

(continued from previous page)

and I again had to leave her out, she had the doll on her back Maori fashion. And another time she even called me.

"I give the doll Mrs. Som'set!" and laid the doll for a moment in the little new boy's arms beside her. And as for the second half of the afternoon, well, I confess I seemed to forget her altogether. Not only was her presence lost to me beneath the flood tide of conversation, but also I was lost to her. I was completely absorbed in the strange, brilliantly coloured flying things the children were drawing: darting birds, dragon-flies, flitting fairies, flying angels, shooting stars, butterflies, in abandoned and gorgeous designs.

So when she appeared before me with Ruhi at the end of the day I was a little surprised, until she spoke in her clear voice, with the same remarkable absence of nervousness.

"I take the doll home, Mrs. Som'set?"

But I still couldn't see. I thought in my pitiable reasoning that I must keep the attraction at school. I want her to love school, I said to myself. I want there to be one exciting place for her to come to. Besides, to do what she wanted would mean good-bye to an irreplaceable doll. So I replied, "No, you can't take the doll home. Kata. You can have it again in the morning when you come back."

At once she gave the doll up to Ruhi and turning away said, "I come back to the doll!"

BUT she didn't.

Some time later I met her mother down in the pa and she told me that the next day on the way to school big Wharepa and the others had left her behind and the pig had chased her and she had run right into a pool. . . Mud! Mud on her face, mud on her clothes, mud on her hands and legs. . .

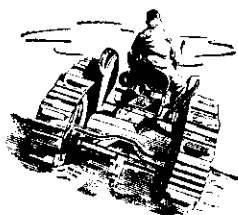
I couldn't bear it. I left my kit with Kata's mother and ran, or tried to run all the way back up to school and got the doll and brought it down to the pa, where Kata was sitting on the side of the road listening to the voices and steps going by. I stared a moment at the old rags she was in and at her dirty face and hands, then put the doll in her arms.

For an incredulous moment the moving eyes lay still. Then her face lifted and once again the eyes flashed from side to side, filled with rapture at the fitting things above. She spoke, in a voice clear and high with fulfilment, "You give the doll, Mrs. Som'set!"

### Welsh Nicotine

AN expatriate Rhodesian, Harry Sutherns, transplanted a Rhodesian crop to Britain and started to grow that latter-day elixir, tobacco, on a farm in Wales. Donald Green gave a progress report of this experiment in his monthly newsletter "Calling Rhodesia" in the BBC Overseas Service, saying "Sutherns said he sowed about half a salt-spoonful of seed and enough has come up in the seed-bed to plant out the whole of Wales. He doesn't anticipate any trouble in actually growing it. His first headache will be curing it in the hot tank room next to his bathroom, and if that is successful, almost certainly his next headache will come when he smokes the stuff." But, as Green said rather ruefully, with cigarettes at over twopence each here one had to do something.

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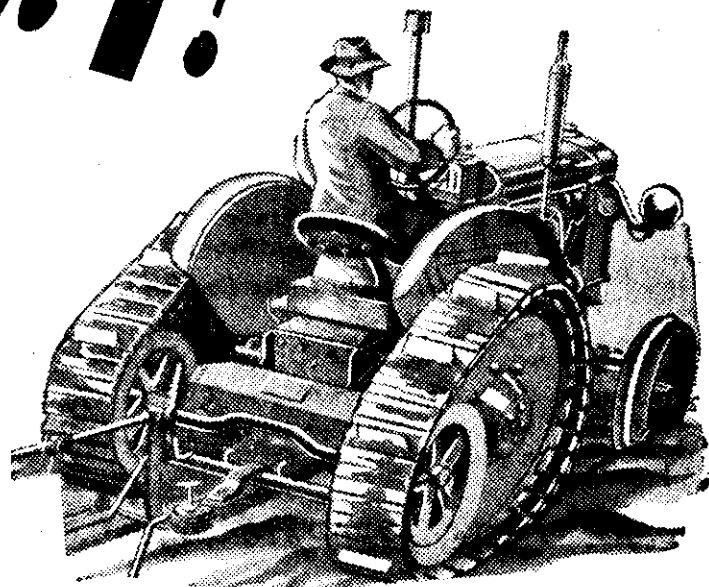
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