

Annie

THEY SAY, "MONEY TALKS"---IF IT IS ENOUGH, USUALLY IT SAYS, "YES"---NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN EGYPT, HAND FIVE GB TO THE SPHINX---IT'LL TALK YOUR ARM OFF!

NOW, LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, MR. MUSTARD---UNCLE JEB SAYS I CAN HAVE THAT WORN-OUT FIELD SOUTH O' OUR BARN TO PLAY I'M FARMIN'---ALL IT NEEDS IS A GOOD DOSE O' LIMESTONE AND PROPER PLOWIN'---

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?---AND ANYBODY WITH FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS CALLS ME MERT!

O. K., MERT---TH' COUNTY AGENT SAYS SO---COURSE, UNCLE JEB SAYS THAT TH' NUTTY COLLEGE BOY---NO REAL FARMER, LIKE UNCLE JEB---

HMM---SHORE---THAT'S JEB, ALL RIGHT---

SO YOU WANT T'BUY A GOOD, MEDIUM-SIZE, ALL-PURPOSE TRACTOR---A TRAILER TRUCK TO HAUL LIMESTONE FROM TH' QUARRY---A PLOUGH---AND TH' REST O' TH' MACHINERY YOU MENTION---

CHECK! YOU SAID IT'D COME TO FOUR OR FIVE GRAND---Q. K.--THERE'S FIVE G'S---

ANNIE! WHERE'D YOU GET MONEY LIKE THIS? THING LIKE THIS IS BOUND T'CREATE TALK---S'POSE Y'TELL ME FIRST, EH?

TH' MONEY'S GOOD, ISN'T IT? IF I'D DONE A CRIME TO GET IT I'D BE IN JAIL, WOULDN'T I?

HMM---M---NOT NECESSARILY---SPITE O' ALL WE HEAR O' JUSTICE AN' SUCH ALWAYS TRIUMPHANT! WHERE DID YE GET IT?

I CAN GIVE YOU AN ANSWER YOU MAY LIKE, MR. MUSTARD---

ANNIE HAD A STORE IN TH' CITY---IT WAS DOIN' GREAT, TOO---BUT SHE SOLD IT SO SHE COULD BRING ME OUT TO TH' COUNTRY WHERE I WOULDN'T COUGH ANY MORE---SHE GOT LOTS FOR HER STORE---

HMM---M---I'M JUST AN OLD GOAT---SHOULD FEEL SMUG AND SUPERIOR TO TH' RISIN' GENERATION---BUT YOU YOUNG FRY!---YOU AIN'T SMART ALECKS! JUST SMART---AND HOW!

THANKS, MERT---BUT 'BOUT OUR DEAL---

WAIT A SECOND! I'M LONG-WINDED! FIVE THOUSAND CASH! YOU TWO ARE CAPITALISTS! WAL, BY HARRY, SO AM I---ALLUS HAVE BEEN---SO HAVE TH' ONLY SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY COUNTRIES ON THIS EARTH---

NONE O' MY BUSINESS HOW OR WHERE YOU GOT RICH! YOU GOT IT HONEST---DIDN'T ROB A LIVIN' SOUL---YOUR MONEY'S HELPIN' ME---YOU GET YOUR MACHINERY, BRIGHT AN' EARLY TOMORROW---

THANKS, MERT---NOW TO HIRE A MAN TO RUN TH' STUFF---I'M A LITTLE LIGHT TO HOLD DOWN A TRACTOR---

HMM---M---TH' HUMAN ELEMENT---TH' WEAK LINK, 'CORDIN' TO SOME O' TH' PIECES I READ---BUT THERE'S PHIL FUMBLE---"AT LIBERTY" NOW, AS TH' SAYIN' GOES---

PHIL FUMBLE? OH, I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND---WILL HE BE A GOOD HIRED MAN FOR US?

TAKE WHAT YOU CAN GET, NOW DAYS---COST MOREN TH' BOSS CAN EARN---LITTLE LAZY AND CLUMSY---BUT HE'S YOUR MAN---THE ONLY ONE, IN FACT---

HAROLD GRAY

Maw Green

I HEAR PAT IS PAVIN' HIS WIFE ALIMONY---

TELL ME, MRS. GREEN---WHAT'S ALIMONY?

ALIMONY? WHY, IT'S A MAN'S CASH SURRENDER VALUE---

HAROLD GRAY

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