

BURNING BEAUTY



READ THIS FIRST:

The story opens during an auction sale of furniture and old silver at the Kent-Oliphant house in Annapolis, Md. Among those present are Mrs. Jane Bleeker, a wealthy New Yorker, her son, Tony, a naval officer; Marty Van Dune, a silver blonde, who cares for Tony; Michael McMillan, a young but famous magazine editor. The group, with the exception of McMillan, is discussing a pair of old silver candlesticks when Virginia Oliphant, beautiful daughter of the house appears.

(NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY)

CHAPTER 2

YET THE MYSTERY about Virginia Oliphant was not hard to solve. It centered in an abnormally sensitive father who had been unwilling that his daughter should accept at the hands of society anything she could not return. There had been generations of Oliphants in Annapolis—beginning with those men of rank and title who had grants from the king. They had acquired wealth and held offices of distinction. Then had come gradually diminishing fortunes and the cataclysm of the Civil war. Kent Oliphant's father had been killed at Appomattox, and his mother, poor and proud, had shut herself away from the world. Her son had, in his turn, followed her example. Virginia and her young brother had been educated at home, forbidden to mingle with those about them. "I will not have you condescended to by those who are less than your betters," their father had told them, furiously.

Much of this was known to the people of the town. And they pitied Virginia. She did not look, at the moment, as if she needed their pity. She was so gloriously alive. Like a flame! Incandescent! Tony felt he had never seen anything like it. He wondered what Marty thought standing there beside her.

But Marty was troubled by nothing so unimportant as this girl in the shabby sweater. She moved closer to Tony and murmured, "She'd be a beauty if she were well dressed."

"Do you think a woman like that needs clothes?"

Marty wrinkled her nose at him in an enchanting way she had. "All women need clothes."

"Don't be absurd, Marty."

He turned from her to listen to what Virginia was saying to his mother: "I am sorry. The candlesticks are withdrawn from the sale."

Mrs. Bleeker protested. "But I want them more than anything."

Virginia said again, "I'm sorry."

That was all. No yielding.

"They'll bring a stiff price," Jane Bleeker persisted, "and I understand you need the money."

Tony said something under his breath. There were times when Midget was impossible!

A flush had come into Virginia's cheeks. "I do need it. But the candlesticks have associations."

"You won't reconsider?"

"No."

That was all. She went away, taking the candlesticks with her.

As she left the room, she met Michael McMillan. Tony saw him stop and speak to her. Heard his mother saying, maliciously, "I'll wager anything those candlesticks were one of the three things he wanted."

They were, of course, and Michael seeing them borne away, asked apprehensively, "They're not sold?"

"No, but they're withdrawn from the sale."

"Why? Oh, I beg pardon. It's none of my business. But you see I've a bowl that matches these—and I'm rather mad about old silver."

She liked his voice as much as she hated Mrs. Bleeker's. It was because of Mrs. Bleeker that she had withdrawn the candlesticks. She had known she could not, no, she could not think of those lovely garlands and darling cupid in the possession of a woman like that.

And, having once withdrawn them, she knew that she would never let them go. Not even to this man with the quick and thrilling voice. So she said again, "I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry, too," he told her.

She hesitated for a moment, then explained: "I only consented to let them on sale because my brother insisted. And I shouldn't have con-



"That's why we're selling."

sented. You see, they lighted all our little feasts." She stopped suddenly, unable to go on.

He said, sympathetically: "You are finding it—hard?"

"Oh, yes. This room is haunted."

For a moment he did not answer. He was, indeed, intensely moved by the sight of her girlish distress. It was as if some sorrow in himself went out to meet her sorrow. She was holding the candlesticks now against her, and they made a cross, as if she had laid a crucifix upon her breast.

At last he said, "Are you giving up the house?"

"Yes. It is mortgaged heavily. We can't save it. I shan't mind so much if only someone will buy it who will love it and understand it. I'd hate to have it go to people who'd make their money in pills or pork."

She was trying to speak lightly, to recover her poise. He helped her by shifting the conversation. "There were three things I wanted—the candlesticks, the Dutch spoons and the little Chippendale chair."

"The ladderback? That was mother's. She always sat in it."

"Is she—dead?"

"No. She's gone away with daddy. He's very ill. This was his only chance. That's why we're selling."

She stopped as a young man appeared in the door. Michael knew at once it was her brother. They were much alike. Young Oliphant was taller than his sister, but there was the same grace and slenderness, and his head was topped by the same bright hair. Yet there was this difference, that Virginia carried herself more gallantly. Richard slouched a bit, and his features showed a blurring of the lines which gave strength to the girl's face. Only a keen observer would have noticed the difference. But Michael was a keen observer.

"The sale is beginning in a few minutes," the boy said; "I thought you'd like to get away from it."

She explained to Michael, "We're going to the attic and watch things from there."

At that moment, Richard saw the candlesticks in her arms. "Where are you taking them, Jinny?"

Her voice had a note of appeal in it. "Rickey, I'm not going to sell them."

"Why not?" sharply.

"Because—we must save something out of it all—"

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Farm, Commodity Prices Now Will Rise By Fiat; Processors To Be Taxed

How Costs of Certain Products Are Expected to Be Boosted as Secretary of Agriculture Uses His Vast Power

(This is the seventh explanatory article of a series on measures the Roosevelt administration has undertaken.)

By LESLIE EICHEL

Washington, May 18—Whether the United States has inflation or not, farm and commodity prices generally will rise now—by fiat.

With tremendous power in his hands through the medium of the general farm relief bill, Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace can transfer millions from the pockets of consumers to the long-suffering farmers. (The farmer says that with money once more flowing into his pockets he again can purchase on a large scale, and thus put factories to work and bring about higher wages.)

The test of the theory is at hand. How Much Tax?

Processors of raw materials, taxed by the bill to provide the higher prices to be paid to farmers, in the meantime await the amount of tax to be levied.

A definite goal for several of the commodities involved, the price average of 1909-14, would provide prices not far out of line with present market prices. Thus the tax to be assessed is today much less than it would have been several months ago, prior to the rise of commodity prices.

The 1909-14 average for wheat was 90 cents. As this article was written, wheat was 73 cents.

The 1909-14 average for cotton was 12 1/2 cents, as against 8 1/2 cents at present.

The 1909-14 average for hogs was \$7.30 a hundredweight, as against \$4 now.

In the final revisions of the farm bill the base parity period of milk was changed to the pre-war period of 1919-14 instead of the 1919-24 post-



The farmer says he can put factories to work.

war period. Thus, increase in milk prices will be less than at first assumed.

Tobacco base also was left at post-war level.

Price Advances

To reach the 1909-14 price averages price advances on several commodities are expected to range as follows:

Cotton goods, 10 to 15 per cent. Flour, 20 to 25 per cent. Pork products, 35 to 40 per cent.

These advances are in addition to rises already achieved since the United States went off the gold standard.

Prices on many other interrelated products will rise. On still others, prices will rise in sympathy.

In Sympathy

That is why President Roosevelt has pledged for a general increase in wages. Otherwise, thousands in cities literally would starve or the standard of living would crash even further.

One of the questions vexing trades-

is whether the processors' tax will be flexible. Undoubtedly the secretary of agriculture will be governed by market fluctuations. Not even the wealthier nation can compete with the law of supply and demand without giving some heed to the natural flow and ebb.

Mildly finding cotton taxed, may turn to rayon, only to find prices on that commodity also raised. For the bill provides for a compensating tax on materials which compete with cotton.

Will It Work?

That is only one of the many quirks in this newest gigantic experiment of the American government. As President Roosevelt frankly remarked, he was not sure it would work, but has anybody a plan less hazardous?

A few renegades among economists say the cart has been put before the horse, that the farmer has demanded protective tariffs and isolation, and, at the same time, world markets. That having failed, he and the high tariff manufacturer have joined hands to force American people to pay the cost of lack of markets.

To relieve that pressure President Roosevelt is putting forth a worldwide pin for a tariff truce. That will be discussed next.

Next: Tariff Truce

eral sales tax, which will become effective July 1. An enlarged personnel will be necessary in order to collect this tax, although Commissioner Maxwell does not believe the size of the new collecting organization will have to be as large as some think. The law provides that as much as two per cent of the total collected from the three per cent general sales tax may be used to defray the cost of collecting it, but Commissioner Maxwell believes it can be collected for less than this amount. He points out, however, that in Mississippi the cost of collecting the sales tax there is about four per cent of the gross amount taken in.

"If it were up to me to be necessary for us to set up an entirely new tax collecting agency from top to bottom for the collection of the new general sales tax, it would of course, be an expensive undertaking," Commissioner Maxwell said. "But since we have a well organized revenue collecting organization already set up and in operation it will only be necessary to expand this in order to administer the new law. Consequently we believe that the new sales tax can be collected on a much smaller outlay than some of its critics have maintained."

Dr. John G. Bowman, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, born at Davenport, Iowa, 56 years ago.

REVENUE BUREAU IS MAKING PLANS

Maxwell Estimates Cost of Sales Tax Will Be Under Two Percent

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, BY J. C. BASKERVILLE.

Raleigh, May 18.—The Department of Revenue is already busy having new blanks printed and the many new forms prepared as the result of the changes made in the revenue laws by the General Assembly, although none of these changes go into effect until July 1, Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell said today. Many of these new blanks and forms have to be ready to send out by June 1, so that there is no time to lose.

The revenue department is also beginning to lay its plans for the collection of the new three per cent gen-

Notice

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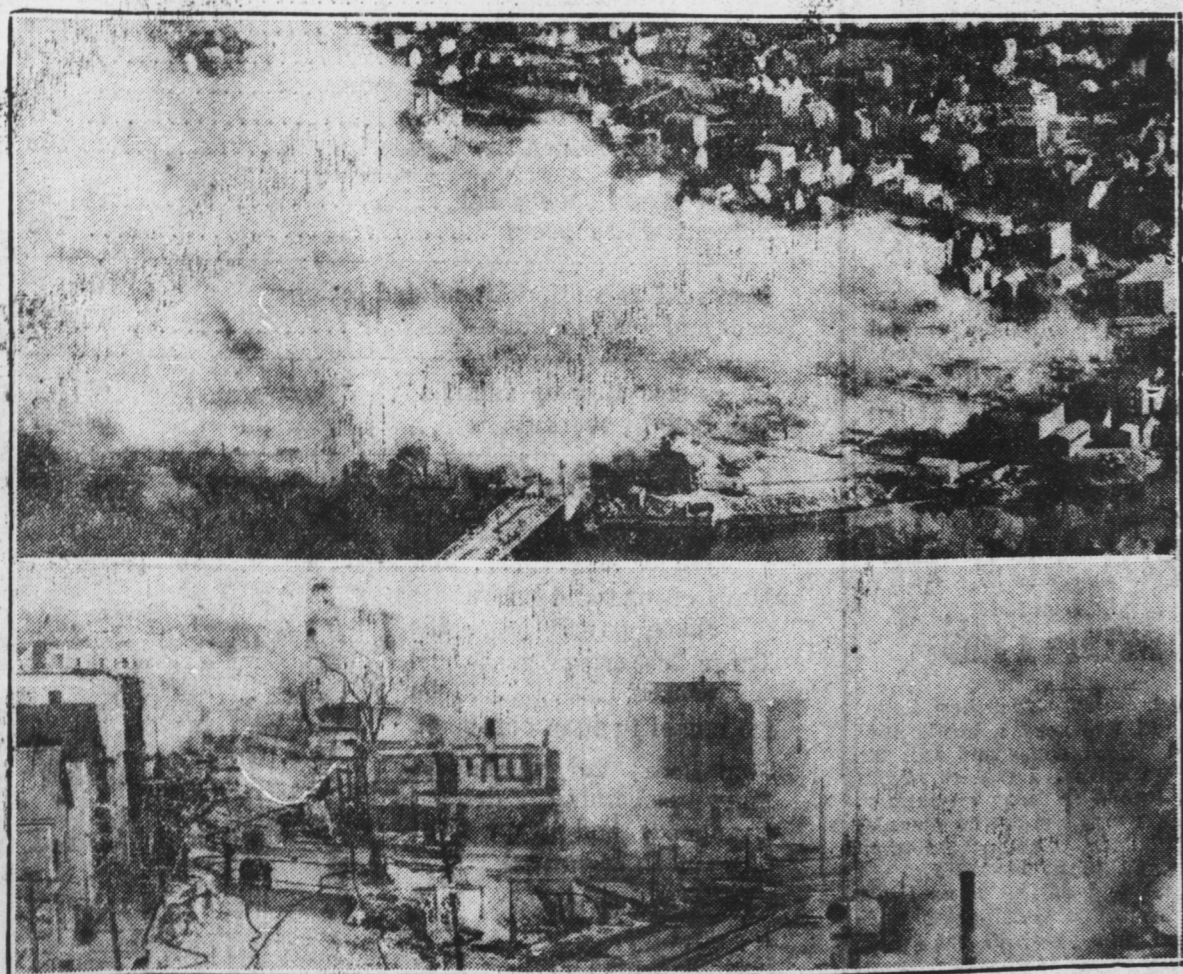


What to look for

Where to get it

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As Flames Ramped Through Maine Town



Here are two spectacular photos of the disastrous fire that ravaged the town of Auburn, Me., doing nearly \$2,000,000 worth of damage and rendering hundreds homeless. Top photo, made from the air, gives a general view of the conflagration at its height, as the flames swept over a two-mile long area. Lower photo shows some of the smouldering ruins after the fire had been brought under partial control.

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