Grains Hit Top And Then Drop

Buenos Aires Leads Late Tumble as European Demand Reduced

CHICAGO, March 31—(AP)—Wheat and corn values both tumbled late today after skyrocketing to fresh top record prices unequalled in some cases since 1925.

The late reaction, which as a rule more than wiped out gains, was led by the Buenos Aires market, where wheat fell about 7 cents from earlier high levels. Back of this was the circumstance that European demand for wheat had apparently come to a practical halt except purchases of about 4,000,000 bushels by Greece from Czechoslovakia.

At the close, wheat was at the day's bottom level, 1¼-2½ cents under yesterday's finish, May $1.42 ½-¾, July $1.27 ¼-½, Sept. $1.24 ⅝-½; corn varying from ½ cent lower to an advance of 2¼ cents, May $1.21 ½-5-8, July $1.15 ¼-⅜, Sept. $1.09 ¼-3-8. Oats unchanged to ½ cent off. May 49 3-8-½, and rye 1-5-8 down to ¾ up, May $1.16. Provisions closed unchanged to 10 cents lower.

Rye and oats traders took their cue mainly from wheat action.

Provisions averaged lower, owing to indications of enlarged stocks of lard here.

Choir Members Honored By Mrs. Sylvester at Easter Evening Party

SILVERTON, March 31—Following the presentation of the cantata at the Methodist church Sunday night, Mrs. F. E. Sylvester entertained in the basement of the church for choir members and their husbands and wives. The party especially honored Mr. and Mrs. Fred Baker, the day being their wedding anniversary, and Mrs. W. P. Scarth, whose birthday anniversary was that day. Dr. and Mrs. Sydney Hall of Salem were special guests.

Later in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Riches were home hosts at a party for Mrs. Scarth. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Scarth, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Baker, Dr. R. M. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Riches.

Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE

PORTLAND, Ore., March 31—(AP)—Produce exchange, net prices: Butter—Extras 35; standards 35; prime firsts 34½; firsts 34. Butterfat— 99-89½.

Eggs—U. S. large extras 21; U. S. medium extras 20.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, March 31—(AP)—Lower price levels were reached in the domestic trade in wheat. With a sale of 1000 bushels May closed ½ cent lower with July unchanged and September off ⅜ cent. On the sample cash market the price was hit hard to the extent of 1½ cent for local and 1 cent for Montana.

May	1.21	1.21	1.20½	1.20½
July	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
Sep.	1.14¼	1.14¼	1.13½	1.13½

Cash wheat: Big Bend bluestem, hw, 12 pct 1.23; dark hard winter 13 pct 1.41; 12 pct 1.39; 11 pct 1.28; soft white, western white, hard winter and western red 1.21½.

Oats, No. 2 white 33.50 gray 32.50. Barley, No. 2-45 lb B.W. 40. Corn, Argentine 51.50. Millrun standard 30. Flour 10; oats 1.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, March 31—(AP)—(U.S. Dept Agr.)—Hogs: Receipts 550, direct 205, market fairly active, mostly steady, good-choice 165-215 lb driveins 10.40, few down 10.25, load lots eligible around 10.75, 220 70 lb 9.75-10.00, holdover down 9.00, 125-55 lb 5.50-10.00, choice 155 lb up 10.25, packing sows 7.75-8.25, most sales 8.00; choice light feeder pigs up 9.00.

Cattle: Receipts 200, direct 124, calves 15, direct 8, slaughter supplies mainly dairy type she stuff, these slow-weak, beef breed offering steady but mostly nominal; odd common slaughter steers 7.00-50, medium-good fed steers salable 8.50-10.00; few common heifers 6.00-50, odd head 7.50, good fed beef type heifers eligible 8.85, odd head good beef cows 7.25, fat dairy type salable 6.50 down, bulk cutter to common 4.00 at 5.75, low cutter down 3.50; bulls salable 5.50-6.25; good-choice vealers nominally 9.50-10.50.

Sheep: Receipts 150, holdover around 325, market steady on poor kinds offered, nominally steady on others; load cull to common 56-67 lb wooled lambs 7.50-8.25, choice fed wooled kinds eligible around 11.50-12.00, shorn lambs salable up 9.50, spring lambs absent, choice quoted around 15.90; ewes slow, load cull shorn ewes 2.15, good-choice wooled eligible around 5.75-6.25 or above.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., March 31—(AP)—Butter — prints, A grade, 37c lb. in parchment wrappers, 38c in cartons; B grade, parchment wrappers, 36c lb; cartons 37c lb.

Butterfat—(Portland delivery, buying price)—A grade, delivered at least twice weekly, 39-41c lb; country routes, 37-38c lb; E grade, 37-38c lb; C grade at market.

B grade cream for market—Price paid producer butterfat basis, 55.2c lb.; milk, 63.7c lb.; sanplus milk, 45.9c lb.; price paid milk board, 67c.

Eggs—Buying price by wholesalers: Extras, 21c; standards, 18c; extra medium, 17c; medium firsts, 16c; undergrade 16c dozen.

Cheese—Oregon, triplets, 17½c; Oregon loaf, 18½c. Brokers will pay ½c below quotations.

Country Meats—Selling price to retailers. Country killed hogs, best butcher, under 160 lbs., 13c; vealers, 16c; light and thin, 11-12c lb.; heavy 10-11c; cutter cows, 9-10c lb.; canner cows 10-11c lb.; bulls, 10c lb.; lambs, 16-17c lb.; ewes, 6-11c lb.

Cascara Bark — Buying price, 1936 peel, 6-7c lb.

Live poultry—Portland delivery, buying price: Colored hens, over 4½ lbs, 16-17c lb.; under 4 lbs., 16-17 lb.; Leghorn hens, under 3½ lbs, 12-13c lb; over 3½ lbs, 14-15c lb; colored springs over 3½ lbs., 16-17c lb.; 2 to 3½ lbs., 16-17c lb; roosters 7-8c lb.

Potatoes—Deschutes, $2.75-83; Yakima, No. 1 (—) cental; local $2-2.25; Klamath, No. 1, $2.75-83.

New Potatoes—Florida, No. 1, 50 lbs., $2.85; Hawaiian, 80 lbs., $1.85.

Wool—1936, nominal: Willamette valley medium, 30c lb.; coarse and braids, 28c lb.; eastern Oregon, 25-34c lb.; crossbred, 37-38c lb.; 1937 contracts, 36-36c lb., Willamette valley, 38c lb.

Mohair—1937 contracts, 40-42c lb.

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa, No. 1 $22-23.50; eastern Oregon timothy, $18-18.50 ton; oats and vetch, $12-13; clover, $12-13 ton, Portland.

Hops—Nominal; 1936, 40-41c lb.

Onions—Oregon, No. 1, 2-2.25 cental; Yakima, $1.75-2.00.

Sugar—Berry or fruit, 100s, $5.80; bales, $5.45; beet, $5.20 cental.

Domestic Flour—Selling price, city delivery, 5 to 25 bbl. lots: Family patents, 98s, 7.75-8.15; baker's hard wheat, $6 05-8.65; baker's bluestem, $6.15-6.35; blended hard, $6.55-7.75; graham, $6.35; whole wheat, $6.80 bbl.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, March 31—(AP-U.S. Dept. Agr.)—A little business was transacted today on graded medium fleece wool for delivery when the new crop becomes available.

Graded combing three-eights blood Ohio fleeces sold at 47 and 48 cents in the grease, while combing quarter blood were sold at 46-47 for future delivery.

Stocks & Bonds

(Compiled by Associated Press)

March 31

STOCK AVERAGES

(Compiled by the Associated Press)

	30 Indust.	15 Rails	15 Util.	60 Stocks
Today	97.8	47.2	47.2	72.4
Prev. day	97.6	47.7	47.2	72.4
Month ago	100.8	45.4	50.1	74.1
Year ago	84.4	36.8	48.1	63.3
1937 high	101.6	49.5	54.0	75.3
1937 low	94.1	37.8	46.8	69.1
1936 high	99.8	43.5	53.7	72.8
1936 low	73.4	30.2	43.4	55.7

BOND AVERAGES

	30 Rails	10 Indust.	10 Util.	10 For'gn
Today	94.7	103.1	100.0	71.9
Prev day	95.0	103.1	100.2	71.9
Month ago	96.9	103.9	101.4	72.8
Year Ago	92.3	102.6	101.8	69.7
1937 high	99.0	104.4	102.8	74.7
1937 low	94.8	102.9	99.8	71.9
1936 high	98.2	104.4	103.1	73.0
1936 low	86.9	101.8	99.3	67.6

Stock Market Trends Varied

Earnings Reports Bring Up Some Issues, Average of List Unchanged

NEW YORK, March 31—(AP)—Stocks worked at cross-purposes in today's market and trends were highly divergent at the close.

Favorable earnings statements attracted attention to individual issues and business news generally was considered satisfactory.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks was unchanged at 72.4. It showed a net gain on the month of .2 of a point. Transfers totaled 1,662,770 shares compared with 1,225,310 in Tuesday's upswing.

Stock dealings for the month in which more than 50,000,000 shares changed hands were only slightly ahead of February's aggregate but were under March, 1936. Due to the heavy trading transactions in March were the heaviest since January last year.

Steel shares gave ground notwithstanding another optimistic survey of this industry by "Iron Age." The review found a sellers' market is still going strong among steel makers and little recession in the current mill operating rate is looked for in the near future.

On the upside were American Smelting at 98, Kennecott 65⅝, Case 158, Deere 128¼, and Western Union 74⅞.

Prominent losers included U.S. Steel at 121⅝, Bethlehem 99, Westinghouse 143½, General Motors 62¾, Chrysler 124⅛, N. Y. Central 51¾, Southern Pacific 61¼, and Goodyear 45.

Million Bushels Wheat From Pendleton Area Contracted at $1.02-3

PENDLETON, March 31—(AP)—A million bushels of wheat is involved in the heaviest and earliest contract selling for August delivery in seven years in this district, local dealers reported. The contract price here stood at about $1.02-3 a bushel.

The largest single contract reported is for 10,000 bushels.

Salem Market Quotations

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk. Salem basic pool price $2.14 per hundred.

Co-op butterfat at price, F.O.B. Salem, 38c.

(Milk based on semi-monthly butterfat average.)

Distributor price, $2.84.

A grade butterfat—Delivered, 38c; B grade, delivered, 36½c.

A grade print, 37½c; B grade 36½c.

Prices paid to growers by Salem buyers. (The prices below, supplied by a local grocer, are indicative of the daily market but are not guaranteed by The Statesman.)

FRUITS (Buying Prices)

Winesap, bu., extra fancy	2.00
Apples, bu., Wagner	1.00
Bananas, lb., on stalk	.06
hands	.06½
Dates, fresh, lb.	20 to .25
Grapefruit, Florida, box	8.50
Texas Grapefruit	8.00 to 8.50
Lemons, crate	6.00 to 6.50
Oranges—Navels	
Fancy	4.85 to 6.25
Choice	3.85 to 5.25

VEGETABLES (Buying Prices)

Asparagus, lb.	.18
Beets, Calif., doz	.45
Brussell Sprouts, local, crate	.85
Cabbage, lb.	.03
Cabbage, red, lb.	.03
Carrots, doz.	.85
Cauliflower, Calif., crate	1.15 to 1.35
Celery, crate	2.25 to 2.85
Utah	2.85
Hearts, doz.	1.25
Endive, doz.	.75
Lettuce, Calif., iced, 5 doz.	5.25 to 5.50
Mustard Greens, doz	.40
Onions, green, doz.	.30
Onions, Oregon white—50 lbs.	1.00
Radishes, doz.	.30
Parsnips, lb.	.01½
Peppers, green, Calif., lb.	.15
Red, lb.	.12
New Potatoes, $1-lb. box	1.70
Potatoes, local, No. 1, cwt	3.00
No. 2, cwt., bag	1.90
Potatoes, sweet, No. 1	2.50
Rhubarb, local, 18-lb. box	1.00
Rutabagas, cwt.	2.00 to 2.25
Spinach, Calif., 50-lb. crate	1.90
Squash, Hubbard, cwt.	3.00
Tomatoes, 20-lb. crate	3.25
Turnips, doz.	.45

NUTS

Walnuts, lb.	.11 to .15½
Filberts, 1936 crop, lb.	.16 to .19½

HOPS (Buying Prices)

Clusters, 1936, lb.	.40
Fuggles,	nominal

WOOL AND MOHAIR (Buying Prices)

Mohair	.35
Medium wool	.35
Coarse wool	.33

EGGS AND POULTRY (Buying Price of Andresens)

White extras	.19
Brown extras	.19
Medium extras	.16
Large standards	.16
Medium standards	.14
Pullets	.12
Heavy hens, lb.	.14
Colored mediums, lb.	.13
Medium Leghorns, lb.	.12
Stags, lb.	.05
Old roosters, lb.	.05
Colored frys over 4 lbs.	.15
Under 4 lbs.	.15
White Leghorns, frys	.13

MARION CREAMERY buying Prices

Butterfat, A grade	.38
B grade	.36½

Live Poultry, No. 1 stock—

Colored hens, under 4½ lbs.	.13
Colored hens, over 4½ lbs.	.14
Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs.	.12
Leghorn hens, under 3½ lbs.	.10
Leghorn broilers	.14
Broilers under 2 lbs.	.14
Colored springs, over 3½ lbs.	.14
Colored springs, under 3 lbs.	.14
Roosters	.05
Rejects	.04
Stags, lb.	.06

No. 2 grades, 2 cents less.

Eggs—Candled and graded—

Large extras	.19
Medium extras	.16
Large standards	.16
Medium standards	.14
Undergrades	.13
Pullets	.13
Dirty extras	.15

LIVESTOCK (Buying Prices)

1937 spring lambs, lb.	.14
Lambs, lb.	.11
Ewes	4.00 to 5.00
Hogs, top, 150-220 lbs.	10.00
130-150 lbs.	9.00 to 9.50
210-225 lbs.	9.50
Sows	7.00 to 7.50
Dairy type cow	4.00 to 5.00
Beef cows	5.50 to 6.00
Bulls	5.25 to 6.00
Heifers	6.00 to 7.00
Top veal	9.50
Dressed veal, lb.	.12½
Dressed hogs, lb.	.18

GRAIN AND HAY

Wheat, white, No. 1	1.06
Wheat, western red	1.04
Barley, brewing, ton	48.50
Feed, barley, ton	39.50
Oats, milling, ton	29.50
Feed, ton	26.50

Hay, buying prices—

Alfalfa, valley	16.00
Oat and vetch, ton	10.00
Clover, ton	11.50

Mayor Austin and Wife Are Home From Vacation Jaunt Through California

WOODBURN, March 31—Mayor and Mrs. Harold M. Austin and daughter Dorothy returned Sunday from a two-weeks motor trip through California, going as far south as Tia Juana, Mexico and visiting the principal cities enroute.

While at Los Angeles they met Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Shorey who are on a visit in California and with them spent four days traveling. Mr. and Mrs. Shorey are expected home early in the week.

Gardeners' and Ranchers' Mart

PORTLAND March 31—(AP)—Prices were steady on the Gardeners' and Ranchers' market here with asparagus holding a center position in the day's trading. The large California variety brought 16c per pound with small sizes going as low as 9½c. Harvesting now is coming in at a rapid pace and the price trend is lower at points of shipment.

Cabbage supplies are heavy. Most of the California shipments hail from Santa Maria section, and the rest, which has been in small quantities this week, comes from the Spokane section.

Small shipments of Roseburg cauliflower continued to come in, and potatoes and onions remained unchanged with trading dull.

Asparagus—California, 11-16c per lb.

Beets—Per sack, Oregon, $1.85.

Broccoli—Crate, $2.65-2.75.

Brussells Sprouts — California, one fourth rums, $2.75.

Cabbage — Oregon, Flat Dutch, crates $1.00-2. Calif., $2.25-2.75; Washington, $3.

Carrots—Per crate, $1.25-1.35.

Cauliflower—Calif., pony $1.25-1.35.

Celery—Utah type, $3.50-3.75; Calif., 3-3½ dozen, $3.25-3.75.

Cumumbers—Oregon hothouse, $1.35-1.50.

Eggplant—California, lug, $1.50-1.60

Garlic—Per pound, 10-15c.

Grapes—Emperors, $1 60-1.75.

Lettuce—Imperial, 5 dozen $5.25-5.50; 6 doz., $5-5.25.

Mushrooms—One pound cartons, 40-45c.

Onions—50-pound sacks, U. S. No. 1 yellow, $1-1.25; yellow boilers, 10-pound sacks, 10 15c.

Parsley—Per dozen bunches, 35-40c.

Parsnips—Per lug, 40-45c.

Peas — California, 30 pound hampers, $3.75-4.00.

Pears — Oregon, Washington, jumble pack, Easter Buerre, 90c; D'Anjous, extra fancy, $2.50.

Peppers—Mexico, 15-17c lb; $5.50-5.60 per crate.

Potatoes—U. S. No. 1, 100-pound sacks bakers, $3.85-$4; Oregon russets, $2.50-2.75; Washington russets, $3-3.15; Deschutes russets, $2.85-3.10; local, $2.65-2.85; Klamath russets, $2.90-3.25.

Radishes—Per dozen bunches, 40-45c.

Rhubarb—Washington hothouse, 90c-$1.45.

Rutabagas — Washington, 100-pound sacks, $1.35-1.45.

Spinach — Walla Walla, 85-90c per 20-lb. box.

Squash—Oregon, per pound. Hubbard 2¾c, Marblehead, 2¾c.

Watercress—Pound, 35-40c.

Tomatoes—Oregon, hothouse, 17-18c per pound; Mexico, $4-4.50; Florida, $2.50-2.75.

Turnips—Per doz. bunches, 75-80c.

Prowlers Active; Visit Postoffice

DALLAS, March 31—(AP)—Prowlers were unusually active in this visinity last night. The inside door of the Dallas postofice was forced and outgoing mail in a special bag tampered with. So far as could be learned today nothing of value was taken.

Sheriff T. B. Hooker was investigating the robbery of a grocery store at Rickreall last night.

Special Officer Dave Warren reported several automobiles were prowled during the night.

Backward Party Slated By Liberty Endeavorers Friday at District Hall

LIBERTY, March 31.—The local Christian Endeavor society is inviting the young fold of the community to a "backward" party to be held Friday at 8 p.m. in the community hall. Those attending will wear stome conspicuous article of clothing backward.

Thursday night the church class in evangelism is to meet at the V. D. Leek home, C. C. Sargent to be leader.

MILLER'S MILL RUN (DAIRY) 18% PROTEIN $36.00 TON
MILLER'S EGPRODUCER 14% PROTEIN $32.00 TON
21% PROTEIN $45.00 TON
HARRY MILLER WAREHOUSE
280 S. LIBERTY ST.

"Leisure to Repent"

by URSULA PARROTT

CHAPTER XIV

They went into the Savoy and chose a table far from the music. He was suddenly completely aware of something he had sensed vaguely before—that Felicia disliked him. So, he would get no more information from her than she decided to give.

He said slowly, making conversation: "I'm well enough. I've been a bit tied down with Father."

"Yes; sorry to hear he was ill, was glad when I heard he was better." Her voice was so completely indifferent that he laughed; and she smiled, a little maliciously.

"I'll tell you everything you want to know in two sentences, Keith: We all feel Denise has made an excellent marriage, that it will last, and is the best thing she could have done—that Gilbert will take good care of her; her letters sound completely happy. They plan to stay abroad a year, and are, at present, in Cairo."

"Of course, I don't know whether to believe one word of it, except that they're in Egypt. I've no reason to doubt that."

A small dimple showed at the corner of her pretty mouth. "Dance with me, Keith. As I remember, you dance superbly."

As they started to dance, he said: "Don't treat me like a *gigolo*, Felicia. I may even dance as well as your kind words imply, but I'm a man of substance. Came into money lately."

"How nice for you! I hadn't heard that your father was in his dotage."

He didn't answer. She danced like a dream—he remembered, but he wouldn't say so!

Back at their table an idea came to him: "Felicia, how much did you have to do with Denise's marriage?"

"A great deal."

He thought definitely that he had never hated anyone so much in his life.

"Why did you?"

Her voice was suddenly gentle; she put a lovely hand on his sleeve. "Don't look murderous. I wanted Denise to be always safe. She couldn't have been, with you."

But his anger only lessened a little.

"That's what you married for too, isn't it?"

"Shot in the dark, Keith. I sha'n't tell you if it landed."

"Not interested."

"No, I don't suppose so. You wouldn't have made Denise a good husband, all the same."

"Why are you so sure?"

"Want what you want just till you have it. I knew some one else like you. That's why I'm Mrs. Eustace Gardiner Dayne."

"Poor Eustace! Let's dance again. Your dancing's better than your conversation."

"Thanks."

Moving slowly about the crowded flood, he said: "I think I shall go abroad and take Denise away from her highly reputable husband. She and I belong; and you don't know what you are talking about."

"I shall go to your father."

He chuckled. "You mean it, don't you; and you guess that, newly recovered from pneumonia, he can't stand shocks—and that having come into money, I feel grateful. Did anyone ever dislike you violently before?"

"I am not sure."

"You are beautiful, trivial, no good at all."

"I said that about you to Denise—no good at all. I have great influence with Denise."

"We'll go back to the table, if you don't mind."

"But I do mind. I like this music."

They danced the rest of that dance in a complete silence. Back at their table, she said: "And another cocktail."

" 'Fraid I haven't time."

"Yes, you have, Keith. It's important. Besides, I need it for my courage."

She sipped it slowly, regarded him, her clear hazel eyes wide. "It's important to make you sure she will never come back to you."

"Never is long."

"I learned that, sometime since. . . . Let her alone, Keith; you will only damage her."

"So positive."

She sighed: "Antagonism is a pleasantly strong emotion, isn't it?"

"I assure you my antagonism for you is the strongest emotion I've felt in years."

"All right. Come to see me, Wednesday, at tea-time, and let's have more of this."

He did not say that he would come. But somewhat to his own surprise, he found himself ascending in the elevator of her apartment-house, at five o'clock on Wednesday. She was, after all, as close as he could come to hearing of his desire!

That day she had thought out her words. She told him coolly that he was weak, changeable; but she took the edge off her words by saying he was like herself. She reiterated that Denise would never come back, until he told her furiously that she was a malevolent Cassandra. Then she laughed at him, and asked him to stay for dinner.

For a long time after that evening they both meant well, as the most curious liking for each other grew in them. Felicia discovered that she looked forward to seeing him rather specially, on her way back from ten days in New Mexico in February. (Of which the last nine days had been long.) She worried very little about that discovery. He and she were old hands at the unimportant and amusing game they were playing. There would be no burnt fingers! With that mixture of metaphors in her head, she got off the train, not expecting to be met, to find him waiting for her.

"Thought it would be a pleasant gesture," he said, "I missed you. Not the least good will come of us."

"No harm either, I assure you."

"I know that too." And they laughed. . . .

Eustace was going to the Northwest from New Mexico on some affairs of his family. He had not planned to take her, because extreme cold weather sometimes made her ill. Her trip to New Mexico had been a gesture before he started his journey north. There were, upon her return, a succession of bitterly cold days in New York. She had a slight attack of influenza, and recovering, sailed to Bermuda.

"Check from grandfather-in-law," she told Keith cheerfully.

It was entirely accidental that, the evening of her departure, Keith Sheldie, Senior, said to his son: "Couldn't we take a trip, out of this weather? I've never been to Bermuda. It sounds pleasant—buggies and things."

"They call them victorias, mostly."

"Would you go with me?"

Keith hesitated, and laughed at himself. No reason why not, surely. No good and no harm would come of it. "Of course."

They sailed two days later. He wired Felicia, and she met them at the dock. His father took the most enormous fancy to her.

"I've practiced in the correct manner," Felicia told him, "with my grandfather-in-law." That bit of impudence sent the elder Keith Sheldie's laughter booming across the harbor.

Felicia had sublet a cottage. The house which Keith's father liked best was no more than three minutes' walk from hers. After expending all his energy climbing in and out of glass-bottomed boats, and down and up caves, the elder man went to bed after dinner.

Then Keith and Felicia went dancing, or driving about through the scented dark; or they sat on her veranda above the harbor and talked. One night she said: "I feel that my whole life has paused. There was yesterday; there will be all the tomorrows. Between, there's this irrelevant episode, meaningless, lovely, not exigent."

He did not answer.

Between the dance-tunes, between moonrise and moonset, and the turnings of their carriage-wheels along the white roads, they told each other things they had told no other person. "Because we want nothing of each other," she said.

A terrible unsureness was growing in him as to that. He told her of his mother, of his first nearing of that old story, of all his childhood. She told him the whole story of her love for Duane Fenton. Then he was able to talk to her of Denise at last, certain of her understanding.

There was a night of bright moonlight that cast deep shadows. The palm tree in her garden stirred in the night breeze softly. The harbor below was silver and deep dark, a substance between water and fluid light. He and she were two light voices, two shadowy outlines in long chairs.

Her voice said: "We are shadows, or all the world beyond us is a shadow world. The edges of reality blur. I am no more than a tranquil shadow for this minute, while I don't move to see if there's anything beyond."

His voice, laughing, said: "Magic! Well, then, this corner of the world is all."

Her voice said dreamily: "I remember once I was a bitter, proud woman who loved and minded so dreadfully losing Duane."

His voice said: "Long ago, far away. He will never come back."

Then he knew why he said those words. He stood up, flung his arms out to the unregarding sky. "She won't ever come back. I was a fool to dream she would."

Felicia said: "No, she never will."

The world steadied. He was a man, and she was a beautiful woman, on a veranda where the moonlight flung odd shadows.

He said: "You and I remain."

She lifted her face, which was very pale in the moonlight, when he put his arms round her. She kissed him twice. Her voice was calm as his as she said:

"So all our tomorrows are upon us, Keith?"

"Yes, and what shall we do with them?"

"Waste them, I suppose. It would be in character."

"Tonight too, Felicia?"

"Yes, let's waste tonight, in honor of—"

"Of something or other."

"You sound unflatteringly cheerful about it, Keith."

"Being a gentleman in spite of all."

"You are fun, you know."

"You too."

"This is going to be very, very thin ice."

"Fun to skate on, Felicia."

"I know," she sighed. "Don't kiss me often."

"Very seldom, or practically all the time. Does it occur to you we're being very adult. I begin to have great respect for us."

"That'll be a novelty. Kiss me good-night, briefly, and go home."

"No, I couldn't—briefly. I'll go home without, if you don't mind."

"But I do mind."

He remembered, too, that first time they danced at the Savoy. They both laughed. He kissed her and went home.

The "very thin ice" held surprisingly, through February and through March in the North.

Felicia said: "The trouble is we aren't despicable, any more than we're admirable."

"My sweet, like all women, you try to define too many things. We are just butterflies dancing in the sunlight and careless of tomorrow. Will that stop you?"

"Very quickly, Keith."

(To be continued)

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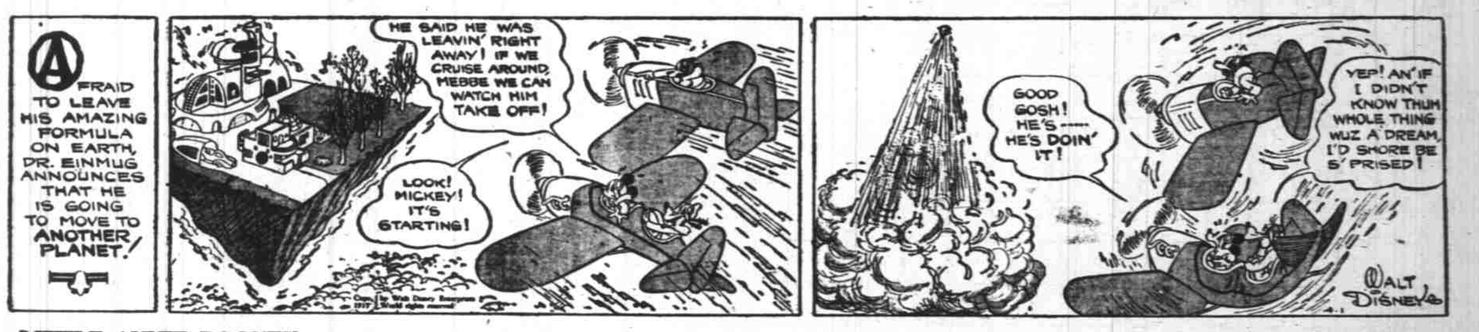

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