

## CONFESSIONS OF AN EVERY- DAY WIFE

By IDAH McGLONE GIBSON

### DISTURBING ONE'S ILLUSIONS.

"Theo would have come over with me today, Chad," I said, "but he is rather busy. We are going away for a little trip this afternoon."

"Oh, I am so very sorry, for mother is preparing a splendid party to introduce Anice to our friends."

"Bully for Aunt Mollie," was my inward comment.

I saw Anice involuntarily cringe and I admired her courage also. She would go through any ordeal for this man whom she evidently adored, even to showing her poor, scared face to his friends while she mutely asked them to let him be deceived if it made him happy.

"Isn't it tragic?" asked Eliene, as we left.

"I do not know whether it is or not," I answered somewhat uncertainly.

"We are only as happy in this world as we think we are. Chad is revelling in a beauty that he knows only from the sense of touch, and as long as his mind holds the picture of that beauty he is happy."

"But don't you think she should tell him?" asked Eliene. "Stop and realize what it will mean if some time he finds out that the dimple is a frightful scar."

"He will have had his great satisfaction for a time, anyway. That woman will be his willing slave all his life. She will grow more and more beautiful to his mind. Personally I never could see any real virtue in disturbing another's illusions."

"We make a great ado about searching for truth, never realizing that the truth can be ugly, even painful, while our illusions are always beautiful, always bring joy."

"What is the matter with you, Margot?" asked Eliene curiously. "You almost seem to me, today, to be trying to sidestep some ugly truth that confronts you. I have never seen you so restless, so anxious to go about and listen to what everyone else has to say about anything or everything. You are not unhappy because you are going away, are you? Do not worry about your father, Margot dear. Robert told me this morning that he was getting along very well indeed and with care would probably die of old age."

Fortunately I did not have to an-

swer for at that moment Eliene espied Major Gordon and called to the chauffeur to stop. The Major looked worried as he came up and Eliene anxiously inquired what was the matter.

"It is about Baur. I have been detailed to find him, and I have come upon some clues that make me think the man that Margot and I interviewed in Springfield the other day was

concerned in the transaction."

Eliene went white. I thought she was going to faint.

"What is the matter, dear?" asked the Major in alarm.

"I think perhaps it is the heat," Eliene murmured as her breath came a little pantingly.

"I am so sorry. Let me ride home with you."

"Nonsense, Margot and I were on our way to call on Mrs. Charlton."

"To tell her of Eliene's engagement?" I added.

Major Gordon's face changed as quickly as Eliene's, but it took on the tint of dull red.

"I saw her this morning and told her myself, dear," he said.

"Then there will be no need for me

to do so," was Eliene's cool comment.

"If you do not mind, Margot, I think I will go home. Get in with us and we will go back home."

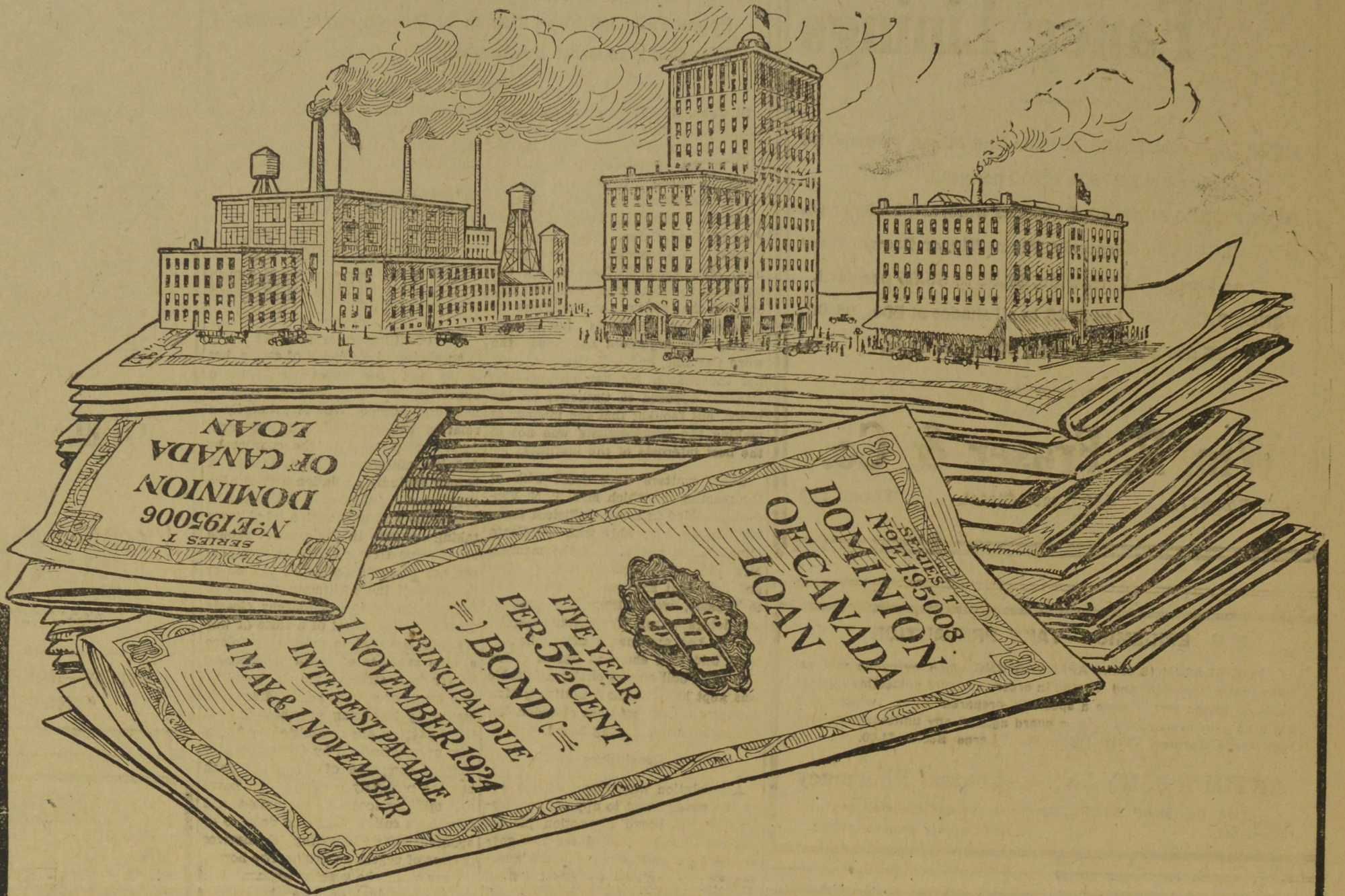
Major Gordon got into the motor without a word and it was a very silent trio that drove back to the house.

Each seemed engrossed in his or her own affairs, and from the looks on Eliene's face and the Major's I knew that

their thoughts were no pleasanter than my own. I felt as though I were sitting over a crater for it did not seem possible to me that the whole story of Baur's escape and Theo's participation in it would not come out.

I was hardly prepared, however, for just what confronted us when we arrived home.

(Tomorrow—"A Visit With Dad.")



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The letter of resignation concludes: "To our regret and disappointment the greater part of our recommendations have been ignored or only partially considered. Had these matters been dealt with in a statesmanlike manner the present parliamentary committee would have been unnecessary and the unrest among Returned men, the direct result of inaction and half conceived measures, would have been prevented."

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