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Tells His Wife's Experience for the Sake of Other Sufferers.

The following letter has been sent to Dr. T. A. Slocum, Ltd., for pub-

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A Difference on Nynamite.

To Jim Carrigan, the big red-faced contractor on the railroad cut through Horseback Ledge, came Padrone Angelo Valente with empty kerosene can one biting, snowless, December morning. "How heata dynamita?" asked he, in tones of despair. "Oil for stove all gone."

"Borrow some of Murphy at the east end. If he hasn't any, try Jensen."

\$ i"Murphy no gotta more than 'nough for self, nor Jensen, either. I go to town to

That meant a wait of at least an hour, and perhaps a good deal longer. In a halfhour twenty-four holes would be ready for loading. It was Saturday afternoon and time was precious.

Carrigan picked up an old grain-bag in which the dulled drills were carried to be sharpened. From a box in the squat toolshanty he took two dozen eight-inch sticks of dynamite, rolled in oiled paper, and looking for all the world like lemon yellow molasses candy. He dropped them into the sack.

"Take this to the engine-house and tell Drew to let you put it on the boiler," he said with decision.

Valente swung the bag over his shoulder and scrambled up the ladder.

The survey for the new railroad had called for a cut one thousand feet long and eighty deep through solid felspar. The general contractors were driving the work. Three "gangs," one at each base of the ridge and one on the backbone, were making havoc with steam and dynamite.

Carrigan's subcontract allotted him the center of the ledge. In his employ were an engineer, Morrison Drew; a fireman, Frank Hix; and forty Italian laborers. Already they had blasted a pit fifty feet deep. On the brink stood the boiler house and derrick, and near by ran a temporary track, on which the rock was hauled off as fast as it was hoisted out. The boiler furnished steam to the hoisting engine, to the pump that freed the pit of water, and to the three drills chugging away at the hard felspar.

Zero weather made it necessary to heat the explosive before it could be used; and this had been done by a pail of hot water on an oil stove.

As the "boss" was deciding where to start his next line of holes, his ears were greeted by the sound of excited talk from the boilerhouse. Then down the latter came Angelo again, bag on shoulder.

"Here, you, what are you bringing that dynamite back for?" demanded Carrigan, an-

grily. "Engineer tell me no put it on boiler, whimpered Valente.

"What!" shouted the contractor. "Let me talk to him!"

As fast as his two hundred and twenty pounds would permit, he puffed up the ladder | flame-jets leaping from boiler-top to ceiling. and stormed into the boiler-house.

"What's this I hear?" he bellowed to Drew, a small, dark-haired young man. "Did you tell Angelo he couldn't warm this dyna-

mite on the boiler?" "Yes, I did," replied the engineer.

"Didn't he tell you I sent him up with it?" "Yes," returned Drew, "but I thought you hadn't considered the matter carefully mite. It might consume itself harmlessly, enough when you gave him his orders. I'm stuff; and I don't think you can be any too careful with it. It seems to me that it'd be a good deal better to take an hour or so to send a man to Weston rather than to render your boiler insurance void and risk the life of everybody on the job.'

were born, and never had an accident yet? he hurried for another pair. Until the last Put that bag on the boiler, Angelo,"

"Not while I'm responsible for this machinery," was Drew's firm response.

The contractor flushed with anger. "Who owns this outfit, anyway? Who's hiring these men, and you, too? You know altogether too much, young man, to be wasting your time round here. You're discharged; plant's under your control, Hix. You can run it all right, can't you?"

"Sure!" said Hix, briskly. He was older than the engineer, and had always been a little jealous of him. Carrigan snatched the bag from the Italian's hands and laid ic on the boiler.

"I'll send one of the men up to fire for you," he said, and flung out of the door without another look at Drew.

The discharged engineer stood for a moment dumfounded. It is not pleasant to be thrown out of one's position just because one has been overfaithful to duty. Drew took off his working suit and began to make his few belongings into a bundle.

Hix busied himself about the machinery. After his first elation at being promoted, he felt sincerely sorry for Drew, and also a little apprehensive regarding his new responsibility. He ventured a few questions about the hoister. His former chief answered them cheerfully. He bore no malice against Hix. Then, as a short, stout Italian appeared in the doorway, he picked up his bundle and went out. He had no definite plans as yet, but thought he would call on the engineer at the east end of the cut.

A train of empty cars now backed in on the spur, and for the next twenty minutes Hix was busy at the engine, holsting out and dumping drags as fast as the Italians could load them. His green fireman, zealous to furnish plenty of steam, kept up a roaring blaze in the fire-box.

the loading of the drags, a task that his slight | him. knowledge of Italian rendered by no means

"Them dagoes'll wear me clean out!" he muttered. Now that his fit of anger was over, he felt sorry that he had discharged Drew. The holes were ready for the dynamite. He wanted to see how his new engineer and fireman were getting on, so he decided to go up for the explosive himself.

Just as the last car was loaded, a sheet of flame burst from the boiler-top. Almost fainting with terror, Hix realized that the over-heated plates had ignited the contents of the bag. With a wild yell of alarm, he bolted from the building, followed by the Italian; nor did the two stop running until they had put a safe distance between themselves and the threatening danger.

Carrigan had just set foot on the bottom of the ladder when he heard running feet above and Hix's panic-stricken yell:

"The dynamite's afire!"

The shout fell like the trump of doom on the workers penned in the pit. An explosion would send building, machinery and loaded cars hurtling down upon them. And not a man would escape death or maining.

All the strength went out of the boss's legs, and he wilted on the feldspar. Round him the shricking Italians scurried frantically. Some flattened themselves behind boulders. Others vainly tried to climb the steep walls. But not one dared to approach the ladder at the tep of which stood the enginehouse, with the smoke streaming from its windows.

With an effort Carrigan palled himself together. He had courage enough. With trembling limbs and pasty face he began climbing in the direction of the peril. He knew that nothing could be expected from Hix or the Italian. Oh, if he had not been

so hasty in discharging Drew! The former engineer was just returning from the eastern end of the cut. He was about a hundred feet away when the fleeing men burst from the building, and the smoke and flame proclaimed what had happened. He instantly understood the situation. For a moment he hesitated. Why should he, a man discharged unjustly for trying to prevent this very catastrophe, risk his life for a crowd of foreigners? Then, as a full perception came of what an explosion would mean to the men trapped in the gulf below the loaded cars, he started for the house on the

Inside was a smoky darkness, lighted by A strong sulphurous smell prevaded the air. The rafters were charring. The windows were covered with a black, greasy soot. Down the steel plates and into the cinders below was trickling a melted mass of deadly

Drew's head was cool and clear. He was familiar with the freakiness of burning dynaor at any second a thundercap might come not ashamed to say that I'm afraid of the that would wipe out the entire plant and kill every man in the vicinity.

Standing on an empty box close to the boiler, he reached up, and with his gloved hands brushed aside the charred folds of the bag. Grasping two blazing sticks, he ran a hundred feet from the building, and laid "Haven't I handled dynamite before you them carefully on the ground. Then back of the dynamite was carried out and extinguised the danger would not be over; for a single stick might do nearly as much damage

A pail of water caught his eye as he entered the house the second time. He laid the next two sticks on the brick hearth, and poured a thin stream on their flaming ends. you'll get your pay-check tonight. This They sputtered and crackled ominously, and he desisted, fearing that even such slight confinement of the explosive might bring about the very catastrophe he was trying to

Again he began to carry out the fiery torches. He worked alone. The locomotive engineer and the brakeman who coupled the cars had run for their lives. From a distance Hix and the Italian watched him, but offered no aid. As he was hurrying back to the boiler-house for the fifth time, Carrigan's pallid face appeared above the ladder top. Drew spoke to him sharply:

"Get away from here, if you value your

The boss meekly tottered aside without

disputing his former employe. The flames had eaten through Drew's gloves, and his skin was scorched by the hot, sticky paste. He did not dare stop to remove it. Soldiers have passed through the thick of great battle and not been in half the peril this man encountered in the performance of what he deemed his duty. Back and forth he ran, and flaming brands ever growing shorter. Finally the last one had been safely carried out, and had burned itself to harmlessness on the ground.

The Drew began to put out the fire in the roof of the engine-house; and Hix and the Italian, sure that all danger was now over, came back to help him. Carrigan came up, too, and looled on without saying anything. After the smoking rafters had been well drenched, Drew bathed his parched, grimy On the bottom of the pit Carrigan directed | hands, and turned to go; but the boss stopped

"Drew," he said, "I was a fool and worse to put that stuff on the boiler, and I ask your pardon. You've got me out of a tight place at the risk of your own life. Will you take the job again at an advance of ten dollars a month, with the understanding that you are to have complete control of this boilerhouse? I won't step my foot into it, unless

you tell me I may. "I don't object," replied Drew. "One thing more," said Carrigan. "Will

you shake hands with me?' The engineer held out his scorehed fingers to the contractor.

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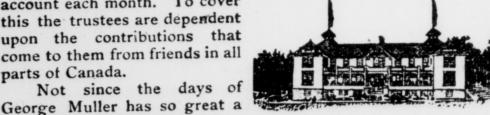
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