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Strange Takes of the Sea

THE DIAMOND CROSS OF LIMA.

(By CAPT. LESLIE COBB, R.N.R.)

The citizens of the town of Lima, in Peru, were in a state bordering panic. Shops were closed, the public offices crowded with people gesticulating and shouting, private houses were being put in a state of defence, troops were marching through the streets to the sound of the drum. Well might there be general perturbation, for Bolivar, the Liberator, with his hordes, was threatening an attack upon the city.

Lima was at that time amongst the richest of South American cities. Its merchants dealt in gold, silver and gems from the mines in the interior, its churches were ornamented with costly plate, the offerings of the faithful, and amongst the most splendid of these none could compare with the diamond cross of the Cathedral of San Pedro. Many a bold adventurer and pirate of the past had set covetous eyes upon the cross, standing before it, loathe to leave so precious an ornament, desiring to add it to their lists of plunder.

A Bid For Safety.

Though the cross of fabulous wealth had stood intact for many years, this year of 1822 was to see its removal, and the start of its adventures. The citizens of Lima, terrified at the coming of Bolivar, and anxious to put their riches beyond his reach, collected the greater part of their public wealth, including the diamond cross of San Pedro, and loaded them aboard a British ship under the command of Captain Thomson, with the intention of sending the into a place of security until troublesome times should pass. Captain Thomson sailed for England, and though hitherto he had the reputation of being an honest and upright man, the presence of so great riches in the hold of his vessel seemed to have an evil influence upon his character. Cupidity got the better of him and in his mind there formed a treacherous plan—nothing less than the theft of the valuables entrusted in his care.

It seems that his idea was to make for some port in the East Indies, but whatever may have been his intentions in this direction, Fate thwarted them. It was as if ill-luck descended

at sea under an assumed name, looking for an opportunity of making use of the knowledge of which he was possessed.

The opportunity seemed now to have arrived. With Keating he made plans for an expedition to Trinidad, and having drawn up a chart showing where he had secreted the diamond cross of San Pedro—the only piece of treasure he had been able to get ashore—he also succeeded in getting Captain Boyne to join the confederacy.

Captain Boyne provided a ship, and the three treasure-seekers set sail, telling no man, not even their crew, for what purpose they were voyaging.

Suspicious

Soon after starting Thomson died, but as he had left a chart his two partners decided to proceed. In due course they arrived at Trinidad, of which island they anchored, the two men going ashore alone.

Now it so happened that in spite of their secretiveness something of the business they were about reached the crew, and when these men saw the chiefs of the exploration going ashore alone in this mysterious fashion they had a very shrewd suspicion that treasure was at the bottom of it. They mutinied, locked Keating and Boyne in their cabins as soon as they returned from a preliminary survey of the island, and then went ashore to look for treasure on their own account. Luckily they had not obtained possession of the chart, and strayed all over the mountainous island, having very little idea of where to commence operations. In the meantime the two prisoners managed to get free and, taking a boat, reached the island and made for the spot indicated on the chart. Digging there, they soon discovered that Thomson had told the truth, and that their dreams were to be realized. From the earth they lifted a rough box, and in it lay, wrapped in layers of cloth, the magnificent diamond cross of the Cathedral of San Pedro.

Having feasted their eyes upon the beautiful sight for some minutes, they quickly covered it again and conveyed it to their boat, intending to take aboard ship and set sail alone, leaving the mutineers marooned upon the island.

Claimed by the Sea.

But the matter of going to and from the island was a matter of little difficulty. Many lives had been lost, many boats upset in making attempt; so it was in this instance the boat was overturned and the surf broke over the heads of the two men. The boat was overturned and the diamond cross disappeared forever beneath the waves.

Keating managed to regain the boat and pass beyond the barrier of surf, being carried far out to sea. For several days he lived in the open boat, suffering greatly from want of food and water, and was on the point of death when he was picked up by a Spanish ship which took him to La Plata. Thence he returned home to Newfoundland, and it appears, gave up all further attempts at treasure seeking.

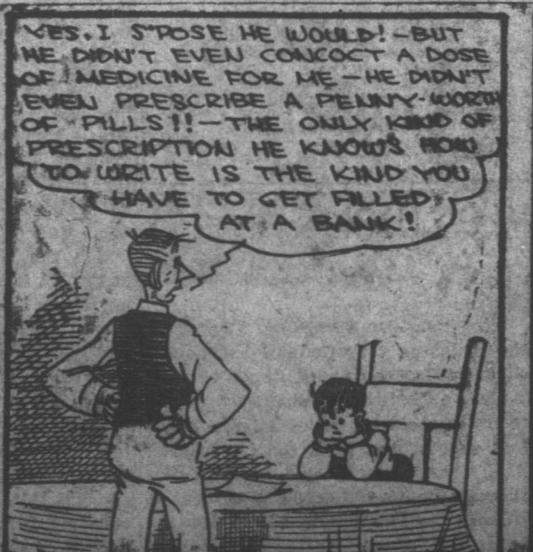
In the meantime the mutineers had scoured the whole island without result, and so were forced to weigh anchor, without making a penny piece for all their troubles. Since that time many attempts have been made to find the diamond cross and the remainder of the treasure of Lima. One expedition did succeed in locating the wreck of Thomson's ship upon an outer reef of the island, and, according to one story, recovered some of the treasure upon the mainland.

This story has been very widely believed, and a number of treasure-seekers within recent days have made attempts to unearth the hoard of riches. It seems probable that the diamond cross will never be seen again, for long since it must have been ground to pieces by the surf that breaks eternally upon the rocks of Trinidad.

Yves—(In the early 40's a family named Keating, of which the man referred to above was a member, lived on Nunany Hill. This family, a branch of the Keating family, is believed to have died out. The story of Keating's search for treasure is known to many of the older generation. —(Editor).

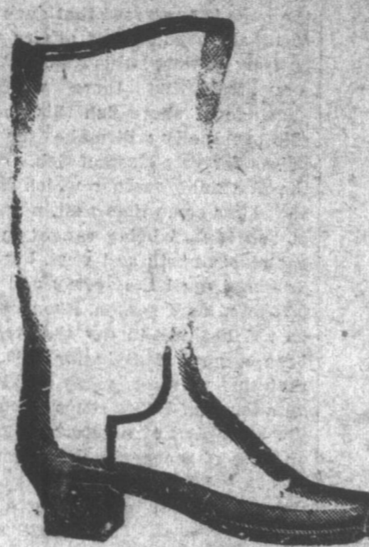
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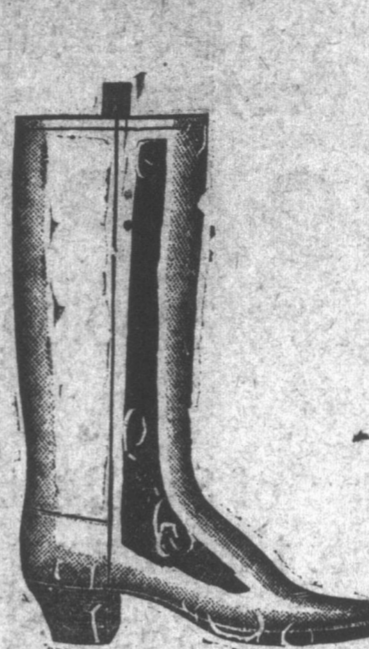


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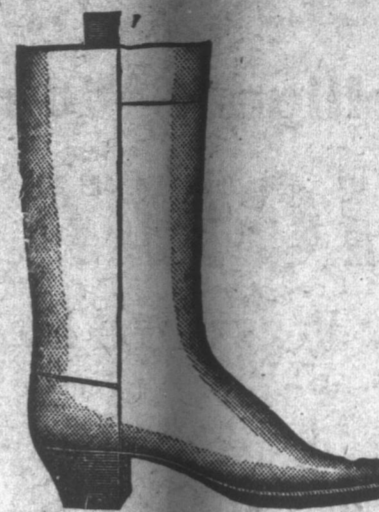
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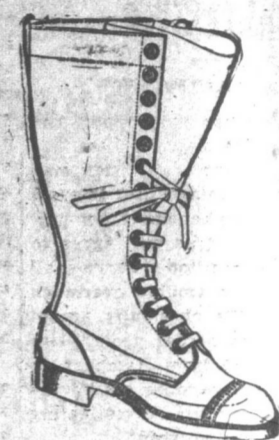
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Labor Secretary Lauds Business Leaders

legislation and legislate away nearly every bit of initiative in him. When other countries would knight him, they act as if they would like to indict him; they hammer the stuffing out of him and restrict him with every manner of legislation.

"One of the few Cabinet Ministers who have added to their reputations since taking office," writes B. C. Forbes, in Forbes Magazine (N.Y.), "is Secretary of Labor James J. Davis. He has succeeded in winning the respect of fair-minded business men, just as he had won the respect of fair-minded labor leaders and followers. I asked Mr. Davis, who, since his return from Europe, came to Portland, Oregon, to address the American Federation of Labor convention, to give me his estimate, his analysis of America's business men and America's labor leaders. Here is his carefully, deliberately expressed reply, a reply deserving widespread publication abroad as well as at home: "I have met the European business man and labor leaders, and I am satisfied that the American business man is the most efficient in the world. He outdistances all others in thought, action and service. He will work twelve, fourteen and sixteen hours a day—never tires or retires when he has a big job to do.

"When he is ready to start business nearly every community wants his factory or railroad. They offer him free taxes and bonuses to get him to locate in their midst. Committees wait on him and make a great fuss over him.

"But what happens after his business is developed? The same community and the same forces begin their

manner of legislation. "To run a great business, of course, requires some regulatory laws, but not such measures as would take it out of the master and put it into other hands which know but little about business in general or that particular enterprise. Yet we look to those who know but little about business with more confidence than to him who has the practical experience which established and developed the small business to be perhaps the greatest in the world. We have more faith in the fellow who knows the theoretical side than in the man who has had the practical experience and has built the business. And what, secondly, are these business men collectively? As soon as three or four of them get together to do business on a large scale, they are indicted.

"Let him keep his initiative and I am sure the farmer, laborer and everybody else will be benefited.

"The same holds true for the efficient American labor man who leads his men in a conservative, sensible way to demand for them what is right. When he gets to understand his work thoroughly and the men whom he represents, and cannot be defeated in a fair discussion of the matters at issue, his enemies resort to every character of mud-slinging that can be devised by the brain of man.

"Let's have more faith in one another. Let's stand up as man to man, face each other, and overcome our difficulties, settle our differences—and do it in a human way. Let's follow the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments a little more closely, and let

them regulate us a little more rather than have so much of so-called "modern" regulation."



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