

A Story of Two Negatives

Everybody said, when old General Ainsworth died and it was found that injudicious stock speculation had practically wiped out his entire fortune, that Evan Ainsworth should establish himself as a florist. Several of their set, they argued, who had suddenly found themselves compelled to earn their own living had followed this course, and "the set" resented innovations. Moreover, the Ainsworth conservatories had been famous.

Precisely because everybody had suggested a florist's shop Evan Ainsworth decided against it. It was all very well at first, he argued, when your shop is a novelty and people bought flowers in the name of sweet charity, but he knew little about flowers, not enough to make the business an independent success. On the other hand, his amateur photographs had gained distinction at various exhibitions. Very sensibly he decided to develop this talent, and so he secured a position as operator in an obscure gallery, where he could gain experience with skylight work. Two months later Evan Ainsworth was practically forgotten by his old associates.

For this Evan was thankful, for the dark days following his father's death had been made more gloomy by the repeated visits of self-constituted advisers, who failed to appreciate the fact that there are some men who would rather earn less money independently than be dependent upon borrowing capital for the success of a hazardous venture. It cut him a little at first as one by one his friends dropped off, but in the end he regretted only Evelyn Hope, with whom there had been an understanding at the time of the crash.

Armstrong Hope, her father, had been one of the first to suggest the florist shop, and when Evan had explained his view of the matter and had declined the proffered aid Mr. Hope had stormed through the house declaring that Evan was a headstrong youngster and that the rising generation was going to the dogs. Then he had promptly exiled Evelyn to Europe in care of an elderly aunt. "Now, you take care of Evelyn," he had said to her when the steamer was about to sail, "and remember that your European vacation is going to be cut short the moment I hear that she has entered into communication with young Ainsworth."

A letter which Evan had sent to her had been returned unopened with a curt note from Armstrong Hope intimating that he desired all further communication between Ainsworth and the Hope family to cease absolutely and assuring Evan that he had taken steps to see that this desire would be carried out.

Evan, instead of assuming a mournful air, went industriously to work and within two years so advanced himself in his profession that he was engaged as chief operator in the most fashionable establishment in town. Two years of hard study, supplemented by none too luxurious living the first year, had wrought marvelous changes in his appearance, and none who commented on the excellence of his photographs realized that the artist was a man who at one time had been welcomed at their homes. He was too proud to remind his old associates of his existence, and they in turn had quite forgotten him.

As chief operator he was supposed to exercise general supervision over the work, and one afternoon, going into the dark room, he found a young developer herding over some plates.

"Mr. Ainsworth," he called, "I wish you would look at this negative. Mr. Jackson took it while you were at lunch, and it doesn't seem to be quite right. He only took two, and the first one was lost entirely through fog."

Ainsworth carelessly lifted the plate and held it up to the ruby light. Then he gave a start, for there was Evelyn's face, a trifle wistful, but still the face of the woman he loved dearer than his life. Pulling himself together, he handed it back to the operator with a careless remark, but let the glass slip from his hand before the other could grasp it. "My fault," he said in answer to the operator's profuse apology. "The wet film slipped out of my hands. Send down stairs and tell Miss Henderson to write the sister to come again."

Two days later Evelyn Hope again ascended to the operating room and noted with satisfaction that the operator was not the one she had seen on her first visit. As he turned to receive her she gave a cry of surprise.

"Evan!" she gasped. "Is it really you?" Then impulsively she went forward, both hands outstretched. "I've a confession to make," he

said as he looked into the tender eyes shyly upturned to his. "I smashed your last picture on purpose so that you would have to come down and pose again to me."

She gave a happy laugh. "Then you still care?" she asked earnestly.

"Care!" he repeated. "I'd have smashed the skylight if it had been necessary. Can't you realize that I've been hungry for a sight of your face for the last two years?"

"Well," she returned, with a tiny pout, "you might at least have written."

"But I did," he assured her. "I wrote, and your father sent back the letter, warning me that any letter sent to Europe would not reach you. In spite of that I wrote half a dozen times, but received no word in reply."

"What did you say?" she inquired half curiously, half bashfully.

"I can't tell you here," he answered. "You're here to give me a negative."

She smiled roguishly. "Take two plates," she suggested, and as he looked a little dazed she placed her hands on his shoulders. "You stupid boy," she finished, "don't you realize that two negatives make an affirmative?"

"And you will marry me?" he asked incredulously.

"I refused two dukes and a count," this with seeming irrelevance.

"To marry a photographer's assistant?"

She stood on tiptoe till their lips met. "To marry the man I love," she corrected.

Drowns in Kettle River

Grand Forks, B. C., June 12.—John Sucksmith, a saw mill owner of this city, was drowned yesterday evening in the Kettle river, seven miles below here. His two companions, John A. Keogh, his manager, and A. Wicks, had a narrow escape from meeting the same fate. Wicks clung to the upturned boat until rescued, and Keogh, after a desperate struggle in the icy waters, reached shore in an exhausted condition. The body of Mr. Sucksmith has not yet been recovered.

The trio left the city in the afternoon, in search of a raft of logs which had broken loose further up the stream. At a point six miles below the city they took a row boat with the intention of overtaking the fugitive boom. A mile further on, while crossing a riffle, the boat upset; Keogh, although a good swimmer, was carried down stream 700 yards, and was about to sink when men on the bank who witnessed the accident reached out a pike pole and hauled him ashore.

Mr. Sucksmith owned mills here and at Nelson, Wash. He leaves a wife and four young children. He was one of the most esteemed citizens in the community.

Gen. Miles

Kansas City, Mo., June 10.—The Journal will say tomorrow: Lieut.-General Nelson Miles, commanding the United States army, passed through Kansas City last night on his way from Fort Riley to Washington, called there by President Roosevelt, and threatened with an immediate court martial on a charge of having betrayed official secrets.

Gen. Miles went through here the day before, attended by several other members of the board, conveyed to observe long-range gun tests at Fort Riley, to be so engaged for several days. He came back yesterday afternoon entirely alone and in such haste that he had not even reserved a sleeping berth.

Union Impossible

Special to the Daily Nugget. London, June 21.—Premier Barton of Australia, says an imperial customs union at present is impossible but that mutual concessions can be made within the empire.

Five Men Killed

Special to the Daily Nugget. St. Paul, June 21.—A collision on the Northern Pacific near Staples this morning killed five members of the train crews.

French Shrewdness.

Special to the Daily Nugget. London, June 21.—The French have purchased a promontory of Katal near Macao. The move is considered important in view of complications in the Orient.

Carnegie Again

Special to the Daily Nugget. New York, June 21.—Andrew Carnegie has given \$50,000 for a library at the burgh of Porti near Glasgow, Scotland.

CRUDE OIL FOR FUEL

Will be Used Next Season by the N. C. Co.

On Fleet of Yukon River Steamers It Will be a Great Saving.

Next season will witness a revolution in freight traffic on the lower river, a change that will reduce rates very materially and also lessen the time between St. Michael and Dawson several days. That which is to produce the effect so greatly desired is the substitution of crude petroleum for fuel instead of wood upon all the steamers of the Northern Commercial fleet. Manager E. A. Mizner is recently in receipt of a letter from the head office of his company in San Francisco to the effect that a four years' contract has been entered into between the N. C. Co. and one of the large oil syndicates of California by which the latter agrees to furnish all the crude oil necessary for the entire fleet laying it down in St. Michael for \$1.25 a barrel. Immense storage tanks will be erected at St. Michael from which the oil will be distributed to the various stations along the river by one of the company's steamers together with an oil barge specially fitted up for the purpose. Of these stations there will be six in number, the last one being at Eagle which will be of capacity larger than usual to enable boats to take on sufficient fuel to reach Dawson and return. The tanks will be in close proximity to the landings and fitted with pipe lines so that in taking on a cargo all that will be necessary will be to connect a hose with the storage tank on the steamer and open the gate, the tank filling by gravity and the entire operation requiring but 12 minutes. At the close of the present season every one of the N. C. steamers will be fitted with tanks for carrying their supply of fuel and such burners as are required under the boilers. By an ingenious arrangement the latter will be so constructed that in case of an emergency in a few moments time the grates can be rearranged for the consumption of wood. Material for the storage tanks is already en route to St. Michael and will be distributed later in the season so they can be erected this fall ready to be filled immediately upon the opening of navigation next spring.

The company has had this step in contemplation for some time. On the outside the use of crude petroleum as fuel where wood and coal are scarce and expensive has been an unqualified success. The advantages to be gained by its use on the Yukon river

fleet are many. In the matter of cost alone a tremendous saving will be effected. The basis of comparison on the outside is that two barrels of oil in heat producing qualities equals one cord of wood, and in Alaska and the Yukon it will be even greater on account of the inferior quality of the wood as compared with that found in California. But even at that comparison the cost of fuel under the new system will be equivalent to only \$2.50 a cord as against \$8 to \$10, the present price of wood. Another gain will be in lessening the time between St. Michael and Dawson. It will be necessary to stop but six times for fuel and the majority of such delays will be at ports where there will be freight to be discharged, the taking on of fuel simultaneous with the unloading of the cargo effecting an additional saving of time. More cargo space will be available by the use of oil; a less number of deckhands will be required, and, in fact, the advantages to be gained are of unusual consequence. Where 12 days are required to make a trip up from St. Michael now, such boats as the Hannah, Sarah and Susie will in the future make the run in eight days. One of the smaller steamers will be employed constantly in distributing the oil to the stations and the entire fleet, even to the boats on the Koyukuk and the tugs about St. Michael, will go on an oil burning basis.

"The lessening of the time," said Manager Mizner, "between St. Michael and here and the tremendous saving in the cost of fuel will enable us next year to do something in the way of rates that may well be described as unprecedented."

Hunker Water in Demand

J. A. Stingle, M. A. Probst, and J. Carleton have entered in the gold commissioner's court a protest against A. C. Armstrong in regard to a water grant issued to the latter which they claim interferes with one issued to them for the water of Hunker on May 20th, 1901. The case is set for hearing on the 15th of August.

Off With Them

Special to the Daily Nugget. Buffalo, June 21.—Two negroes murdered a white man in a freight train at Bridgman, Michigan, for some small change he had on him. They threw the body from the train while going 35 miles an hour. The negroes were captured this morning near Buffalo.

Beresford Talks Out

Special to the Daily Nugget. London, June 21.—Lord Beresford severely scores the British admiralty and demands that a business board be appointed to manage naval affairs to be directly responsible. He declares the navy is terribly undermanned.

Inquiry Demanded

Special to the Daily Nugget. New York, June 21.—Since the attempt at suicide of Charles Sherman of the Merchants' bank at Newport, it is demanded that a commission be appointed to inquire into its affairs. Job Printing at Nugget office.

Glove Contest

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