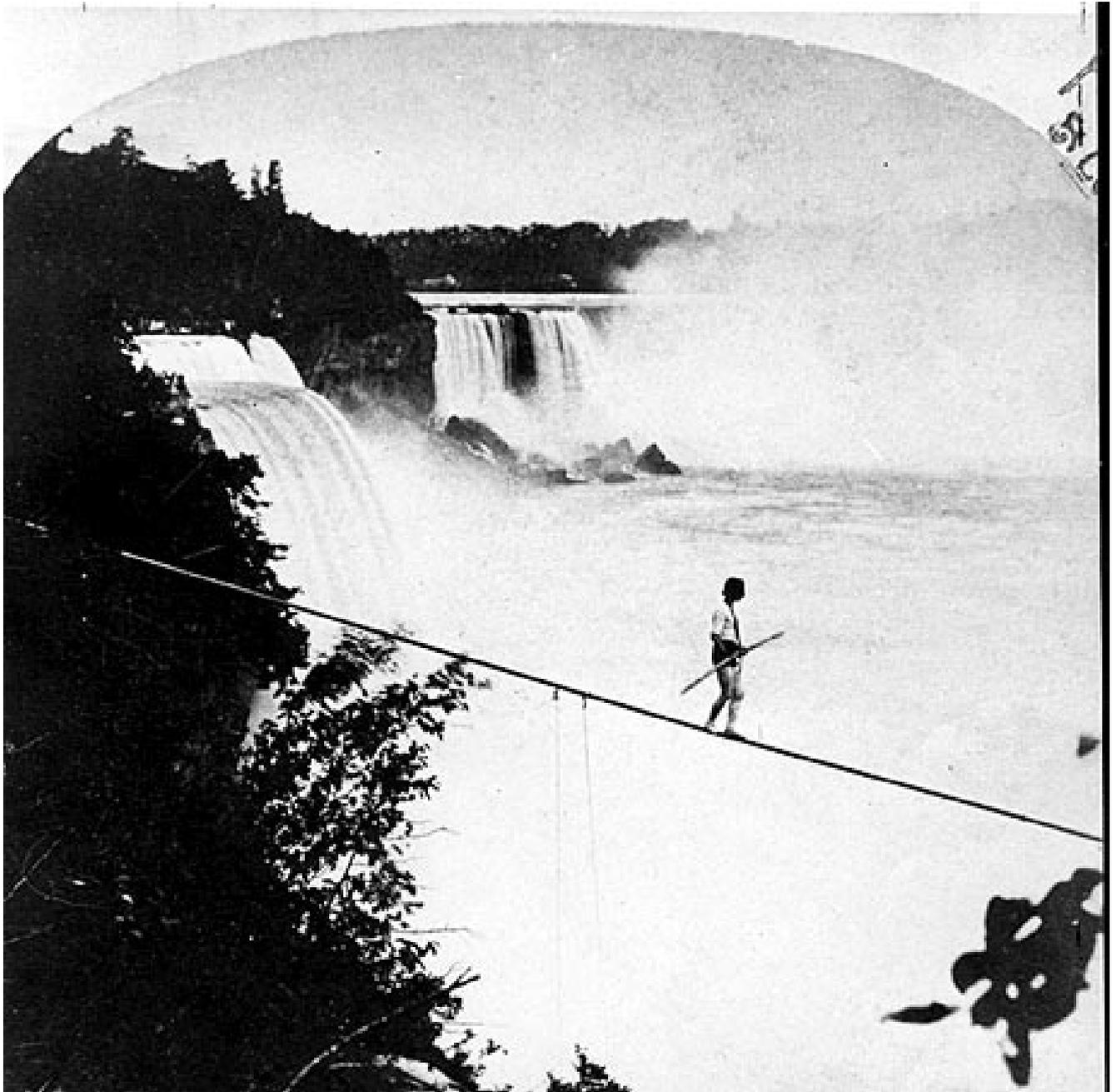


A DARING ACT



A Daring Act

decided

balancing

performed

stepped

tightrope

churning

thundering

empty

enough

painstakingly

carry

stomach

across

shoulders

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A DARING ACT

In 1859 a person named Blondin, decided to do the most daring act ever to be performed. He decided to walk a tightrope above the thundering waters of the Niagara Falls in the U.S.A. As if this was not enough, he decided to carry a person on his back across the tightrope, over the falls.

It drew crowds of people to see this amazing new feat. Actually Blondin had one problem - he could not find one person who would cross the tightrope with him. He eventually persuaded Harry Colcord, his best friend, to assist him.

As they arrived at the rope, the crowd was deadly silent. Harry's face was as white as snow. His mouth was dry. Blondin told him to sit very still. Blondin picked up his balancing pole and stepped out on the rope. Colcord closed his eyes. Blondin quickly ran to the middle of the rope and then he stopped. He told Harry to get off for a while, because he was too heavy and Blondin needed a rest. Colcord's eyes popped open. He saw the churning falls far below. All around him was empty air. There was only a thin rope under him. Blondin told Harry to slowly slide off his back and to stand on the rope. Harry painstakingly got off and stood on the rope with his hands on Blondin's shoulders. His stomach churned and he felt sick.

Finally Blondin told Harry to get back on his shoulders. On the sideline the crowd watched Colcord carefully get back on Blondin's back. Not a sound could be heard. Some people turned away. They couldn't look.

Then Blondin started walking again - he was puffing hard under Colcord's weight. Slowly they came to one of the side ropes that secured the main rope. Blondin stopped again and told Harry to get down. He was very tired and needed to rest again. As he placed one foot on the side rope - it broke! The two men swayed dangerously from side to side. Blondin tried to steady himself with the pole. The crowds were on their feet. Some people screamed out in fear.

For a long moment Blondin stood swaying, tipping first one way, then the other. Colcord could see cold drops of sweat running down Blondin's face and neck. His heart was thumping hard in his ears. Blondin started walking again, painstakingly slow. He placed one foot in front of the other and very slowly made his way to the far cliff on the other side. At last they stepped off the rope onto solid ground. The people went wild, they screamed and cheered. Colcord felt weak and sick. He would never in his life do that again.

After that, Blondin went on doing his tricks for the people at the Niagara Falls. He walked the tightrope until he was seventy two years old. He died in 1897 at home in his bed.

Questions:

1. In what continent is the Niagara Falls located?
2. What daring act did Blondin do that drew crowds of people?
3. What problem was Blondin confronted with?
4. Why did Blondin stop in the middle of the tightrope?
5. How did Harry feel when he had to get off Blondin's back?
6. What happened when Blondin decided to rest for a second time?

7. How did Colcord know that Blondin was scared?
8. Until what age did Blondin perform his acts?
9. How did Blondin die?
10. Why does the heading say: "A Daring Act"? Explain.

True or false- give a reason when your answer is false.

1. Blondin decided to walk the tightrope above the Niagara Falls with a person on his back.
2. Many people wanted to do this act with him.
3. Blondin stopped in the middle of the tightrope to perform a new act.
4. Harry fell to his death when he had to get off Blondin's back.
5. Blondin struggled under Colcord's weight.
6. The main rope broke when they stepped onto the side rope.
7. Colcord went on performing with Blondin.
8. Blondin died during one of his acts in the circus.

Make good sentences with the following words to clearly illustrate their meaning.

Puffing	eventually	tipping
Churning	persuaded	thumping
Thundering	popped	feat
Amazing	painstakingly	

Answer to questions.

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing answers.

