The Queen's Holiday

BY

Elizabeth Corbett

"I can't? Why can't I? Paul, if you'll just let me go, of course I intend to make things right with you."

"Indeed, my consort? And exactly what is your idea of making things right with me?"

"Money," gulped Elsa "Baron Gottlieb insists that I have quite a lot of money. I'll make him give you as much as you want, if you'll only take it and go away. With enough money you can go back to Paris."

"I can't tell you how I've enjoyed breakfasting here with you, even if the breakfast itself was abominable." Paul said.

Ted's fury had begun to be tinged with amusement. Perhaps indeed he was beginning to get it through his head that Prince Paul was a person of whom he needn't really be jealous. He rose now and smiled down at Elsa.

I feel a little awkward at sitting in on this interesting domestic argument. I'll see you some other time, Elsa. Prince Paul, I'm deeply honored."

Elsa followed him to the door, searching for a neutral topic here at the last moment, she asked, "Have you ever rented the other apartment on this floor?"

Prince Paul was at her elbow in an instant. "Do I understand that this young man is your real estate agent? Why didn't you tell me in the first place, Elsa? It would have saved so much embarrassment."

"Paul, please don't be odious!"

"I'm not being odious. I'm interested. The fact is that I'm looking for a modest lodging myself; a pied-a-terre not too far from my present center of interest. If Mr. Layton wouldn't object to combining business with pleasure, perhaps he could show me this apartment at once?"

"I haven't my keys with me today." said Ted.

"Some other time. then? Some time soon?"

"Any working day." Ted assured him "I shall see you some time this week, Elsa?"

"I hope so," said Elsa.

Elsa looked forlornly around the room: it was strewn with boxes packed and half packed. She had got that far in her preparations for leaving with Ted. Now here was Ted gone from her — perhaps alienated from her. "I shall see you some time this week, Elsa?" To her own surprise, Elsa sniffed audibly.

Paul came hurrying with a clean handkerchief. While she sobbed into it, he stood lookind down at her puzzled, but not unkindly.

"You really think all that much about that fellow?" he asked slowly. "I'm sorry, Elsa. Not sorry enough so that I'm going to step out of his way, of course. But I wish you could have been spared that last touch of bitterness. Because you can't have him, you know. Really, you can't.

CHAPTER XIV

Paul left Elsa about noon. Before he went he actually did straighten up the apartment, and he washed the dishes. At loose ends now, and thoroughly bewildered and weary, Elsa went to bed and to sleep.

She woke at dusk, and went to make sure that the bolt was on the door. Then she went back to bed, and slept straight through the night.

She woke Monday morning not only refreshed but hopeful. Her first glance out of the window, however, showed her Carl on guard across the street. And when she went to investigate a noise in the hall, she found Prince Paul actually moving into the apartment just behind hers. Airily he waved his hand to her.

Elsa slammed her door and stood with her back to it. Never in her life had she wanted anything as she wanted something now. Indeed, properly speaking, she had never known what a real desire was. Now that she had her hands almost on something which was dearer to her than life itself, she might be forced to relinquish her hold, but she was not simply going to let her hands slip off through their own slackness.

She hunted out her prettiest clothes, and made herself look as well as possible. Then, ignoring Carl's surveillance, she walked out of the building and took a bus uptown.

It was no good telephoning: people were too easy to get rid of on the telephone. At half-past eleven she appeared at Ted's office and told the switchboard girl to notify him that Miss Higby was here to go out to lunch with him.

Ted appeared from an inner office. He tried to be firm with her. 'It's not nearly lunch time Elsa." he protested. But his eyes had already betrayed what a treat it was to him to see her. Yes, perhaps on the whole she looked almost as nice as she hoped she did.

"I can wait." she said placidly.

"But I have a luncheon engagement. That is—"

"Don't bother to invent an engagement, Ted. And if you really have one, break it. Break it, even if it's business. This is business, too, fairly important business."

He gave up and kept her waiting only a few minutes. It was just after twelve when Elsa and he sat down together at a table in a nearby restaurant.

Over the main course Elsa chattered smoothly and brightly. When her coffee arrived she met his anxious eyes directly. "Before I begin what I have to say, there's one thing I'd tike to have you straighten out for me. Until you took Paul's word for it yesterday, didn't you actually believe that I am what I claim to be?"

(To Be Continued)

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ELLEN'S DIARY

(Continued from Page 2

have come to the half-way mark when we haven't even finished up at the other farm. In case you've forgotten it, Ellen, we still have that late piece to do there —where last year's potatoes grew. But' in a resigned tone "I suppose you wouldn't know." "Wouldnt' know!" I echoed his words "I should know it rather well. It seems to me that I did a spot of picking there last Fall." "Well" James chuckled "you'll be doing it all over again, though in that field across the brook this year!"

* * *

This was much too peaceful an evening to pursue the subject further, quiet and washed with the pleasant tranquility that blesses farm folks at week's end. It has been a busy day for all of us at Alderlea. Jeanie entertaining a sister on holiday, made preparations for company tomorrow. There were trips to the field for vegetables, and indoors a bustle of cleaning and baking. At times, granddaughter "on the loose" came visiting, curls tousled, a dot of frosting on her nose and evidence of other and varied lickings about her mouth. Once she brought me a gift of carrots in a damp fist "all clean and ready." washed so she told me in the horses' drinking tub in the barnyard. "But I'm afraid they wouldn't be clean, washed there" I said. "Yes, as clean as clean" she nodded "granddaddy washed one for me there the other day, and it was lovely!"

* * *

At this house squatter spiders must be routed from their holdings. shoes cleaned, the woodbox heaped, scrubbing and baking done . . . and pet stockings washed for the Sabbath. At Alderlea it is safer for the wearer to dry such prized pieces indoors, since distressing incidents are apt to occur should one spread them on the clothes line, even though it's location is considered to be out of bounds to all stock. There was however the Spring evening in a year now long gone, when a last and valued pair was washed and pinned there—perhaps only as an excuse to enjoy the sun's westering or to loiter a moment drinking in the robins love songs. Our farmers had turned the fattening cattle to a near field, so that a buyer could view and appraise them. I recall even now the spirited running and racing and playful locking of horns, and how proud I was of the gleaming sides of this potential wealth of ours, as I turned back to my indoor cares.

* * *

Later. James herding one of the number from the vicinity of the clothes-line called to me: "I reckon, Ellen, this ox was at your stockings!" But, as I quickly discovered only at one. It had been chewed from toe to top. "Oh dear" I mourned loudly "whatever shall I do for church in the morning?" (At Alderlea it is necessary to bemoan any untimely fetchings of fate loudly. Otherwise the occasion would pass entirely unnoticed!) "Perhaps it's not as bad as you think, Ellen" James called continuing with his herding "Ba-a-ad" I said "it's ruined — that's what it is! Dear me, such a place as this is—if it's not one thing it's another! It's sheep at the shrubs, pigs rooting at the bulbs horses stepping on the flower-bed. and now an ox eating my stockings—my best, my only pair of silk ones" I shouted, my voice breaking. "You needn't get yourself so he up over a pair of stockings., Ellen" James called back "we'll buy you a new pair." "Or two!" one of the youngsters shouted beaming and the other added 'We've just sold the cattle —got a fair good price for them too! Of course they're not in bad shape. C'mon over and see what you think they'll weigh!'

* * *

On a calm quiet night like this old memories return to knock on the door of my recollections —inconsequential lovely incidents woven into the warp and woof of past years.

"Out of a lifetime. strange the things we hold
To draw upon for wealth, when we are old.
For I have stored away so many things:
The memory of a dark sky bright with wings,
The silver sparkle of a morning hedge,
A sunset cloud's beribboned golden edge;
One brookside orchard—well do I remember
The scent of its ripe apples in September.

And oh, my mother's face! the shining look
She bent above an old and precious Book;
My father's quiet face, some word he said,
A red-lit kitchen and a table spread,
And I, a young girl, watching a tall clock,
Waiting for some future joy to knock."

Until Monday — Diary —Goodnight . . .

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Sale dates for December, 1948 and for the 1949 season have been released by the New York Auction Co., Inc., and for the branches in Denver and Montreal, Can.

The New York sales are scheduled as follows:

Dec. 3, 1948 Silver fox, mink independent); 17—mink (GLMA), 22—mink (UMPA); 23—mink (mutation.)

Jan. 6, 1949 —Silver fox and mink; 20—mink; 24—general, including mink and silver fox.

Feb. 10 —Silver fox; 17—mink; 28—mink.

March 14— General including mink and silver fox.

April 7—Mink; 10—general, including mink and silver fox,

May 5—Mink; 16 —general, including mink and silver fox.

June 8—Mink; 20 —general, including mink; 18—general. including mink and silver fox.

Sept. 12—General, including mink and silver fox.

Nov. 14—General, including mink and silver fox.

Dec. 5 — Mink; 14 — mink (GLMA) 19—mink (UMPA); 22—mink (mutation).

The Canadian dates are as follows:

Dec. 1, 1948 —Special mink; 20 —special mink and silver fox.

Jan. 10, 1949 —General; Feb. 21 —general; March 21 —general; April 25 —general, Juhe 14 —general; Sept. 6 —general.

Denver sales will be held on Dec. 6, 1948; Dec. 30, Feb. 3, 1949; March 3, March 30 and May 26. All will offer silver fox and mink

At the recent Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company Ltd., beaver attracted a large attendance of New York and Canadian buyers. About 50 p. c. of the 16,718 skins changed hands with prices practically the same as had prevailed previously. A feature of the offering was a consignment of James Bay beaver of top quality which brought top prices, $70. being paid for the finest lot. Northern Ontarios of exceptionally good quality brought a top of $67.50. White fox was 46 per cent sold with prices ranging from $10. to $18.50 for the better qualities and $5. to $11. for second qualities. Red fox was 35 per cent sold with top prices $5.75. Platinum and white marked red foxes brought $4.50. A collection of blue fox brought a top of $12. Cross fox ranged upwards to $7.50 but was in great part withdrawn.

Silver fox as mentioned in the Guardian report from George A. Callbeck, was from 50 to 75 per cent sold with good and ordinary quality platinums averaging $15.10, pearl platinums neglected, marked silvers averaging $9.75, selected full silvers averaging $15.10, regular full silvers averaging $12.06, half to three-quarter silvers averaging $12.15, inferior types averaging $7.28. These prices appear to be the lowest of all time but one good thing about the sale was that the large proprotion of the offering was disposed of. We do not know how many pelts remain unsold in Canada but we do know that the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association's assortment are pretty well cleaned out If the remainder of the pelts in storage can be sold both in the United States and Canada before the new season's crop arrives on the market, there should be a strengthening in prices for 1949. However, there is the strong probability that a great many ranchers throughout Canada and the United States will go out of business completely and that of course will throw more pelts on the market and make 1949 another tough year for the fox rancher If one can hold on until December, 1950 there is a good chance that silver fox and its mutations will be on a firmer basis.

At the above auction wild mink pelts suffered the sharpest set back they have received for a long time. The catalogue contained 5,044 skins including many superior strings. The general opinion was that it declined 25% from the June sale. The top price was $62.50 paid for Labrador number one extra dark. Ranch mink on the other hand was unchanged and the catalogue of 764 skins was reported 70% sold with a top price of $21 paid for British Columbia type ones and twos, extra large and large, extra dark. Buyers of the better strings of both wild and ranch mink were New York dealers. Some Canadians also participated. Bidding lagged when average lots were presented but stiffened up on the marketing of exceptionally fine strings. Muskrat was 70% sold with prices unchanged; fisher 40% sold with prices unchanged.

News has leaked out regarding the Soviet fur farms, and it is thought they are having a bumper crop of farm bred fur bearing animals. The director of the fur farms states that this year promises a much greater increase than in former years and that sables foxes and minks are giving an average of four cubs apiece this year. Sables are now being acclimatized without very great difficulty and most of the other difficulties that keep down production have been overcome.

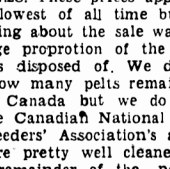
With foxes an entirely new breed was recently evolved called the "snow fox". These foxes have a white coat set off by marble-black specs on the muzzle and dark "strap" on the back and black ears. It is predicted by the Soviet fur experts that this new fur will soon come into fashion and win popularity. A new breed of rabbit called "silver-veil" is expected to also become very popular. This rabbit evolved by Soviet selectionists weighs about thirteen pounds and resembles silver fox in color.

Holt Renfrew & Co., Ltd., furriers of Montreal, showed a net profit for the year ending January 31st, 1948, of $46.089, as compared with a net loss of $416,646 for the previous year. Considerable progress has been made towards recovery from the effects of the heavy loses of the previous year in raw fur transactions, the annual report states. The company has confined its operations almost exclusively to the operation of its specialty shops and results have been profitable. Retail sales have increased in volume again this year. In was currently reported last year that Holt Renfrew & Co. had lost a large sum of money through an endeavour to popularize Mouton, which is sheared lamb It did not have the sale in Canada which was expected.

There is quite an advocacy by writers in fox and fur magazines of the use of poultry waste for feeding to mink and fox during the summer and fall. This waste would consist primarily of the head, feet and entrails of chickens obtained fresh from local dressing plants and they state it can be used either as a partial or complete substitute for horse meat. In many places it is relatively easy to obtain and under ordinary circumstances very inexpensive It is stated that its use in the diet of young mink will result in good food consumption because of it's palatability. It has proved to be an excellent diet ingredient in stepping up the growth rate of kits from 49 to 112 days old. When judged by fur experts in New York City the pelts from a number of mink fed with poultry waste were found with the exception of four undesirables quite as good as those produced on diets in which horse meat alone was used. In the diet of adult mink, chicken waste has also proved to be as satisfactory as horse meat. However, it is pointed out that it is advisable to exercise great care in the handling of poultry waste. In order to avoid possible losses from food poisoning this material should be procured while fresh, immediately processed, properly refrigerated and thawed just prior to use.

In American fur magazines we notice a large number of fox ranches and also mink ranches for sale with or without the breeding animals. Early this year it was stated there was only 800 fox farms in operation in the U. S. A. Probably by this fall that number will be considerably reduced. It must be remembered, however, that the two largest fox breeding concerns in the world are located in the United States—Fromm Bros., that had a production of 40,000 foxes in 1946, and Neiman & Stephenson, that had a production of almost as many that year Neiman's this year are said to have killed 5,000 adult females that were in pup and also quite a number of pups. Their production this year will probably not reach more than 20 to 25 thousand. What Fromm's have done has not been released to the public, but no doubt they would not want to continue losing money any more than Neiman's. Fromm's are helped out by the fact that they will produce 40,000 mink pelts in 1948 and these will have to carry the load for the fox farms.

During the International Fur Conference here we had a long talk with Ronald Stephenson, manager of Neiman's fur farms and he was quite ready to talk frankly on the problems of the fox farmer. He did not claim that the largest fox ranchers always produced the best pelts, in fact he stated there were many smaller ranchers whose breeding methods and close attention to every detail in connection with the raising of silver foxes produced very high quality foxes. That has always been true in our Province too. There are men we could name whose breeding operations never exceeded the production of more than 200 pelts, yet year after year they have been in the front rank at fox shows and pelt shows. These men have been a decided asset to the fox industry because from their ranches a lot of foxes have been sold as breeding stock that have improved other ranchers' herds in Ontario, western Canada and the Maritime Provinces. We trust that these ranchers whom we know will not give way to despair and clean out their herds, because if so an incalculable loss will be done to the fox industry.



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DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Earth as a goddess
5. Streetcar (Eng.)
9. Coins (It.)
10. City (Nev.)
11. Spanish dance
12. Separate
14. Public notice
15. Back of the neck
17. Hawaiian bird
18. Fall onto water
21. Tract of land bound by water
23. Vocal organ of birds
25. Destruction
26. Self
27. Pinaceous tree
28. Ensign
30. Pet name for an aunt
33. Additions to bills
35. Schools of whales
36. Indefinite article
37. Reddish coating on iron
39. Past participle (abbr.)
40. Discolor
42. Fineness
45. Fencing sword
46. Endure
47. Minus
48. Denomination

DOWN

1. Cheerfully
2. Hebrew letter
3. Unit of work
4. An age
5. Snares
6. Repulsing
7. Sayings
8. Mental deficients
11. "Lights out" signal
13. Old weights for wool
16. City (Fr.)
19. Mountain nymph
20. Pigsties
22. Large artery from heart
24. Negative reply
27. Chinese prefecture
28. Friar's titles
29. Horizontal piece over a door
30. Beast of burden
31. Meaning
32. Descry
34. Teutonic characters
38. Flaps
41. Simian
43. Confederate general
44. Substance in shellac

R	A	T	S		A	P	A	R				
A	N	O	N		C	O	D	E				
H	I	N	G	E		E	N	A	C	T		
A	S		S	E	B		E	R	I	E		
T	I	P		R	A	M		P	A			
S	N	A	G		H	A	M	M	E	R		
	C	O	P		D	O	E					
A	N	K	A	R	A		P	A	T	H		
P	I			Y	E	T		T	O	O		
E	C	H	O		S	O	B		D	O		
S	H	O	P	S		R	A	P	I	D		
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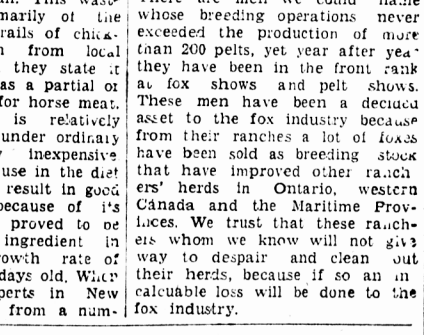
	D	I	N	T		H	E	W	S			

Yesterday's Answer



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

S E U G V M C L U A ' C N L G A E U P U T G Y G H S A E U P K N G I G V — N K N G.

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