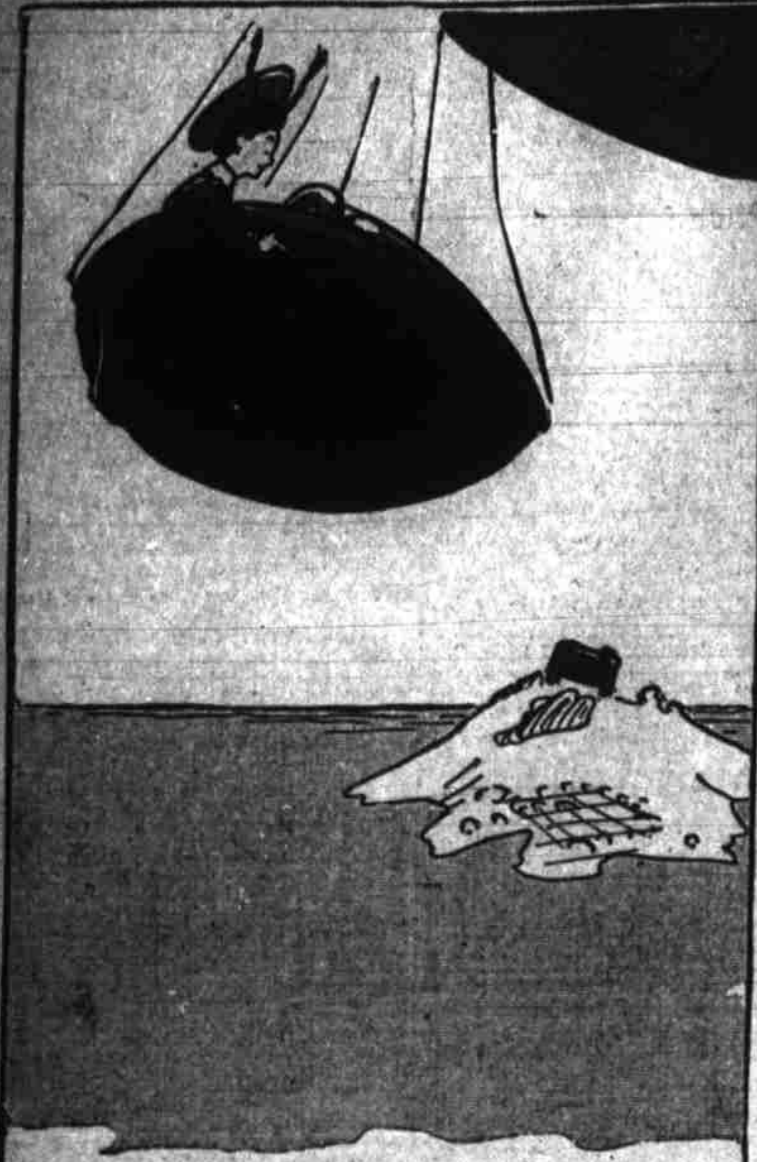


# BESSIE BUSYBODY'S CURIOSITY GETS HER INTO TROUBLE



1—IT SEEMS AS IF I COULDN'T get out of one adventure unless I jump smack into another. I told you last time how I escaped from this Babylon to the desert, and started for home in my airship. Well, I hadn't gone very far out to sea before I saw a little island, with a great big sign on top of it.



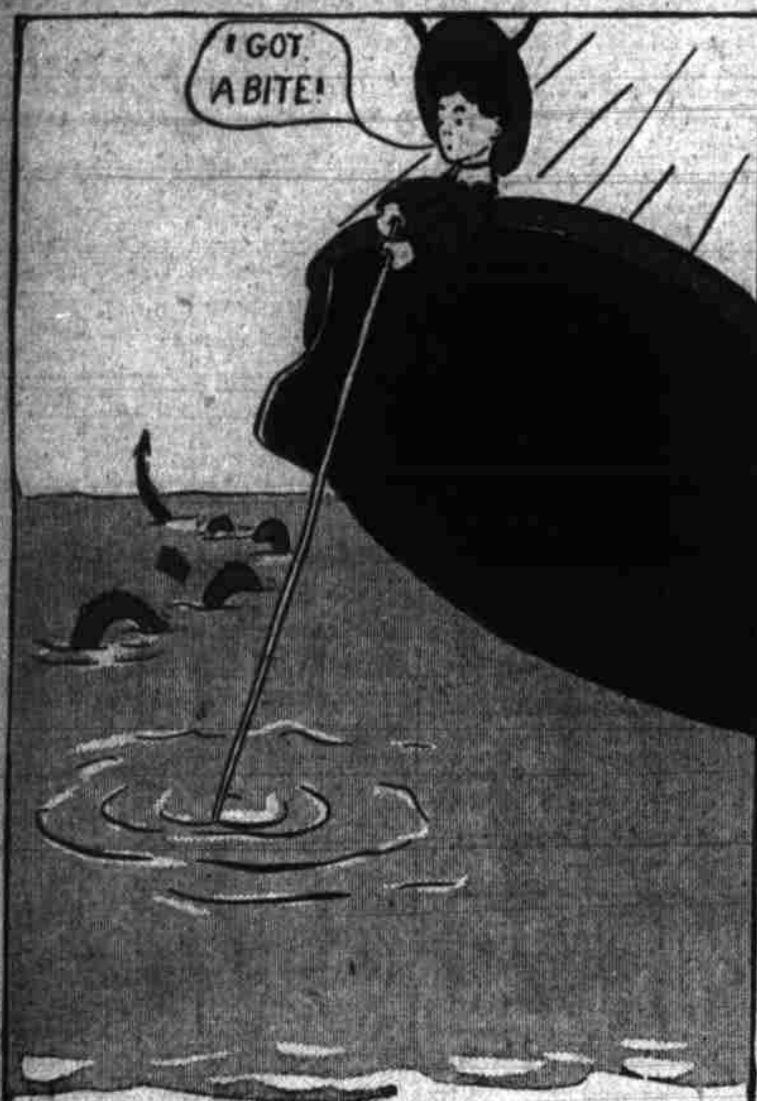
2—OF COURSE I JES' had to see what that meant, and clambered down the rope ladder to have a look. A native near by told me that the king of that island offered great rewards for the death of a monster sea-serpent and an enormous flying dragon, that were eating up all his subjects.



3—WELL, I COULDN'T MISS any fun like that, now could I? I jes' dropped in on the king and told him I would rid the island of these monsters, if he would give me a goat or a cow or something for bait. So he had a goat brought out, and I told 'em to tie it on my anchor line just above the grappling hook.



4—WELL, THAT WAS THE "funniest" looking "fishing" line you ever heard of. As soon as the bait was made fast I sailed up in the air to watch for that pesky sea-serpent. I had a long wait before I saw something down in the water approaching the island.



5—IT WAS A TERRIBLE big thing, about a mile long, I guess, and parts of it came squirming out of the water. I dropped my line right in front of the bloodthirsty thing, and quick as a flash the goat was snapped up and swallowed, grappling iron and all. He didn't even stop to taste it, but gulped it down.



6—HE PULLED AT THE line so hard that I was afraid he would swallow the airship next, so I started it up in the air and slowly pulled the nasty looking thing out of the brine. It was all the machine could do, and I could only drag it along the water and the ground.



7—IN THIS WAY I GOT the thing to the king's hut—or palace, I should say. His Highness was tickled to pieces that it had been caught, and he handed over a bag of pearls and told me I would get two bags more if I could bring in the flying dragon. And just then I caught sight of the creature "way up in the air, and coming toward us.



8—EVERYBODY DROPPED FLAT on the ground like chickens clobbered by a hawk, and I ran up the ladder into the ship and started full speed for Mr. Dragon. My, but he was a whopper! You see, I expected to drop on him one of those sticks of dynamite the Japanese Spy had left. So when I got right over him, I let go of the dynamite.



9—BUT, GEE! IT NEVER touched him, and worse than that, I lost my balance and tumbled head over heels out of the ship. I was so sure I was a goner, I didn't dare open my eyes until I bumped against something press solid, and found myself sitting on the dragon's back.



10—I HADN'T FALLEN very far, and was more skeered than hurt. The dragon sailed all around the airship, and didn't seem to know whether to attack it or not. As he passed under it the rope ladder came within reach, and you bet I grabbed it and held on for dear life.



11—WELL, MEBBE I DIDN'T scramble up that ladder mighty quick! And then you ought to have seen me turn on the power and skedaddle out of there. I made straight for a bank of clouds, and Mr. Dragon gave chase. He was just about to snatch me out of the ship as we entered the thick cloud.



12—I THREW THE WHEEL hard over, and turned so quick the monster lost sight of us. Then I went lickety-cut through the cloud as fast as the machine could tear, and when I came out of it there was no dragon to be seen, and I got out of that pair of the world as fast as I could cut the air.