

lectively, made them to quake, yea, verily were they appalled.

Yet in a space of time did they recover, and spake lustily: "We will."

Meanwhile in the City of Van where, in the dark streets, the lights do show nothing but darkness, there prowled many banditti seeking both lust and lucre, and making of it a great success.

Yea, these armed men that did also wear upon their faces black masks, would say to a citizen, "Hands up!" and the citizen would hands up.

And they would take from him all his silver and his gold, and dolbils and "chicken-feed," even his car tickets would they annex, also his cigarettes.

But of this matter the Eldermen and the Seers and the Prophets said nought, for verily it was no concern of theirs.

Yet did they put their broad brows upon the palms of their hands and mused, and they did dream dreams and see visions, and much else that is to be found in the learned books of the psycho-analyst.

And they shouted ever and anon: "We will!"

But the willing and the doing of things are different: verily, as far apart are they as the dream of a dreamer, that cannot realize his dream, and the deed of a blacksmith, that doth shoe a horse.

Yet would they bellow: "We will," remembering not, that in the Book of Worldly Wisdom, it is written, that a multitude of dietists make Hell of the Soup.

Still did they shout: "We will."



## Tale the Second

### *Concerning the Drought and the things that men did do at that time*

Over the Land of Can there was a drought, and in the City of Van, that standeth by the great sea, it was very dry; so that men were forlorn, knowing not how to slake their thirst, nor how to lubricate their gasping tonsils.

And the Good Men of High Mind did say, the one unto the other, "Lo, the work we have worked! It is wondrous! We have smitten the demon of Whisk upon the brow, yea, even upon his head have we caused him mortal hurt, and now he is no more.

"What doth it matter therefore if the water rates do go up?"

Whereat one among them that was filled with a gentle wit and knew unto the very limit the things that are good for all men, even for Ole-Wun-Hi, made a merry jest that had hidden deep within it great learning.

"Better," he exclaimed, "to have

water on the brain than delirium tremens."

Whereupon the Good Men of High Mind did turn their eyes upwards to the blue heavens and smole benignly.

Meanwhile, the Publicans sold unto the Sinners that were parched in the throat a colored liquid, and they did name it Two-per-cent.

Yet, they that did quaff of this nectar of two-per-cent horsepower went forth again into the streets of the City of Van unsatisfied, saying each to the other: "What awful swill!"

So did it come to pass that the heart of man became more wicked, and the mind of man moved in deep mystery; so that some invented this thing and others brewed brews of great strength, which they sold unto them that were dry.

But they that had great thirst and