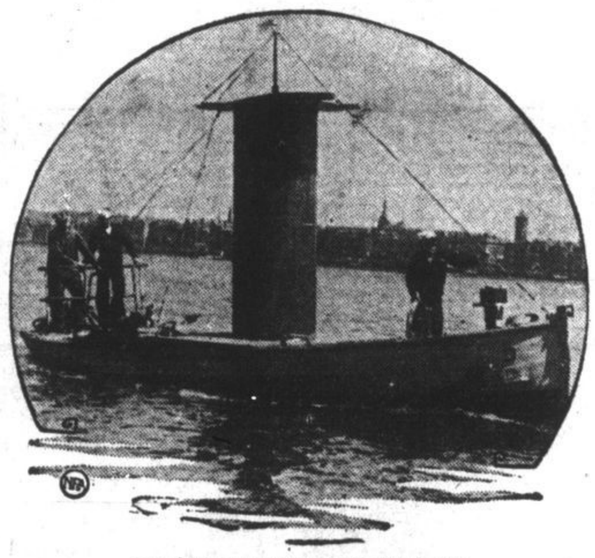

ROTOR-LAUNCH IN TRY-OUT

Success marked the trial of the Boston rotor-launch on the Charles river, Boston, Mass. The launch is modeled after the German rotor-ships which recently attracted so much attention. The picture shows J. M. Kiernan, one of the builders, in the bow.

BURNS and SCALDS

The handle of the preserving kettle is too hot,
—the stove lid lifter has been too near the front of the stove
—or a kettle tips and spills some of its contents—and before you know it you have a nasty burn or scald.

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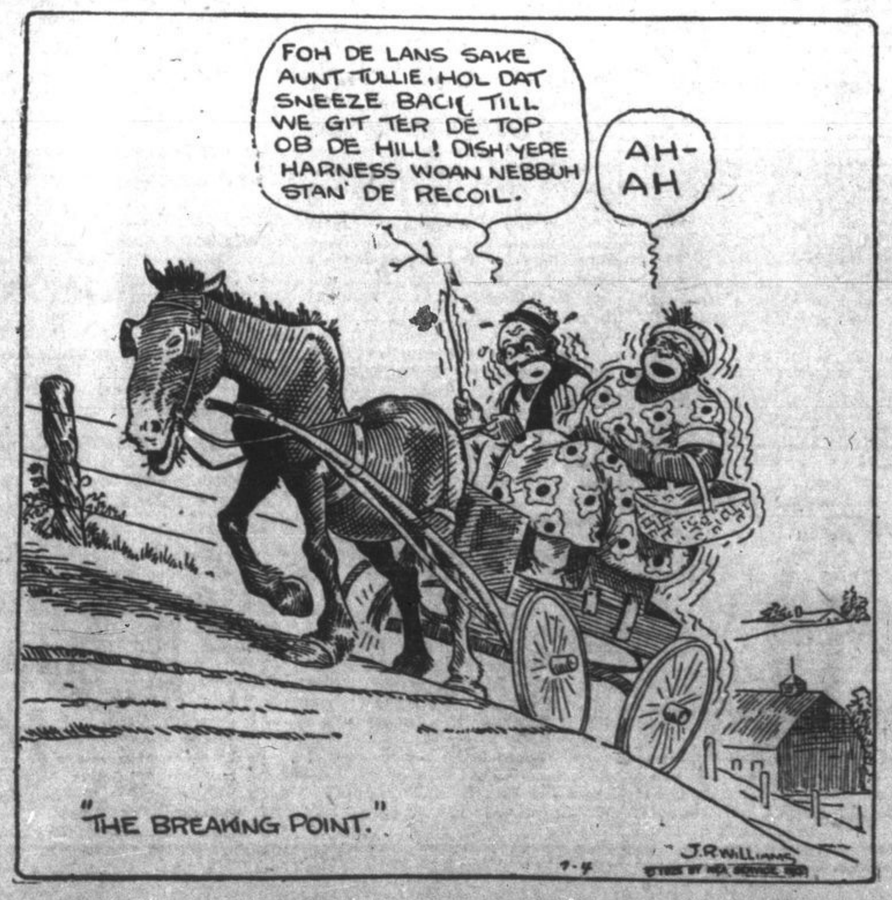
'PHONE 2544w.

Walter Riggs, Belleville, badly burned at the C.N.R. roundhouse sixteen weeks ago, is progressing slowly. It will be some time before he will be around.

OUT OUR WAY By Williams



Highly Successful.

Principal Charles S. Haig of the Campbellford public school sent up his entire class of thirty-five pupils to write at the entrance examination, and of these all but one were successful, twelve taking honors. The pupil who failed had put in only two months at school during the past year having been kept at home for six months owing to an attack of appendicitis. She bravely took a chance and lost out only by a narrow margin. Last year Principal Haig passed his entire class of thirty-three.

Married at Belleville.

On Monday morning, Miss Helen Naphan, Belleville, and Capt. S. M. Heffernan, Picton, were married at St. Michael's church, Belleville. The happy couple motored to Kingston where they took a train for Montreal. The groom is in command of the great lakes steamer Jolly Inez, which plys between Montreal and Fort William, and is well known as a hockey player. Mrs. (Capt.) Heffernan will sail with her husband on his runs until the Christmas season, when it is expected they will make their home in Belleville.

May Provide Fur Farm Site.

The establishment of an experimental fox farm is now under consideration by the Ontario government, and various localities are being visited where the climate, habits of fur-bearing wild animals and other matters in this connection are studied. Dr. McDonald, deputy minister of game and fisheries; Dr. Miller and Dr. Low of Toronto, are in Belleville in connection with this investigation, and will visit various parts of Hastings and Prince Edward counties.

Passes Medical Council.

Dr. Bruce P. Webster, Lansdowne, a recent graduate of McGill University, has passed the June examinations of the Medical Council of Canada and is entitled to the degree of L.M.C.C.

In Belleville, on July 4th, a pretty wedding took place when Bessie Pearl, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Spencer, Belleville, became the bride of Mr. Andrew Knott, also of Belleville.

Industrial activity in France has shown marked activity of late over the same period last year.

R. Hermack was jailed at Flushing, N.Y., for locking an old man in a chicken coop as a joke.

TO-NIGHT prepare for a good to-morrow

There will be a marked difference in your feelings, and in your ways, if to-night you will seek the aid of Beecham's Pills.

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