

Two Husbands Wanted

by Hazel Deyo Batchelor



SYNOPSIS

Polly Long, a little mannequin, falls in love with Ralph Halliday, a married man. Ralph is in love with his wife Lola, but they have drifted apart. John Blake is also in love with Lola and Ralph's father and mother have prevented the marriage. John and Polly become friends and Polly is happy enough until her mother dies. She moves into a cheap apartment which she shares with Annette. In the meantime, she has gone on the stage. Lola falls from an airplane and injures her spine, and Ralph sees very little of Polly. She has tea with him and feels it will be the last time she will ever see him.

INSTALLMENT FORTY-ONE REALITY

That night John appeared at the theatre door and hustled her into a taxi. He laughed at her when she protested.

"I'll bet you haven't had any dinner."

"I had a late tea."
"Polly, you know you mustn't do this. Some hot soup for you, young lady."

Polly's heart ached at his kindness. Ralph had been so eager to get to Lola that he could hardly wait to leave her and here was John, who loved Lola, too. Of course he was just being nice to her. He cared nothing for her. But what a friend he was and how she liked him.

Over the crackers and soup Polly said shyly:

"I had tea with Ralph."
"You did?"

She wondered if he disapproved of her having seen Ralph now that Lola was ill. But John was broad. He wouldn't think anything like that. She wished he would say something instead of sitting there in silence.

"John!"

"Yes, Polly."

"They're having another specialist for Lola."

He was interested enough then. She could see the warm eager light surge into his eyes.

"Ralph thinks she won't be lame," Polly added.

And in his heart John was thinking that Lola would never belong to him whether she grew well and strong again or not. Money was what she wanted—money to spend on finery. And she was willing to take, and give nothing in return, for John knew that Ralph wasn't happy.

With breath-taking suddenness, he turned to Polly.

"Here's an idea."

"Yes."

"You and I will get married."

Polly shook her head.

"Let's try it as an experiment. You'll be quite free, dear, if I can't make you care for me, and we're both lonely. We need each other so much."

Polly's heart was beginning to beat fast. There was something about the strong determined cut of his mouth and jaw that was far handsomer than Ralph's. He was leaner, more sure. The world hadn't been so good to him as it had to Ralph. He had to work for his money.

She remembered suddenly what Ralph had said that afternoon about John. It made her flush with anger and for the first time her love for him was not adoring. As if John would accept money from the Hallidays to keep away from Lola. And as if Ralph could think such a thing about his friend!

She longed to speak to John about it, but she dared not mention it. Not for the world would she leave him know that Ralph had said such a thing.

She had been silent so long that she came to herself to find him smiling at her.

"How about it, Polly dear?"

"But it isn't what either of us wanted from love, John. It's second best."

"It may turn out to be the finest in the end, who knows? We would take a place downtown where you could be nearer the theatre. And there's Annette to be considered. I don't want you to live with her, Polly. I don't like her."

"She can't hurt me, John, and I'm awfully sorry for her. All she thinks of is marrying money, and no one with any money has asked her to marry him."

"Well she may not be able to hurt you, but the atmosphere at the apartment is bad for you with her in it. Will you do it, Polly?"

Polly flushed enchantingly, her dark eyes wavered before his that were very clear and gray.

"As an experiment?"

"If you say so."

Polly was thinking how strange it was to be arranging her life anew in this fashion. Here she was in a little restaurant having soup and crackers. That afternoon Sir Lancelot had taken her to tea. Yet this man had asked her to be his wife, and Ralph was married!

John was eager now. "I don't want to change your life in any way. You can go on with your work if you like."

Polly flushed still deeper.

"Let me sleep over it, John. It's not something to be decided in a hurry, this marriage!"

When he left her at the apartment, he did not make the mistake of drawing her into his arms and kissing her. But they smiled shyly at each other's eyes. Then Polly went in and John went down the stairs.

Annette had left the dishes in the kitchen sink and the kitchen hadn't been cleaned in ages. They had turned and Annette was always slacking so that most of the work fell on Polly.

Wearily she went into her room and took off her dress. Then she put on a bungalow apron and got to work

She didn't mind doing dishes if there was lots of water and soap suds. Annette liked to let them run under the tap.

Glasses first—then silver, then China.

She was swishing about in the pan when Annette hailed her from the doorway.

"What's the idea of all the sudden pop at this time of night?"

Polly turned. "I just couldn't stand the kitchen that's all."

Annette flushed. "I was planning to do them first thing in the morning and bring your breakfast to you, too."

Polly was silent, and after a moment Annette began to put the dishes and things away. Polly wished she wouldn't. She wanted to be alone. She wanted to face the big thing that had come into her life, the big step that she was thinking of taking. It had been so easy to love Ralph. She had just seen him and loved him at once. Sir Lancelot. Sir Lancelot! How could she ever hear not seeing him again?

Tomorrow—Some Important Things Happen.

BRITAIN'S FAN TRADE IS VANISHING

London, March 1—Since blushes went out of fashion the trade in fans has declined almost to extinction, reports the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers, an old London livery company.

There is one centre of London society, however, where fans still are used, and the company, as a last hope for saving its threatened trade, contemplates an appeal to the Lord Chamberlain to rule that none but British fans may be carried at Court functions.

Had a Severe Cold Coughed Incessantly

Mrs. C. Fehrman, Selkirk, Ont., writes:—"Last winter I suffered from a very severe cold. I coughed incessantly which irritated the glands and caused sore throat."

"I tried several medicines without any luck, but one day I picked up your almanac and read about

**Dr. Wood's
Norway
Pine
Syrup**

"I got a bottle and after taking a couple of doses felt much relieved and when I had finished it my cold had simply disappeared."

"Dr. Wood's" is 35c. a bottle, large family size 60c.; for sale at all druggists and dealers; put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Hon. Mr. Richards Closed Debate on the Address

Minister of Lands and Mines Ably Defended His Department from Criticism of the Opposition Leader. Changes Made in the Law Last Session Were Approved by Mr. Dysart. The Address Adopted Without a Division.

The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislative Assembly ended shortly after five o'clock yesterday afternoon and the address was passed without a division. The usual committee was appointed to present the address to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and when His Honor's reply is received the House will be in a position to proceed with other business.

The report of the Comptroller General on accounts for the last fiscal year was tabled in the House yesterday by Hon. Mr. Leger, the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, and referred to the committee on public accounts.

Budget on Tuesday.
Hon. Mr. Leger gave notice that on Tuesday he would move the House into Committee of Supply, which means that he will then be prepared to bring down the budget.

On motion of Premier Baxter the House adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock. The Premier in making the motion intimated that night sittings would be held next week in order to speed up the debate on the budget.

Hon. C. D. Richards.
The last speaker on the debate on the address was Hon. C. D. Richards, Minister of Lands and Mines, who held forth for nearly two hours yesterday afternoon. The major portion of the Minister's speech was devoted to matters pertaining to his department, which has been discussed by the opposition leader, Mr. Dysart, who held the portfolio of Lands and Mines for a brief period in the Veniot administration. Hon. Mr. Richards by quoting from the debates was able to show that Leader Dysart had last session approved of the very matters which he had criticized in his speech on the address.

The Official Report.
The official report follows:

Assembly Chamber.
March 1st, 1928.
The House met at three-fifteen. The following bills were read a second time:

An Act to provide for the redemption of certain provincial debentures and to provide for expenditure in connection with the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium.

HON. MR. REILLY submitted the report of the Standing Rules Committee recommending several bills.

MR. DOUCET gave notice of enquiry for Tuesday next.

MR. NILES gave notice of enquiry for Tuesday next.

HON. MR. REILLY presented petitions for the introduction of bills to amend the City of Moncton Assessment Act of 1921; to fix the amount of an assessment value of Maritime Cap. Limited; to authorize the City of Moncton to issue debentures and to amend an Act incorporating the Y. M. C. A. Regarding the latter he said the object was to change the name slightly and confer additional bonding powers.

MR. GUTHILL introduced a bill, an Act relating to the Canadian Dexter P. Cooper Company.

MR. MCKENZIE introduced a bill, an Act to fix the valuation for assessment of the Mann Axe Company, Limited.

MR. GUTHILL introduced a bill, an Act to incorporate the Grand Manan Light and Power Company.

HON. MR. LÉGER introduced a bill, an Act respecting La Societe La Assumption.

Asks for Documents

MR. MICHAUD enquired if the Government would dispense with the formal notice of motion in regard to the production of certain documents. First, for a copy of order-in-council regarding contribution of the province towards the erection of the Inter-Provincial Bridge at Campbellton; Second, for the tabling of the report in regard to the Hydro proposition at Meductic. Third, for a copy of the agreement between the Imperial Government, the Dominion Government, and the Provincial Government regarding immigration.

HON. MR. BAXTER replied that all would be brought down without formal notice.

Hon. Mr. Richards

HON. MR. RICHARDS, resuming the debate on the Address, said he would not have taken part in this debate, but for the rather extended references the hon. leader of the opposition had made regarding Crown land administration. He thought it was timely to consider the opposition's statements, and he would confine his remarks to that subject.

However, he would not pass on without first extending his compliments to the mover and seconder of the Address, who had so well come up to the standard of previous similar speakers. He had been surprised and amused at the attitude taken by the leader of the Opposition towards Crown Land matters. He (Dysart) had professed to be alarmed at the presence of the American dollar. He (Richards) thought that any government that could bring capital in large quantities to the province would be worthy of commendation.

Saw Mill Industry
It was obvious to the House, and to all persons in the province interested in the matter that for the past few years the saw-mill branch of the lumber industry had not been in a satisfactory condition, a condition for which neither past nor present governments had much responsibility.

No action of a New Brunswick government could prevent British Columbia lumber from coming to the New England states and displacing New Brunswick lumber, nor could it keep the Scandinavian lumber for competing against lumber from this province on the British market. Governments could not prevent the increase of

expenses in logging operations, and all these factors had contributed to the lack of profit in the manufacture of long lumber. Some lumber organizations a few years since, foreseeing what would be likely to happen, transferred their operations to the manufacture of pulp and paper. As a consequence there were pulp mills at Bathurst and Edmundston, St. John, and St. George. For pulp and paper manufacture large capital was necessary, and to safeguard this capital large sources of supply, for the guaranteed continuation of production and employment.

Government Took Action

This government had assumed office when the situation was as above described, and today there was a necessity for further development of the pulp and paper branch of the industry. This government had acted with this end in view in arranging for the development of power at Grand Falls and had interested the International Paper Company. The government, he maintained, acted advisedly and rightly in his opinion in bringing this capital to the province. His hon. friend (Dysart) had apparently found great fault with the government in this regard. Did he suggest that capital should not be invited to New Brunswick? The government had obtained this capital through the International Paper Company, and in doing so had secured the interest of one of the leading organizations in North America, quite capable of carrying on in competition with any other organization, thus assuring as far as possible the continuance of operations. Instead of censure for his hon. friend he thought that action should have been commended. A few years since his own leader in the person of Hon. P. J. Veniot had announced, with that impressive manner for which he was noted, that he had just received a cable from Europe evidencing interest in furnishing capital for the development of Grand Falls.

Nothing Wrong With It

There was nothing sinister about bringing capital to spend among New Brunswick citizens and looking to the production and manufacture of New Brunswick products. Already considerable employment had been given, and among those employed were a number of our college students who had been used by the International people for forest reconnaissance.

Within the last few months the International Paper Company had gone into Quebec. Had Quebec erected any barrier against them? The same company had also gone into Newfoundland. Had that country refused the admission of American dollars?

The Grand Falls Bogey

To quote his hon. friend "that unpardonable gift of Grand Falls" was a subject that had been discussed time and time again, and was now resurrected. The hon. gentleman talked about a "gift." There was no gift to the International, not a dollar not a foot of land. The company was told it could develop the power at its own expense for the benefit of the province, and in the agreement thus made, the company was bound to erect certain plants in the province. His hon. friend (Dysart) had surely not forgotten the policy of his leader in 1925, involving payment to the International of over a million dollars, and that to enable the province to develop power at its own expense without any guarantee as to the sale of that power. In view of the comparative actions of the two governments, his hon. friend's words were most inexplicable.

Rights of Provinces

The government having brought this large capital expenditure to the province, it was then its duty to see that the capital was properly used and that the rights of the province were protected in every way. And that was done.

The leader of the Opposition had paid his respects to the Lumber Commission appointed in 1925. He had

evidently developed a great affection for the saw-mills and an abhorrence of pulp and paper mills, and he was evidently laboring under a delusion which he (Richards) would try to dispel. He seemed to think that that Commission was urged principally by the pulp and paper interests, whereas the request came from a meeting representative of all of the lumber interests of the province, and as a matter of fact the pulp and paper operators were not as greatly interested in the investigation requested as were the saw-mill operators.

Stumpage Reduction

To briefly review the situation existent, when this government took office the stumpage rate was \$3.00. It was reduced, rightly or wrongly, to meet the exigencies as revealed by lumber operators, to \$2.50 for that season, and was later increased to \$3.50. Whether this was right or wrong is not material to the situation at present. The lumber operators thought the action wrong. Representative lumbermen met with the government and stated they could not pay a stumpage rate of \$3.50. They wanted an investigation and would like, if possible, to have an understanding as to a definite rate of stumpage for a term of years. The Commission now under discussion, was then appointed, consisting of Hon. Mr. Justice Grimmer, whose qualifications for the position no one would dispute, and the other Commissioner was Mr. Fred C. Beattie, a man of large experience who had retired from active operation. These gentlemen were given a free hand and not interfered with in any way as suggested by his hon. friend. So far as the call for the Commission came, the main request was from the saw-mill interests.

Were Not Active

MR. DYSART—Were not the pulp and paper men the most active in pressing for the Commission?

HON. MR. RICHARDS—No, he did not think so. It would perhaps be difficult to measure and define the degree of interest manifested by different individuals. However, the Commission was appointed and appointed as his hon. friend had said under Chapter 12 Consolidated Statutes, 1903, and the Act stated that the evidence should be reported to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer.

MR. DYSART asked if it was not the attention of the Commission to be guided by the Act.

HON. MR. RICHARDS said that what was wanted was the judgment of the Commission in regard to the investigation they made in the way that seemed best to them, and the details as to how they should proceed were not given very serious consideration by the government.

MR. DYSART contended that the government erred in accepting a report and findings not in accord with the Act.

A Capable Commission

HON. MR. RICHARDS—The Government viewed the Commission as entirely trustworthy and capable and their findings were the important consideration. Other Commissions, such as the Duncan Commission, had not reported the evidence, some of which was taken in camera.

MR. DYSART—The Commission was not appointed under the New Brunswick Act.

HON. MR. RICHARDS—Was the Dominion Act not just as strong? And, he continued, unless the government was prepared to impugn the Commission, it would be expected to repose confidence in the Commission's findings. The Commission had gone about their business in the way that seemed best to them. They had taken evidence in camera and not under oath because they considered, as would be apparent to any gentleman in this House, they could get a much more complete understanding from the witnesses than if these men were compelled to guard their utterances if their business was to be laid bare to the public view. It would be a breach of faith with these men, having obtained their evidence in camera to now publish it. And as their findings: First, and the details of this may be found in the report, as to how the evidence was made up, the loss incurred by saw-mill operators ran to \$5.54 per thousand. A few men had made a small profit. Second, that the rate of stumpage should be reduced from \$3.50 to \$3 on saw logs. But, that for pulp and paper manufacture the \$3.50 rate should be retained. Coming from a gentleman who had once occupied the position of Minister of Lands and Mines, the remarks of his hon. friend in this connection were the height of absurdity.

MR. DYSART said he merely wished to show up the absurdity of the finding.

The Stumpage Rate

HON. MR. RICHARDS said his hon. friend (Dysart) from his experience must know that many matters had to be considered in fixing a rate of stumpage. The matter of markets, costs of operation, and other things had of necessity to enter into a consideration of stumpage rates. If these men had made a loss they should be given an opportunity to carry on their business and if possible make a dollar. The third finding was for a modified scale. Just there he would stop, he said, to state that it was not his duty at this juncture to justify the findings of the Commission, but to justify the action of the government in respect to enforcing these findings. In regard to this modified scale it was felt that for the smaller sizes of logs a re-arrangement of scale was justifiable, and the modified scale was adopted. It was not by any means the Quebec scale and no change was made from logs eight inches in diameter.

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