

HOW I SECURED A BONANZA.

(A Story of the Nova Scotia Gold Fields.)

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

A suppressed giggling in the hallway was followed by the entrance of two handsome girls, who began to lay the table under a vigorous fire of chaff from the men around the fire. The eyes of the elder one flashed mischievously as she was called "Porcupine," but our presence rather awed her and she did not retort. The younger girl was bolder, and on one of the miners daring to call her a "Toad," she gave him a sly pinch that caused him to spring from his chair.

Ralph was at once on the alert, and his "allow me's"—"let me assist you with that," as he took possession of the tea pot, and assisted in placing the chairs at the table, soon put him in the good graces of the girls, and they stole occasional admiring glances at him from under their long eyelashes.

In a few minutes Popsy came in, followed by Brown, and was hailed by all with exclamations of delight. Although there was a strong odor of the stable about him, he was the honored guest of the occasion (did he not bring the grist to the mill?) and was seated at the head of the table, while Ralph and I drew up our chairs on either side. Our drive had given us keen appetites and we fell to with a relish.

"Oh," exclaimed Ralph, in ecstasies, and loud enough for our landlady and the girls to hear, "what can be better than this, snowy bread, fresh butter, new-laid eggs, and fragrant tea!" here he paused and carried a spoonful of egg to his capacious mouth. Suddenly his mouth twitched, a spasm shot over his face, and rising hastily from the table he made a bolt for the door and rushed into the yard.

Popsy was gulping something down with evident difficulty, and when he had succeeded, called out, "I say, Mrs. Brown, if you want any young codfish, just have these eggs hatched out."

"They are a little fishy," said Mrs. Brown blandly, "eggs are scarce hereabouts, and we have to send to the shore for them, where the hens are fed on refuse fish."

I had heard of fishy eggs, but a moment's delay had saved me from the horrors of trying them. The girls had disappeared in the kitchen, "to fire a volley," as the Salvation Armyists say, and frequent loud explosions of laughter proved that they were not short of ammunition.

Ralph soon returned, looking very pale, and for the rest of the meal had little to say.

The men around the fire, as their conversation indicated, were miners. I say their conversation, but the talking was nearly all done by one of their number, a tall, good-looking man, about thirty years of age. He had an eye like a hawk's, and wore a slouched hat pulled down in the most rakish manner over his forehead. His habit of winking whenever he wished to point a sentence was most comical, and I could not keep my eyes off him.

"No," I heard him say, "the Anderson property hain't a patch on ours! The boulders we dug to-day were full of sights of gold, and we know we are right on the lead, and you can bet it is a big one!"

"You think this is a good district?" I ventured to enquire.

"Good! good is no name for it, it is simply immense! I have been in all the gold districts in this Province and never saw nothing to equal it. If we don't strike a six foot lead this week my name is not Dave Victor."

"Is your property near Anderson's?"

"The next West."

"Why!" I exclaimed, much astonished, "I own the next area west of Anderson's."

"Excuse me, but that's impossible. What are the numbers of your areas?"

I gave them to him.

"That's the property that Glenfal took up?"

"Yes, I bought from him."

"Well boys, here is a good 'un, they're a mile from the lead and hain't worth a cuss," and with a knowing wink, Dave lay back and roared with laughter, in which all joined but myself.

"You, a lawyer, and got tuck in like that! it's the best out yet!"

Further inquiry from the other miners proved that the information was too true, and that my slippery client had palmed off his worthless claims in exchange for my valuable services. "Who got the best of the bargain?" I as the Spaniards say with that most expressive shrug, "Who knows, I can't say."

My hopes, which had been raised by Dave's description of the richness of the district, were dashed to the ground, my excuse for the journey was quashed, and conscience provokingly whispered, "you know you could have received the information at the Mines Office in Halifax."

"Don't be down hearted," said Ralph, "we will have a good day's sport to-morrow, and go home all the better for the trip."

Leaving the table, we joined the circle around the fire, and were soon absorbed in Dave's descriptions of his mining adventures. He was butcher, hunter and prospector combined, and seemingly prided himself on the decidedly shaky transactions in which he had taken part. "Jumping" claims, stealing gold, and selling "salted" mines, were the themes of his discourse, and he had delighted listeners in his fellow miners.

"Say, Dave, do you remember how you sold old Hawkin's down at Tangier?" asked one of the men.

"Guess I do!"

"Give us the story," was the universal request.

(To be continued.)

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Under a proposed contract for four years from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Halifax and Sambro and at this office.

CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 2nd April, 1886.

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 14th May for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, twice per week each way, between

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CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 2nd April, 1886.

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 14th May, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, twice per week each way, between

FALKLAND AND HERRING COVE

Under a proposed contract for four years from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Falkland and Herring Cove and at this office.

CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 2nd April, 1886.



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 14th May, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, twice per week each way, between

SALMON RIVER AND SHEET HARBOR PASSAGE

Under a proposed contract for four years from 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Salmon River and Sheet Harbor Passage and at this office.

CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 2nd April, 1886.



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY, 14th May, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, once per week each way, between

ISAAC'S HARBOR, EAST SIDE, AND NEW HARBOR

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Isaac's Harbor, East Side, and New Harbor, and at this office.

CHARLES J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, April 2nd, 1886.



NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Cape Tormentine Wharf," will be received until WEDNESDAY the 21st day of APRIL, 1886, inclusively, for the construction of

A WHARF

AT

Cape Tormentine, Westmoreland Co., N. B.

According to plans and specification to be seen at the office of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Railway Music Hall Block, 21st Street N. B., at the Office of the Public Works Department Custom House Building, St. John's N. B., and at the Department of Public Works, here, at each of which places forms of tender can be obtained.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, the blanks properly filled in, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, in the sum of \$7,500, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

This Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. GOBEL,
Secretary

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 24th March, 1886.



Office of Commissioners of Public Charities.

HALIFAX, March 25, 1886.

APPLICATIONS will be received at this office until four p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 21st of April next, for the positions of

HOUSE SURGEON AND CLINICAL CLERK,
AT P. & C. HOSPITAL.

Rules under which applications are made, and any information required, will be furnished on application at this office.

By order,
R. T. MURRAY,
Secretary.