

The Broad Highway

Jeffery Farnol

"Which We Call Life"

(Continued from yesterday.)

Hearing the Ancient chuckle, I glanced up to find him nodding and winking to Black George, who stood with folded arms and bent head, watching us from beneath his brows, and as his eyes met mine, I thought they gleamed strangely in the first light.

"Come, Prue," said the Ancient, bustling forward, "table's ready—let's sit down an' eat—faintin' an' faintin' away, I bet!"

So we presently sat down, all three of us, while Prudence carved and supplied our wants, as only Prudence could.

And after a while, our hunger being appeased, I took out my pipe, as did the Ancient and George, and then, slowly and carefully, as pipes should be filled, while Prudence folded a long, paper spill wherewith to light them, the which she proceeded to do, beginning at her grandfather's churchwarden. Now, while she was lighting mine, Black George suddenly rose, and, crossing to the forge, took thence a glowing coal with the tongs, thus doing office for himself. All at once I saw Prue's hand was trembling, and the spill was dropped or ever my tobacco was well alight; then she turned swiftly away, and began replacing the plates and knives and forks in her basket.

"Be you'n agoin', Prue?" inquired the Ancient mumbly, for his pipe was in full blast.

"Yes, granfer."

"Then tell Simon as I'll be along in half an hour or so, will 'ee, lass?"

"Yes, granfer!" Always with her back to us.

"Then kist ye old grandfeyther as loves 'ee, an' means for us 'ee 'well bestwed, an' wed, one o' these days!" Prudence stooped and pressed her fresh, red lips to his wrinkled old cheek and, catching up her basket, turned to the door, yet not so quickly but that I had caught the gleam of tears beneath her lashes. Black George half rose from his seat, and stretched out his hand towards her, but then sat down again, as with a heavy "Good night," she vanished through the yawning doorway. And, sitting there, we listened to her quick, light footstep cross the road to "The Bull."

"She'll make some man a fine wife, some day!" exclaimed the Ancient, blowing out a cloud of smoke, "ay, she'll make some man a fine wife as ever was some day."

"You speak my very thought, Ancient," said I, "she will indeed; but George's answer was to chuckle suddenly, and, thereupon, to fall asleeping."

"Smoke go t' wrong way, Jarge," inquired the Ancient, fixing him with his bright eye.

"Ay," nodded George.

"Ha!" said the old man, and we smoked for a time in silence.

"So 'andome as a piter she bet!" said the Ancient suddenly.

"She is fairer than any picture," said I impulsively, "and what is better still, her nature is as sweet and beautiful as her face!"

"Ow do 'ee know that?" said George, turning sharply upon me.

"My eyes and ears tell me so, as yours surely must have done long ago," I answered.

"Ye do think as she be a purty lass, then, Peter?" inquired the Ancient.

"I think," said I, "that she is the prettiest lass I ever saw; don't you think so, George?" But again George's only answer was to chuckle.

"Smoke again, Jarge?" inquired the Ancient.

"Ay," said George as before.

"T is a fine thing to be young," said the Ancient, after a somewhat lengthy pause, and with a wave of his long pipe-stem, "a very fine thing!"

"It is," said I, "though we generally realize it all too late."

As for George, he went on smoking. "Oh! life's a very fine thing when you're young; but youth's turble quick-a-goin'—the years roll swif' at first, but gets quicker 'n quicker, till one day, you wakes to find you 'in an old man; an'

"em!" says I, sharp like, "I would if you'd ax me, Martin," says she. An' so we was married, Peter, an' as you see, there was a Providence in it for me, for the first time I married some 'un older'n the second 'adn't died, I repented it all my days, for I were young then, an' fullish, Peter, fullish."

"Saying, the Ancient rose, sighing, and knocked the ashes from his pipe.

"Talkin' 'bout Prue," said he, taking up his hat and removing his snuff-box therefrom ere he set it upon his head, "talkin' 'bout Prue," he repeated, with a pinch of snuff at his nostrils.

"Well!" The word seemed shot out of George involuntarily.

"Talkin' 'bout Prue," said the Ancient again, glancing at each of us in turn, "there was some folks as used to think she were sweet on Jarge theer, but I beln' 'er lawf'ul granfeyther nodded different—didn't I, Jarge?"

"More rules they!" said the Ancient, "Eh?" I exclaimed, sitting up.

"More rules they!" repeated the old man with solemn nod.

"Why, then, do you know how true happiness may be found?"

"To be sure I du, Peter."

"How?"

"By marriage, Peter, an' 'ard work an' they allus goes together."

"Marriage!" said I.

"Marriage as ever was, Peter."

"There I don't agree with you," said I.

"That," retorted the Ancient, stalling at me with his pipe-stem, "that's because you never was married, Peter."

"Marriage!" said I, marriage means care, and a great responsibility, and trouble for one's self means trouble for others."

"What?" exclaimed the Ancient, "T is care and responsibility as mak' the man, an' if you marry a good wife she'll share the burden wi' ye, an' ye'll find what sweetest trouble is a blessing arter all. When a son o' your own—like Simon—an' a granddarter—like my Prue—an' live alone? Every man as is a man should marry—thoosooner the better."

"But," said I, "to every happy marriage there are scores of miserable ones."

"Cause why, Peter? 'Cause people is in too much o' a hurry to marry, as a rule. If a man marries a lass arter knowin' 'er a week—ow is he to know if she'll suit 'im all days? Now, Peter, it aren't w'al'—ral—woman tak's a lot o' knowin'."

"Marry 'in 'aste, an' repent in leisure!" That aren't in the Bible, but it ought to be."

"And your own marriage was a truly happy one, Ancient."

"Ah! that it were, Peter, 'appy as ever was—but then, ye see, there was a Providence in it. I were a fine young chap in them days, summat o' your figure only bigger—an' a sight bigger—an' I were sweet on several lasses, an' won't say as they wer' n't sweet on me—three on 'em most especially so. One was a tall, bousin' wench wi' blue eyes, an' golden 'air—like sunshine it were, but it wer' n't meant as I should buckle up wi' 'er."

"Why not?"

"'Cause it so 'appened as she married summat else."

"And the second?"

"The second was a fine, pretty maid, but I couldn't marry she."

"Why?"

"'Cause, Peter, she went an' took an' died afore I could ax 'er."

"And the third, you married."

"No, Peter, though it come to the same thing in the end—she married I. Ye see, though I were allus at 'er be' an' all, I could never pluck the courage to up an' ax 'er right out. So things went on for a year or so, may be, till one day—she were makin' apple dumplings, Peter—Martin," says she, loovin' at me sideways out of 'er black eyes—just like Prue's they were—Martin says she 'you 'in common fond o' apple-dumplings."

"For sure," says I, which I were, Peter, "Martin," says she, 'shouldn't 'ee like to eat of 'em whenever you wanted to, at your very own table, in a cottage of your own? 'Ah! if you'd mak'

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"For sure," says I, which I were, Peter, "Martin," says she, 'shouldn't 'ee like to eat of 'em whenever you wanted to, at your very own table, in a cottage of your own? 'Ah! if you'd mak'

George, he sat there, staring blindly before him, lost after the tapping of the Ancient's stick had died away, nor did he head me when I spoke, wherefore I laid my hand upon his shoulder.

"Come, George," said I, "another hour, and the screen will be finished."

"No, Peter," he mumbled, "I aren't agoin' to work no more tonight," and as he spoke he rose to his feet.

"What-are you going?" said I, as he crossed to the door.

"Ay, I'm agoin'." Now, as he went towards his cottage, I saw him reel, and stagger, like a drunken man.

(Continued tomorrow.)

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How utterly weak and helpless one becomes when the nerves give way. Sleepless, nervous, irritable and despondent, life becomes a burden. But there is Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. Food to rebuild your nervous system, restore the action of your bodily organs and change gloom and despondency into new hope and courage. Try it—today. 50 cts. a box, at all dealers.

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ELECTION CARD

To the Electors of the City of Saint John:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—According to the solicitation of a large number of citizens, I am a candidate for the office of Mayor, and submit my name for your consideration at the election to be held in April.

I have had some civic experience, having served as alderman for three years, and have some knowledge of your city's needs—and if elected, pledge myself to promote its interests to the best of my ability.

I believe the bonded indebtedness has reached its limit, and will urge the strictest economy in every department.

Soliciting your support, I am, Yours faithfully,

R. T. HAYES.

NOTICE.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a Bill has been presented for enactment at the present Session of the Provincial Legislature entitled "An Act for the further amendment of the laws relating to the City of Saint John," and contains and is a consolidation of the several Bills heretofore set forth, all of which have been published from time to time in a public newspaper in the City of Saint John, as required by the rules of the House, that is to say:—

(1) Bill, Intituled "An Act to amend an Act intituled 'An Act relating to the salary of the Chief of Police of Saint John.'"

(2) Bill, Intituled "An Act in further amendment of the Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909."

(3) Bill, Intituled "An Act to further amend the Act 2 George V, Chapter 42."

(4) Bill, Intituled "An Act in further amendment of the Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909."

Dated at the City of Saint John, N. B., the sixteenth day of March, A. D. 1916.

HERBERT E. WARDROP, Common Clerk.

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One cent per word each insertion. Discount of 33 1-3 per cent on advertisements running one week or longer if paid in advance. Minimum charge 25 cents.

NOTICE OF SALE.

NOTICE is hereby given that under and by virtue of the provisions of Rule 31, Order 56 of the Judicature Act of the Province of New Brunswick, there will be sold at public auction in the City of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick, at Chubb's Corner (so called) at the hour of twelve o'clock noon, on Saturday the eighth day of April, A. D. 1916 next, All and Singular all that real estate known as the Harlan P. Reynolds Estate or property, and described as follows, that is to say:—A certain "freehold lot of land situate in the Parish of Lepreau, in the County of Charlotte, in the Province of New Brunswick, containing four hundred and thirty-five acres, or thereabouts, more or less, with the buildings thereon. About one hundred and fifty acres of this property are in state of cultivation. Also thirty-one other lots of freehold land, namely: four lots situate in the Parish of Musquash, in the County of the County of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick, the first of said lots containing eighty acres; the second lot, one hundred and twenty-six acres; the third lot, fifty acres; and the fourth lot, fifty acres; one lot situate partly in the said Parish of Lepreau and partly in the said Parish of Musquash, containing two hundred acres; nineteen lots situate in the said Parish of Lepreau, the first of which said lots containing fifty-five acres; the second lot, eleven acres; the third lot, forty acres; the fourth lot, fifty-five acres; the fifth lot, one hundred acres; the sixth lot, eighty-five acres; the seventh lot, two hundred acres; the eighth lot, two hundred and thirty acres; the ninth lot, three hundred acres; the tenth lot, three hundred acres; the eleventh lot, three hundred acres; the twelfth lot, three hundred acres; the thirteenth lot, one hundred acres; the fourteenth lot, one hundred acres; the fifteenth lot, one hundred acres; the sixteenth lot, one hundred acres; the seventeenth lot, one hundred acres; the eighteenth lot, one hundred acres; the nineteenth lot, one hundred acres; the twentieth lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-first lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-second lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-third lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the twenty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the thirtieth lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-first lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-second lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-third lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the thirty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; 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the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and eighty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and ninetieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and tenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eleventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twelfth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fourteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventeenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eighteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and nineteenth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twentieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirtieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fortieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fiftieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixtieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-third lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-fourth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-fifth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-sixth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-seventh lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-eighth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-ninth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventieth lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventy-first lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventy-second lot, one hundred acres; the one hundred and one hundred