

Saving the Company.

By CARLETON HAZZARD.

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After a long line of incompetent stenographers Bradley congratulated himself when Alice Fuller took her place at the typewriter desk, and as though by magic the crooked places were made straight.

So quietly did the girl slip into the routine of the office and so unostentatiously did she accomplish results that Arthur Bradley did not realize all that she was doing.

It had been a struggle to get the office going at all, for the firm was in opposition to the trust, and everything possible was done to break up the newly established branch office.

More than once Bradley had narrowly escaped some trap laid for him, but for every blow struck at him he gave back as good.

The biggest feather in his cap was when the home office turned over to him the task of securing a contract for some \$2,000,000 worth of material.

"Such big contracts are usually handled from the home office," he explained to Alice Fuller as he gave her the letter with instructions to place it in the private letter file in the safe.

"They probably realize that you are close to the contract, and they know that they can trust you," answered Alice.

She went quietly about her work, but there was a happy light in her eyes, for she was as much pleased at this sign of confidence as was Bradley himself.

The week that followed was a busy one. Bradley figured far into the night on the problems of cost, and each morning he gave to Alice the results of his work.

"I suppose that you cannot be blamed," he said dispiritedly, "but it means that the company is smashed by a trick of the trust."

"Not yet," declared Bradley, with a laugh. "Miss Fuller's quick eyes saw through the trick. We took a chance and put in the original bid. I think you will find that we are the lowest bidders, for the trust felt safe in keeping up their bid."

"If we win, you can have the London office next month," declared Hammond.

"Excuse me a moment," said Bradley as he slipped out to the outer office.

"It's a go," he announced beamingly. "Miss Fuller says that she will come as Mrs. Bradley."

"Rather sudden?" asked Hammond. "It's sudden only in the recent realization that I have loved her ever since she came into the office," explained Bradley.

"Are you certain that it is the order of the New York office?" asked Alice as she took up the sheets.

"That's just it," complained Bradley. "They know that if we lose this contract we lose our fight for an independent existence and shall have to sell out to the trust at their own price. If we get it, it will mean that we can beat them and hold our own. Yet they raise my figures."

"And it would be worth a great effort to beat us," went on Alice. "Suppose that the trust people had some one planted in the home office who could copy the figures and send them to the trust officers."

"That's possible," admitted Bradley. "I'll wire the home office and find out."

"And warn the traitor in the office that his plans have been discovered?" reminded Alice.

"They will then bid below your figures and get the contract anyway. It would be best to hold on and take chances by yourself. It will be the only way to hold the contract."

"If I only could be sure," exclaimed Bradley. "But I can't act on mere guesswork."

"This is something more than guesswork," insisted Alice. "In the first place, this letter is mailed from the Madison square station. That is in the building in which the trust has its main office. Our letters all come from the Wall street station, four or five miles away and nearest our office. They are using the same make of typewriter used, but it is not the same typewriter used, but it is not the same machine. On the letters from our office there is a piece broken from the cross of every 't.'"

"I think you are right!" cried Bradley as he compared two letters. "We'll pop in the original estimate, and when they come to open the bids our trust friends will have a dozen fits."

"But answer this letter and say that changes have been made in the bid in accordance with instructions and that the bid has been submitted," directed Alice.

"You're the general," cried Bradley admiringly. "I am only the second in command until this is straightened out. Do just as you please."

That evening a letter went to the home office reporting that the changes had been made as directed, but Bradley personally took to the office of the contracting company the original bid.

Two days later a long telegram arrived from the head office demanding the explanation of the changes to which Bradley made reference. It was Alice who wrote the telegram in reply, explaining what those changes were, and who wrote the second message declaring it to be impossible to alter the bid to the old figures, as they directed by wire.

The next morning President Hammond stamped into the office shortly after Bradley had come in.

"I came out on the fast train to see what it all means," he cried. "You have ruined the company by letting yourself be fooled in this fashion."

For reply Bradley brought out the letter he had received. It startled Hammond, for beyond question it was on the paper of the company and not on a cheap imitation. He sighed as he laid it down.

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Alice looked in at the doorway. "The Wallington people telephone that your estimate has won the contract," she reported demurely, and to her great embarrassment Bradley kissed her under the approving eyes of the president of the company.

"We've tricked the tricky trust," he cried, "and we're going to London on our honeymoon."

"On my yacht," added the president. "We can't do too much for the girl, whose clever brain saved the company. You're a lucky man, Bradley."

"Don't I know it?" cried Bradley. "I knew it first."

One of the most remarkable cases of longevity on record was that of an Englishman born in 1483, whose delicate appearance made all the doctors give him up when he was in the cradle.

His chest was so narrow, says the report, that he seemed to have difficulty in breathing. Well, this young moribund, condemned by the doctors to die in short order, died in 1651 at the age of 169.

He saw the reign of ten kings. Second Hango, consul of Venice at Smyrna, measured only fifty-seven centimeters around the chest, and one of his lungs was diseased. Nevertheless he lived to the age of 115 years.

He was married five times and had forty-nine children. When he was 100 years old he got his wisdom teeth. When he was 110 his hair turned black again. At 112 his eyebrows and his beard turned black.

"The late Valerian Gribayedoff," said a Chicago art editor, "was one of the first American newspaper sketch artists. On that account he leaves behind him a famous name. As Gribayedoff said himself the last time I visited him in Paris, his fame was due not to his great artistic skill, but to his luck in coming first. And he added, with a laugh, that it was always lucky to come early and avoid the rush, instancing the case of a restaurant on the Boule Mich, in the Latin quarter, where a young poet had a large turnover of soup spilled over his coat one evening."

The waiter, in response to the savage outcries of the poet, said good naturedly:

"Oh, well, you needn't alarm yourself, sir. There's no harm done. Our soup never stains after half past 7."

"I," said the greatest of them, with a complacent glance at the two pure pearls in his shirt front, "decree the color of every actress' frock."

"That is carrying the regard for detail too far," said a playwright who had failed.

"Not a bit of it," said the other. "If I didn't decide on the color of the dresses the stage manager would. Why, that must always be done. Oth-

erwise, in their overmastering desire to draw all eyes to themselves, every actress would wear bright red. In my first play the frocks were forgotten in the general excitement, and at the first dress rehearsal all six actresses came on in the discovery scene in scarlet gowns."—New York Press.

"Do you believe in heredity, Mrs. Simpson?" "Indeed I do. Every mean trait Bobby has I can trace right back to his father."

"Does his father believe in heredity too?" "Yes. He traces Bobby's faults all back to me."

"Experience," said the wise person. "Experience," said the wise person. "Is the best teacher."

"Yes," answered Mrs. Torkins sadly, "but when it comes to horse races some people go on taking postgraduate courses all their lives."—Washington Star.

Hook—I understand he married a cool million Cook—Yes, but he's complaining now because he hasn't been able to thaw out any of it.—Illustrated Bits.

Mabel—And did your grandfather live to a green old age? Jack—Well, I should say so! He was swindled three times after he was seventy.

"The White Man's Burden" medically speaking, is dyspepsia. The hurried eating of meals, the consumption of greasy foods, and improperly prepared dishes, tend to ruin the stomach. Ill-health and unappiness surely follow. So long as men and women eat carelessly and hurriedly so long will Nature need assistance of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This great medicine acting directly upon the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, increases the flow of the digestive juices, cleanses the system of clogging obstructions, stimulates the action of the blood making glands, and so builds up the body with sound flesh and strong muscle. "Golden Medical Discovery" contains no whisky, alcohol or intoxicant in any form.

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