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"Publicity is not to Mr. Blair's taste, then?

The Canadian Heiresherman and Farmer

" 'Not's' no word for it," declared the human Bureau of Information, delighted at this evidence of dawning interest on the part of the hearer. "He's crazy against it. They say he pays Town Titbits a thousand dollars a year to let young Blair's name alone. I don't believe the old man would hardly stop short of mur-He's kind o' loony on the subject."

"You've been to his country place?"

"Only wunst. Mostly they have one o' them scientific plumber fellers from Boston." The Elder's tone was as essence of gall and wormwood. "Wunst I had a job there, though, an' I seen young Blair moonin' around the grounds with a man nurse."

"Quite a place, I hear," suggested Kent.

"Sailor Milt Smith is the feller that can tell you about the place as it used to be. Here he comes, up the street."

He thrust his head out of the door and called. Sailor Smith, sturdy and white, entered and greeted Kent courteously.

"Mr. Dennett was saying," remarked Kent, "that you know something of the history of Hedgerow House, as I believe they call it."

"They call it !" repeated the old illor. "Who calls it? If you sailor. mean the Blair place, that's Hogg's Haven, that is! You can't wipe out that name while there's a man living as knew the place at its worse. Old Captain Hogg built it and lived in it and died in it. And if there's a fryin'pan in hell, the devil is fryin' bacon out of old Hogg to-day for the things he done in that house." "How long since did he die?"

"Oh, twenty year back."

"And the house was sold soon after?'

"Stood vacant for ten years. Then this rich feller, Blair, bought it. I don't know him; but he bought a weevilly biscuit, there. A bad house, it is-rotten bad!"

What's wrong with it?"

"Men's bones in the brick and womey's blood in the mortar.

"Was the old boy a cannibal?" asked Kent, amused by the sea veteran's heroics

"Just as bad: slave-trader." "Have you ever been in the

house?" "Many's the time, when it was

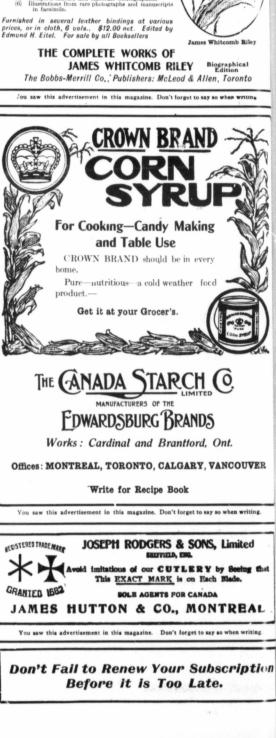
Hogg's Haven. Only once, since. They do tell that the curse has come down with the house and is heavy on the new owner's son." "So I've heard."

The old white head wagged bodingly. "The curse of the

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February, '4



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