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Light the Lightest Tobacco

Diamond Cut Diamond

By JANE BUNKER

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I listened—I must have been mistaken—though I'd only barely closed it and was turning out the hall electric. The elevator that was taking Claire and Billy down was still on its way. Could monsieur have walked up?

The raps were repeated—unquestionably on my door. Without waiting—or even thinking to call through and ask who was there—I threw the door open.

Mrs. Delario whipped in and closed it behind her.

Her face was almost concealed by a heavy black veil, but I recognized her and cried out, "Why, Mrs. Delario!" in utter amazement. What under the heavens had brought her there?

She laid a black-gloved finger on her lips to signify silence; she thrust something in my hand; she opened the door and whipped out as she came, shutting it in my face.

She hadn't uttered a word—she had barely caused a sound; even the door closed behind her noiselessly. I tore it open as my first impulse—when I got my breath—thinking she'd be waiting for the elevator. In the few seconds of my astonishment she had gone.

I checked a call to her—"Mrs. Delario"—and listened for descending footsteps on the stairs but heard nothing.

I sank into a hall chair, quite unnerved—coming on top of what I'd been through that day, I feel I'd have had a justifiable cause for a faint on my own account; only I didn't swoon.

I kept asking myself: If it weren't an apparition how did she know which door to knock at? I have no door-plate and she'd evidently not asked George—he was taking the car down with Claire and Billy at the moment Mrs. Delario popped in. It didn't occur to me at first that she'd probably seen me, from the corner of the stairway, close that door after saying goodbye to the others. There had been three raps—classic apparitions always, I believe, rap thrice when they wish to enter your abode—they do not descend to push a button; and then she'd noiselessly whipped in and put something in my hand—

I became conscious of a hard object in my fist; opened the fist and beheld—the fatal box.

You could have knocked me over with a feather! Impossible that she'd brought it back! I dashed for the dining room where the light was and pulled off the cover of the box. There lay the diamonds!

With a sweeping gesture I flung them on the table—in one fell swoop I'd been tumbled off my lofty perch and had become a victim once more—just a disconcerted, worried victim, responsible for the fate of nations!

And having thrown them down—one of them fell off the table—I snatched them up—monsieur would return at any minute for that private interview with me, and now "what was I to tell him? I no longer had the gem-free conscience of an hour ago—I had the diamonds!

But I might have saved my agonies—monsieur did not return that night—he had other fish to fry.

The canny cleverness of monsieur's next move gave me when I knew it such keen intellectual joy that I forgave him everything.

He had argued it out thus: Either I should succeed or I should fail with Mrs. Delario. If I failed it would be for one of two reasons: either she denied all knowledge of the diamonds, or she had confessed to me yet had been able to blind me to secrecy. But in either case he would read my success or failure in my face the moment he greeted me.

My face was a blank. He hadn't expected to find it that way, but so it was—not a hint did I give him, first when I opened the door, or later while I talked with Claire. In fact, inside of fifteen minutes he became convinced that so far as I was concerned my mission was a failure and I was hedging for time and unwilling to confess it.

He was prepared for my failure—his chance of trapping her lay in his seeing her before I could communicate with her after seeing him. With a fake telegram, delivered by George at a preconcerted moment to serve as monsieur's excuse to leave the house, and also as a pretext to leave Claire in the house, keeping guard over Billy and my self—none of the three of us suspecting it—monsieur had taken his waiting automobile and swooped down on Mrs. Delario!

And she was expecting him! She had had an "impression" that he would come to her as soon as his interview with me was over, and she was not taken unawares.

The wild-eyed Swedish maid admitted him, showing him into the reception room and asking him to wait, as her mistress was "giving a reading."

A moment later Mrs. Delario came in coolly and asked to be excused—she had a sitter and could not possibly see monsieur this evening. Of course there was no sitter in the parlor room, but a muff and a box on the chair beside

him conveyed the impression there was a caller.

Monsieur played his surprise card instantly. Saying he would detain her but a moment he sprung it on her that I had told him she had the diamonds and he had come to apologize for the "unfortunate mistake" that had been made, and to arrange to get the stones "as soon as convenient."

It was a bold move; but Billy and I had taught him one thing—everything now depended on diplomacy, and if she denied having the stones he could do nothing.

It was also a bold lie—telling her I had said she had told me; but he failed to trip her even there; she says she "knew before the words were out of his mouth that it was a lie—that

"he" appeared in large white letters over his head."

"You must excuse me this evening—I have a sitter in the next room," she said quietly, and showed him she would not talk.

"But, madame, it is necessary that we make some arrangement—" "But, monsieur," she returned, "I cannot discuss the matter with you now."

"If you will so kindly permit me to wait—" he began, using all his diplomacy and feeling he net imagine!

She made a move on her own account—drawing herself up, she told him, "After the way you treated me last Monday—the accusations you brought against me of robbing your daughter—I positively will not talk with you for a single minute, unless you bring her with you."

He had not expected this demand, but he met it with a smile. "It is well!" he cried, determined to humor her to the last degree. "I return to the hotel and bring my daughter back with me immediately. We will await your convenience for an interview."

"I shall not be through here for an hour."

"Certainly, madame—at your convenience."

She saw him jump into a waiting automobile and dash away in the direction of his hotel. It was from there he dispatched the notes to Claire and me. Hardly was he out of sight before she had on her wraps and whisked out of the house and up to me with the diamonds. Not to let the elevator boy see her she had walked up and down on the opposite side of the street until she saw someone enter and go in the car; then she followed and crept softly to the top, where she remembered I had my flat. She had listened outside the door and had recognized both my voice and Claire's and hid herself on the dark stairway until she heard Claire and Billy leaving.

With that she had slipped in, but had not dared to waste a minute in explanations; and she was back again in her own house and her Swedish maid didn't even know that her mistress had been out.

A crafty plan on monsieur's part! He had, by getting Billy to escort Claire back, bottled up our activities as completely as if he had us gagged and handcuffed! And it all fell down because Claire fainted and went into hysterics when she reached the hotel! He did not see Mrs. Delario that night.

Neither did he see me—but then—he didn't intend to! I waited for the mysterious visit until half past ten, every minute feeling it more unwise of me to see him. At that hour, using its lateness as my excuse, I locked up, determined I'd not speak to him at all until I had had a chance to talk things over with Billy. I went to bed but not to sleep. I knew something unforeseen had happened—something Mrs. Delario must know or "sense," or she wouldn't have brought back the diamonds after the positive way I'd refused them in the morning.

I kept telling myself, "Oh, well—I'll know in the morning and I'll find some way to meet it when it comes. Things can't be any worse," and thus I fell asleep without an inkling of the muddle I'd be in before the sun set on another day.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Henry C. DeKock et ux to John Bunning et ux, Feb. 6, 1920; pt. lot 1, blk. 3, DeMotte; pt. 27-32-7, Keener twp.; \$6,000. W. D.

John Bunning et ux to Henry C. DeKock, Feb. 6, 1920; pt. nw se 27-32-7, \$400. Keener twp. W. D.

John Bunning et ux to Henry C. DeKock, Feb. 6, 1920; pt. se 27-32-7, 45 acres, \$3,600. W. D. Keener twp.

Flora R. Duggins to Joseph R. Fov, Aug. 14, 1919, s½ se nw 22-30-5 and s½ se nw, 22-30-5, Gilman twp., 40 acres, \$4,000. W. D.

William M. Dutton et ux to Frank B. Ham, Feb. 7, 1920, sw 1-31-5, Walker twp. \$10.00. W. D. Abraham H. Haun to Newton Sunderland, Feb. 9, 1920, s½ nw 10-28-6, Milroy twp.

Abraham H. Haun to Newton Sunderland, Feb. 9, 1920, w½ sw 10-28-6; 160 acres, \$15,200. W. D. Milroy twp.

Frank L. Hoover et ux to Eugene W. Lange, Jan. 3, 1920, n½ se 13-28-7 and s½ sw ne 13-28-7, Marion Twp. 100 acres, \$22,000. W. D.

Frank Lessig et ux to Verle Spencer, Jan. 26, 1920, e½ ne 34-32-6, Wheatfield Twp., \$8,000. W. D.

Fred H. Linback et ux to Arthur G. Catt, Sept. 4, 1919, e½ se 28-29-5, 80 acres, Hanging Grove twp., \$10,000. W. D.

John Hamstra et ux to Herman Osting, Feb. 5, 1920, pt sw nw 22-32-7, 38.50 acres, Keener Twp., \$3,950. W. D.

Dennis L. Hogan et ux to Joseph Halligan et al, Feb. 7, 1920 nw ne 20-29-6, Marion twp., \$6,400. W. D.

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Say It With Flowers
Holden's Greenhouse

Henry C. Jents et ux to Daniel Geyer, Dec. 2, 1919, sw ne 12-30-5 and nw se 12-30-5, 80 acres, Gilman twp., \$6,000. W. D.

Frances Koza et baron to C. F. Schoon, Dec. 11, 1919, Lot 1, DeMotte, Albert Konovsky's add., \$1,000. W. D.

H. A. Watters et ux to J. C. Cloyd, Feb. 11, 1920, n½ nw, sw nw, nw sw, 26-28-6, \$18,400. Milroy twp. W. D.

J. C. Cloyd et ux to Philip Kraft, Feb. 12, 1920, n½ nw, sw nw, nw sw, 26-28-6, 160 acres, \$22,400. Milroy twp.

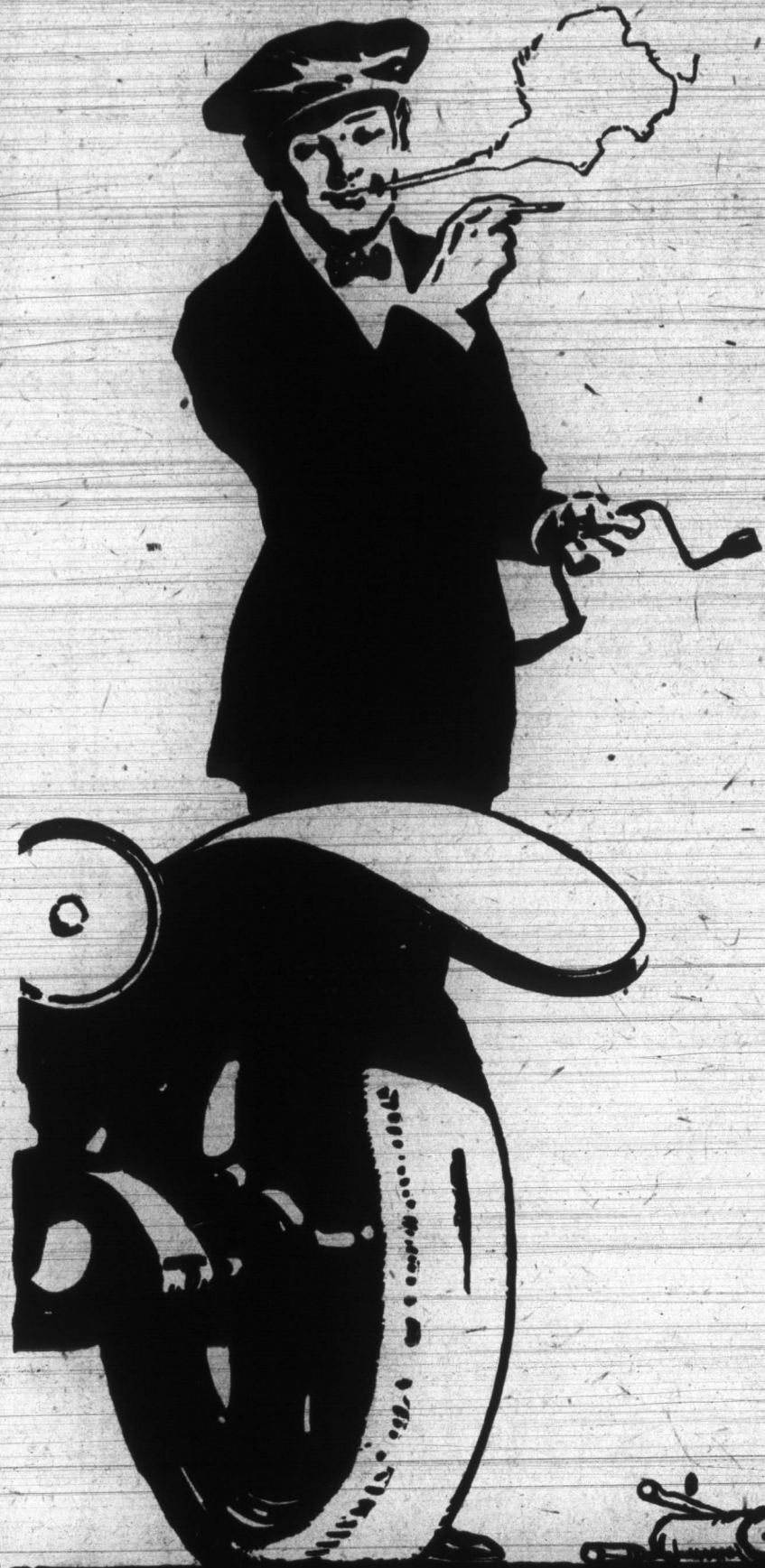
Granham Elijah et ux to A. Cook Drug Co., lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, blk 14, and lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, blk 13, Rensselaer Sunnyside add., \$15,000. W. D.

NOTICE.

All the suits contesting the will of the late Benjamin J. Gifford, are now disposed of and I am in a position to sell land. I have yet unsold several hundred acres of good land located in Jasper and Lake counties, which I will sell at auction on reasonable terms, but cannot take any trade.

Call at my office or at the office of T. M. Callahan, at Rensselaer, Indiana, for particulars.

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NOTICE.

All Redmen are requested to be present at the hall Friday evening, February 20. Business of importance and degree work.

BY ORDER OF SACHEM.

TAX RULING OF WIDE INTEREST

Newcastle, Ind., Feb. 17.—Fred G. Gause, judge of the Henry circuit court here, has overruled a demurrer filed by the state board of tax commissioners in an injunction suit brought by the Fletcher Savings and Trust company, of Indianapolis, holding that the method of assessing the capital stock and real estate of the company is in effect double taxation. Similar assessments in Indianapolis and Judge Gause's ruling will apply in the other cases, it was said.

The court said that the real question in the case involved whether the plaintiff, in investing \$639,000 of its capital fund in erecting a building on ground on which it holds a 99-year lease, with a privilege of renewal for 99 years more, acquired an ownership in real estate within the meaning of the law which provides that whenever a bank or trust company shall have acquired an ownership in real estate, then the amount of the investment in real estate which is carried in the capital stock account shall be deducted from the gross valuation of the capital.

It is expected the case will be appealed to the supreme court.

INDIANA WOMEN MAY GET PRIMARY VOTE

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 17.—It was semi-officially stated today at the state house that provision will be made for the participation of Indiana women in the May primary elections. Governor James P. Goodrich is quoted as authority for the statement that the special session of the legislature, which he says he will call "early in March" will give prompt attention to the matter of providing the machinery necessary for the participation of women in the primary. He estimates that 290,000 Indiana women will avail themselves of the privilege of the ballot this year.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

I have moved my real estate office to rooms over the Co-operative meat market, north side of public square.

GEORGE F. MEYERS.

540 VILLAGERS PARTICIPANTS IN DRUNKEN ORGY

London, Feb. 16.—Virtually the entire male population of the village of LaGrana, near Ferrol, Spain, was in a state of "helpless intoxication" for three days recently, the fishing industry and all other work being at a complete standstill, according to a Madrid dispatch.

"Owing to the stormy weather," it says, a number of cases of spirits, laden on incoming vessels had been washed overboard. The casks were picked up by fishermen, small tradesmen and mechanics, who, after selling part of the wreckage, assembled in a building and consumed dozens of bottles of brandy, rum and other spirits. The orgy lasted for six hours, at the end of which time the whole crowd was found lying in huddled heaps about the floor in an unconscious condition.

"A detachment of marines was dispatched to the building and in the presence of the captain of the port the people were shoveled like coal into six large carts and conveyed, still insensible to the naval hospital here, under escort of marines with fixed bayonets.

"The value of the liquor consumed is estimated at \$1,500. There are 540 patients ranging from 16 to 70 years old, in the hospital."

SUFFRAGE BEATEN IN MARYLAND ASSEMBLY

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 17.—The Maryland general assembly today decisively rejected the federal amendment for woman suffrage. In the senate the vote was 18 against and nine for ratification, in the house 64 against and 36 for ratification. Big delegations of suffragists came down from Baltimore, headed by Mrs. Donald Hooker. The committee on federal relations heard both sides.

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