

HOW THEY LOST A FORTUNE

Two Crooks That Had Arranged for Loot

As Far as Nelly Curzon Was Concerned the Program Was Carried Out to the End.

Bob and Bob were down on our luck. I can tell you. Every-

thing we had planned went as crook-

ed. We had worked for near a

month on a darlingly-planned scheme

to give Lord Talport of his plate

and just when all was ready I'm bleat-

ing the whole blooming lot just to a

few of his lordship's beastly

servants. "Well," says I, "we're broke."

"Just a bit, Bill Jack," says Bob. "I

was always called me Bill Jack 'cos I

was christened William John.

"Why, what's the game, if it ain't

luck? It is loot, Bill Jack, but not a

lenny and dastardly job. We are

going to pull enough to journey to

last a lifetime. Now, listen: first I

want a photograph of Rupert Errol,

if it is to be had."

"Will see if I can manage that," I

says. "Then I must have a five to pay

my fare to Southampton and back. I

suppose I must do a little sleight-of-

hand in a crowd to get that."

"And then?"

"You go back to Sandilands Hall.

Today is Wednesday. On Saturday

he regreted that it was he would

buy it as it stands, lock, stock, and

barrel, all except the horses."

"Well, he can have it, and the

horses can be sent to Tattersall's."

"And you will send my jewels over

tomorrow? Rupert is so anxious to

see me looked in the family dia-

monds."

"I shall bring them over myself."

"I had heard a lot about those dia-

monds, and I smiled broadly as I

thought of Bob's smartness."

"I tried to have a word or two with

Bob, but he always seemed to frown

when I approached him, and I re-

membered his instructions not to

repeat to him until I was spoken to."

"But to tell the truth I began to get

a bit troubled about Miss Nelly. I

thought Bob was going a bit too far.

It is all very well making up to a

servant when you want a bit of in-

formation, but to make love to a

beautiful girl like Miss Nelly and

even fix up the wedding day was, to

my mind, only complicating things."

The next day the lawyer turned up

with a cheque for £100, and as

Bob shook hands with me he says,

"What Divers Earn."

A man must possess good nerves

and physical strength to be a diver,

said a man who had been engaged in

that profession for the last eighteen

years to the writer, when questioned

as to the qualifications necessary to

make a successful diver. I have

known many an instance where an

apparently strong man has refused to

make a second descent into the water.

The sensations one feels in descending

into the sea for the first time are

decidedly strange. There is invariably

a buzzing in the ears, and in some

cases this is accompanied by an ethi-

cal blood.

A diver's dress is very heavy, from

180 lbs. to 200 lbs. The helmet alone

weighs 50 lbs. In the water, how-

ever, the whole dress does not weigh

more than 50 lbs. to 60 lbs. I once

worked in the dress in the hold of a

ship amongst some broken barrels of

caustic soda. It was impossible to

move the cargo without such protec-

tion from the fumes. I worked away

for two days in that hold, but hav-

ing no water to take off the weight

of the suit my limbs ached for

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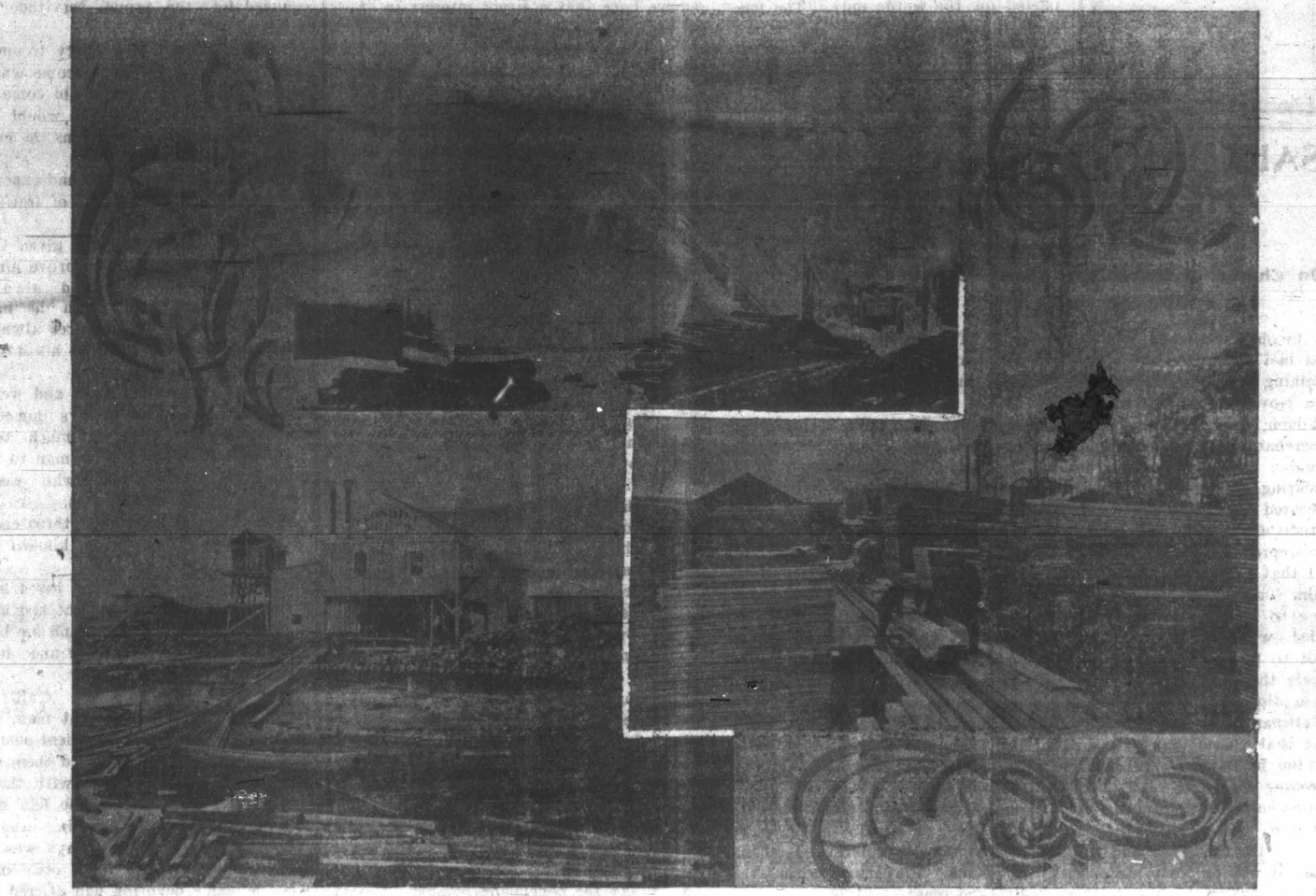
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IN THE VICINITY OF KLONDIKE CITY.

In time for dinner, bringing with him

a heavy brass-bound box, which was

sent straight up to Miss Nelly's

room.

Bob was ready to receive Mr. Wood-

row, and as they discussed a prelimi-

nary sherry and bitters I tell you

my chum did look a regular duc,

with his evening top and his dia-

mond-stal. Goodness knows where

he got them from, I don't.

Just then the door opens and in-

satis Miss Nelly. Lord! the blaze

of twinkling light. Oh! the dia-

monds, the sapphires. I shut my

eyes, turned away, and gasped. And

these were all to be ours, mine and

Bob's!

However, I learned something at

the dinner. Lord Sandpiper had

agreed to purchase, and called \$20-

000 dirt cheap. The deeds were to

be prepared at once. This was \$10-

000 each for Bob and me.

Then after dinner Bloxam was asked

to assemble the servants in the

hall. I wondered what was up, but

I was soon to know.

And then Bob made a speech. It

completely knocked me into silence.

The servants all listened and cheered,

until Bob came near the end, then

they got a stagger.

"And so, Miss Curzon and myself

are to be married next Saturday,

and when we leave Sandilands Hall

it will be to return to it no more,

as we sail to our new home across

the sea in far-off California. This

will be a great blow to many of you,

as it will mean the loss of a life-

long situation. But in order that the

circumstances will not fall so hard

upon you I have arranged that those

of you who have been in the service

of the family for ten years shall re-

ceive a cheque for five years' wages;

in fact, you will all be paid for half

the term you have served."

There was a lot more, but this was

the stuffing of the goose, and when

he finished they gave cheers for both

of them.

"Good, good, that puts us in funds

at any rate."

"But, oh! I ass that I was, I

thought it was your bogus cheque

and lit my pipe with it."

I will not repeat what Bob said,

but we've not been such good friends

since. I sometimes feel rather glad

that Miss Nelly was not deceived in

her happiness; but many a time, when

things look blue, I think remorsefully

of that lost fortune.

"First Lady Passenger-"If that

window isn't opened this minute I

know, I shall die."

Second Ditto-"Who opened that

window? If it is not shut I shall

die, I'm sure."

Philosophical Gentleman-"Conduc-

tor, please keep that window open

till one of these ladies dies; then

shut it and give the other an oppor-

tunity to quit this vale of tears."

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very daring individual, and the only

diver, I believe, who ever smoked a

cigar under water, and this he did in

Kingstown Harbor. Of course, the

cigar was lit and placed in his mouth

before his helmet was put on.

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