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Heppner Farmers' Elevator Co.

Haphazard

By JESSIE E. SHERWIN

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"All vacations cut to a week."

Thus the head stenographer of Merle & Co., a city mercantile house of extensive business prestige and narrow views as to the rights of their employees.

"Shameful," came an indignant chorus.

"And no pay for the week spent away."

A rising storm of protest was speedily repressed as the manager of the establishment came into the room. There was one exception to the general group—Arline Drury. The others sat with an angry luster of eyes. Her hands strayed from her typewriter, nerveless, an expression of infinite disappointment crossed her features.

Arline had lost her mother a year previous and had been cast utterly on her own resources. She was not an expert typist and had not acquired even the fundamentals of stenography. Her position, a poor-paying one, had been thrust upon her almost grudgingly, and became a work of such drudgery that she was too tired evenings to attempt to perfect herself in taking dictation.

To the usual vacation with a fortnight's extra pay Arline had looked forward with glad anticipation. She had mapped out a stay at some cheap, but respectable summer resort. It seemed to her that alone by herself, mind and body at ease, she could think over present and future in a clear, coherent way.

The double announcement had upset all her plans. The circumscribed term of leisure seemed scarcely worth caring for. The withdrawal of salary during the period meant deprivation. She had saved less than \$20. When she got home that night Arline counted over her little fund and viewed the prospect dolorously. She had selected a resort, the five hours' ride to which would be quite a novel enjoyment. She retraversed the advertisements of places nearer the city. Ferndale—the fare thither was low—if she went on a vacation at all that must be the limit of fare expenditure.

It was just before noon on Monday that Arline arrived at Ferndale. She found only a lonely station with a general store opposite. She was informed that the real town was two miles distant on the lake, comprising a fashionable hotel and the homes of rich people. There were no modest houses where one could expect moderate board and lodging, and the hotel was a \$4 a day house.

Arline sat down on a bench outside the little depot, gloomed and almost homesick, contemplating the necessity of returning to the city. She noticed only casually that an automobile had driven up containing a chauffeur and a matronly looking woman. The latter alighted as she caught sight of Arline and came straight up to her.

"You are Miss Eva White?" she said half interrogatively. "We have been here daily since Monday expecting you, but feared you had found some other appointment. Mrs. Elston needs the care of a nurse greatly and she will indeed welcome you. John, will you take the lady's suitcase?" and almost before she was aware of it Arline found herself in the auto with the good-natured housekeeper of one of the show places on the lake, telling her enough to know that a well-paid position was open to this Miss Eva White, who had not appeared.

"And why not?" whispered Arline to herself. "If she does not come, what wrong is done by my having a free vacation and one useful and helpful as well," and both hopeful and tempted, Arline Drury lent herself to a deception that was favored by the non-appearance of the real nurse that day—and never.

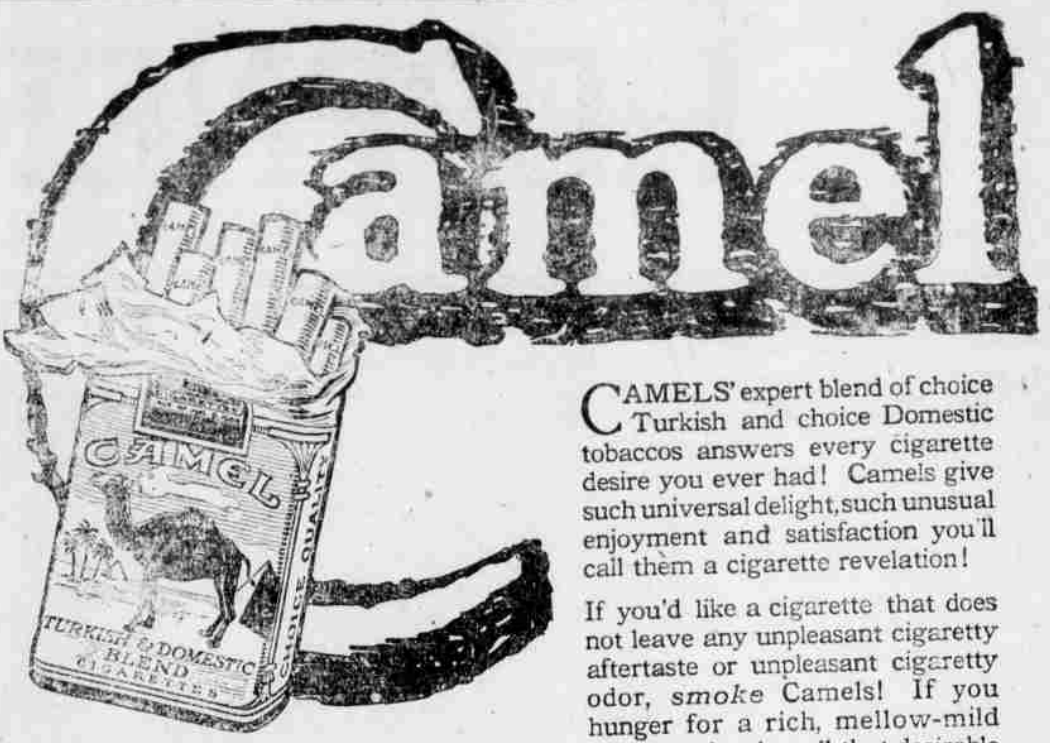
For the first time in many years Arline drifted contentedly into a new experience that was delightful. The invalid Mrs. Elston treated her as if she were some real friend instead of a dependent. The second day her son Harold, a tall, handsome young fellow about two years the senior of Arline, appeared on a hasty jaunt from the city. He stared strangely when Arline was introduced under her fictitious name. He followed her inquisitively with his glance, but when he noted that his mother regarded fondly, almost lovingly, he suppressed some powerful impulse that sought expression.

Two weeks went by, a month. All thoughts of returning to the city were abandoned by Arline. Harold came to visit his mother twice a week, and he could not help but feel attracted toward the bright, intelligent companion of his mother, to whom she was as attentive and thoughtful as an own daughter. Arline divined the dawning of a mutual love, each failed to conceal from the other, and one day, in the lovely garden of white shadows, when he confessed his affection, she bowed her head in humiliation.

"I am not Miss White—" she began; but he interrupted her gayly.

"Oh, I knew that the first day I met you," he declared. "For I had received word from the nurse that she could not come. When I found you here, and my dear mother getting better each day under your care, I only longed to have you remain. And now—"

That "now" was the vital hour of their young lives, where soul spoke to soul and Arline told all the story of her life to her affianced husband.



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FIRE PREVENTION DAY OCTOBER 9, 1919

The above date has been designated for this year as "Patriotic Fire Prevention Day," a day set apart for serious consideration of our tremendous fire waste, and the adoption of adequate and permanent means of prevention.

The French people have said of us Americans: "That we are mighty builders and mighty burners," and so we are, not intentionally or criminally, but negligently and carelessly.

This indeed is an age of great achievement and economic reports, and foremost is the immense saving of property and life that can be accomplished by the prevention of fire.

Returns come from a change of mind and a change of mind can only come by constant mental effort. Therefore, think fire prevention, talk fire prevention and practice fire prevention, not only on October 9, but on through the year until next fire prevention day, and then start over again. Never relax your caution against the ever present danger of fire on your premises. In that way you will not only make it a habit with yourself but will influence others, and we will all reap the benefit.

Make it a point on fire prevention day to critically examine your home, store, office, shop or factory. Try to discover anything or any condition that might possibly cause a fire, and above all clean up. If you find any inflammable material, remove it if possible or make it safe; you will be doing yourself a great favor, and then don't stop, keep it that way.

In America we destroy by fire five times as much per capita as do the people of Europe. It should not be so. We surpass in every other way—we should in this. The remedy rests with each and every one of us. Let us start now.

It is the office of the state fire marshal department to promote this conservation work, and for the asking we are ready to assist you at any time. Call upon us.

A. C. BARBER,
State Fire Marshal.

GOSE BACK TO BANANA BELT

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Carsner, who have been spending the summer on their ranch near Hardman, have moved back to the home ranch on the John Day, near Spray for the winter. Mr. Carsner says the John Day valley is noted as a winter resort and while his Hardman neighbors are rustling for fire wood in the snow banks he will be harvesting his bananas and reclining in the grateful shade of his own vine and fig tree just over the range.

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