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**KINDRED OF THE DUST**

By PETER H. RYNE

CHAPTER XXXVII.

"I state the condition as I found it. I happen to know that the girl possesses sufficient means to permit her to live at the Sawdust Pile for a year at least."

"But isn't she going away?" Mrs. McKay's voice rose sharply. "Is she going to break her bargain?" "Oh, I think not, Mrs. McKay. She merely complained to me that somebody begged her to come back to Port Agnew; so she's waiting for somebody to come down to the Sawdust Pile and beg her to go away again. She's inclined to be capricious about it, too. One person isn't enough. She wants three people to call, and she insists that they be—ah—ladies!"

"God gracious, Andrew, you don't mean it?"

"I am delivering a message, Mrs. McKay."

"She must be spoofing you," Jane declared.

"Well, she laughed a good deal about it, Miss Jane, and confided to me that a bit of lurking devil in your sister's eyes the day you both met her in the telegraph office gave her the inspiration for this joke. She believes that she who laughs last laughs best."

Mrs. McKay was consumed with virtuous indignation.

The shameless hussy! Does she imagine for a moment that I will admit to blackmail, that my daughters or myself could afford to be seen calling upon her at the Sawdust Pile?" "She wants to force us to recognize her, mother," Jane, recalling the day in the telegraph office, sat staring at Daney with flashing eyes. She was biting the fingers of her glove. "Nothing doing," drawled Elizabeth with a smile.

Mr. Daney nodded his comprehension.

"In that event, ladies," he countered, with malignant joy in his suppressed soul, "I am requested to remind you that the Laird will be informed by Miss Brent that she considers him a poor sport, indeed, if he insists upon regarding her as unworthy of his son, in view of the fact that his son's mother considered her a person of such importance that she used the trans-continental telephone in order to induce her—"

"Yes, I know what you are going to say. Do you really think she would go as far as that, Andrew?" Mrs. McKay was very pale.

"Beware the anger of a woman scorned," he quoted.

"In the event that she should, Mr. Daney, we should have no other alternative but to deny it," Elizabeth was speaking. She still wore her implacable smile. "As a usual thing, we are opposed to fibbing on the high moral ground that it is not a lady's pastime, but in view of the perfectly appalling results that would follow our failure to fib in this



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particular case, I'm afraid we'll have to join hands, Mr. Daney, and prove Nan Brent a liar. Naturally, we count on your help. As a result of his conversation with you, father believes you did the telephoning."

"I told him half the truth but no lie. I have never lied to him, Miss Elizabeth, and I never shall. When Hector McKay asks me for the truth he'll get it." In Mr. Daney's voice there was a glow that spoke of slow, quiet fury at the realization that this



cool young woman should presume to dictate to him.

"I think you'll change your mind, Mr. Daney. You'll not refuse the burden when you come to it. As for this wanton Brent girl, tell her that we will think her proposition over and that she may look for a call from us. We do not care how long she looks, do we, mother?" And she laughed her gay, impish laugh. "In the meantime, Mr. Daney, we will do our best to spare ourselves and you the ig-

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nominy of that fib. The doctors will order Donald away for a complete rest for six months, and dad will go with him. When they're gone that Brent house on the Sawdust Pile will disappear mysteriously. The man who scuttled the Brent's motor boat surely will not scruple at such a simple matter as burning the Brent shanty. Come, mother, Jane, for goodness sake, buck up! Good-by, dear Mr. Daney."

He stared at her admiringly. In Elizabeth, he discerned, for the first time, more than a modicum of her father's resolute personality; he saw clearly that she dominated her mother and Jane and, like the Laird, would carry her objective, once she decided upon it, regardless of consequences.

"Good-morning, ladies. I shall repeat your message—verbatim, Miss Elizabeth," he assured the departing trio.

And that night he did so. "They neglected to inform you how much time they would require to think it over, did they not?" Nan interrogated mildly. "And then they didn't tell you approximately when I should look for their visit?"

"No," he admitted.

"Oh, I knew they wouldn't submit," Nan flung back at him. "They despise me—impersonally, at first and before it seemed that I might dim the family pride; personally, when it was apparent that I could dim it if I desired. Well, I'm tired of being looked at and sneered at, and I haven't money enough left to face New York again. I had dreamed of the kind of living I might earn, and when the opportunity to earn it was already in my grasp, I abandoned it to come back to Port Agnew. I had intended to play fair with them, although I had to lie to Donald to do that, but—they hurt something inside of me—something deep that hadn't been hurt before—and—now—"

"Now what?" Mr. Daney cried in anguished tones.

"If Donald comes down to the Sawdust Pile and asks me to marry him, I'm going to do it. I have a right to happiness; I'm tired—sacrificing—Nobody cares—no appreciation—Nan of the Sawdust Pile will be mistress of The Dreamerie—and when they—enter house of mine—they will be—humbler than I. They shall—"

Mr. Daney fled from the house, he looked back through the little hall and saw Nan seated at her tiny living-room table, her golden head pillowed in her arms outspread upon the table, her body shaken with great passionate sobs. Mr. Daney's heart was constricted. He hadn't felt like that since the Aurora Stock Company had played "East Lynne" in the Port Agnew Opera House.

**CANADIAN SCORES**

**BRITISH NEGLECT**

Trade Preference Cure For Business Distress, Asserits Senator. LONDON, Sept. 11.—In a letter to the Morning Post today, lecturing Britain on her failure to take advantage of Dominion markets, Senator George Lynch-Staunton, K.C., Hamilton, Ont., quotes a statement of Sir Robert Horne, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, that "Britain presents a spectacle of distress unknown in the country for a hundred years."

Senator Lynch-Staunton says that he presumes Sir Robert is blaming the lack of trade with Germany as the cause for his unfortunate condition, but he maintains that it is unreasonable to take such a view, and points out that Canada is the United States' best customer, although the Dominion is always coaxing England to take her products, and has done so continually for the past thirty years. In the past England has refused, pretending that she is a Free Trade country, which is not true.

"If you give Canadians, as we give you, a trade preference, they will sell you more goods," continues the senator. "If there is anything in the teachings of Free Traders you will sell more by adopting a mutual preference which will have the effect of shutting out the foreigners from our markets, with the result that the Dominions will grow and the British market will expand."

"The import figures of the Dominions from foreign countries ought to make your mouths water, and if you open those mouths, we will fill them. Britain is not wanted in foreign markets, but her goods are greatly desired in the Dominions. But you have never lifted a finger to promote the growth of your vast possessions overseas, and you regard them somewhat as a man regards his wife's jewellery; because they cost you much money you do not care to lose them. Otherwise you take no interest in them."

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