

MY HUSBAND'S LOVE

Adole Garrison's New Phase of REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

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CHAPTER F39

THE VERBAL DUEL BESS DEAN STAGED WITH MADGE

"Lo, old dear. Coming to make sure I don't slip bichloride into the potatoes?"

Bess Dean looked up from Mrs. Durkee's kitchen sink, where she was preparing vegetables, her lips contorted in a mocking grimace. It took all my will power to laugh carelessly, but I accomplished it.

"I would never belittle your powers by imagining anything so crude," I retorted. Then, with a glance at the gas-stove, as yet unlighted, I brought the tea-kettle to the sink.

"If you'll pardon me, while I fill this," I said courteously. She moved out of my way a bit jerkily.

"What's big idea?" she asked, her eyes narrowing. "Where's Mother Durkee?"

The phrase revealed to me one reason for my little friend's dislike of Bess Dean. One of the few feminine weaknesses of "Her Pluffiness" is an aversion to her real age being known, and those of us who love her, carefully humor her in this respect. She isn't silly about it—I think she loves the name of "Mother," from Alfred's lips, and from Lella's but I, for instance, as long and as intimate as our friendship has been, never would dream of pre-terring "Mother" to her name. I wondered if Bess Dean used the appellation in speaking to her.

"Mrs. Durkee is lying down," I said, stressing the title ever so slightly. "She isn't feeling well, and she commissioned me to get dinner for her."

"Does that mean that you prefer to chef it alone, or would you like a scullion to assist you?" she asked with an impish grin.

It was no part of my plan to have her leave before the evening was over, as in self-respect she would be compelled to do, if I treated her frigidly and refused her assistance. And that, for the present, at least, she meant to ignore the circumstances of our last leave-taking in the Catskills, so humiliating to her, I plainly saw. So I showed my dislike of her into the background, and answered her sally in kind.

"References, gilt-edged."

"That depends upon your references, the wages you expect and your behavior," I said, laughing, and moving toward the gas-stove with the filled tea-kettle. "References, gilt-edged," she answered promptly. "Behavior, unexceptional to unimpaired eyes—that's a good one, I think"—she interjected impersonally with a laugh at her own phraseology. "Wages—well, let us say, the smothering of one's painful sense of duty and keeping one's hands off."

Her tone was the essence of carelessness, but I knew that her words, particularly the last ones, were a direct challenge. I stiffened involuntarily as I heard them, made a pretence of difficulty with the lighting of the gas stove until I could frame a reply.

"If a maid's behavior is satisfactory, I never cavil at her wages," I answered at last. "But my birthplace is next door to Iowa. Have you seen the snap beans? Mrs. Durkee said she had planned them for dinner."

Bess Dean "Plays Up."

Purposely I had given her the chance to assume as I had, that the conversation had no undercurrent of serious meaning, and she promptly played up to me. But

there was a noticeable edge to her voice as she replied:

"The beans are right here in this bag beside me. I was going to cut them up after I had put the potatoes on to boil."

I smothered the housewife comment that rose to my lips concerning the condition of the potatoes by the time the beans were cooked. That she was abysmally ignorant of cooking lore, I guessed, and I quickly drew on my imagination for a ruse which would save the dinner without hurting her feelings.

"It's lucky you spoke of boiling," I said nonchalantly, "or I would have forgotten that Mrs. Durkee wants scalloped potatoes for dinner."

The edge in her voice was more pronounced this time.

"Well, you'll have to engineer that job! I've eaten Mrs. Durkee's though, and I'll tell the world they're some high mark to aim at, even by so gifted a genius as yourself."

(To Be Continued)

Daring Motorists Invited To Hudson Bay Territory

WINNIPEG, Man.—A procession of tourists driving into the picturesque northland on their own family motor cars, fitted with flanged rims to grip the rails of the Hudson Bay line, is the ingenious scheme proposed by R. M. Haultain, a railway construction engineer of Winnipeg.

Mr. Haultain believes that such traffic over the government railway will present no difficulties. To obviate any danger of accidents, he would placard the line to the effect that the odd days of the month would be reserved for northbound traffic and the even days for southbound. Each car would be required to carry a light derailing shoe, to provide for emergencies.

The investment on the part of the railway company in flanged rims, trailers, steering gear locks, etc., would be negligible, declared Mr. Haultain, when compared with the increased revenue obtained from freighting cars to different points along the Hudson Bay line.

Mr. Haultain has complete confidence in the feasibility of the scheme, and maintains that the north country would ultimately become the mecca of sport lovers and attract tourists to the profitable advantage of the local railroads.

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SCHOOL REPORTS FILED MORE ELECTION RESULTS ARE RECEIVED THURSDAY

Reports of the election of district school board officials are being received steadily by the county school superintendent's office, with 13 districts heard from yesterday. A total of 43 of the 143 boards have now held elections.

The districts sending in returns yesterday are as follows:

Evergreen, District 19—F. D. Kaser, chairman; Ole Overland, B. Longsdorf and Ella J. Knight, clerk.

Aumsville, District 11—H. L. Wright, chairman; John Mix, Ur-

sula B. Pierce, Mrs. C. B. McCully, clerk.

Brush Creek, District 19—Sam Stortz, chairman; Dan Dybsetter, John Copeland, L. H. Meyer, clerk.

Belle Passi, District 34—H. F. Butterfield, chairman; William Dart, E. W. Gibbons, John Dinwoodie, clerk.

Union Hill, District 42—G. D. Scott, chairman; J. W. Phillips, W. A. Heater, Pearl Heater, clerk.

Whiskey Hill, Joint District 49—A. E. Jones, chairman; John Blosser, Dan Lais, Earl H. Koehler, clerk.

Eldridge, District 60—W. J. Wagnier, Jr., chairman; Charles A. Hannegan, A. C. Keene, B. J. J. Miller, clerk.

Hasel Green, District 65—Maurice R. Dunnigan, chairman; E. Dunnigan, Jr., S. H. Allen, clerk.

Four Corners, District 84—A. J. Bayserie, chairman; C. J. Gooding, John G. Kaufman, J. N. Gooding, clerk.

Silver Falls, District 85—O. P. Harris, chairman; J. C. Storm, Mrs. Carrie Schulters, Mrs. O. F. Harris, clerk.

Abiqua, District 105—P. L. Lacey, chairman; Shirley Brown, Otto E. Anderson, W. L. Dunegan, clerk.

Talbot, District 136—A. E. Cole, chairman; Addie Davidson, Flora Baker, Maude Doty, clerk.

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LIGHT PLANT SPONSORED FALLS CITY RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN PROJECT

FALLS CITY, June 18.—(Special)—A public meeting of the Falls City Commercial club was held on Wednesday, June 17, at Victory hall, with all interested tax payers as guests, to discuss the proposed sale of the municipally owned electric light plant to the Mountain States Power company.

This company has offered to purchase the machinery and transmission lines from the city for \$15,000 cash and electric power for city lighting to the value of \$750 per year to be furnished for two full years from the

date of the transfer. If this sale is made, the city will retain all real estate acquired when the plant was purchased over two years ago, consisting of about five acres principally on the south bank of the Little Luckiamute river, also the water rights in the river now held by the city, and the dam and pipe line built and laid about a year ago.

The price paid by the city when this plant was purchased was \$13,345. The machinery and equipment are not adequate for the present needs of the city. An expenditure of about \$15,000 will be necessary if the city retains the plant and gives the 24-hour service now being demanded.

If the Mountain States Power

company acquires this plant, they will immediately begin the work of rebuilding the transmission lines, installing meters, and otherwise making the equipment up to date to furnish 24-hour standardized service for both lights and power. By the construction of the transmission line between Falls City and Dallas (the latter being the end of their present lines), the residents of the country along their line will have available electric service equal to the best in the city. The expense of making this service to Falls City will, probably, be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

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