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THE PROOF OF SERVICE

The splendid service being provided by the American railroads is shown graphically in a recent survey concerning the interchange of agricultural products betweed widely separated states.

The study shows that during 1928 perishable fruits and vegetables from California, Arizona and Washington reached all of the 66 principal American markets; those from Texas reached 65; from Florida, 64; from Oregon and Colorado, 63; from Arkansas and Louisiana, 61, and from Idaho, 62. Products from all butfive of the other states reached between 22 and 58 of the markets.

Similarly, the 66 great markets satisfied their wants by drawing upon sources of supply 3,000 or more miles away. Cleveland and Detroit, for example, received fruits and vegetables from 44 states. Long freight hauls have predominated. In the case of one state, 42 per cent of its produce went more than 3,000 miles to its consumers. In another, 82 per cent of shipments traveled over a thousand miles.

Thus many of the principal benefits of improved railroad service are found on the American dining table. Every American meal has as its components foods produced in areas thousands of miles distant. It is no wonder that it is said that a nation progresses in direct ratio to its transportation facilities.

WEATHER PROFIT PREDICTS COLD

The winter of 1929-30 will be colder than for some years past, regardless of what some outside-of-Berks prophets have forecast, according to Frank Haas, 91-year-old prophet of Free Hall, Berks County.

Blizzards — four of them — biting winds and lots of snow will be provided, with plenty of ice and rough weather from early in December until March, according to this aged man's survey.

"We will have mild weather all of November," said Haas, who has been issuing weather prophecies from his farm near Topton, on the East Penn railroad, for thirty-six years. "Then in December will come a week of warm weather, with fresh south winds, long enough to let farmers get in all of the corn.

"After that will come a sudden change to westerly and northwesterly winds, with much colder weather, changing to extreme cold in January. It will last well into February. In the first two months of 1930 we will have four pretty big blizzards, with much snow, but after the end of February 1 there will be no really bad weather."

It Might Help Locate the Spare

I would suggest that the makers of the new Martin baby auto include a jeweler's eyeglass in the tool box.

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NO MORE TO DO WITH MEN

"NEVER," said Kitty sternly to herself, "never shall I have anything more to do with a man!"

The train came along at this minute and she sprang up the high steps and found an empty seat in the day coach.

Helen Saunders had invited her purposely so that she should meet Will Farnsworth.

And at the last moment he had telegraphed that he couldn't come! Which might have been forgiven except for the fact that when they were out snow-shoeing Helen had seen a car flash past and had cried, "I do believe that's Will! Of all the—"

He had never come near them and Kitty knew it was on her account. He was an old friend of the Saunderses, which left no reason for doubt why he had been so careful to avoid them over this week-end.

Kitty opened her bag and drew out a book. A love story.

She lost herself in its pages, lost herself so deeply that she scarcely noticed when the train stopped, was barely conscious when the conductor came down the aisle. She held out her ticket and went on with her story. At Chapter VII, she found her eyes filling with tears—she couldn't go on.

She lifted her head then and saw that some one was sitting in the seat beside her. A man, of course. Kitty turned her face to the window, swallowing her tears as best she could, and hoping the stranger would not notice.

"I think this is yours, the stranger said at last.

"Why, yes," Kitty said, looking down at her laundry list in the young mans' hand. "It must have slipped out of my purse."

The young man said quite gravely, "You held it toward me such a long time that I thought I ought to take it—"

"I don't understand!" Kitty said haughtily.

Then she felt quickly in her bag and found that her ticket was still there.

The young man was smiling frankly. "Perhaps you thought it was your ticket. You see, I had my pass, so the conductor thought you were my—"

"How perfectly awful!" Kitty ejaculated.

"I say," he said suddenly, dropping that tone of amusement. "I know I haven't any right to say it, but I could see you were in trouble. Is there anything I could do to help you?" He felt around in his pocket and drew out a card that bore the name:

"William J. Fransworth,"
General Passenger Agent.

"It's nice of you," Kitty answered, "but the only thing you could do would be to tell me that the heroine lives happily ever after—" she patted the red-covered book.

"Crying over a story!" he ejaculated. "But that's easy enough." He turned to the last page and began to read the final paragraph in a voice that vibrated pleasantly above the rattle of the train.

"'She held out her hand to him with a little glad cry of surprise. Hugh's eyes met hers with a long look of understanding. "'You forgive me, Sonia'" He read the answer in her clear blue eyes, and as he gathered her close into his arms she knew it was for this she had been waiting.'"

"Thank you," Kitty said softly. "I get off the next stop."

"I wish you'd tell me your name. I'd do anything—get people to introduce us properly, if it took weeks, if you only would!" he begged.

Kitty looked at him for a moment. Revenge is said to be sweet. But Kitty Tenant felt its taste bitter in her mouth as she answered, "I think we will say good-by here."

"Good-by, then," he said standing with his hat off and watching her disappear down the aisle.

In the week that followed she found she could not drive him out of her mind. His gray eyes, his engaging smile and his deep voice came back to her again and again.

"It would be so easy to meet him," Kitty thought, "and never shall I do it. He didn't choose to meet me in the first place—" She stood washing out her best silk stockings in her wash bowl and wishing that Mrs. Wiggins gave a little more heat to her boarders.

"And I forgot my laundry!" Kitty said.

She hurried into her things, drew out the folded laundry list that brought back swift pictures of a ride in the train and ran around to the Dupont laundry. Opening the door, her heart seemed to stop and then give a wild leap that sent the blood rushing to her cheeks. For there before the counter was Will Farnsworth!

"'She held out her hand to him with a little cry of surprise. Hugh's eyes met hers with a long look of understanding!'" he quoted. "Do you know I've spent two hours and twenty minutes waiting for you in this laundry?" he asked, and then at the question in her eyes. "You see, I knew from your laundry list it would be ready today. The rest was easy."

As he carried her bundle home, walking beside her, Kitty knew what good friends they were going to be.

Last Resort

"When you can't find it anywhere else, look in this," was the label on a packet of letters, periodicals and papers found in Abraham Lincoln's law office.

Do Your Stuff!

Hostess (to magician)—My cook has left suddenly. Do you think you could produce a cooked goose or turkey at once for dinner?—Parkfinder Magazine.

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