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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY, LIMITED.

London, Ont., Thursday, November 11.

WATCH EAST ELGIN.

Very soon now the electors of East Elgin will have the opportunity of expressing, in the rejection of Mr. Stansell, their condemnation of one of the most detested governments in Canada's history. A nation chafing under bungling tyranny looks to East Elgin to play its part in the overthrowing of the dark forces that have been in power since 1911. A bad government was turned out in 1896, but a more signal overthrow is at hand for a worse government at the present time.

Mr. W. L. M. King has been showing the west in patient, honest, candid detail how we are misgoverned. He has eloquently expressed the danger to Canadian liberties from a cabal that seeks to govern by order-in-council, by the screen of commissions, by unconstitutional franchise measures, and by mounted police where they are not wanted. The Meighen Government jockeys Ontario out of a vote on prohibition this fall, and does nothing to remedy the conditions in Essex that have just culminated in tragedy. Mr. Spracklin should have had the support that would keep lawless spirits in awe. Why were mounted police sent to Winnipeg and not to Essex?

One of the most scandalous items in the Ottawa Government's history was the scheme of vote-apportionment in the election of 1917. Mr. Meighen's own part in the manipulation of that election has not yet been investigated. He is an apt pupil of the Hon. Bob Rogers. A vote for Stansell is a vote for the Rogers system.

The callous indifference of the Government to the interest of the common man is seen in the dark record of the Ross rifle in the war. The returned men say they used it as a mediaeval club or mace, not as a modern gun. The nearest parallel to this in the chronicles of all the armies in the Great War is the incident of the empty munition boxes sent up by treachery and corruption to the men in the Russian trenches. In no country was there such rampant, undisguised and governmentally encouraged exploitation by profiteers at home as in Canada. A grudgingly-enforced income tax, infinitesimal compared to those collected in Great Britain, the United States and Germany, was adopted by the Government only under heavy pressure from the Liberal Opposition. War profiteers have not been compelled to disgorge one cent, not even to eke out the wretched pensions of disabled soldiers. Excess profits taxes here are simply ridiculous compared with those collected in Great Britain and the United States.

A board of commerce was created ostensibly to check combines, enforce the existing laws against them and stop profiteering prices, but we have seen how the board was made a farce. As for sugar, would not everybody like to know the inner facts of the matter? It would be a sensational story. Let the East Elgin electors do their part in hacking that unspeakable clique out of Ottawa, and some things now dark may be made clear. Compare the case of Ontario timber limits.

No relief against combines by way of tariff reduction can be expected from Premier Meighen. Rather he and his friends may be depended on to increase the advantages of protection to the price-fixer. Both the Liberal and the Farmer's party are pledged to removal of duties on necessary food and clothing, and a very general reduction besides. The present Government stands for a higher tariff if possible, for taxes on necessities disguised as luxury taxes; while the country is calling for fair taxation, economy, enforcement of liquor laws and a square deal all round in the open. It is up to East Elgin to deliver a blow from which the Government will not recover.

ITALY'S EXPERIMENT.

Down the length of Italy, from the plains of Lombardy to where Calabria dips a dainty foot in the blue fringes of the Ionian Sea and onward across the straits of Messina into the island of Sicily, Italian peasants are in revolt. Red flags streaming ahead, they are marching, determined on conquest of the land. In its very simplicity, the movement is of absorbing interest. Peasants organize a co-operative association. In a band, they occupy land. The proprietor dare say nothing, can do nothing. The red flag flaps over his broad acres. A sign is affixed by its side bearing the naive inscription:

"Requisitioned by the Co-operative of so and so."

Then comes the most curious development of all. A representative of the national government issues a decree. The occupation of the land is recognized. An agreement with the proprietor is drawn up. He is to get five per cent per annum as rental, on the value of his land. He remains the legal proprietor. But the co-operative is in occupation and its peasant members hold it occupied. Officers of the co-operative (working in conjunction with the Federation of Land Workers) parcel out the occupied zone. The co-operative purchases the seed, determines what shall be sown and sells the crop. The peasant tills the soil. The co-operative ad-

ministrates and, according to reports, generally administers well. The proprietor is paid his rent—when he can get it. The scheme is simplicity itself.

The present agrarian movement arose in war days, when the Government made demand on demand for increased production. The Socialist of the north looked south and saw great estates rolling down from the Apennines to the sea, estates with their lords of the soil and an ignorant peasantry ground under an economic tyranny. Here was the inheritance of feudal days and of that Neapolitan kingdom whose system of government Gladstone termed the "negation of God." For the great landlord of the south loved to assume the grand air. He would spend his days in hunting and gaiety. Often he had insufficient capital properly to develop his estate and stretches of it would remain uncultivated. He gloried in the appearance of wealth as he jauntily strutted along fashion's expensive way. Who were these contadini that they should worry their lord with stupid demands? And so, as the tide rose, he pursued one expensive will o' th' wisp after another, impoverishing himself and his estate while peasants struggled to make the soil bring forth abundantly.

Unrest spread. "Pay no attention to worn-out theories of improving your condition," so ran the insidious advice of the Socialist. "Never mind questions of feudal dues. Be masters of the land."

The peasant listened and remembered. Faced with a difficult situation—for production had to be increased—the Italian Government legalized occupation of uncultivated or badly cultivated lands. And occupations grew apace. Nor, now, are they restricted to the terms of official decrees. They are sweeping over cultivated and uncultivated lands alike, over estates great and small. The royal estate at Santa Maria de Capua Vetere near Naples has been seized by a co-operative.

In all Italy, between sixty and seventy thousand acres have been occupied, and the occupations are growing daily. They now represent a total of 199 properties invaded by 105 co-operative associations. In the province of Rome alone, seizures of land have totalled 35,000 acres.

Nor has occupation been confined to lands nor to the metal works, so much in question lately. In Rome, great villas from which the wealthy owners were temporarily absent, have been seized by families, taking this rough and ready means of solving the housing problem. Two hundred workmen occupied one huge villa, only to be ejected in the morning by the police. In Milan, the tenants of a workmen's home quietly took possession. They appointed a managing committee, dismissed an expensive staff, reduced room rentals by nearly 50 per cent, and declared they would serve themselves.

The mainspring of the agrarian movement is the Federation of Land Workers. Its base of operations is Bologna in Emilia, and its driving force is Augustina Altobelli, an elderly lady who has been fighting for the Italian peasant since her childhood days. Attempts to unionize Italian land workers began in 1884, but it was not till 1900 that the first locals were formed. In the following year, the first general conference was held at Bologna. There were delegates from no less than 704 locals, representing a total membership of 152,022. The Federation counts within its ranks not only the agricultural laborer, but the metayer (the man who farms on half shares) and the small proprietor.

The final object of the Federation is socialization of the land. At its Bologna conference last year, the Federation declared to demand the creation of a vast collective domain to be administered by co-operative societies of agricultural workers.

From the beginnings of twenty years ago, the Federation has increased its membership until it now stands at 850,000 for the whole of Italy. Alarmed proprietors, too, have organized. But so far their organization has not been of much avail. They are subjected to one or two modes of attack. Either they must accept stringent contracts with their labor or their land is occupied.

And what will be the result of it all? Will production be increased? On this count, it is early yet to venture an opinion, and Italian authorities vary in their view. But one outcome appears certain: having secured their advantage, the Italian co-operatives are not likely to relinquish it easily. They have tasted the first fruits of power. Already, unfortunately, however, some of the co-operative associations are assuming rather the character of trusts. One reads of implacable boycotts of small proprietors, or attacks on the farm worker who attempts to become a small proprietor in his own name. One reads of a peasant being shot because he disregarded orders in the disposal of his crop, of other peasants being lynched for not using farm implements supplied by the co-operative.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

To many hard beer is preferable to soft beer, but when it comes to coal they are delighted to get either kind.

Was the Government's sudden reversal of the sugar order due to the fact that it heard what the "wild" wives were saying?

Now that many of the big industries in the United States have partially shut down Canada finds that she has many prodigal sons.

If those people who foretell a hard winter had been as thrifty as the squirrels all summer pessimists would be a minus quantity at present.

The householder who filled his cellar with goods imported from Montreal last spring is wondering just now if it wouldn't have been better if he had used half of the floor space for coal.

FOR OVERSEAS TRAVELERS.

Something entirely new in ocean liners will shortly be at the service of overseas travelers—a 10,000-ton ship, which will be devoted solely to the carriage of third class passengers. The White Star Line is responsible for the innovation, and the vessel, the Vedic, which is nearing completion, will be utilized on the North Atlantic service. There will be accommodation for 1,200 passengers, who will have full use and enjoyment of all promenade decks. Built during the war at Belfast by Messrs. Harland & Wolff, the Vedic was placed in commission as a transport. She has lately been refitted,

From Here and There

A MOVING FEAT.

[Halifax Chronicle.]

The feat of moving a building bodily from one site to another was successfully performed recently in Great Britain. The building in question was of timber and reinforced concrete. It measured 50 feet in length and in breadth, and it weighed 150 tons. A large wooden platform was introduced under the building. This platform rested on iron rollers, and when all the weight of the building came on the platform, winches and wire ropes were employed to draw the whole structure for 80 feet to the new site. The work of the office went on as usual during the proceedings, even the telephone remaining in operation. It is estimated that the cost of taking the structure down and rebuilding it would have been at least three times that of the process of transfer.

DO NOT PAY CONSCIENCE MONEY.

[Toronto Star.]

It is a mistake to found a theory upon an isolated instance. A Toronto consumer found a nickel and three cents in a bottle of milk. But that does not prove that the dairies have started to pay conscience money.

VERY BUSY AT 104.

[Almonte Gazette.]

Pleading his own case, Mr. Joseph Beland, said to be 30 years old, put up what is probably a world's record in Bryson police court. Mr. Beland had a civil case in connection with a property deal involving a matter of two or three hundred dollars. An adjournment of the case was asked, but Mr. Beland strenuously objected, and stated that he had a job to go to the following day, and could not lose time. The court reserved decision.

BAD MANAGEMENT.

[Montreal Star.]

Waste in the management of cities is widespread. According to the findings of a recent survey in the United States, the average city on this continent wastes about 20 per cent of its expenditure—\$300,000,000 a year in the sum in round numbers of the total estimated loss.

Can one imagine what would happen to the president and directors of a corporation who allowed twenty dollars out of every hundred, say in the purchasing department, to leak away with no return?

How much chance would they have of re-election at a general meeting of the stockholders after the methods of business were found out? Still the stockholders of Montreal, the taxpayers have witnessed this sort of thing for very many years.

To point must be driven home that the people have to pay, in the most direct and obvious way, inefficient, extravagant and bumbling government.

The following is a local illustration of the truth of this: When the administrative commission assumed the guidance of the city, finding the finances were in such a deplorable state that the additional burdens had to be levied on reality; while householders had their water rates increased by one-third, the public utility situation was found to have been brought about by gross waste of revenue in the past.

The fact cannot be kept too vividly in mind by those who are drawn to the new city charter that its most important feature must be to insure capable and honorable men to enter the lists for public honors. With such men at the helm, wholesale waste will be largely impossible.

MONEY TO BURN.

[Halifax Chronicle.]

A British official who recently returned to London from the Crimea states that it was cheaper to burn money in the Crimea than to match, because 100,000 roubles are equal to about \$4, and a box of matches cost 10,000 roubles. It is cheaper to light cigarettes and pipes with hundred rouble notes than with matches.

SIMILIA SIMILIBUS.

[British Whig.]

The ability of the dealer in so-called "canned music" to sell his assorted stock of machines and records has long been a puzzle to the admirers of the many people who buy a noise even if they do not understand music, the phonograph dealer has a deep knowledge of the best quality of mechanical reproduction music are so efficiently supplemented by the vast quantity of cheerful, lively records, that the dealer in the mere banker or bricklayer. Naturally, any hints as to the way the phonograph dealer does it command attention and respect. One of these principles of salesmanship, a general sales manager, in fact, and a successful one, in Chicago upon his own learned profession, and gave the information—quite as valuable because it was casual and "contributory"—that black-haired salesmen did better in the South and West than in the North. This is one of the magic bits of concrete information which are worth more than all the professional essays in the world. This general sales manager, in fact, and a successful one, in Chicago upon his own learned profession, and gave the information—quite as valuable because it was casual and "contributory"—that black-haired salesmen did better in the South and West than in the North. This is one of the magic bits of concrete information which are worth more than all the professional essays in the world. This general sales manager, in fact, and a successful one, in Chicago upon his own learned profession, and gave the information—quite as valuable because it was casual and "contributory"—that black-haired salesmen did better in the South and West than in the North. This is one of the magic bits of concrete information which are worth more than all the professional essays in the world.

COAL IN THE WEST.

[Hamilton Times.]

Alberta shipped 75,000 tons of coal into the United States last year. Western Canada has enough of coal we are told, to supply Canada and the States with this fuel for thousands of years. Let some of it be shipped down this way.

IT HAD TO COME.

[Woodstock Sentinel-Review.]

For some time Hamilton has been the only city in Canada where a daily paper could be bought for a cent. Everywhere else in the country the newspapers find it necessary to increase their prices to meet the increased cost of production. But in Hamilton papers, for reasons probably rising out of local conditions, continued to maintain the old prices. And now even the Hamilton papers have given up the struggle and are attempting to carry on business by selling below the cost of production, and have raised their prices. It had to come.

CUTTING TRADES.

[Toronto Star.]

Talk of wage cuts is very prevalent. Our own idea is that there'll be more cuts in such trades as that of the baker and the butcher than in other lines. When you come to think of it, the more cuts these chaps get, paradoxical as it may seem, the more money they make.

ONE WAY TO AVOID STRIKES.

[Montreal Gazette.]

The committee of the New York Legislature investigating the building trade conditions in New York city, finds that it was an ordinary thing for contractors to pay quite large sums to walking delegates or business agents to insure that they would not be subjected to loss through strikes. The power of labor organizers in some cases is so complete that the temptation to use it for personal gain must be strong. The bad business has been heard of before. Exposure is fatal to it, however, as it is towards other grafting, and exposure is liable to come at any time.

JUST COMMON SENSE.

[E. Gosselin's Montreal Gazette.]

Agriculture has not suffered to any considerable extent. Crop production has not fallen off. Practically all of our lands are in cultivation or pasture, and there is still plenty of food to go around; not any big surplus as in the past, but not any more than enough of many things. If this were not so, farmers would not have to sell cattle and hogs at a loss. But I do not believe that there is a large surplus of other farm products. We should have an extra supply. Something should be saved during the fat years to tide us over the lean ones. That is not being done now, but each year might bring an increase in the price of food. There are several reasons for this—the low price of farm products, high-priced labor, speculation in food-stuffs, lack of farm organization, and prohibitive freight rates, among others.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—The Church of St. Anne de Beaufort is east of Quebec city, on the banks of the St. Lawrence. It has been famed for more than two centuries for miraculous cures. The ancient church, built in 1558, was taken down owing to its dangerous position, and rebuilt on the old site near the battlements, in exactly the same form with the same materials.

2—Montcalm's full name was Louis Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm.

3—He-a-la-Crosse is a lake in Saskatchewan emptying into Churchill River. It was named from an Indian in the lake where the Indians played the game of "the cross."

4—The 1919 product of Ontario's canning factories was \$2,000,000.

5—The grave of Lord Selkirk, the first colonizer of Western Canada, is at Pau in the French Pyrenees, where he died in 1820.

6—The 16,000 soldiers sent out from the British Isles in 1814 were the largest force of soldiers ever sent across the Atlantic to Canada.

7—By the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 France surrendered all claim to Acadia.

8—St. John, N. B., is the oldest incorporated city in Canada.

9—Before 1916, 249,158 aliens had been granted Canadian citizenship.

10—The House of Commons has 235 members.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—Where is the Chateau de Ramezay?

2—When was the first newspaper printed in Ontario?

3—Which was the first regiment to carry the badge of Canada on the battlefields of Flanders?

4—How many prisoners were captured by the Canadians in the great war?

5—Who was "The Sage of the Grange"?

6—Why Anticosti Island?

7—When was Hudson Bay acknowledged the property of England?

8—What is the average rise of the tides at St. John?

9—How many doctors has Canada?

10—Does legal tender come under the jurisdiction of the federal or provincial government?

Poetry and Jest

THE DINOSAUR.

[Bert Leston Taylor.]

Behold the mighty
Fossil in prehistoric lore,
Not only for his weight and strength,
But for his intellect and power,
The creature had two sets of brains—
One in his head, his spinal base.
As we would not bother him a bit,
He made both head and tail of it.
The other set was in his tail,
Each thought filed just a spinal column.
If one brain failed the pressure strong
Passed up the spinal cord along.
If something ailed his forward mind,
"Was rescued by the one behind;
And if his intellect was caught
He had a saving after-thought.
For he thought twice before he spoke,
And no judgment to revoke.
For he could think, without congestion,
Upon both sides of every question.
The world would not have been so great
Defunct ten million years ago!

SAFE ENOUGH, ANYWAY.

"Do you think it healthy to keep your horse in the house?" a social investigator asked a native Arkansian.
"Well, humm, he brawled, "but I been a-keepin' my hawses there for fourteen years and I ain't never lost one on 'em yet."

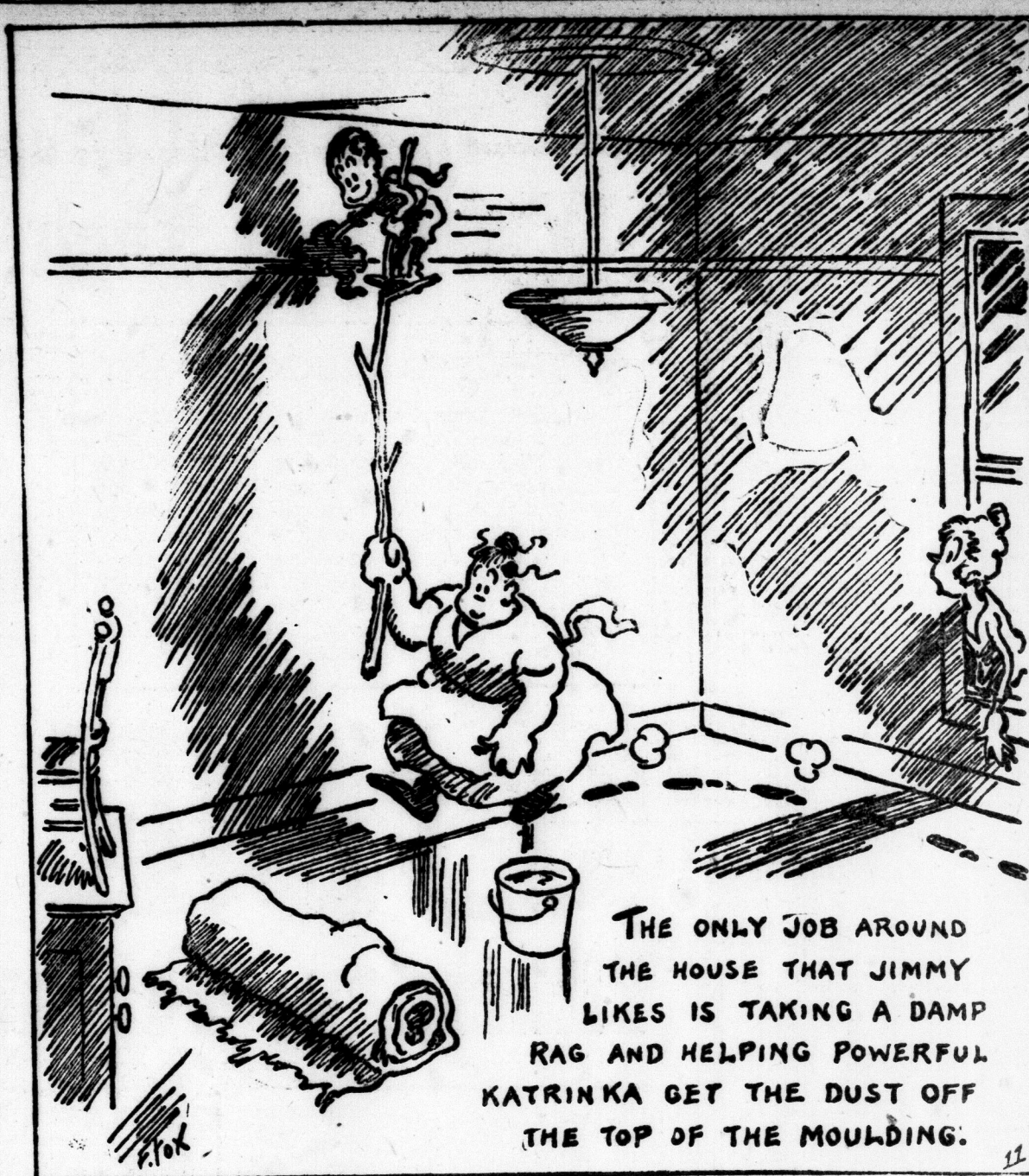
PURCHASE.

(Certain letters written by Lorenzo d' Medici are sold at auction.)
[By Hortense Flexner.]
They all come in and chat, their purses hid.
The men who hold rare things and gently smile.
They shall disturb frail, musty sheets and bid.

A fortune for this letter or grey file Of parchment nobly written by the hand.
That loved to gleam in gems and gilds.
Point out a man for death—give castles, land,
Or set all this to you, Stiles, and why tried to follow me last night after I left Mr. Lawson? I know that Stiles is a valued member of the Recorder staff. Now, what about it? "She's doing some special sitting for me," Stiles nodded after a little hesitation. "We've been good friends for quite a while, but she told me all she knows, is there? She came to me yesterday and asked me to keep an eye on your movements that you were working with Podmore and Wade. I knew she knew she could take care of herself."

"Oh, that was me. I padded her across the bay last night. We agreed to each other that we'd keep an eye on anybody heard us talking. When she got into your canoe by mistake she was scared to move. I knew she could take care of herself."

Again Phil laughed. But Stiles was



The Powerful Katrinka

colored prisoner.

"Well, nigger, there's been a lot of hog-stealing going on around here lately, and I'm just going to make an example of you or none of us will be safe." The Lawyer and Banker (New Orleans).

THE SONG OF THE AIRMAN.

[Mowbray Percy.]

I sit alone
On a flying throne
And spin the crumbling world.
I mount with a rush
In the dizzy hush,
And about the clouds unfurled,
And the clean, cold breeze
Of the ether seas
Is wafting through my hair—
And the love of life,
And the love of wife,
Are naught to the love of the air.

I skirt the edge
Of a fleecy ledge
And perch on a purple dome.
I hurtle through
The purple air
Where the airy-children have their home;

I sweep down
I gasp and groan
In a gulf of golden glare—
And the love of life,
And the love of wife,
Are naught to the love of the air!

I drink the light
At awful height,
My eagle spirit burns.
The purple air
Is shot with pain.
The brooding stillness churs
And sighs and sounds
Of the outer bounds
Allure me on to dare
And the love of life,
And the love of wife,
Are naught to the love of the air!

"Miss Lawson was masquerading in Ferguson's office for some reason."

"I caught her listening at the keyhole while Podmore was interviewing Ferguson day before yesterday. You might begin by explaining why she should be in Ferguson's office. Stiles and why tried to follow me last night after I left Mr. Lawson? I know that Stiles is a valued member of the Recorder staff. Now, what about it? "She's doing some special sitting for me," Stiles nodded after a little hesitation. "We've been good friends for quite a while, but she told me all she knows, is there? She came to me yesterday and asked me to keep an eye on your movements that you were working with Podmore and Wade. I knew she knew she could take care of herself."

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Every Man For Himself

BY HOPKINS MOORHOUSE.

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