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# Player's Please

MILD or MEDIUM

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES

HERE STAYS GOOD YORKSHIRE. By Will R. Bird. Ryerson Press.

Mr. Bird has written a good, lusty, earthy story of the settlement of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. He has made the scene real, and the characters vivid and convincing. We see nothing through the usual veil of historical romances, with too much emphasis on candles and romance, but we feel we are living beside these people in their arduous task of carving out homes in a wilderness. The story opens in Yorkshire, and then shifts to Nova Scotia; the time is from 1772 to the defeat of Eddy in his attempt to win Cumberland County to the side of the American Revolution. These settlers are hard-headed, acquisitive, rather unimaginative Yorkshiremen. They have one purpose—to make homes in a new land—and from that purpose they refuse to be deflected either by the Governor, who wants them to join the militia or by any hotheaded malcontents in the Thirteen Colonies or in Nova Scotia. One thing they will do: defend their homes from rebels and Indians. For Mr. Bird, it was not the rather scurvy soldiers of Fort Cumberland who broke the threat of Eddy and his Indian allies, but the Yorkshiremen, who were defending not an Empire but their own settlement.

There is always something forthright about these people—in love or in business. A man needs a wife to help on the farm and to bring children into the world; a woman needs a husband to give her security and to let her fulfil her reproductive function; so no words are wasted in protracted courtships. The Crabtrees are the central family, and of them Tristram, the eldest son, is the dominant character. Tristram has always managed the family affairs, and he intends to continue to do so—for his own profit. Here arises the clash of temperaments and wills.

Mr. Bird never sentimentalizes his characters; one feels that much of the material has probably been passed to the author from his own ancestors. As a result the story is extremely satisfying. No wonder *Here Stays Good Yorkshire* shared the Ryerson fiction prize with another good Canadian novel, *Day of Wrath*.

B. M.

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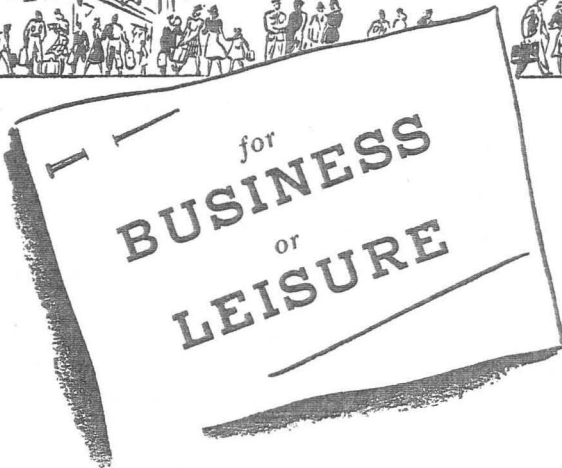
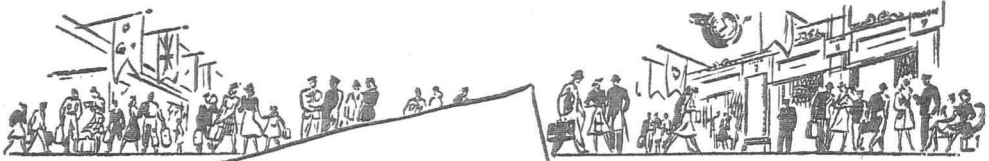
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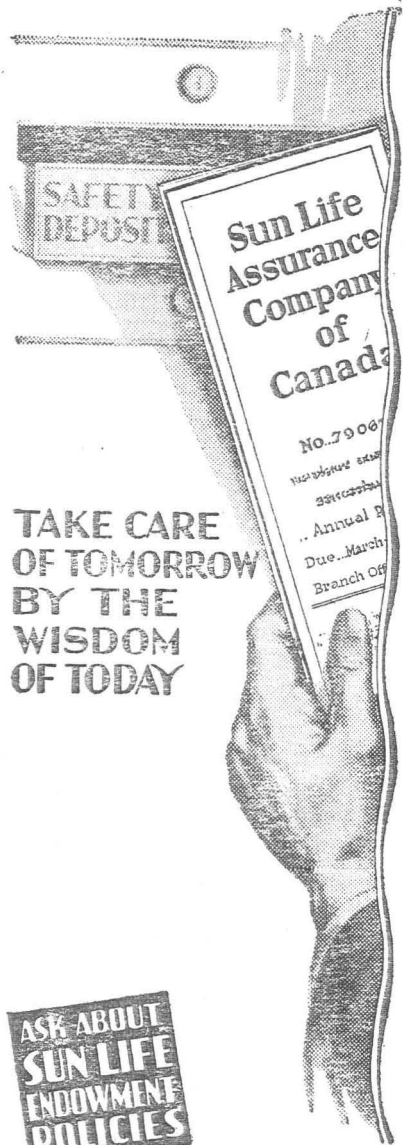
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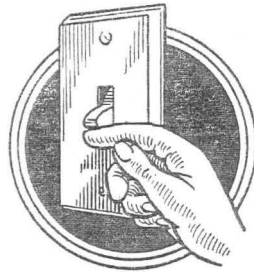
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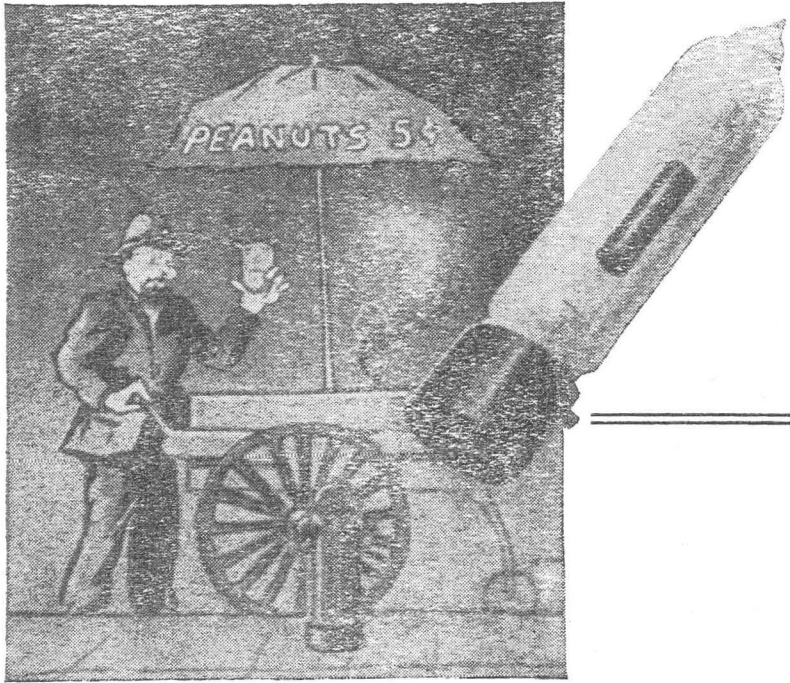


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Vol. XXVI



No. 1

Halifax, Nova Scotia, April, 1946

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