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NOTICE is hereby given that a
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diers' Aid Committee has been organ-
ized for the Counties of York, Sun-
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icton, as a district, with Dr. T. C.
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retary.

All employers of labor in said dis-
trict willing to give preference to re-
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BLACK IS WHITE

GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

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"I have heard you speak of Mr. Des-
mond a thousand times," said his wife.
There may have been a shade of em-
phasis on the prefix, but it was so
slight that no one remarked it save
the widow of John Desmond, who had
joined the group.

"Will you go to your room at once,
Mrs. Brood?" asked Mrs. Desmond.
The new mistress of the house had not
offered to shake hands with her, as
James Brood had done. She had
moved closer to Frederic and was
smiling in a rather shy, pleading way,
in direct contrast to her manner of the
moment before. The smile was for
her stepson. She barely glanced at
Mrs. Desmond.

"Thank you, no. I see a nice, big
fire and—oh, I have been so cold!"
She shivered very prettily.

"Come!" cried her husband. "That's
just the thing." No one spoke as they
moved toward the library. "We must
try to thaw out," he added dryly, with
a faint smile on his lips.

His wife laid her hand on Frederic's
arm. "It is cold outside, Frederic,"
she said; "very cold. I am not accus-
tomed to the cold."

He was prepared to dislike her. He
was determined that his hand should
be against her in the conflict that was



"But I shall not be a stepmother,"
She Said, Quickly.

bound to come. And now, in a flash,
a strange new emotion rushed up
within him like a flood. A queer,
wistful note of sympathy in her voice
had done the trick. Something in
the touch of her fingers on his arm
completed the mystery. He was con-
scious of a mighty surge of relief.
The horizon cleared for him.

"We shall do our best to keep you
warmth," he said quite gayly, and was
somewhat astonished at himself.

They had preceded the others into
the library. James Brood was divest-
ing himself of his coat in the hall, at-
tended by the leech-like old men. Mrs.
Desmond stood in the doorway, a de-
tached figure.

"You must love me, Frederic. You
must be very very fond of me, not
for your father's sake but for mine.
Then we shall be great friends, not
antagonists."

He was helping her with her coat.
"I confess I looked forward to you
with a good deal of animosity," he
said.

"But I shall not be a stepmother,"
she said quickly. Her eyes were ser-
ious for an instant, then filled with a
luminous smile. "I shall be Yvonne
to you, and you Frederic to me. Let
it be a good beginning."

"You are splendid!" he cried. "It's
not going to be at all bad."

"I am sure you will like me," she
said composedly.

Brood joined them at the fireside.
"My dear, Mrs. Desmond will show
you over the house when you are
ready. You will be interested in see-
ing the old place. Later on I shall
take you up to my secret hiding place,
as they say in books. Ranjab will
have the rooms in order by this eve-
ning. Where is your daughter Mrs.
Desmond?"

"She is at work on the catalogue,
Mr. Brood, in the jade-room. In your
last letter you instructed her to finish
that—"

"But this is a holiday, Mrs. Des-
mond," said he, frowning. "Jones,
will you ask Miss Lydia to join us for
tea at half-past four?"

"You will adore Lydia," said Fred-
eric to Mrs. Brood.

Apparently she did not hear him,
for she gave no sign. She was look-
ing about the room with eyes that
seemed to take in everything.

"I am sure I shall be very happy in
this dear old house," she said quietly.
"Your own mother must have loved it,
Frederic."

James Brood started. Unnoticed by

the others, his fingers tightened on
the gloves he carried in his hand.

"I never knew my mother," said
the young man. "She died when I
was a baby."

"But of course this was her home,
was it not?"

"I don't know," said Frederic, un-
comfortably. "I suppose so. I—I came
here a few years ago and—"

"But even though you never knew
her, there must still be something
here that—that how shall I say it?
I mean, you must feel that she and
you were here together years and
years ago. One may never have seen
his mother, yet he can always feel
her. There is something—shall I say,
spiritual—in—"

Her husband broke in upon these
unwelcome reflections. His voice was
curiously harsh.

"Mrs. Desmond is waiting, Yvonne."

She drew herself up. "Are you in
such great haste, Mrs. Desmond?" she
asked in a voice that cut like a knife.
Instinctively, she glanced at Fred-
eric's face. She saw the muscles of
the jaw harden and an angry light
leap into his eyes. Instantly her arro-
gance fell away. "I beg your pardon,
Mrs. Desmond. I have many bad hab-
its. Now will you kindly show me
to my room? I prefer that you and
not of the servants should be my
guide. Au revoir, Frederic. Till tea-
time, James."

Her eyes were sparkling, her husky
voice once more full of the appealing
quality that could not be denied. The
flush of injured pride faded from Mrs.
Desmond's brow, and a faint look of
surprise crept into her eyes. To her
further amazement, the younger woman
laid a hand upon her arm and gave
it a gentle, friendly pressure.

The men watched them in silence as
they left the room, side by side. A
moment later they heard the soft
laughter of the two women as they
mounted the stairs together.

Frederic drew a long breath.
"She's splendid, father," he said,
impulsively.

Brood's face was still clouded. He
did not respond to the eager tribute.

Father and son faced each other.
They were a striking pair, each in
his way an example of fine, clean
manhood. The father was taller by a
couple of inches than the son, and yet
Frederic was nearly six feet in his
stockings. Both were spare men,
erect and gracefully proportioned.
Brood gave out the impression of
great strength, of steel sinews, of in-
vincible power; Frederic did not sug-
gest physical strength, and yet he was
a clean-limbed, well-built fellow. He
had a fine head, a slim body whose
every movement proclaimed nervous
energy, and a face that denoted tem-
perament of the most pronounced
character. It was not a strong face,
nor was it weak; it represented char-
acter without force.

On the other hand, James Brood's
lean, handsome face was full of
power. His gray eyes were keen,
steady, compelling and seldom alight
with warmth. His jaw was firm,
square, resolute, and the lines that

(To be Continued.)

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Opposition Platform

The following platform was adopted at the Opposition Con-
vention held in St. John recently:
In the event of the Opposition being returned to power, we pledge
ourselves:—

NO PARTIZAN CONTROL OF CROWN LANDS.

1. We pledge ourselves to completely reorganize the Crown-
Lands Department, so that its administration shall be entirely
severed from politics and administered on sound business prin-
ciples under systematic plans by a non-partizan commission speci-
ally appointed for that purpose, responsible to the Legislature and
working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Con-
servation.

TAKE THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF POLITICS.

2. We pledge ourselves to take the highways out of politics,
giving the expenditure of the money collected from the people and
the control of the labor, together with the Government appropria-
tions, into the hands of supervisors, chosen by the people of each
parish, to whom a detailed and audited account must be rendered
every year at the annual meeting, and a duplicate thereof for-
warded to the Department of Public Works, the work of the super-
visors to be under the inspection of a competent provincial en-
gineer.

We also pledge ourselves to set aside the money collected
from the licenses upon automobiles and other motor vehicles, to-
gether with an equal appropriation from the revenues of the Pro-
vince each year, to pay the interest upon the bonds to provide for
permanent roads, which shall be constructed as rapidly as possible.

PROHIBITION PROVINCE WIDE.

3. We pledge ourselves at the first session of the Legislature
to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within
the Province to the fullest extent allowed by the Constitution, and
within three months after the passage of said Act to submit the
same by referendum to the electors of the Province, and should
the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to
bring the same into force by proclamation within one year there-
after.

ELECTION LAW.

4. (a) To amend the electoral law so as to make it impossible
for members of the Legislature to traffic with the Government and
still retain their seats.

(b) To make it possible for young men, when they reach the
age of 21 years, to register their names and be placed forthwith
upon the voters' lists, instead of waiting for the tedious machinery
of revision as it now exists.

(c) To divide the counties into electoral districts which shall
each be represented by one member.

(d) We will also consider amendments to the election law to
make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impos-
sible.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

5. To obtain at once a correct statement of the financial con-
dition of the Province in order that the people may have definite
knowledge of the vastly increased public debt and the enormous
obligations of guaranteed bonds they will be called upon to pay;
and to so reduce the cost of the administration of affairs and the
number of useless officials as to avoid the necessity for direct tax-
ation now confronting us.

AGRICULTURE.

6. To give the farmers all the practical assistance that the
resources of the Province will permit, to improve agricultural
methods and the quality and quantity of the stock upon the farm;
to reduce the enormous salary list in the department, and to spend
the educational grant received from the Federal Government
without regard for political patronage.

VALLEY RAILWAY.

7. To complete the Valley Railway from a point on the Trans-
continental Railway at or near Grand Falls, to St. John, and insist
upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the
original legislation and allow the Province forty per cent. of the
gross earnings thereof.

EDUCATION.

8. To always maintain and improve the educational service
of the Province and to co-operate with the Federal Government in
carrying out the recommendations of the commission upon tech-
nical education.

IMMIGRATION.

9. The inauguration of a vigorous Immigration policy to
properly place before intending immigrants, whose number will
be large after termination of the war, the advantages of the agri-
cultural possibilities of New Brunswick.

McMurray's Great Xmas Sale of :- PIANOS :-

We have on hand a splendid stock of High Grade Pianos which we will offer at
special low price at this sale. They are the Gerhard Heintzman, Gourley, Bell and
Ewing Pianos, and if you are thinking of getting a Piano this certainly is your oppor-
tunity. Call and look the stock over or write for our special prices and terms.

We also have a few Piano Cased Organs and two exceptionally fine Church Or-
gans, the very best Reed Organs made, which will be placed on this sale, and several
NEW HOME SEWING MACHINES at cost while they last.

This Sale will give you a chance to get a Christmas Present worth while, and one
that will last a life time.

Persons who cannot call through the day can arrange to see the stock any evening
by calling us up on the 'phone.

Freight paid on all Pianos and Organs to your nearest station.

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