

ESMERALDA

"I seem to be having trouble getting what I want for artillery," replied Mr. Willy.

Instantly I could feel Miss Esmeralda become, as I may say, alert.

It was a curious thing the way she unconsciously conveyed the fact of her interest without either moving or speaking. It was as though an electric current had suddenly become active in her.

"I expect you won't get them easily," said Tugwell. "We didn't at home!"

"But," protested Willy, deeply engrossed in his salad, "I positively must have them, you know. The Government can't be put off indefinitely."

"Well, I expect they will have to wait," replied Captain Tugwell, "unless you have exceptional people buying for you. That's what you need—straight people to do the actual buying. Then you may get the animals."

"I haven't got enough of the sort of people I'd like," Mr. Willy admitted; "but I am determined that my horses shall come up to government specifications."