T. PAER dragged himself wearily up the front steps, dropped his rumpled carpetbag in the middle of the front room rug and sank into his welcoming chair with a long drawn sigh of contentment.

"Migosh," he murmured happily, "if railroads was a dollar a dozen I wouldn't buy one toot of a engine."

"Didn't you have a good time," Ma asked solicitously as she fluttered about like a mothering hen. "You look like you'd gained ten pounds."

"It's that injun rubber beefsteak," T. Paer groaned, "that 'nd hash house pancakes. You eat a mess of 'em 'nd they're good for ballast for a month."

"I told you to be careful what you et," Ma reminded him. "I bet you just made a regular pig of yourself."

"No I didn't," T. Paer said unhappily. "I'd a been busted the first night out."

"I thought the cost of traveling was coming down," Ma said in surprise. "It says in the paper that things're cheaper on trains 'nd in hotels."

"If they is," T. Paer remarked ironically, "I'm blamed glad I didn't have to get outside the city limits when they was high."

"That's too bad," Ma said sympathetically, "but what did them tax fellahs you was running 'round with do up east of the mountains?"

"Well," T. Paer answered judicially, "when they wasn't talkin' they was listenin' to fellahs tell how poor they was 'nd how they couldn't pay their taxes."

"I shouldn't think they was much fun in that," Ma observed, "just hearing people tell their troubles."

"Oh, well, it was kinda fifty-fifty," T. Paer answered. "After you'd get awful sorry for the tax fellahs havin' to listen to the taxpayers, then you'd get sorry for the taxpayers havin' to listen to the members of that commission talk 'nd then you'd get dogoned sorry for yourself havin' to listen to both of 'em 'nd get to feelin' good."

"It must of been a fright," Ma agreed, "but wasn't they anything cheerful about it?"

"Oh yes," T. Paer assured her. "When you get to talkin' about cuttin' down taxes it's always funny part of the time if your funny bone ain't paralyzed."

"Yes," Ma said doubtfully, "I 'spose some times they's funny things at funerals even."

"You said it," T. Paer coincided. "It was kinda funny to see them fellahs drive up in Cadillacs 'nd Studebakers 'and Buicks 'nd holler about bein' busted."

"Did they do that?" Ma asked. "From what I've saw in the papers I thought they musta had to sell their automobiles to pay taxes 'nd buy groceries."

"They're savin' 'em I guess," T. Paer mused, "so when they do go to the poor house they won't have to walk."

"But taxes is awful high," Ma insisted. "While you was gone they sent us a notice of ours."

"I don't want to see it," T. Paer said hastily, "not 'till mornin' when I'm feelin' stronger'n I am now."

"It's got my goat," Ma said, lapsing into the vernacular, "but where'd they have their meetings when they was listening to the taxpayers?"

"In the city halls 'nd courthouses." T. Paer answerd. "They could get them free."

"If they's anything in mental suggestion," Ma said, "I don't think that's the place to hold such meetings."

"Why?" T. Paer asked, "that's where all such meetin's're held."

"Because," Ma answered, "if we're ever going to get our taxes cut down they'll have to convert the people that're in the city halls 'nd courthouses of the state."

"That was another funny thing," T. Paer chuckled. "Most of them fellahs was awful willin' to see the other fellah get his budget cut down but all of 'em thought it'd wreck the government if anybody went to foolin' with his own particular job."

"Well," Ma said hopelessly, "I'm sure I don't see how we're going to get any place when it comes to running the government for less money."

"They ain't no way," T. Paer answered thoughtfully, "unless the people got to hollerin' so loud all the job holders get scaired 'nd quit boostin' taxes."

"Uh, huh," T. Paer said sceptically. "'Nd then somebody'll come along 'nd start a campaign for puttin' cuckoo clocks on the courthouse 'nd the voters'll give 'em a hundred thousand dollars or so 'nd holler when the bill comes in."

"That's the way they been doing," Ma said helplessly, "'nd I don't see when it'll end."

"Oh, it'll end all right," T. Paer assured her. "When they ain't no more cuckoo clocks in stock."

CONTRCTORS WHO DO NOT OBEY LAW WILL LOSE WORK

Cancellation of contracts will be the punishment meted out to contractors on city work who fail to comply with the ordinance requiring the filing of a roster of employes, specifying the number of American citizens employed, A. G. Johnson, assistant commissioner of public works announced today.

Last year the city council passed an ordinance making it unlawful for the city to hire anyone who is not a citizen an dat the same time requiring all contractors or sub-contractors who are doing public work with public money to file with the city auditor a list of employes showing who are American citizens and who are not. This year City Engineer Laurgaard sent out notices to all contractors who have made bids. No replies have been received as yet.

This, Johnson said, was a direct violation of the ordinance.

"The city is trying to get contractors to hire as large a per centage of American citizens as possible," Johnson said. "This is only fair to our own people and every effort should be made to see that it is done. Several of the large industrial firms of the city have done this."

BIDS ON SEWER CONTRACTS TO BE OPENED MARCH 29

Bids for contracts for two sewer construction and four street improvement projects will be opened at 10 o'clock on the morning of March 29, George R. Funk, city auditor, announced today. The bids for sewer contracts are for the sewer in Fifty-second street southeast from Forty-third to Forty-fifth avenues and in Foster road from Fifty-second street 540 feet northwest. The street improvement projects for which bids will be received are: East Fourteenth street from East Ankeny to Burnside streets; Curtis avenue from Russett street to the north line of Peninsular addition No. 5, the district improvement of Sixty-third street southeast and Fiftieth avenue and for the improvement of East Sixty-ninth street from Davis to Glisan street.

APPRAISEMENT ORDERED TO FIX WATER CHARGES

To expedite appraisal of the physical property of the water bureau for a basis on which to establish a new cost system for water, the council at an informal session today appointed Mayor Baker and Commissioners Mann and Barbur to decide on the method. It was suggested by the mayor that a board of three experts, one engineer, one accountant and a third professional man be appointed to make the appraisal and establish a bookkeeping system.

It was the concensus of opinion that an appraisal should be made as soon as possible. It is planned to have the appraisal completed before time for advertising for bids for the construction of the proposed new Bull Run conduit.

AVERAGE OF TWO DEATHS PER DAY IS CAUSED BY INFLUENZA

Despite the fat 20 deaths have been aused within 10 days by influenza, Dr. John C. Adele, acting city health officer, said today that no great alarm should be felt. The deaths, he said, were "hangovers" from the epidemic of last month. This, he explained, was shown by the fact that last week only eight new cases of influenze were reported.

By the official count this morning 47 cases of smallpox were in quarantine, 28 of scarlet fever and 22 of diphtheria. The death of Mrs. Eva Johnson at the Derr hospital from spinal meningitis was reported this morning. Mrs. Johnson lived at 190 Thirteenth street.

TWO SEWER, ONE STREET PROJECTS ARE REQUESTED

Petitions for the construction of two sewers and one street improvement were filed today in the office of the city auditor. The street improvement is requested by Zoe E. Poulsen and eight other residents on Chicago avenue. The improvement asked for is hard-surface paving of the street from Willamette boulevard to Jersey street. The two sewers asked for are in Lake street from the White tract to Nicoral street, and the East Forty-first street southeast and Seventy-second avenue sewer system.

HUNDREDS OF LOTS TO BE PLACED ON AUCTION BLOCK

Some 500 or 600 lots will be placed on the auction block April 19 to satisfy assessment liens held by the city, O. P. Miller of the city treasurer's office said this morning. The lots are all delinquent for street and sewer improvement assessments, and with the exception of a score of so are all on the east side. The total amount of delinquency is approximately $7000.

WILLAMETTE BOULEVARD IS MENACED BY SLIDE OF DIRT

Steps will be taken at once by the department of public works to check a slide between Vincent and Saratoga strets that is threatening Willamette boulevard, O. Laurgaard, city engineer, said today.

Registration Room At Court House Is Open for Business

Have you registered for the primary election, May 19? You haven't? You should be ashamed of yourself. Try to remember to run over to the courthouse to the registration room, in the southwest corner of the, first floor of the courthouse. It doesn't take but a minute.

If you didn't vote at the last two general elections you'll have to register before they'll let you cast another ballot. And if you have moved since the last time you registered, you have to register again.

Those who will establish their six months' residence between the closing of the registration books, April 18, and the day of election, May 19, can go ahead and register just as though they already had established that residence. The same holds true for those who will become of age between April 18 and May 19.

Incidentally, if you are foreign born, the election clerk will not let you register unless you show your naturalization papers, those of your husband—if you happen to be a woman—or those of your father. A woman entered the registration office recently and handed the clerk a paper. He examined it and found it to be a declaration of intention to become a citizen on the part of the woman's father-in-law.

"We can't accept this," the clerk told her. "The law requires us to see the naturalization papers."

"But my husband and I have been voting on this for years," the woman said.

But the law is adamant, and she went away to search for better proof.

Lockout Cripples Denmark's Business

Copenhagen, March 21.—(I. N. S.)—Business was almost at a standstill throughout Denmark today as a result of the general labor lockout. There have been slight outbreaks of violence in Jutland. Troops are on guard.

U. P. TO BUY ALL BOX CAR LUMBER IN NORTHWEST

With orders placed for the construction of 4500 box and automobile cars, the Union Pacific railway system will draw a supply of approximately 1000 carloads of lumber from the Northwest in its $20,000,000 car-building program recently approved, according to announcement made today by F. W. Robinson, freight traffic manager for the system.

Robinson arrived from Omaha Monday evening to remain several days in this territory conferring with other railroad officials and shippers. Through his relationship with the business world as chief official of freight movements on the largest transcontinental railway system he has gained a good knowledge of actual business conditions and is confident that better business may be expected during the coming year.

TO BUY LUMBER HERE

The car orders made by the Union Pacific include 2000 40-foot box cars, 1000 50-foot automobile cars and 1500 40-foot automobile cars, all of which will be suitable for general traffic. In addition, orders have been placed through the Pacific Fruit Express company of which the Union Pacific is half owner with the Southern Pacific for 3300 additional refrigerator cars.

"These car orders demonstrate the confidence of the Union Pacific in the business outlook," said Robinson, who was formerly traffic manager for the O-W. R. & N. "All of the lumber will be purchased in the Northwest and this will assist in the strengthening of that industry.

"With the exception of the lumber industry, the Northwest has had a prosperous year, particularly in agricultural and horticultural industries. The lumber industry is showing substantial improvement.

CAR-LOADING INCREASES

"Several factors will substantiate this belief that the lumber business will be better this year. They are:

"Improved buying power of farmers in the Middlewest.

"Resumption of industrial activities in the East.

"Entrance into the market by the railroads for much needed equipment for repairs, replacements and maintenance."

Robinson said that his agents have reported a general improvement in the livestock industry as to prices and demand with the possible exception of cattle, which, however, he sair are on a much firmer basis.

Forest Supervisor Receives Promotion

Roseburg, March 21.—W. F. Ramsdell, forest supervisor of the Umpqua national forest, Monday received notice that he had been promoted to the receivership of the Whitman national forest. This is the highest supervisor's position in the district. Ramsdell will replace R. M. Evans, who has been promoted to the rank of assistant district forester, with headquarters at Washington, D. C. Carl B. Neal, formerly deputy supervisor of the Oregon national forest, with headquarters at Portland, will take Ramsdell's place as soon as Ramsdell leaves for Baker City, where he will make his headquarters.

HER OWN WAY

By VIRGINIA TERHUNE VAN de WATER

CHAPTER 56.

(Copyright, 1921, by Star Co.)

MISS DALRYMPLE greeted her young assistant with a smile the next morning.

"Are you sure you are well enough to be out, Miss Gorman" she queried.

"Oh, yes," Helen affirmed. "I am still a bit wobbly on my feet, but my throat is well, and I shall soon be myself again."

"Spare yourself as much as you can," Miss Dalrymple advised kindly. "I missed you yesterday and the day before."

"I am glad," Helen said. "It is nice to know that anybody in this big city misses me or wants to see me."

"Oh, it is evident that I am not the only one," Miss Dalrymple teased. "A gentleman was in here asking for you only yesterday afternoon."

Helen caught her breath. Was it possible that Tom Andrews had come to Terriberry's again? He ought not to have done that. What must Miss Dalrymple think?

But of course he had pretended to be there on business. She must seem to take it for granted that this was his only reason for appearing in this department.

"I suppose it was the man who came the other day to see about some orange-and-black cretonne," she said in a voice she strove to make indifferent. "Did you tell him that we had not expected any new patterns in as soon as this?"

Miss Dalrymple shook her head.

"No," she said easily, "it was not the young man who talked about furnishing his apartment. I fancy, when he comes in again, he will bring with him his fiancee or his bride. He surely spoke and acted like a man who is on the brink of matrimony."

Then it had not been Andrews!

"What did he look like?" Helen asked.

Miss Dalrymple was already thinking of something else.

"Who?" she questioned. "Oh, the man who wanted the orange-and-black cretonne? Why, surely you must remember his appearance. Fair—and tall—very handsome, I should call him."

"Yes, I remember," Helen explained hastily. "I mean the other man—the one you said came yesterday and asked for me."

She was stammering and confused, but her companion did not observe it.

"Oh—that young man? Why, I did not notice him particularly—for there was nothing remarkable about him. He was not especially tall, nor attractive. I mean, of course, that he was not handsome. Not that he was not perfectly respectable and refined in appearance. He would be that, my dear—for you would have no other kind of man for your friend."

"Friend?"

"Yes. He said he was a friend or a connection of yours—I forget which. He used to know you years ago, I fancy. Anyway, he knew your mother and your uncle, and spoke admiringly of them both.

"He did not give me his name, and, of course, I would not ask him for it. He simply inquired for your address—so I looked it up and gave it to him."

"You gave it to him!" Helen gasped.

"Why, yes, my dear," Miss Dalrymple stared in astonishment at the shocked face before her. "Naturally, I would not have given it to anyone but an old friend—one who showed by his talk that he was well acquainted with you.

"Perhaps you do not know the person to whom I am referring? I hope I have made no mistake in the matter?"

Helen collected her scattered wits.

"Oh, no, certainly not," she faltered. "It is all right, Miss Dalrymple."

"But, my dear girl—you seemed so disturbed. Why?"

"Nothing, only I did not understand at first, when you first spoke, that the man was someone who really knew me. I thought that it might be, well, just a person who had seen me and did not know me, and—"

She stopped, horribly confused. Miss Dalrymple attributed her embarrassment to another cause.

"I understand now!" she exclaimed. "A pretty girl like you is bound to attract notice and you thought that perhaps this man was some young fellow who was trying to get acquainted with you?"

Helen nodded.

"No, indeed, child. Never fear anything like that here. I would not give your address to any one except one of your friends who would prove by his talk, as this man did, that he was really an acquaintance in good and regular standing, as they say about church members."

Helen managed to join in the speaker's laugh at her own feeble joke. Miss Dalrymple laid an approving hand on the girl's arm.

"I like you the better, Miss Gorman, for your distress at the idea of a stranger trying to scrape an acquaintance with you."

"Thank you," Helen murmured.

"That is a lovely thing about all the girls at Terriberry's," the woman added. "They are a refined class and perfectly safe here, as safe as if under their own parents' roof."

To which statement the pale-faced girl made no rejoinder.

To be continued tomorrow.

9000 Fewer Returns On Taxes Than Last Year, Says Huntley

With practically all the mail cleared away today, Collector of Internal Revenue Clyde G. Huntley estimated a decrease of 9000 in the number of income tax returns filed this year, compared with the 1921 filing. Altogether, some 65,000 people made returns, against 74,800 last year.

Although Huntley said he is not in position to revise the early estimate that the tax paid on Oregon incomes would not exceed $20,000,000, compared with $28,000,000 last year, he said the payment for the first month has been $1,500,000 in excess of the same period last year. This, he explained, was caused by the collection of large sums in delinquent taxes in addition to current collections.

Order Coal Miners To Strike on April 1

Indianapolis, Ind., March 21.—The strike call for 500,000 union coal miners of America directing them to quit work April 1 was sent out in the mails from headquarters of the United Mine Workers here today.

MRS. ELIZA ALLERTON

Centralia, Wash., March 21.—Mrs. Eliza Allerton, 82, died Saturday, following a short illness. She was born in England and is survived by a niece, Miss Lorrine Allerton of Centralia.

Crouch Seeks Local Circuit Judgeship

Salem, March 21.—Leslie E. Crouch of Portland today filed with Secretary of State Kozer his formal declaration as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of circuit judge, department No. 1, Fourth Judicial district, comprising Multnomah county. In his slogan Crouch promises to "administer the laws with justice and impartiality."

Money Order Lost 19 Years Is Found

Chehalis, Wash., March 21.—Dr. G. W. Kennicott, pioneer Chehalis physician, in rummaging around his desk found an envelope containing a money order for $5, sent by a woman living on the South Bend branch line 19 years ago. A duplicate money order is necessary before he can collect the money.

City Managership Is Denied at Baker

Baker, March 21.—The petition for city manager form of government was blocked Monday at a meeting of the commissioners when they voted it down 2 to 1. A petition with 535 signatures was presented to the city commissioners asking that the city charter be amended, changing to the city manager form of government.

Grandmother Badly Burned in Saving Child From Flames

Boise, Idaho, March 21.—Aroused from her sleep by the cry of fire at her home in Boise at an early hour Monday morning, Mrs. E. M. Downey's first thought was of her little grandson Wilfred, aged 5. She fought her way through the smoke and fire to his bed, caught him up and succeeded in escaping from the house.

She was badly burned about the hands, face and feet and is in a critical condition. The child suffered only slight injury. His father, Jess Downey, was badly burned on the back, neck and hands in trying to save valuables. The house and contents were completely destroyed.

Sister of Portland Man Dies on Visit

The Dalles, March 21.—Mrs. W. O. Anderson of San Francisco, a sister of Charles J. Rath of Portland, died here Monday afternoon of pneumonia, following influenza. Mrs. Anderson's home is in San Francisco, and she came here to visit J. P. Rath, her brother, who manages the Bank hotel, when she was taken ill. Her husband was enroute to her bedside from San Francisco when she died.

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

Boxer and Woof Woof Smell Something Good

By Thornton W. Burgess

Who by his appetite is ruled
In wisdom is but poorly schooled.
—Mother Bear.

Straight ahead of them was a queer, dark mass with a couple of little squares of light in it.

EVERY day for a week Mother Bear and the cubs, Boxer and Woof Woof, came out from their home under the great windfall deep in the Green Forest and prowled about. Each day they went a little farther. Their feet were not so tender as at first. On the first two days after their long winter sleep they were not hungry. They didn't once think of eating. But now they grew hungrier every day. Already they had begun to lose the fat they had stored up under their black coats before going to sleep at the beginning of winter.

There was little enough to eat at best. It is always so in the spring. It is a glad time for everybody in one way, but it is a sad time for many in another way. You see, at no time in all the year is food to hard to find as early in the spring. The more they roamed about the hungrier Mother Bear and Boxer and Woof Woof became. Here and there they dug up a few roots. They ate tender young willow twigs. They hunted for mice. But never did one of them get a stomachful at one time.

Early one evening they happened to go over near Farmer Brown's sugar house. Farmer Brown and his boy were not yet through making sugar, although the sap had stopped running. They had on hand a lot of syrup to be boiled down into sugar. Mother Bear suddenly sat up and sniffed long and hard. At once Boxer and Woof Woof did the same thing. Their eyes began to sparkle. The wandering, Little Night Breezes were tickling their noses with a most delicious smell. It wasn't like the smell of honey, yet somehow it made them think of it. Their tongues hung out and their mouths watered.

"Oh," whispered Woof Woof, "did you ever smell anything so good in all your life?"

Mother Bear growled. It was a low, deep, grumbly, rumbly growl, way down in her throat. It was a warning to keep still. The twins obeyed. They knew better than to disobey when Mother Bear growled like that. But their eyes danced with excitement, and how they did hope that Mother Bear would lead them straight to the place from which came that delicious smell.

After a few minutes Mother Bear moved ahead slowly and carefully, taking care not to snap a single twig under her great feet. Doing just as she did, Boxer and Woof Woof followed. The farther they went the stronger grew that delicious smell and the more their mouths watered.

Finally Mother Bear stopped again and stood up to her full height. Of course Boxer and Woof Woof did the same thing. Straight ahead of them was a queer, dark mass with a couple of little squares of light in it. Of course you know what it was. It was Farmer Brown's sugar house in the Black Shadows, and the squares of light were two little windows. From it was coming that delicious smell. It was the smell of the boiling syrup.

For a long time the three Bears stood there looking and listening and smelling. Strange noises came from that sugar house. It was all very interesting and very curious. Boxer and Woof Woof wanted to go straight over there and find out what it was that smelled so good. But Mother Bear didn't move, and they knew better than to move until she did. All the time she kept carefully testing the air with her wonderful nose.

Presently the hair along her back began to rise. She drew back her lips, showing her great teeth. Then, without a sound, she turned and hurried away. Of course Boxer and Woof Woof followed, though they were bitterly disappointed and couldn't understand it at all. Not until they were at a safe distance did Mother Bear tell them that in with that delicious smell she had found the man smell.

(Copyright, 1922, by T. W. Burgess)

The next story: "Mother Bear Warns the Cubs."

BENTON NURSE RETAINED

Corvallis, March 21.—Interested citizens meeting in the courthouse here decided to retain Miss Carrothers as county nurse in Benton county for two months, $210 of the expense to be borne by public contribution. The State Health association is expected to supply the remainder. Health activities will cease during the summer months.

Corns?

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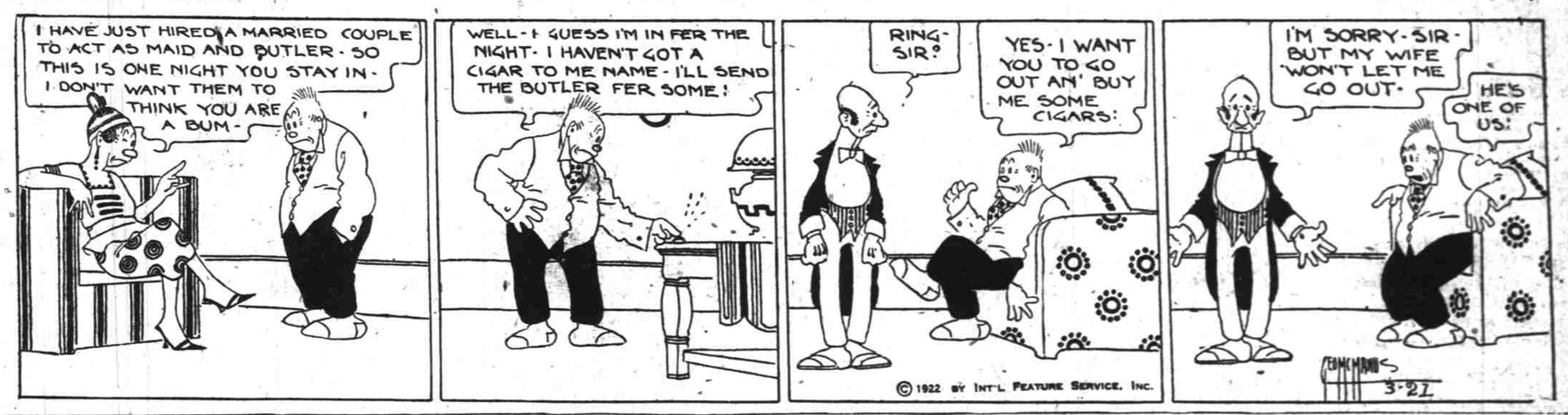
BRINGING UP FATHER

(Registered U. S. Patent Office.)

By George McManus



KRAZY KAT

(Copyright, 1922, by International Feature Service, Inc.)

A Brick Is a Brick to Ignatz

ABIE THE AGENT

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That Convinced Abie