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no, doubt the
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revenue from a palatial hostelry would. Yet the profligacy exhibited in the standing monument to that intended great enterprise is astounding, and one feels that the story of its desertion should be told in a whisper.

There it stands, an immense foundation of stone, the plan barely outlined, and then forsaken, to be mercifully overgrown by young trees—its gridiron form suggesting the mournful element in the design of the Grand Escorial. Heaps of rocks are piled along the road and at stations in the surrounding bush as far back as a quarter of a mile. The scheme looks stupendous in its boldness. The walls are two feet thick. There are three wings, each forty feet frontage, and the whole outside wall is 753 feet around. Views of the lake might be had on three sides from an upper storey. An avenue 450 feet long approaches the old structure.

My fiancée had never seen it, but the plan to camp there during our honeymoon was received with enthusiasm. "But we must have a house," she wrote. "No canvas camp or smoky cooking for

enough." "Plenty soon! plenty soon!" he agreed, one week and I have him done. First of April I been all ready for start."

I went away quite satisfied and relieved that there was someone I could depend upon to have this very important job done.

Along in March preparations for the great event were well under way, taking up most of my attention. Inevitable disappointments cropped up to be speedily overcome and I was congratulating myself upon my general good luck.

Somehow I could not keep my mind off Pinette, and when April was drawing near I sent him a note with all the plans (which I enjoined him to keep secret). April the first looked ominous to me for once in my life. What if he should disappoint me? How could I face her with the fact that not as much as a shelter was prepared for her? I was surely unwise to leave so important a task in comparatively strange hands.

There was still an element of rough-



"That's where, Daddy is."

us!" So I set right out and spoke to Pinette.

He entered into the spirit of the proposition right away. I did not say what it was for—I intended that it would be a general surprise. "You build one house," he commented. "Yourself get your own meals and save money. I will build that house for you just like my own." I was satisfied to have it built after the manner of his own but I wanted it all on one storey. "And I will leave the price with you," I added, thinking of the ridiculous sum for which he built his own. "Na! na!" he exclaimed, with characteristic habit gesticulations. "I want nothing for dat job." I could not understand his generosity so I remarked that we would settle that later. "I want NO-ting," he repeated. "You buy the stuff and I build one house for you, that's all." "Well," I told him, "I'm leaving here to-morrow" (my work kept me there only during the summer months) "I will write you to start about a month prior to my return if that will be soon

ness in the place where our summers were to be spent, and I would be indeed blameworthy if she were exposed to any of it. The roughness was wearing off from year to year, it is true, still there was little excuse for encroaching upon the hospitality of a public hotel where boorish servility had not yet broadened into manly courtesy.

It was less than a week when Penette's reply came. It was a shock, and to my injured sensibilities, an insult. It read: "A shack of the size you want it built would take me two months of work and I have nothing ready to start with, besides that there is two feet of snow on the ground. I must tell you, too, that building wouldn't cost you less than \$100—for the lumber only. I'm sorry, but it's impossible for me to do it."

The writing was thin and apparently nervous, and the missive was unsigned. It occurred to me that Pinette could not write—and the plan would no longer be a secret. Of that, however, I did not worry much.

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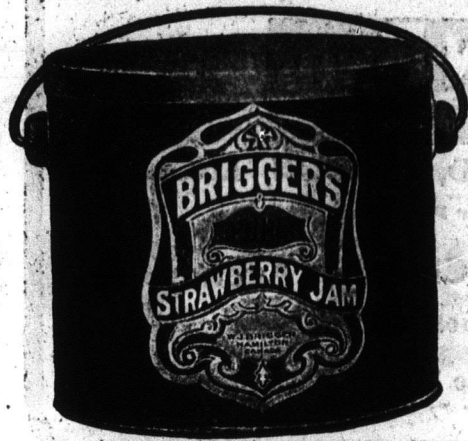
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