

THE MESHES OF MISCHANCE BY GILBERT WINTLE

A Great Human Interest Serial Filled With Action Now Published for the First Time

CHAPTER XVII.—(Continued.)

This final exclamation had no apparent connection with the rest of the sentence. It was called forth by a sudden flash of memory, suggested by his own words...

the Vancouver Hotel, and sat as follows: "Dear Horace,—I suppose that you will be rather surprised to get a letter from me from Vancouver, thinking, no doubt, that I was in England. If you did think so, you must have wondered at not hearing from me from there. Now, read on a little and you shall understand everything."

Mr. Root as he gave Horace the letters, sharp as a Manchester broker, but always forgetful, but ought to remember, about a mine is that it is just business, like any other. There may be romance about finding a mine, but there ain't no room for romance in working it. It's a manufacture, where you're in your mind and gold, or lead, or whatever it may be, the thing you make. And to make dividends you must keep down cost, save a cent, and you'll be a millionaire.

Great Mail Order House W.M. Scroggie Limited of Eastern Canada. Dept. 1. Montreal

Christmas Gift Suggestions! LOW PRICED.

There could be no better things for Holiday Presents than the sensible, beautiful and suitable articles illustrated and described below.

A Little Talk on Price.

Years since you it has been our endeavor to improve our BUYING as well as our SELLING facilities. The result is that to-day we are in a position to command GREATER PRICE CONCESSIONS from manufacturers...

SCROGGIE'S UNDERSELL ALL OTHERS.



100. The Cost on Your Back is Worth Two on the Shelves. Men's extra good quality black and muskrat lined Coats, carefully finished with Persian Lamb or German Otter collar, sold regularly at \$50; special holiday price \$35.



200. Ladies' Astrachan Jacket, 33 in. long, well made in bright, glossy, even cutted skins, properly lined throughout with best black satin finish, with the latest leg-o-mutton sleeve and long front. Special holiday price \$35. Cheaper Grade, \$25.00.



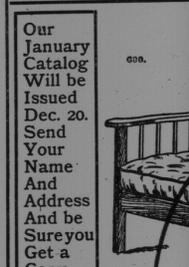
300. This illustration represents exactly our Ladies' special fur neck Stole, and is one of the most remarkable for values ever offered. It is properly made in the latest style, in blue or brown English Hare, extra large lined throughout, cut in good quality seal. Our special holiday price \$2.75. POSTPAID.



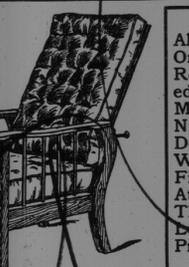
400. Let us have Your Order for this Fur Coat. Store Can match this Offer. Men's good quality Ooan Skin Coats, whole dark skins, have all the appearance of more expensive coats; good lining; sold regularly at \$50.00; all sizes. Our special holiday price \$35.



500. A Shoe for Style and Fit, for Good Wear and Satisfaction. Ladies' Good Dongola Kid Lace Boots, beautifully made, with heavy extension soles and Cuban heels, finished with patent leather. Special holiday price \$1.65. POSTPAID.



600. A Morris Chair may be relied on where a gift is desired for a gentleman. Here is the season's offer in a medium priced one, and will be found an improvement over many at this price. Front legs are 3 1/4 inch square, rear legs are shaped to lower the back at different angles. The arms are made of solid quartered oak, and the whole chair is finished in a rich mahogany. Special holiday price \$4.50. POSTPAID.



700. Velour Cushions \$4.75. Tapestry Cushions \$5. All Mail Orders Received up to Monday Night, Dec. 31, Will be Filled At These Low Prices.



800. A Suit that Will Suit. Men's Suits, properly made in strong fabric, with front pockets, cut in latest style, with extra shoudered collar, strong lining, well lined throughout, and perfect fitting in all sizes; considered a good value at \$19.00; our special holiday price \$16.25.

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WE SHIP ORDERS FREE or Help You Pay the Carriage. Get Your Friends and Neighbors to Order With You and Save Freight.

Table with columns for 'Special 300-Mile Free Delivery' and 'Special Allowances'. It lists prices for various goods like Groceries, Dry Goods, and Bulky Mds. based on order value and distance.

CHAPTER XVIII.

A Little Run Westward of Two Thousand Miles to Meet a Friend is Nothing at All on the C. P. R.

"I ain't saying but what you may be right," said Mr. Root. "Though we shall be sorry to have you go, and that's a fact. You are three steady chaps, and it is certain that you can't do much here before spring. So if you think you would like to try three months in British Columbia just to learn what a mine looks like, it can't do any harm, and it may turn out useful some day. But you are worth wages now. Don't go mining, or anything else, for your board any more."

"Never fear, Mr. Root," said Ned. "We will take wages quick enough, if we can get them."

"You'll get them all right," said Mr. Root. "I'll give you letters to two or three friends of mine in Vancouver, and they will be sure to know of something between them. Sally, you go and pack a hamper of grub while I write."

"Why are your friends leaving Chatham Farm?" To understand this, we must refer to the letter which awaited Horace on his return from the Smiths. It was dated at

Ruth, commented on Horace's improved appearance. "It quite bears out what I always say," she remarked. "A young man should lead a healthy country life, lots of shooting, and fishing, and hunting, and so on. I suppose you get lots of hunting, Horace, don't you?"

"And this was quite true; except that Mrs. Aymer had fox-hunting, with the accompaniment of a fashionable, pink-plaid field and well-trained grooms with spare horses, during the day, and a nice bath, and dinner in evening dress in the evening, in her mind; whereas the reality was moose and bear-hunting on foot, and dinner, if the chase was successful, consisting of steaks from the quarry, cooked on the camping ground."

"Oh! Horace, how splendidly well you look!" "And you, dearest; I was half frightened out of your letter, but I am not so any longer."

CHAPTER XIX.

In Which Two Letters Are Written, And a Nugget Found.

First greetings over, Mrs. Aymer, like

honestly replied that he dined out a good deal—she did not explain that "dines" on the prairie consisted in a clean flannel shirt, or perhaps, on very grand occasions, of a white one—and that there were some very nice people indeed, and he told her about the Smiths.

"Oh! but we know them," cried Ruth. "At least, it must be the same, I think, if there is a sailor and a doctor in the family. Is the sailor named Arthur and the doctor Ferdinand?"

"Then that is they. They were on the ship that took us from England to Yokohama. They are very nice indeed. In fact, there was only one person on board whom I took to more, I think."

room for doubt about it. We happened to be talking over the ocean when we had all seen this Mr. Martin together, and that it came back to the Smiths like a flash; they had no doubt. And then everything fits in so."

"Everything—what?" "Oh, dearest, all I knew about him, and what the Smiths knew, and a heap of other things. To tell the truth, Ruth, dear, the man we think he is, is 'wanted,' as they say, that means he is a criminal; and so sure were we, that, though it was anything but a pleasant thing to have to do, Mr. Smith has written to tell the police in England about him. Now, Ruth, dear, let me talk of something pleasanter."

They talked accordingly of many things, of Japan, of the home that they would have in Canada, for Ruth had told her mother long before that she was going some day to be Mrs. Wyndham, and sweet placid Mrs. Aymer had proved herself absolutely unworried about the matter, saying that she looked for no better future for her dear Ruth. She had been a little shocked at what she considered the clandestine engagement; but when she learned how Horace had absolutely refused to allow any engagement at all, all her displeasure vanished.

"Horace had dinner with them, and after dinner Mrs. Aymer was so nice enough to be tired and go to her room, and Ruth made Horace tea in their private sitting-room. Of course, there was much more talk here, but it is so secret that it is safer many months, is much too sacred to be reproduced in print, bold print. However, the close of their conversation has such a bearing on the thread of this story that it must be given, at all events in synopsis. (To be continued.)"