

into his mind, only to be rejected as hopelessly impossible.

Maudie ran out through the porch, followed by Basil and Tom Everson, just as the approaching boat slid in through the entrance to the harbour and stood across the pool towards the landing-stage.

Just then a wild yell burst from the Tyke, who also had become aware of the approaching boat. "It am Boss Jim!" he screamed, dancing frantically. "It am Boss Jim, an' Katchewan, Kamloo, an' all de lot!"

At the sound of his ear-piercing yells a little crowd of women and children came rushing from the native huts to join their uproar to his, for there on the deck of the tug were plainly to be seen Jim Belloc and his Indian crew, with not a man of them missing.

What a meeting it was, and what a time of wild excitement! Maudie found herself sobbing bitterly from sheer strain of reaction, whilst Tom Everson held her hand, whispering words of consoling tenderness as Jim told the story of the rescue of himself and his crew by the Alberni mail-boat, just as the schooner was going to pieces.

Mrs. Neal was not visible, and Jim asked for her, as with Ron clucking and crowing joyfully in his arms he re-entered the house, where no one had thought to welcome him more.