

**Table Top**

by Eden Phillips

**CHAPTER II**

Continued

"Manuel Moreno is a good man, and honest, and knows quite a lot about birds. Your parrot is seventy, or older; but he is very well preserved and in good plumage. His eyes are bright and he is happy and enjoying life. Where do you take him?"

"To England, Sir."  
"Then be most careful. He comes from a mighty hot place, Lake Titicaca. Keep him at the best temperature to be found in England — if indeed you can talk of temperatures in that island."  
Suddenly the parrot intervened. He had not as yet spoken in his new owner's hearing, nor did he say much now; but he spoke a name, and to their surprise Jacob Fernandez recognized it.

**THE BIRD SPEAKS**

"Benny Boss! Benny Boss! Benny Boss!" cried the bird loudly, and rattled off a riddle of riddles which Tom assumed to be his own language. Then it cocked its head on one side, looked at them and seemed to expect a reply. But old Jacob was astounded. "Now that," he said, "is a most remarkable thing — a quite extraordinary happening! This bird, my young friends, has just spoken a name that was already familiar to me more than half a century ago!"

"Is there such a person as Benny Boss, sir?" asked Maine. "No," answered the other. "One may safely declare that this parrot's 'Benny Boss' has long joined the majority. But he was a very singular person — in his prime when I was young — and of such individuality and enterprise that I have never forgotten him and never shall. No man could tell you the true story of Benny Boss. He was such a liar that the truth about him is little likely ever to be known; but I had a good deal to do with him long ago, and he gave up his attempts to cheat me after he found that I knew far more about the matter than he did."

The speaker broke off. "There can be little doubt in my opinion that this was once his bird. It comes from his old home at Puno in the region of Titicaca, the greatest and grandest of our lakes. It was Benny who secured me my parrots, and not a few other good things indigenous to that district. Meet me after dinner in the smoking-room and you shall hear more."

"Benny Boss! Benny Boss!" bawled the parrot, and the old gentleman solemnly nodded to him. "You revive ancient memories, excellent bird," he answered, "and if at any time you enjoyed Benny's confidences, you must have heard many a sultry story and learned of many a doubtful deed!"

They met after dinner and Signor Fernandez inquired as to their names.

"To whom have I the honour of speaking?" he asked in his courtly way, and when Aylmer made answer, his reply awakened Jacob's

**Freetown and Vicinity**

—Mr. Scott Cairns recently received the sad news of the death of his nephew, Howard Sanborn, following an operation in Vancouver General Hospital. Howard is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Eber Sanborn of Grindrod, British Columbia, and was in his 28th year. Mrs. Sanborn is a sister of Mr. Scott Cairns, Lower Freetown. Mrs. Earle Pearson of Chelton is also a sister. Sincere sympathy is extended to the bereaved relatives.

Miss Nora Scales has returned home after spending the past week in North Bedouque, guest of her friend, Miss Joyce Birch.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse C. Burns and children Alan Kenneth and Dorothy Heather, spent August 6 at Stanley, guests of Rev. Vance McLean and Mrs. McLean.

Miss Alma Gould, Supervisor at Grose Hospital, Halifax, has re-

turned to Halifax, after having spent a pleasant holiday visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gould, DeSable and Mr. and Mrs. Scott Cairns, Freetown.

Mrs. Louise Clow of Fredericton, N. B., is visiting with friends in Bedouque and Freetown.

Repairs to Freetown United Church are now nearing completion, and the interior presents a very pleasing appearance. Messrs. Eldon Drummond, Essie Wright and Barlow Bird have had charge of the repairs and redecorating. are to be congratulated on the fine work accomplished.

Mrs. Louise Cairns, Mrs. Scott Cairns and Mrs. Allison Proffitt were among those attending the W. M. S. Rally in New London United Church on August 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Fowle and son Frank of Halifax, N. S., were recent visitors to the Island guests of Mrs. Fowle's sisters, Mrs. Andrew Jardine, Freetown, and Mrs. Arthur Haslam, Springfield.

Mrs. Richard Cordigan and granddaughter, Patricia of Malden, Mass., visited with friends in the village recently. Mrs. Cordigan is the former Daisy Haslam of Springfield.

Birch Grove Women's Institute met on Thursday, August 6, at the home of Mrs. Cecil Paynter. Sixteen members were present. Plans were made for having a pantry sale in the near future.

—AB

**Handling And Grading Damages To Tubers**

OTTAWA, Aug. 10.—Handling and grading potatoes may cause more injury or mechanical damage to tubers than the digging operations. Some farmers carefully supervise digging operations but neglect the subsequent operations.

In a recent test at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, reports A. I. Magee of the Field Husbandry Division, it was found that the potato digger caused 2.4 per cent major injury. This injury was increased to 4.6 per cent with the picking up and storing operation. After the potatoes were graded the total damage was further increased to 8.9 per cent. It is obvious then that most of the damage occurs during the storing and grading operations.

To prevent injury two rules should be followed. First, pad all machine and equipment parts that come in contact with the potatoes. Second handle the potatoes with care.

The hopper and deflectors of potato machines can be easily

**Canada's Export Trade Favorable**

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Kyoto, about 329 miles from Tokyo, was the capital of the Japanese Empire until the revolution of 1868.

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Lois MacEwen, Eleanor Hyde and Verna MacPhail sang "Jesus Bids Us Shine." Wilma and Doris Hyde and Sharon MacLean sang "Jesus Loves Me." A chapter from the Study Book was read and explained by Mrs. Charles Hyde. Miriam Hyde placed her money in the Birthday Box.

"I've Found a Friend" and the Misses' benediction closed the meeting. Games were played in the garden, and tea was served with Mrs. Pearl Scott, Mrs. Orville Murray and Mrs. Charles Hyde assisting the hostess.

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**BURGESS BEDTIME**

watching. As soon as she was sure he had left for good, she flew over where those babies were hiding. She didn't whirl over there as she had whirled away when she had left them. Those stout wings of hers can be very noisy, or they can be very quiet, when she wants them to be.

For two or three minutes she stood looking and listening. Then she clucked softly. Little downy chicks came popping up all around her just as if they were popping out of the ground. She hurried them across the road. With a little splash of relief she led them to one of her favorite hiding places.

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