

A DOG STORY.

A local celebrity at least was Dan, a life-saving dog of New York City, where he is credited with having rescued almost a dozen persons who would have drowned as the result of accident, or from attempt at suicide. The animal's home was a pier on the East River water front of the city; his owner, the pier watchman, to whom Dan had come as a half-grown, half-starved, homeless outcast. He was of the excellent Newfoundland strain, though not considered a full-blooded representative.

What he lacked in blood, however, he more than possessed in brain; for his understanding was marvellous. Such a display of intellect as his seizing with his teeth the clothes of some little one whose truant steps had led it too near the water's edge, and dragging it out of harm's way, was not considered remarkable for him.

Dan's first essay at life-saving was that of snatching from a watery grave his master, who had made a misstep on the edge of the sleet-covered pier in the darkness of the winter night, and found himself struggling with the cakes of ice rushing him to destruction in the black, benumbing water. The watchman managed to send out his cry for help, and the big dog, which was in the vicinity, heard it, and soon was swimming rapidly to his assistance. How it was accomplished the owner could not explain clearly, but presently he lay on terra firma, with his shaggy rescuer licking his face to restore him to consciousness. Succeeding this, the dog's record of rescues increased in surprising fashion.

One of Dan's most commendable exploits was his foiling the attempt at suicide, in sight of scores of persons attracted to the scene, of a lusty longshoreman, who was so crazed by imbibing the liquor dispensed to his kind that he imagined his only chance of safety lay in drowning the fiery demons besetting him in the river, and himself with them. In this case Dan gave evidence that he possessed a mind far above other dogs. After approaching the maddened man, at the outset to be almost throttled and dragged down, Dan learned caution, and awaited his opportunity to save the other without going down with him. This was achieved by swimming round and round the longshoreman, until the man was completely helpless, then darting in and gripping the back of the coat collar in his strong teeth, thus sustaining him above the surface until human aid could arrive. This feat came near resulting in the death of both, for the man was wholly unconscious, and Dan was almost spent when rescued and rescuer were hauled into a boat pushed hastily out from shore; but soon the dog was frisking as usual about the pier.

A large sum of money for the purchase of Dan was refused by his master.

Poor Dan, beloved of all the habits of the water front and all who were cognizant of his deeds, met death in the line of duty, but not in the manner that might have been expected. He was fatally crushed beneath a heavy truck, it was averred by those who saw the accident, while attempting to reach a child he considered to be in danger. He was one of the few dogs to have flowers at his funeral, and this tribute of affection was bought by contributions from the slim purses of those who were the daily associates of the dumb brute which had the heart of a hero.—[From the Newfoundland Tribune.]

DUSK.

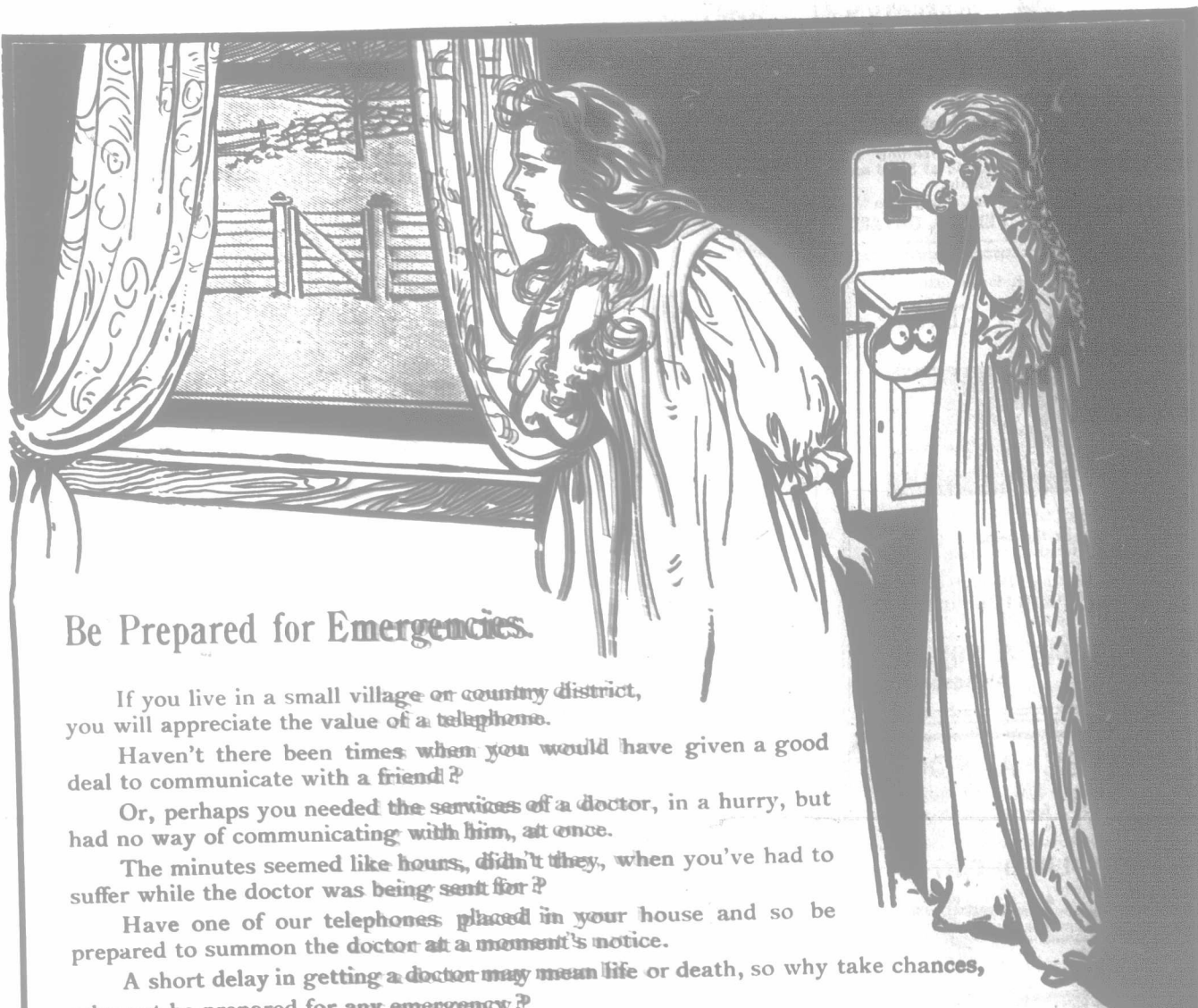
Dusk, and the day is done,
Homeward I turn;
Bright as the setting sun
Home fires do burn.

Dusk, and the shadows fold
On the hill's breast;
Dark 'gainst the fleeing gold
In the far west.

Dusk, and the waking stars
Glimmer on high,
Like candles newly lit
In the grey sky.

Dusk, and I see your face,
Soft lips apart;
Waiting to find your place
Near to my heart.

—Beth Slater Whitson, in Windsor Magazine.



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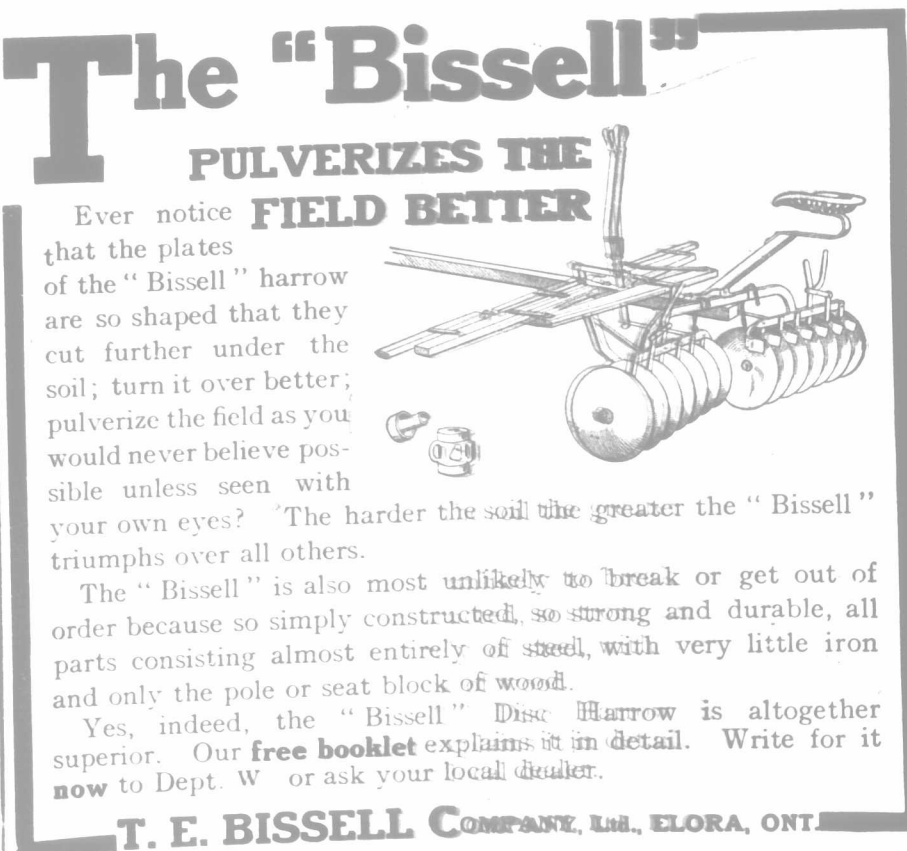
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