

# Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

CHAPTER X  
(Continued)

"I can take care of old man Harper. He owes me money."

"I wouldn't talk to you many people about this well, Mr. Mason," Gary advised. "If you get a wildcat down and it turns out to be a producer, the wise thing to do would be to shut it down and keep quiet about it. You might want to get leases on the other land that touches your pool."

"I don't want a lot of land. All I want is a good oil well. And I've got a fat chance to keep this well quiet. Everybody in the county knows about it already."

"That's because you've talked too much," Mona Lee said. "If you get a corn on a little toe, everybody in town knows about it in fifteen minutes."

"Now you know it isn't that soon, Mother. It takes a couple of hours, anyway."

"If you don't lease this borderline land," Gary reminded him, "somebody else will. You may get neighbors you don't want. And if you control the leases you can probably interest some of the big companies."

"I tell you I want to keep this for myself. I don't want a lot of speculators mixed up in it."

"Maybe," Gary said patiently, "there is a way to keep speculators away from oil—but I've never heard of it being done. And if the speculators don't hear about it, the shyster lawyers will. They're the fellows who have made the

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## Ocean-Freighter Fleet Continues To Dwindle

MONTREAL (CP)—Canada's dwindling ocean-going freighter fleet fell to 19 vessels Thursday—lowest since 1939.

Officials of Montreal Shipping Ltd. announced sale of the 139-ton freighter Mont Clair to unidentified Italian interests. Sale price was not disclosed.

Officials said the vessel will be delivered at an unnamed European port this week.

The Mont Clair, which served during the war as a supply ship to the United Kingdom, follows two sister ships into foreign registry. The freighters Mont Gaspé and Mont Alta were sold to British interests two months ago.

The sale was made under federal government regulations that proceeds from the transaction be placed in a fund for the construction of new Canadian flag vessels.

Harbor sources here also reported the sale Thursday of the Canadian ocean tanker Imperial Quebec to Italian interests.

Officials of the Imperial Oil Company, the ship's owners, refused to confirm the sale but said negotiations are under way for the disposal.

The tanker has been put on the market because of high operating and labor costs.

most money out of the oil business so far."

"Well, I'll tell you, son—you get me somebody to get me a derrick up and a drill contractor that knows his job, and I'll tend to the law business and the rest."

"You send that wire off to Junior now, Harvey, right away. We're not going to have these children ruined just because you think maybe there's oil out there in that old pasture. And you'd better see about getting those calves unloaded when they come in, too. Slim's having a duck fit all over the place."

"All right, all right, Mother, don't shove me! I've got about a thousand things to see to—I can't be in forty places at once."

"If you could be in just one place and keep your head on your shoulders, it would help a lot," said Mona Lee dryly.

"Would you speak to Adelaide before you go to Austin about taking me over to the oil fields in the car, Mr. Mason?" Gary asked.

"My gosh, aren't you kids speaking?"

"Nothing's wrong," Mona Lee put in quickly. "You know how Addie is—always tearing around places. If she didn't want to bother with taking Gary, she'd just say so if he asked her—but if you tell her you want her to do it, she'll listen."

"Well, if she thinks I'm keeping up that car just to haul a lot of boys from town around in—"

"Oh, Harvey, you don't have to yell! Just tell her what you want her to do."

"You want me to go now, sir?"

"Why, sure—the quicker the better. Hey Addie!" Harvey raised his voice in a whoop as he went down the stairs.

Adelaide was waiting in the car when Gary went down. "All right, mister," she said. "Here's your taxi."

"Thanks a lot. I hope I didn't interfere with any of your plans?"

"I was supposed to be playing bridge at Grace's, but she can just find somebody else. She's being snippy anyway, and Oliver goes around telling people that Dad's crazy and will probably go broke."

CHAPTER XI

Gary looked at the prairie and the swampy places where lazy, shallow rivers ran and spiky white lilies turned their faces up to the sky, looking angelic to hide the fact that they wore a thousand spiny thorns. He looked at the white-faced calves staring over fences, and a pear orchard in bloom—and then suddenly a head the rolling landscape was punctuated with a hundred steel exclamation points, making a staccato fringe against the sky.

"There she is," he said. "There's your oil."

"They always give me a thrill," Adelaide said, slowing down as the forest of derricks fringed the horizon all around. "Like sailing ships—or flags waving. They're so dramatic that down under them greasy black oil is blubbling up out of a dirty pipe—but they do look like a stage setting."

"That's because they're like skyscrapers—and bridges—and big ships. Drama went into the building of them—human drama. Pride and ambition and greed and cruelty; little men working with their brains, fighting stress and wind

## T. B. Death Rates Continue To Fall

(Health Week News)

If it is true that there are two sides to every story the story of tuberculosis in Canada is typical. It is at once cheering and sobering. The cheerful side is that death rates continue to fall. The 1952 rate of 17.0 per 100,000 is the lowest Canada has ever had, and it is only a third of the rate ten years before.

But each year there are still more than 10,000 new cases, and notwithstanding the new low in 1952 there were more than 2,400 deaths. This is a grim reminder that as long as tuberculosis exists it will cause many deaths.

It is true that earlier detection of cases, enough beds to permit prompt treatment, new developments in surgery and new drugs have combined to restore health to thousands who would once have been doomed, but thankfulness for these advances must not delude anyone into thinking that death from tuberculosis can be wiped out without wiping out the disease.

Another dangerous pitfall to be avoided is the idea that given time tuberculosis will automatically disappear. The gains recorded year after year are not due to mere passage of time but to the hard, persistent efforts which go into programs of tuberculosis control.

Year after year these programs have been intensified and broadened so that more Canadians are reached with better services. There are more sanatorium beds, more clinics for diagnosis, more mass surveys to find unknown cases, more special surveys of high incidence groups, more rehabilitation and more education concerning tuberculosis.

Such expansion has called for increased outlay both of taxes and voluntary donations raised through the Christmas Seal Sale. Canadians are spending \$18,000,000 more annually on tuberculosis control than they did ten years ago. What they may wonder is how they bought with the money.

Had the 1942 TB death rate continued there would have been 4,900 more deaths from tuberculosis in 1952 than there were. Those who judge by humanitarian standards are struck by the richness of the return from the investment of the extra \$18,000,000 for they see it in terms of homes saved from the bleakness of being motherless or the privation which generally attends loss of the breadwinner. But what of those who take a "practical" view? To them the answer is that the average cost of saving lives was less than \$4,000 per person. A brief study of the value of life as computed for insurance purposes will demonstrate the soundness of the outlay.

Tuberculosis is going but it isn't gone. The advances so far have been well worth the effort and money entailed and this will hold for complete eradication—when we get it.

and storm and the untamed power that lies under the earth—untamed and unpredictable."

"I didn't know you were a poet, Gary."

"Not with words—but there's rhythm in a scene like this! If you climb to the top of one of those hundred-foot boys, you feel the sway of the wind and the tremor of the earth under you. You can almost feel the old world breathe and mutter down inside her fiery bosom, and when she blows out a blast of her rage, and your well turns into a fiery crater or a spouting, shrieking demon of gas that no man can come near—then you know what force it is—and how little men know about it."

"They look quiet enough now, but so proud. They know how tall they are, the shining things. Gracious, there are a lot of them, aren't there? Look down that way—they go for miles!"

"Too many," Gary said. "Ten wells could pump all the oil that now feeds a thousand. But every man who owns or leases a little patch of ground wants to go down by himself. And the waste has been something that oil men don't like to think about now. Millions in by-products thrown away because oil was in a hurry and greedy for wealth, and couldn't wait for science to catch up with it."

(Continued)

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## Picture - of - The - Month



Winner of the "table top" contest for January, sponsored by the Camera Club of Charlottetown, was George L. Lewis, whose photograph, "Snowbound," (above) was taken with a twin-lens Reflex camera. Those realistic snow banks were created on top of a card table, with eight pounds of salt, cotton batten and Christmas toys. The result shows the reward of the photographer's painstaking work.

## L. M. Montgomery Chapter Hold Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Chapter of the I. O. D. E. was held at the home of Mrs. Ron Smith, on Monday evening.

Mrs. Ron Smith, Regent, was in the chair. The meeting opened with prayer.

The Regent stated her appreciation of the Chapter, and also of the officers and various committees during the year. There followed reports of the officers and committees.

The following are the highlights given in the report of Mrs. Frank Andrew, secretary.

A new project was started in the form of aiding the Cerebral Palsy Association with donations as seen needed. Two walkers were presented by the Chapter, and also toys that would aid in the development of the children. At Christmas time the Chapter gave some of the children a Christmas party which included gifts and refreshments.

Other projects carried on by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Chapter included aid to adopted schools, nurses scholarship, picnic for children at Mt. Herbert Oppenheim, layettes for Save the Children Fund, crates for Greek Earthquake victims. Money for flood victims in Holland, scholarship in the P. E. I. Musical Festival Association.

The Chapters' donations during the year were the Shipping and Cigarette Fund, Westminster Abbey Appeal Fund, new wing at Sunset Lodge, new Canadians Christmas party at Legion Home and a sum to a student to enable him to take a course in Social Service Work.

Their fund raising projects were a square dance, talent contest among the members, cake sale, sale of candy at Little Theatre play and sale of cook books at Green Gables. All projects proved successful.

The Chapter was honored to have Miss Katherine Bethune, chosen to be National Councilor.

The treasurer, Mrs. Ian Rankin, gave her report.

The election of officers followed:

Honorary Regent, Mrs. William Brehaut; Regent, Mrs. Olive Stewart; 1st Vice Regent, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Jr.; 2nd Vice Regent, Mrs. Frank Andrew; Secretary, Mrs. Don MacLeod; Treasurer, Mrs. Ian Rankin; Educational Sec'y, Miss Katherine Bethune; Echoes Secretary, Mrs. Ross Down; Standard Bearer, Miss Muriel McInnes; Councilor, Mrs. Ron Smith and Mrs. T. D. DeBlais.

Lunch was served. The hostesses for the evening were Kitty Bethune and Ann Rankin.

## Burgess Bedtime

Continued from page 10

to try to catch me." Then he began to walk back and forth around her, bobbing and bowing, and making love as only a pigeon can.

Meanwhile, plans were being made for a very long pigeon race in which Farmer Brown's Boy had entered Homer the Roamer. It would be a race so long that only the strongest flyers would be entered.

## U: K. Conservative Leaders Woo Protectionists

By ALAN HARVEY  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP)—Britain's Conservative leadership is quietly trying to convince an important section of the party that the great days of imperial preference are over.

In the process, R. A. Butler, chancellor of the exchequer, and his associates undoubtedly have the hearty blessings of the Canadian government, and the implacable opposition of Canadian-born Lord Beaverbrook.

The Conservative party has long contained elements with a strong hankering for protectionist trading. Now the heads of government have the task of persuading these elements to support the more liberal policies which successive British administrations have followed since the Bretton Woods agreement of 1945.

Broadly, the British government is pledged to move back as quickly as it can to a trading system free of financial restrictions wherever the money position makes that possible. But the movement often collides with a deep-rooted Conservative impulse to strengthen imperial preferences, the "conga!" trade as it were, within the sterling-area club.

Imperial System Appeals

The imperial system has considerable appeal for British manufacturers. It means that whenever British goods become hard to sell in world markets, exemptions within the Commonwealth and colonies, and tariff bars outside, might be manipulated by the "club."

There are signs the government is trying to immunize its followers against such alluring theories. These are the portents:

1. In a House of Commons speech Tuesday, Butler said the recent meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers at Sydney, Australia, confirmed the Commonwealth's decision to work toward a freer system of trade and payments.

"Indeed," Butler added, "I know of no other decision which would keep the policies of the old and

## That Body Of Yours

Continued from page 2

ity but many of us fail to see that illness of the individual is a concern of the community. We may fail to realize this until some epidemic strikes the community.

"When he is sick, the individual creates a social vacuum which affects others than his immediate family. Certain other individuals must spend some of their time caring for him. The cost of his illness must be paid for somehow. Illness of the individual, therefore, like fire, flood, or other destructive processes, is always an economic loss to the community."

Illness of the individual is not, therefore, a "family" affair.

Dr. Means reminds us that the great health campaigns of the twentieth century waged both by governmental and voluntary forces against tuberculosis, venereal disease, pneumonia and polio, heart disease, and rheumatism are evidence of the growing realization that the illness of individuals may vitally affect all of the people.

## Dorothy Dix's Column

Continued from page 2

six months to act the role of a conscientious wife and mother. Drop the melodramatic part of a loveless heroine for at least that length of time. By the time your self-probation is over, I bet you'll have decided home, husband and baby are enough to fill your life.

You certainly have no guarantee your friend will break up his home, even if you abandon yours, and I'm sure it takes little imagination to foresee your future in that case. Minus husband and lover, you'll face a hostile world alone. Isn't it better to settle for the certainties of the present even though they may not be as alluring as you like? The realities you have are certainly enough for most women.

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm a girl of 17 and have quite a few dates, but suddenly my mother doesn't seem to trust me. She appears to have a fear that something will happen to me. I try not to cause her to worry. Now, she won't trust me to be alone in the house with my boy friend, who is a very polite, considerate young man.

FLORRIE

ANSWER: Your mother is right in not wishing you to be alone in the house with a boy. The situation, for one thing, could easily become a looking ugly gossip. Mom's anxiety is quite usual for teenagers' parents. Looking back we can see how needless most of the worry was, but watching our youngsters grow up, and realizing the many pitfalls into which they may fall, is bound to make us concerned. Continue to show that you are trustworthy, and Mom will get over her worrying.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of interest through this column.

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## Nfld. Lumber Mill Destroyed By Fire

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—A big lumber mill and an adjoining building were destroyed by fire early today at Chamberlains, about 15 miles from here.

Firemen were called to the scene shortly after midnight, but when they arrived the mill was a mass of flames. The other building was used to store finished wood products.

There was no official estimate of damage. Cause of the fire was not known.

new Commonwealth countries and Canada in step."

2. Butler was reported to have told Conservative members privately that imperial preference is in effect outdated.

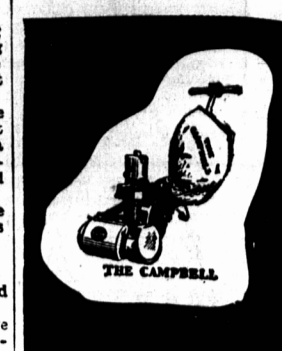
3. Britain recently signed a trade agreement with Japan. Lord Beaverbrook's paper promptly tagged it the "black pact". A cartoon in Beaverbrook's Daily Express Wednesday showed Japanese traders rushing up with shoddy cloth as out-of-work Lancashire weavers lined up for the dole.

The British policy is certain of a warm welcome in Canada, whose destiny is to a considerable extent pinned on multilateral trade.

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