

Seasoned Timber

By Dorothy Canfield

CHAPTER SEVEN

"Good grief! Uncle Tim, think of anybody's being hardy enough to take a walk on a night like this! Here, let me get to that fire."

Aunt Lavinia yawned and went to bed.

"I suppose you must be wondering what brings me here?" Canby asked.

"Aunt Lavinia told me you'd given up your job in the bank because you had broken your engagement. I failed to see the connection."

Canby nodded seriously. "That's the way it was. It was terrible. See here, Uncle Tim, since it's you, I'd kind of like to have you know the straight of it."

Canby stirred in his chair, reached for the matches, lighted his pipe and began his story. "Well, I guess there's no subtlety about it. I gave Mildred a raw deal, and I'm sorry for that."

"What ever was the matter with her?"

"That was the point. There wasn't anything the matter with her. She was the world's nicest! What's called a 'perfectly lovely girl!'"

"But, Canby, how did you ever get engaged to a girl that didn't suit you any better than that? Did she grab you?"

Canby groaned and slid farther down on his spine. "No, I did the grabbing, such as 'twas. Nobody was to blame but me. She's too much of a lady to grab anything. Let alone a man. Good grief! I never want to look at a girl again."

Timothy looked down from the lighted window of his warm safety, and said patronizingly. "All this means no more, Canby, than that you weren't in love with her."

"That's what you think," said Canby.

"What's all this about a trip around the world? Did Aunt Lavinia dream that?"

"No, I told her. Why, the point is, I'm off the banking business too. I don't like it. I never had liked it, so when I got up my nerve to leave good-bye to Mildred, why, while I was about it, I kissed my hand to the bank, too."

"I brought up a deal or two I'd helped them hush up. The Banking Commissioner was there. I called him a name, Gosh, that did me good. Well, before that, I'd realized on everything I had, and put it in travelers' cheques. So here I am, free, male, white and twenty-seven, with the world before me as long as five thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars and sixty-one cents will last me. Well, what can you do with a capital of five thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars? I ask you. All that came into my head was one of these world cruises — there was a folder about it on the counter in the place where I got my travelers' cheques. Maybe I'll find me a job in Indo-China. I want to get in some skiing somewhere, too. I've never yet had enough. Maybe I'll go to Norway."

"Well, anyhow, we've got to get to bed tonight," said Timothy.

Canby picked up his suitcase and followed him towards the stairs.

Alone in his room Timothy pulled a chair up to his table, lumbled for paper in a drawer, took out his fountain pen and began in the large square handwriting familiar to two decades of Academy students. "My darling Susan. I am just back from your old home — yes, I went all the way up to the old house on foot — and the reason I did was because . . . After a moment's hesitation he tore up what he had written, thinking as he pushed away from the table, "If there is one thing a man wants to say with his own voice and his own arms, and one thing a woman wants to hear and feel, not read off a piece of paper . . ."

At the breakfast table the next morning they ate in silence till Aunt Lavinia said "Take that last piece of bacon, Canby. It's not so bad as most American bacon."

Burgess Bedtime

Continued from page 10

family that never grows to large size. In fact, fully grown Ringneck Snakes are so small that folks not acquainted with them might readily think they were little more than babies themselves.

Peter didn't know what to say. This upset what he had been so sure of. That old Snake couldn't possibly be their mother. Would she have taken somebody else's babies into her mouth to protect them? That would be hard to believe.

"Do you know what I think?" asked Mrs. Peter.

"What do you think?" Peter wanted to know.

"I think that old Snake lost her dinner," replied Mrs. Peter. "I think she swallowed them for a dinner, but they didn't get way down to her stomach before they came up again."

It was a good guess on the part of Mrs. Peter. It is a long way from a Snake's mouth to the stomach, and those little Snakes hadn't yet been swallowed all the way. They were only part way down. Bowser the Hound had started the big Snake so that she had been unable to finish swallowing them and had lost them. If Bowser the Hound had not come along when he did, it is unlikely that those baby Ringneck Snakes ever would have been seen again. Probably whenever little Snakes are swallowed by bigger Snakes, it is not for their protection but because the bigger Snake is hungry. It would seem that Snakes have no mother love. They are like the folk in this respect.

Interest Revives In The Lemay Disappearance

MONTREAL, Oct. 30 (CP)—Contradictory statements about the fate of pretty Huguette Lemay have revived interest in the mystery of her disappearance 10 months ago in Florida.

Georges Lemay, her well-to-do, 26-year-old husband, came out with a statement that he has proof she is alive.

Montreal lawyer Raymond Daoust, a brother of the petite Montreal beauty who was 24 when she vanished at Key West, declared the Lemay family "does not believe she is alive."

James O. Baker, Florida sheriff's deputy, who probed the disappearance, said at Key West: "Evidence indicates she is dead. Blood-stained garments found on the Tamiami Trail were identified as having been in Lemay's car."

Lemay issued his statement when a newspaper dispatch from Key West said he had declared in a telephone interview that Mrs. Lemay is alive and he planned divorce action against her in January.

Lemay confirmed the interview. He added he would prove that the "blood-stained garments" mentioned by Deputy Sheriff Barker of Monroe County "never existed elsewhere than in the imagination of a policeman eager for publicity."

What brought up the case again months after it was half-forgotten was Lemay's statement last week-end he would go to Miami to clarify the disappearance as soon as Barker is out of office.

Lemay said he had been informed Barker's term of office was due to end "in a few weeks."

Barker said today at Key West he is suffering from arthritis and has resigned his deputy's commission.

He added he is turning over the file on Huguette Lemay's disappearance to Monroe County authorities.

Barker was a key figure in police investigations of the mystery earlier in the year. He entered the case when the Montreal woman vanished Jan. 4 after she had reported to have left her husband on a bridge where they were fishing to get warmer clothing from their car 100 yards away.

"That was the last seen of her. A Monroe County grand jury last March declared after hearing evidence, including Barker's testimony, its belief Mrs. Lemay was dead."

The jury suggested Lemay, by then back in Montreal, should go to Miami to appear as a witness "and waive immunity when so doing."

The husband refused. His word that he would return to Key West after Barker left office was his first public statement since then.

Comes from the Rollins farm. Canby fell to thinking and came out of it with, "How come there's still a farmer smokes his own bacon? Out in the packing house country where I've been, they say they can't afford to."

"Well, they can't here now, of course," said Timothy.

"But how'd they ever do it? That's what I'd like to know."

It was a subject on which Timothy had thought a good deal. He launched forth: "Well, general farming used to pay here—just about as it did anywhere. Of course there's still dairying. But dairying's like everything else. It's only the big combinations that can hold their own. The individual farmer hasn't a look-in. Still, there's something rather interesting in the air there, the co-operative movement."

Canby said, "Well, I guess I'll go out and bat around the old town, and see if I'd know anybody."

"Hold on!" said Timothy. "You haven't looked at the thermometer. You don't know what to wear yet."

They went to a window together and looked out at the tube of mercury. Canby whistled. "Twelve below, with the sun shining like that!" They walked together to the hall closet where the wraps were kept. Canby got down on his knees and began to rummage on the floor of the closet among the overshoes, rubbers, and skates.

Wearing Timothy's red and black windbreaker with the sheepskin collar turned up, and Timothy's cap with the ear flaps pulled down, and mittens and lumberman's socks and pacs, he went out as Timothy started up to his study to answer the personal letters which in term time always piled up on his desk waiting till a so-called vacation allowed him to turn from one kind of work to another.

Timothy took the cover off his typewriter, looked at the keys; decided to clean them, decided it would take too long, and began to write.

He pulled another letter to him. He read it, thought for a moment, put a sheet in the machine and began, "Dear Bud; I believe if I were you I would tell that girl . . ."

when two stories below him the lunch bell rang. He sprang up so eagerly as to tip his chair over, and went downstairs as fast as his lame knee would let him.

Canby was there, his face reddened by the cold.

To be continued

RELATIVE SIZE Europe forms about 1/14th of the land surface of the globe, while Asia covers nearly one-third.

CULTURAL CITY WINNIPEG—(CP)—Max Sheindel, formerly a member of a Viennese ensemble, says Winnipeg is known throughout Europe as a centre of culture. He said that was the reason he decided to settle here and form a Jewish theatre group.

Parliamentary Assistants And Cabinet Rewards

OTTAWA — (CP) — A House of Commons member appointed parliamentary assistant to a Minister is about half-way to a cabinet post. Exactly half the eligible list of Parliamentary assistants appointed since the office was established 10 years ago now are members of the Privy Council.

Ten are members with portfolios in the present cabinet. Another, former Fisheries Minister Mayhew, has just been appointed Ambassador to Japan.

Prime Minister St. Laurent has 18 Ministers with portfolios—heads of Government departments—and two without portfolios.

Started in 1942 Since April 29, 1942, when the first of the Parliamentary assistants were named—to help war-burdened Ministers of Defence, Finance, and Munitions and Supplies—30 members of the Commons have been appointed.

Of those, two died, two were appointed to the bench, two returned to private life, one went to the Senate and one to the provincial political field.

Of the remaining 22 still in the field, 11 obtained cabinet posts and 11 are still on the job as Parliamentary assistants, in line for later cabinet jobs.

Thus it would seem that the proper target for an ambitious young member of Parliament should be a Parliamentary assistantship which, the record to date shows, gives him a 50-50 chance for a place in the Privy Council.

Get \$4,000 Extra The job is an interesting one for a private member, apart from the chance for advancement. It adds \$4,000 to the \$6,000 a private member receives in indemnity and expense allowance.

A Parliamentary assistant is a member of the House of Commons chosen to help a Cabinet Minister handle his legislation and estimates in the Commons, reply to questions for him and otherwise aid him in the conduct of his departmental duties.

He does not attend cabinet meetings. He is just a private member who gets extra pay for doing extra work which keeps him busier than the average private member and keeps him in Ottawa longer.

In the United Kingdom Parliamentary assistants are called "parliamentary secretaries" who do exactly the same sort of job but get no extra pay for it. The United Kingdom official takes his compensation in experience and the hope for advancement.

Hold Important Posts Former Parliamentary assistants now in the cabinet, in order of their appointment, are: Defence Minister Claxton, Transport Minister Chevrier, Health Minister Martin, Finance Minister Abbott, Resources Minister Winters, Veterans Minister Lapointe, Mines Minister Prud'homme, Citizenship Minister Harris, Fisheries Minister Sinclair and Solicitor General Campney. The 11th was Fisheries Minister Mayhew.

Parliamentary assistant still on the job, in order of their appointments, are: George McIlraith (Ottawa West) Trade and Commerce; P. E. Cote (Verdun-Lasalle) Labor; Robert McCubbin (Middlesex West) Agriculture; J.W. MacNaught (Prince Fisheries); L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South) Veterans Affairs; J. A. Blanchette (Compton-Frontenac) National Defence; William Benedickson (Knox-Rainy River) Transport; J. G. Leopold Langlois (Gaspé) Post Office; Jean Lesage (Montmagny-Lislet) External Affairs; Dr. E. A. McCusker (Regina City) Health; and John Dickie (Halifax) Defence Production.

Young Maharajah Takes Throne Of Remote Bhutan

By Adrienne Farrell NEW DELHI, India, Oct. 30 — (Reuters) — Moon-faced young Maharajah Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Monday formally acceded to the throne of Bhutan, a remote Himalayan state visited by few white men.

A solemn Buddhist ceremony in Paro, the religious capital, ushered in the 24-year-old Maharajah's reign over the mountainous, 18,000-square-mile area edged between Tibet and India. It is known to the west as "The Land Of The Last Horizon."

A 1949 treaty with India granted Bhutan internal independence but provided for Indian guidance in foreign affairs. The feudalistic state has no main roads, no taxes in money, no national army, no political parties and virtually no foreign trade.

Foreigners are barred from the state unless they have the Maharajah's permission to cross the border.

The new ruler over 300,000 people, in order of their appointments, are: George McIlraith (Ottawa West) Trade and Commerce; P. E. Cote (Verdun-Lasalle) Labor; Robert McCubbin (Middlesex West) Agriculture; J.W. MacNaught (Prince Fisheries); L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South) Veterans Affairs; J. A. Blanchette (Compton-Frontenac) National Defence; William Benedickson (Knox-Rainy River) Transport; J. G. Leopold Langlois (Gaspé) Post Office; Jean Lesage (Montmagny-Lislet) External Affairs; Dr. E. A. McCusker (Regina City) Health; and John Dickie (Halifax) Defence Production.

Younger Group Although Parliamentary assistants are generally younger than the age class formerly selected for the cabinet, their promotions have not altered the average cabinet age which in 1943, in a cabinet of 20, and today with a cabinet of 22 (both including the Prime Minister) remains within a fraction of 56. Average age of the 10 present Cabinet Ministers who were former Parliamentary assistants is 48.6, and the rest 60.8.

On April 9, 1942, the then Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, announced appointment of the first Parliamentary assistants.

Such a scheme had long been advocated and provision was made in the appropriations some time earlier. The first appointments were to provide assistance to Ministers of Defence, Finance and Munitions — departments heavily loaded with war responsibilities.

The prime objective was to relieve busy Ministers of constant attendance in the House and of numerous routine matters connected with their parliamentary duties.

But the poll of talent so created has, in practice, set up a sort of preparatory school for the Privy Council.

Canada's Exports Increase In First 9 Months Of 1952

OTTAWA, Oct. 30 — (CP) — Canada's exports jumped by more than \$360,000,000 in the first nine months of 1952 as a boost in volume of shipments outweighed the impact of weakening prices.

Shipments rose to a peak of \$3,180,690,000 for the nine months from \$2,818,242,000 in the similar nine months of 1951, the Bureau of Statistics reported Monday.

Officials estimated the current trend may lead to a new high for the year, surpassing the previous record of almost \$4,000,000,000 reached a year ago.

Shipments were higher to virtually all parts of the world, with the exception of the United States, Canada's top customer, which has placed an embargo against Canadian cattle and meat because of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan earlier this year.

The trend toward lower prices continued in September. Average prices of Canada's exports dropped almost five per cent from September a year ago, but volume jumped about 10 per cent.

This increased the value of the month's shipments to \$341,200,000 from \$223,500,000 last year and helped provide the 13-per-cent boost over the nine-month period. However, in a previous preliminary statement, the Bureau estimated imports during September at \$349,100,000, up from \$311,500,000 last year. With imports outpacing exports, a \$7,900,000 deficit resulted. The only other monthly deficit this year was a slight \$700,000 adverse balance last May.

Despite the deficits, monthly surpluses brought the nine-month surplus to \$235,200,000, a vast improvement over the \$23,800,000 deficit in the first nine months of 1951.

During the nine-month period, exports to the U. S. slipped to \$1,700,000,000 from \$1,717,000,000. There were increases in most commodities except wood and paper products which declined \$41,000,000 to \$791,000,000 from \$831,000,000, and animal and vegetable products which dropped off sharply to \$110,000,000 from \$205,000,000.

Shipments to the United Kingdom rose significantly to \$580,000,000 from \$447,000,000, led by a \$34,000,000 jump in agricultural and vegetable products to \$201,492,000 from \$167,600,000.

Sales to continental Europe

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jumped to \$342,000,000 from \$231,000,000, while shipments to Latin America climbed to \$202,000,000 from \$132,000,000.

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