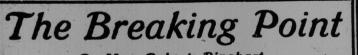
POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1923



By Mary Roberts Rinehart

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(Continued From Yesterday)
"Will you have some coffee? I can Bassett had an extraordinary feel

(Continued From Yesterday)

"Will you have some coffee? I can get a class from the bathroom. It takes a week to get a waiter here."

"Thanks. Yes."

The feeling of unreality grew in the reporter's mind. It increased still further when they sat opposite each other; the small table with its Bible on the lower shelf between them, while himsde a pretence at breakfasting.

"First of all" Dick said, at last, "I was not sure I had found the right man. You are the only Bassett in the place, however, and you're registered from my town. So I took a chance. I suppose that headache was not genuine."

Bassett hesitated.

"No," he said at last.

"What you really wanted to do was to see me, then.?"

"In a way, yes."

"I

"I'll give you another mame, and old man hadn't come to an understanding. I've been to the cabin. My God, maybe you'll get it. A name that I hink will mean something to you. Bevinink will mean something to you. Bevinink will mean something to you. Bevinink wouldn't burn! You can clothing that wouldn't burn! You can "Donaldson," Dick repeated. "That Donaldson."

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was it. I couldn't remember Maggie

at Wasson's. He considered, and said, almost violently:

"Look here, I may have made a mistake. I came out here pretty well contained by the solution to an old mystery, and for that matter I think Though here," Bassett said, "let me give you a drink." You look all in."

But he shook his head.

"No, thanks just the same. I'll ask you to be plain with me, Bassett. I am—I have become engaged to a girl and—well, I want the story. That's all."

And, when Bassett only continued

"And, when Bassett only continued"

"And Jack. Jack Donaldson."

"Look here, I may have made a mistake. I came out here pretty well contake. I went to the Livingstone at Dry like. With the work it. I went to the Livingstone of True went to the Livingstone of True went to the Li

to stare at him:

"I suppose I've begun wrong end first. I forgot about how it must seem to you. I dropped a block out of my life about ten years ago. I'm not proud of it, but it's the fact. What I'm trying to do now is to fill in the gap. I owe it—you see, I owe it to the girl."

When Bassett could find apparently nothing to say, he went on:

"You say I may be arrested, if I go out on the street. And you rather more than intimate that a woman named Beverly Carlysle is mixed up in it somehow. I take it that I knew her."

named Bevery Carlysle is mixed up in it somehow. I take it that I knew her."

"Yes. You knew her," Bassett said slowly. At his tone Dick flinched.

"I wasn't—married to her?"

"No. You didn't marry her."

"See here, Clark, this is straight goods, is it? You're not trying to put osmething over on me? Because if you are, you needn't. I'd about made up my mind to follow the story through for my own satisfaction, and then quit cold on it. When a man's pulled himself out of the mud as you have it's not my business to pull him down. But I don't want you to pull any bunk."

Dick winced.

"Out of the mud!" he said. "No I'm telling you the truth, Bassett. I have some fragmentary memories, places and people, but no names, and all of them, I imagine from my childhood. I pick up at a cabin in the countum, with snow around, and David Livingstone feeding me soup with a tin spoon." He tried to smile and failed. His face twitched. "I could stand it for myself," he said, "but I've tied another life to mine, like a cursed fool, and now you speak of a woman, and of arrest. Arrest! For what?"

"Suppose," Bassett said after a moment, "suppose you let that go just now, and tell me more about this—this gap. You're a medical man. You've probably gone into your own case pretty thoroughly. I'm accepting your statement, you see. As a matter of fact it must be true or you wouldn't be here. But I've got to know what I'm doing before I lay my cards on the table. Make it simple, if you can. I don't know your medical jargon."

Dick did his best. The mind closed

pon."

Dick did his best. The mind closed lown now and then, mainly on the unpleasant. No, there was no injury equired. He didn't think he had had

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I unpleasant. No, there was no injury required. He didn't think he had had an injury. A mental shock could do it, if it were strong enough. And fear. It was generally fear. He had never considered himself braver than the other fellow, but no man liked to think that he had a cowardly mind. Even if things hadn't broken as they had, he'd have come back before he went to the length of marriage, to find out what it was he had been afraid of. He paused then, to give Bassett a chance to tell him, but the reporter only said: "Go on. You lay your cards on the table, and then I'll lay mine out." He went on. He didn't blame Bassett. If there was something that was in his line of work, he understood. At the same time, he wanted to save David anything unpleasant. (The word

very inadequacy.) He knew now that David had built up for him an identity that probably did not exist, but he wanted Bassett to know that there could never be any doubt of David's high purpose and his essential fine-

ness.

"Whatever I was before," he finished simply, "and I'll get that from you now, if I am any sort of a man at all it is his work."

He stood up and braced himself. It had been clear to Bassett for ten minutes that Dick was talking against time, against the period of revelation. He would have it, but he was mentally bracing himself against it.

"I think he said, "I'll have that whiskey now."

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If would have it, but he was mentally bracing himself against it.

"I think he said, "I'll have that whiskey now."

Bassett poured him a small drink, and took a turn about the moon while he drank it. He was perplexed and apprehensive. Strange as the story was, he was convinced that he had heard the furth. He had, now and then, run across men who came back after a brief disappearance, with a cock and built story of forgetting who they were, and because nearly always these men vanished at the same nearly always they been open to suspicion. Berhapa, poor devils, they they were, and because nearly always they been open to suspicion. Berhapa, poor devils, they should be the summer of the suspicion and buried, until he himself had revived it. And a girl, too! The girl in the blue dress at the theatre, of course.

Dick put down the glass.

"Tom ready, if you are."

"Nothing."

"Oddly enough, Bassett found himself had revived it. if it's a key, it doesn't unlock. That's all, Am I Judson Clark?"

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Oddly enough, Bassett found himself had revived it if it's a key, it doesn't unlock. That's all, an I Judson Clark?"

Oddly enough, Bassett found himself had with the were standing to you?

"I'm not sure," he said "It sounds all the surprise of the grant and then it doesn't unlock. That's all, an I Judson Clark?"

Oddly enough, Bassett found himself had with the were standing to you, are with the without on the surprise of the without the prefer were a supported to the prefer with the were the prefer with the were the prefer with the without on the were the prefer with the without on the prefer with the without of the prefer with the win

readed into the mountains in a blizzard.

"He was supposed to have frozen to
death. But recently a woman named
Donaldson made a confession on her
death-bed. She said that she had helped to nurse Clark in a mountain cabin,
and that with the aid of some one unnamed he had got away."

"Then I'm Clark. I remember her,
and the cabin."

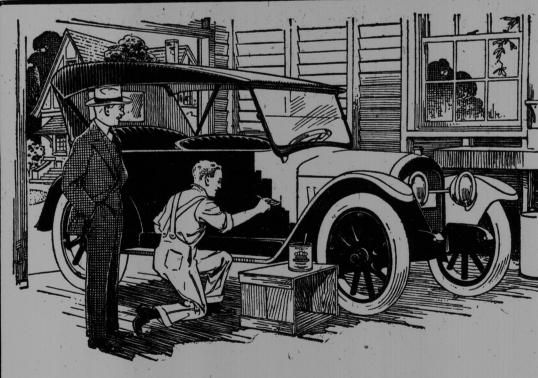
There was a short silence following

and the cabin."

There was a short silence following that admission. To Dick, it was filled with the thought of Elizabeth, and of her relation to what he was about to hear. Mentally, he braced himself for what was coming.
"I suppose," he said at last, "that if I ran away I was in pretty serious trouble. What was it?"

"We've got no absolute pnoof that you are Clark, remember. You don't





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