

SIX

THE STAR ST JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1908

Bred In The Bone

By JAMES NORTON

Ezra Billings and Martha Scott had married rather late in life. Each was known to have "opinions," but it was generally agreed that they would live happily. So they did, but their ways were not exactly understood by their friends. Before they had been married two weeks Martha called Ezra, the biggest fool in Saginaw county, and Ezra called her an old cat. Neither was the least bit angry. It was just their way, and they understood each other.

They did not dissemble and play the hypocrite when a third party was present. Ezra had courted Martha for four years before marrying her and she was the only woman he had ever loved, but this did not stand in the way of his saying to her in the presence of old Aunt Jackson: "Martha, we had a chicken on the farm with less brains than you've got I'd wring its neck."

In time it got to be known that the couple wanted like a dog and a cat, and fifty families became more or less interested. In time, also, they passed to strong terms and epithets. However, themselves they didn't mean anything by it. It was just a little harmless way of his when Ezra said to Martha in front of a tin pedler: "Say, woman, don't smile at me and ask my opinion about this pen. If I had been watching you like a hawk this morning, you'd have put paris green in my coffee."

"That ain't the way to kill off born fools," replied Martha. "You've got to hit 'em with an axe as they are lying asleep in bed."

Of course the pedler passed it along, and of course the lightning-bolt and the windmill man passed along what they heard and at least the neighbors woke up each morning expecting to find that foul murder had been done during the night.

Mr. and Mrs. Billings were members of one of the churches here in the village, and their pastor was finally appealed to. Being a conservative as well as a good man, he thought that matter over for a time and then preached a sermon to fit the subject. It was a hit at both, and they were there to see and yet when they left the church Ezra was heard to say: "Martha, if the preacher had walloped me as he did you'd keep my head shut for the next fourteen years."

"Wallow me!" she replied. "Ezra Billings was meant for you, and if you keep on wrangling with me, the people will turn out and give you a coat of tar and feathers."

Then the preacher decided that it was his duty to call at the farm. Martha made a more direct appeal. She was glad to see him. She said she was glad. She said she was in need of vice and was just thinking of coming to see him. She said it was about that fool husband of hers.

He had taken it into his head that the world was round, when everybody else knew better, and had threatened to brain her with a wheelbarrow. He believed as he did. He wouldn't do it, of course. Ezra was one of the best of men in the world, whether he was round or flat, and he couldn't be brought to kill a fly, but she thought he ought to be wrestled with for talking that way.

"But Sister Billings, you have been heard to threaten to poison your husband," protested the good man. "Oh, but that's just our way."

"And to pour hot lead in his ear as he slept."

"Yes, but Ezra knows I wouldn't do such a thing. If he was afraid of that he wouldn't sleep and snore the way he does."

"You have threatened to throw him right over the curb into the water."

"But if I did he would climb right out and kiss me."

"You have said that you wished a tree would fall on him and that he would be brought home dead."

"Yes, but I sighed when I said it, and when I sighed I should like you to advise. Do you think the flies ought to have the same chance to live as the cows?"

"That is a rather queer question, Sister Billings."

"Yes, but that datted fool of a husband of mine who ought to have been in an idiot asylum years ago has got the idea into his noodle that he should have no less gone and tied up all the cows' tails so they can no longer switch."

"I was telling the top-shouldered, snub-nosed nincompoop only an hour ago to untie them tails, or I'd break his neck with the first fence rail I could get my hands on."

"You-you talk that way to your husband?"

"I had to. No one knows Ezra as I do. You've got to talk right out at him if you want him to hump himself. He doesn't mind it, however. Ezra never loved a human being until I came into his life, and if I did he'd will away like a weed."

The good man sighed heavily and went down to the corralled to have a talk with Ezra. He was greeted with the greatest pleasure, but as soon as they had shaken hands the farmer began:

"Did Martha tell you that I threatened to choke her to death last night?"

"I hope you didn't make use of any such language."

"But I did, though of course it was all in fun. What do you think that empty-headed idiot did yesterday afternoon? Because a bee stung her she went at it and kicked over a whole hew, and the old horse was stung in thirty-seven different places."

"I suppose I could push her into the pond in such a way that people would call it a case of suicide, but I didn't do it. We love each other and don't mean nothing by our talk. You have nobly heard a great lot, but you mustn't pay any attention to it."

The good man went away puzzled and unsatisfied, but he went away to do a little plotting and planning on their own account. They agreed that it was a scandalous case and called for heroic treatment.

A week passed away, and then one forenoon Peacock Swift dropped in to

COLLAPSE OF A SCANDAL

Opposition Retires from Timber Berth Inquiry

Charges Abandoned—Further Investigation of Marine Department

OTTAWA, April 7.—In the public accounts committee today Mr. Ames asked that the inquiry into timber berths purchases be closed and reported to the house. It was decided to wait until E. M. McDonald was present to ascertain if he desired to put in further evidence.

W. H. Noble of Prescott, assistant commissioner of lights, was put on the stand and examined by Mr. Northrup in regard to the hiring from Mr. Merwin the tug Victor at Prescott. He said the boat was hired by J. F. Fraser (now suspended), commissioner of lights, at \$5 a day for four months. In the 140 days employed the boat used 100 tons of coal. On Oct. 31 Mr. Noble said the boat was taken on again on Nov. 3rd and left on until Nov. 17. During this time she did no more work and \$40 repairs were put on the boat by Mr. Merwin. During the fourteen days the government paid \$350 for hire.

Mr. Noble remarked that the department appeared to have paid for Merwin's repairs and gave him ten dollars in addition without getting any service.

Mr. Noble certified to the use of the boat for 14 days on which \$350 was paid. He stated another boat, the Beaver, had been hired at a flat rate, by which coal and maintenance were paid by the owners at \$30 a day. This boat was better than the Victor, and had cost \$4,400 for 147 days. At the rate paid the Victor and Beaver would have cost \$6,674.

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NERVOUS CHILDREN

ST. VITUS' DANCE, NEURALGIA AND HEADACHES COMMON AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN.

St. Vitus' dance is a disease that is becoming more and more frequent among school children. Young people tire the nerves with study and the nerves cry out. Sometimes the trouble takes the form of neuralgia, headache, nervous exhaustion, weakness of the limbs and muscles, and what we call "being run down." In other cases St. Vitus' dance is the result, and the sufferer frequently loses all control of the limbs, which keep up a constant jerking and twitching.

There is only one way to cure this trouble—through the blood, which feeds and strengthens the nerves. And Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the only medicine that can make the new rich, red blood that feeds the nerves and strengthens every fiber of the body. The case of Florest Doan, of Crowland, Ont., proves the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mrs. Doan says: "A couple of years ago my daughter Florest was dangerously afflicted with St. Vitus' dance. She became so nervous that after a dinner she could not let her see even her friends. She could not pick up a dish, lace her shoes, or make any movement to help herself. She had grown thin and very pale, and as she had been treated by several doctors, without benefit, I feared she would not recover. A friend advised me to give her Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after she had used a couple of boxes I could hardly believe my eyes. We gave her nine boxes in all, and by that time she was perfectly well, and every symptom of trouble had passed away and she is now a strong, well developed girl."

If your growing children are weak or nervous, if they are pale and thin, lack appetite or complain of headaches or backache, give them Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and see how speedily the rich, red blood these pills make will transform them into bright, active, robust boys and girls. You can get these pills from any medicine dealer or by mail at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing The Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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HUDSON BAY ROUTE DEBATE

Members Urged that Railroad is Much Needed

Should Be Built to Port Churchill as a National Undertaking

OTTAWA, April 7.—To put a limit on the session the government today took Monday from private members and they will hereafter be used for the business of the government.

The promised debate on the Hudson Bay Railway was begun on the motion to go into supply by Mr. Knowles. He declared the west needed the four hundred odd miles of railroad built, the port of Churchill equipped and the Hudson Bay route equipped on a commercial basis. Steamers could ply the route four months in the year, and could handle the cattle and grain business of the west to great advantage during that time.

Mr. McCroney supported the demand for this road, and Mr. McCarthy of Calgary favored the building of the road as a national undertaking.

Messrs. Schaffner, Cash, Roche, Burrows, Turfitt, Cranford, Herron and McLean, P. E. I., urged the construction of the road.

Hon. Mr. Oliver announced the government had the project under consideration and would make an announcement before the end of the session.

Mr. Bowles agreed that the road should be built, but said the government should have acquired information concerning it during the past ten years.

The resolution was carried and the House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

In the senate today Hon. Mr. Scott, in answer to Senator Landry, who asked about payments to officers of the Quebec Bridge Company, said: The company advances me the old company formed in 1887 and practically nothing was done, and therefore the directors were not paid any fee. Its last general meeting was held on April 20th, 1897.

Since Mr. Parent was elected to the company the directors have been paid as follows: R. Auditt, \$2,000; J. B. Dumont, \$2,000; Hon. N. Garneau, \$2,780; J. B. Laliberté, \$2,915; G. Lamonde, \$2,800; Hon. S. N. Parent, for services as president for over ten years, \$12,250; H. M. Price, \$2,335; Hon. J. Sharples, \$2,000, the salaries for which payment was made were attendance as members of the board, the president and vice-president receiving a special fee for their services.

The secretary has been paid \$16,820 and \$423 travelling expenses. On March 1897, to date, the engineer has been paid \$45,150.

ST. CATHERINES, April 7.—Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning R. W. Hamilton, a clerk in the employ of the Imperial Bank at St. Catharines, was awakened by a heavy explosion. Realizing at once that an attempt was being made to blow open the safe, he hurried to the scene, where he found five or six men. Hamilton was unharmed, and the men, who were armed, fled. The safe was open and the contents were being removed. Hamilton called the police and the robbers were taken away. The safe was found to be empty except for the contents of the safe.

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JUDGE CASSELS SETS HIGH STANDARD FOR CANADIAN JUDICIARY

No Judge He Says Should Accept Pay for Service as Commissioner or Arbitrator—He Will Do Duty Set by Parliament But Will Take No Payment.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 7.—The basis upon which Judge Cassels will inquire into the charges of dishonesty against the Marine Department officials was made clear in correspondence presented to the House today. It will be seen that he declines to be paid for the work and wants a free hand. Both requests are granted. On April 12 Judge Cassels addressed Sir Wilfrid as follows:

"Dear Sir Wilfrid,—You will pardon me for writing you on the subject referred to in the press of a Royal Commission to investigate the affairs of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. As I have received no communication in regard to this commission, possibly I may be premature in referring to the subject. I have, however, had a few words with Hon. Mr. Lemieux, and I believe that my name has been mentioned as the commissioner."

"It would be absurd for me not to feel deeply the compliment paid me of being trusted with such an important investigation."

I must, however, place my views on record in regard to this matter as well as all future references or arbitrations. When I accepted the position of judge of the exchequer court, I did so fully aware of the pecuniary loss which was involved. The position is one of high honor, and for reasons of my own I have accepted the honor conferred upon me by yourself and the government of Canada. I have always believed, and do still believe, that no judge or other judicial officer should accept any position as commissioner, arbitrator or otherwise, which may yield him any emolument other than above the pay which the law allows him in virtue of his judicial position. I freely concede to others the right to accept different views on this subject. I am too old, however, to change my own view."

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