

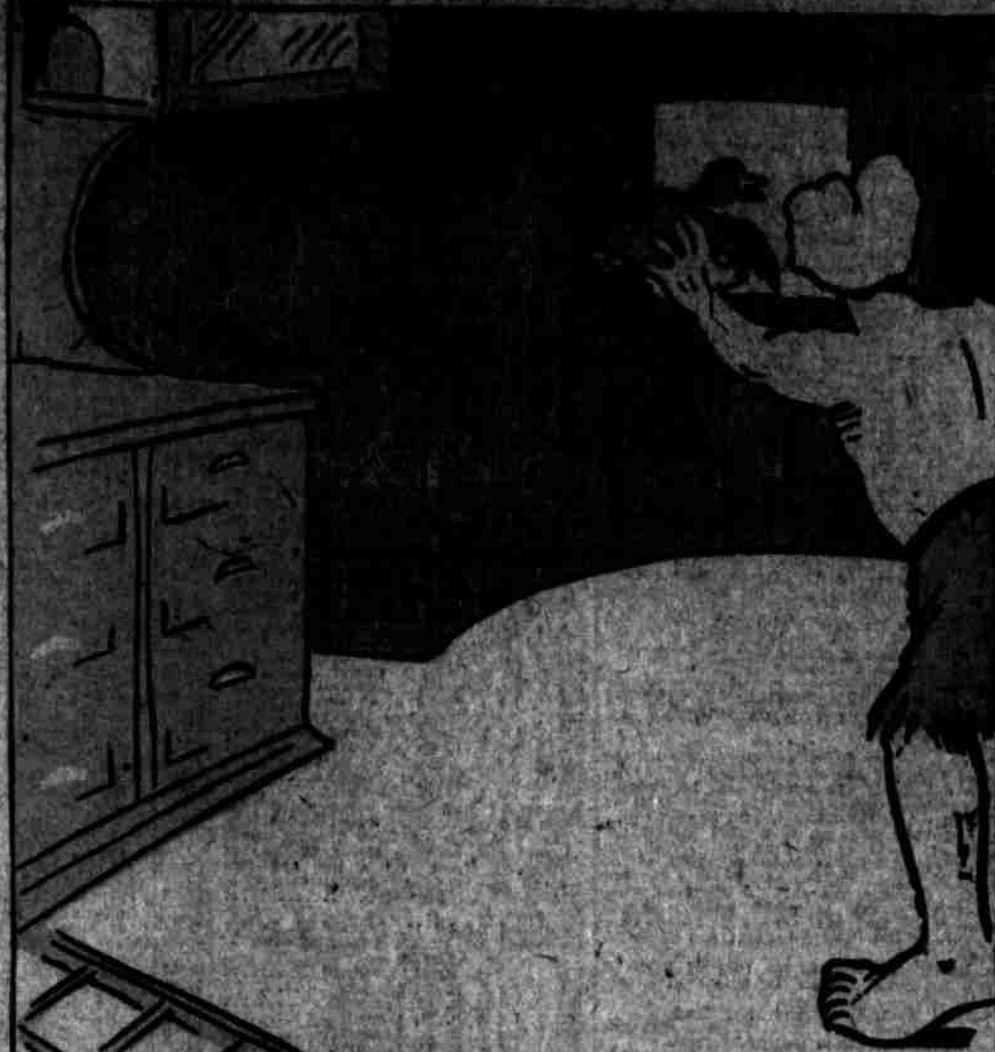
STRANGE ADVENTURES OF BESSIE BUSYBODY



1—WELL, I SPENT another long, lonesome night in the terrible dark-dungeon of that horrible two-headed giant. In the early morning I heard some one rattling the door bars, and thought the giant had come to set me free for his breakfast. Now who should it be but the old witch of the castle. She wanted to help me escape.



2—SO SHE TOLD me of some Wonderful Magic Bird Seed in the giant's cupboard. If a person ate one kind they would immediately change him into a bird. The other kind would turn the bird back into the same person again. So she let me out of the dungeon, and I ran to the cupboard and ate some of the seeds.



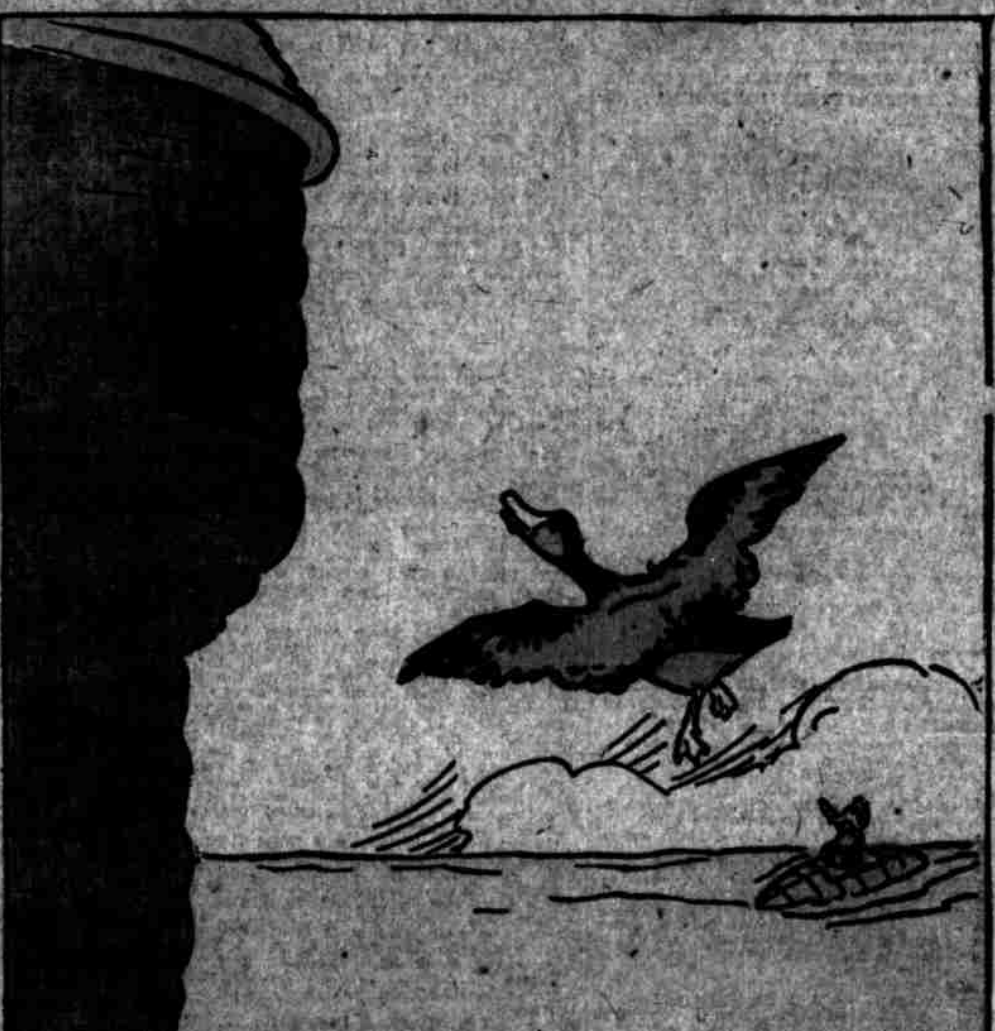
3—JUST AS SOON as I had eaten them the giant came rushing in, roared as thunder, looking for me. Right before his eyes I changed into a beautiful wild duck, and before he could catch me I flew out of the window, free at last!



4—OF COURSE I flew straight for the Beanie B and the dear old captain. The boat was lying at anchor not far away, and the captain was standing watch. I was so glad to see him once more I flew right into his arms, forgetting that he would not know that I was Bessie.



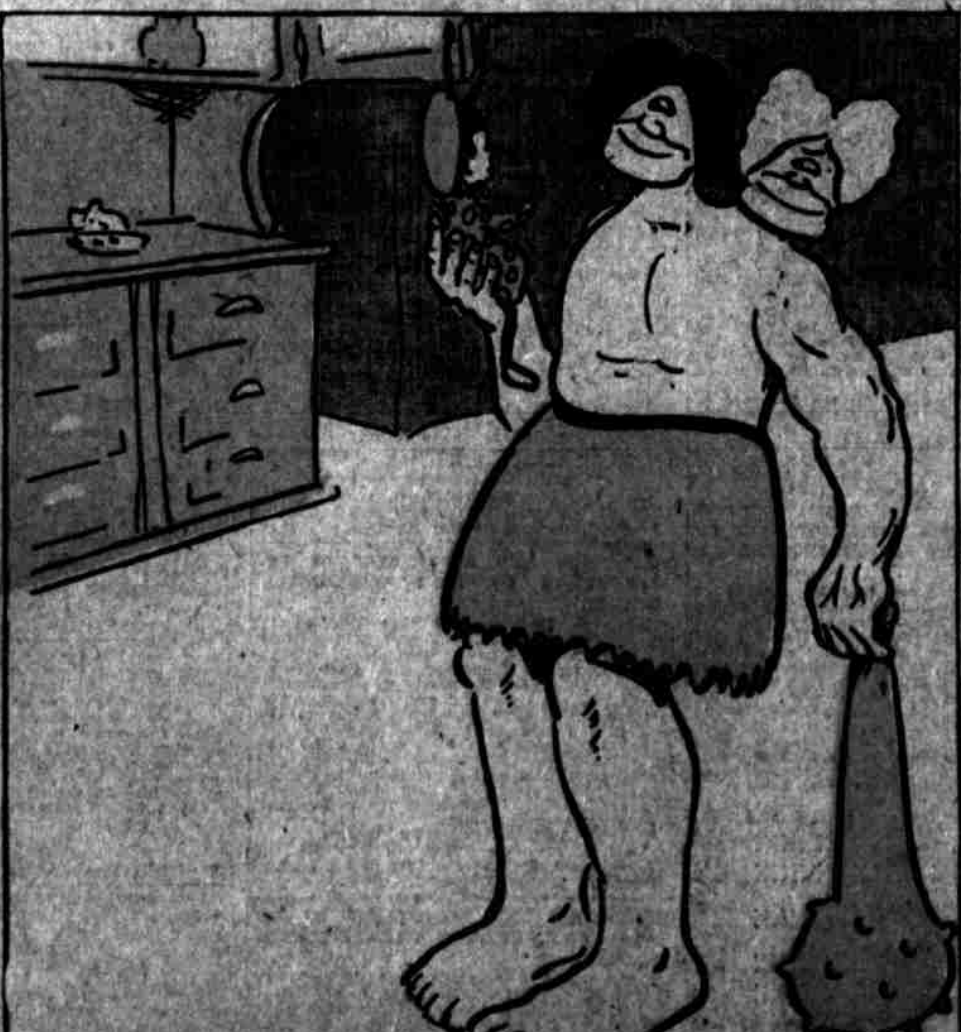
5—OH, IT WAS terrible! The captain didn't know me at all, and worse than that, he just grabbed me tight and says, says he: "Aha! Here's luck! A nice wild duck for my dinner!" and he pulled out a knife to cut my head off.



6—THIS FRIGHTENED the wits out of me, and I made such a desperate effort to escape I finally succeeded. Well, maybe I wasn't tired of being a wild duck I was just crazy to be my own self again, before somebody took a shot at me. Then I remembered that I did not have time to bring the other Magic Seeds. There was only one thing left to do—fly back to the castle of that terrible giant and get them!



7—I FLEW UP to the tower and didn't hear anything of the Giant Two-Face, so I waited in the open window. I took some of the seeds in my mouth, guess you see. I didn't want to swallow 'em and be changed back into myself, and I had returned to the Beanie B.



8—BUT THE GIANT must have been watching me all the time; for all of a sudden he pounced upon me like a hawk, and I was a captive once more. He asked me so, what did I do but swallow the seeds, or I might have still had some chance to fly away.



9—BUT IT WAS no use. The Magic Bird Seed got in its work in a jiffy, and there I was transformed, right in the giant's hands, from wild duck back into Bessie Busybody again. I was thrown back into prison, with my last chance of escape gone forever. I shiver, shiver at the thought.

Bessie Busybody