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A Mysterious Disappearance

By Gordon Holmes

A Great Detective Story

(Continued.)

They had been in the port three days, and on the morrow would hand the yacht over to the owner's agents, those on board separating on their different routes. The Brownes went to Florence and Rome, and Mensmore pretending to hold a pressing request to accompany them, cordially given by his prospective father-in-law.

This afternoon Phyllis and he were leaning over the taffrail and discussing the point.

The young lady was slightly inclined to be angry. Her eyes roamed over the magnificent panorama of church-crowned hills and verdent valleys, with the white city in front and the picturesque quays looking as though they had been specially decked for a painting by Clara Montalba. But Phyllis paid heed to none of these things. She wanted her lover to come with her, and not to fly away to smoke-covered London.

"Business!" she cried, "it is always business that men think of. Of course I know that affairs must be attended to, but now that everything is settled and we are quite happy, it is too bad of you to run away immediately."

"But, dearest—"

"There! Take your hand off my arm. You are not going to coax me into agreement. Just because you received a horrid letter this morning you go and upset all the arrangements."

'Phyllis, listen to me. I—"

'You shan't go. I think it is mean of you to insist upon it when I am so urgent."

"I am not insisting. You might at least help me to settle matters; otherwise they will get terribly mixed."

"And you will stay?"

'What else can I do when you ask me?"

"Oh, you darling!"

This little quarrel was very delightful, and made them feel ever so much more in love than before; but it did not help Mensmore out of his difficulty.

"Let us see what Corbett really says," he remarked, ruefully taking a letter from his pocket.

"Am I to look, too?"

'Of course. I have no secrets from you, little woman."

Phyllis nestled up close to him. This time she did not object to his hand resting on her shoulder, and together they read the following letter:

"My Dear Bertie—At last I am able to write you definitely. The prospectors have struck it rich on our property, and I have sold two claims outright for $50,000. With this nest-egg I am taking the girls to New York, and shall then start by the Teutonic for your side of the pond. I am due in Liverpool on February 4, so look out for me.

"Yours ever,
"SYDNEY H. CORBETT."

Both gazed thoughtfully at the document for a few moments before Phyllis said:

'Does that mean we shall be rich, Bertie?"

Her companion emphasized the gratification of the plural pronoun by a squeeze.

"I hope so, sweet."

"That will be very nice, won't it? I will marry you even if you have to take a place in father's office; but it will be so much better if we haven't to explain to him that we are poor after all."

Mensmore laughed. 'It is not so bad as that in any case," he said. "This Springbok Mine speculation will probably turn out well, but I look to Wyoming to yield the best and most permanent results."

"Why is Mr. Corbett coming to London?"

'Because it is only in London that capital can be obtained for large undertakings, and if the Wyoming Goldfield is really a valuable one we may be able to realize some portion of our interests for a considerable sum. Anyhow, he wants to consult me."

"Do you both own the ranch?"

"Yes; it was a joint transaction, but I found the money."

'And why did you come away?"

"Well, we made very little out of it, Phil. As Corbett has two sisters, I thought it best to leave what there was for him. He was absurdly grateful about what he called my generosity in the matter, but now that the land has proved valuable, of course all that nonsense is at an end, and we go half-shares in the deal.

"Two sisters! They pretty?"

'What! Jealous already! They are very nice, but much older than their brother, and he is my senior by two years."

Miss Browne was graciously pleased to accept this explanation. She knitted her smooth brow into a reflective frown as she said:

"Mr. Corbett arrives on the 4th. It is now January 30th. You really ought to go home, Bertie."

"Now, my dear, sensible little woman is talking like her own self."

'I see I must give you permission. But I did hope we would see Florence together."

"So we shall. I'll tell you what I can do. I shall write to Corbett today, care of the steamer at Liverpool, tell him to go to my flat, and stay there a few days until I arrive, and go home myself at the end of next week. He is sure to spend some time seeing the sights before tackling business, and he can do that as well without me as if I were there. A line to my old housekeeper, who has a spare key, will make the place habitable for him. Happy thought, I'll do it."

"And another happy thought! I'l come and watch you do it."

She did not notice that Mensmore's face clouded at this otherwise pleasant intimation. Nevertheless, he raced off with her to the saloon and seated himself at the writing-table. But before he placed pen to paper, Phyllis bending over him meanwhile, he suddenly exclaimed, in a tone of annoyance:

"Now, what a bore this is. I don't know how to address the letter to make sure of reaching him at once, and it is very important that it should not miss him."

'No," said Mensmore judicially, "I will row across the harbor to the Flor-Rubattino office, find out the exact thing, and send off the letter. Back in half-an-hour. Be good!"

And before Phyllis could argue the matter he was at the gangway shouting for a boat.

She blew a kiss to him as he shot over the narrow strip of water inside the mole, and little realized that Mensmore was saying to himself:

"That was a narrow squeak. Never again, as long as I live, will I take another man's name. It causes no end of bother, and at the most unexpected moments."

He did not trouble the Florio-Rubattino people, as he well knew that a letter addressed to the White Star offices would insure any communication reaching his friend.

The contents of the missive, as finally indited at the post-office, explains his hesitancy to write it in the presence of his fiancee.

"My dear Sydney—Your good news is more than surprising. Although I believe you, I cannot yet grasp its full significance. However, let us leave explanations until we meet. I am fixed here for a few days more, as I have just become engaged to the sweetest girl in the world, but will return home at the end of next week. Meanwhile I want you to take up your residence at my flat, No. 12 Raleigh Mansions, Sloane Square, where my housekeeper has instructions to receive you. Do not be surprised if you find the name of Corbett familiar there. Indeed, I took the place in your name in August last. However, all explanations when we meet.

"Yours ever,
'BERTIE MENSMORE."

This, with a note to the housekeeper, Mrs. Robinson, and another to the hall-porter of the Universities Club, lest by any chance the Liverpool letter missed his friend, completed his task.

He laughed as he hurried from the post-office to the harbor.

"By Jove!" he said to himself, "won't old Robinson be surprised when she gets my letter telling her that another Mr. Corbett is coming from America, and that my name, concealed for family reasons, is Mensmore. I guess that Sydney will feel a bit mixed up, too, until I tell him the whole yarn."

No wonder his housekeeper would fail to understand him.

Others, whose influence on his fortunes he little suspected, were already puzzled by the circumstances. Bruce, for instance, and White would be very glad if some occult power enabled them to read the seemingly trivial letters posted that day in Genoa.

Every person known to the reader, and not the least the visitor from the United States, was on the eve of a mad whirl of events, the outcome of which no man could prophesy. As yet, one man only, Claude Bruce, had the slightest suspicion that affairs were approaching a crisis.

When Mensmore reached the White Heather he found Lady Browne and Phyllis dressed for a drive before dinner. Sir William seized the opportunity to cross-examine his daughter's suitor as to his means. Phyllis was an only child, and her father did not propose that she should live in penury, whatever the financial position of her husband might be. He liked Mensmore and had ascertained by private inquiries that his social position was good.

(To be Continued.)

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Recommended by all Leading Physicians. The public may rely on Dodd's Kidney Pills. Sold only in boxes.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers

THE NEW BLOUSES SHOW TOUCHES OF EMBROIDERY.

Paris has unqualifiedly sanctioned the use of heavy English eyelet needlework with the sheerest nets—an entirely new departure. This blouse of tucked net is trimmed with straight bandings of heavy cotton lace, and just over the bust is a square empiecement of English eyelet embroidery. Rows of hand embroidered dots, done with coarse mercerized cotton, bring out the effect of the lace, and though really quite simple in design this blouse appears to be quite elaorate. The neck is cut out in a small square in which is set a yoke of finer cluny lace. A touch of color is given by a silk piping at the edge of the square and by the silk buttons to which are appliqued medallions of lace.

"I WAS THE PANIC OF 1907" SAYS CHARLES W. MORSE

Bitterly Assails Those He Blames for His Conviction—Asserts There Was a Plan to Find Some Rich Malefactor

New York, Feb. 26—Since Charles W. Morse's conviction last November for misapplication of funds in the management of the Bank of North America and his sentence to 15 years' imprisonment in the federal prison at Atlanta, he has been confined in the tombs pending an appeal to the federal circuit court of appeals.

Repeated efforts have been made since the conviction to induce Mr. Morse to express his views on the subject of the accusations against him and of the conditions associated with the great financial crisis of 1907, which resulted in his downfall.

Recently to a reporter Mr. Morse made his first authoritative statement, speaking, as he himself declared, after careful consideration of his situation and of the conditions antecedent to his calamity.

Mr. Morse looked sharply at the newspaper man and condensed his feelings in a single sentence:

"I am the panic of 1907.

"For some time," continued the former vice-president of the Bank of North America, "there was a great speculation as to whether it was a Roosevelt panic, or a Morgan panic, or a rich man's panic; but at last it was determined by common consent that I was the panic, and as such a panic I have been indicted and tried as a panic, and, as all panics ought to be treated, have been denied bail as a panic.

"In order to indict it, try it and jail it, it was necessary to have it transmigrate into some human being; and so with a little publicity and about 100 counts in one indictment, and a general charge of conspiracy through which to let in perfect cargoes of otherwise incompetent evidence, the transmigration was easily brought about, and I was compelled to stand for the loss of every dollar and the ruin of every home and the bankruptcy of every business in the panic of 1907, and this in the face of the fact that the acts for which I was indicted and tried occurred almost wholly in 1905 and 1906.

DID WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.

"I do not complain that I must bear the burden of my mistakes, but it is hard for a man who knows as much about the banks and banking of New York as I do to convince himself that he is justly confined in a cell, when the things for which he is confined have been the daily practice and are the daily practice in banking in New York at present.

"I did what most other bankers have been doing for years, and are doing today and will continue to do after I am dead and gone—I speculated with my own money for myself, made my profits and bore my losses.

"The bank speculated through me openly, made its profits, every dollar of which was accounted for and distributed among its stockholders, who rejoiced at its prosperity.

"I never used one dollar of the bank's money for my own account, and this was known to the United States government officials before I was indicted. No less a distinguished person than Mr. Stimson, U. S. district attorney, knew this, for he was the attorney for the bank during the happening of the events for which I was indicted, tried and convicted.

"As an evidence of the fact that I was selected as the proper person on whom to saddle the disasters of the panic, you have only to recall that I summoned the controller of the currency to produce the reports which had been made to him upon and concerning the affairs of the Bank of North America and to bring with him the reports so that they might be put in evidence, and he flatly refused upon the stand to produce the reports and was allowed to go without producing them, the U. S. government thus engaging, in my judgment, in a deliberate suppression of the evidence which would shed light upon the transaction.

"It is not known where the controller of the currency got his instructions not to produce these reports, but it is not unlikely that he got them before he left Washington, as I believe it is generally understood that while this trial was held in New York, it was planned, pushed and carried on from Washington.

"The government had been gunning for seven years for a rich malefactor; this had been the burden of its literature, both in message and in speech.

"INDICTED AS A MALEFACTOR."

"I was reputed to be rich, and I was indicated as a malefactor. This furnished the setting for the whole play.

"I know how vain it is to protest from a prison cell against those occupying seats of high authority. I know upon how many deaf ears that protest will fall, since it comes from a man who has been held out to the world as the despoiler of other people's fortunes and the wrecker of banks.

"But the time will come when the withholding of important evidence by the national government in the trial of one of its citizens, however humble he may be, will be regarded as a greater crime and a more indefensible outrage than any misdemeanor denounced by the revised statutes of the United States.

"I have been sentenced practically for life to a federal prison for what the statutes denounce as a misdemeanor. Every fair-minded man in the country knows that my sentence does not represent the just measure of any punishment which I or any banker deserves, but that instead it rather represents that wrath, executive and otherwise, which has been accumulating for these seven years, endeavoring to expend its force upon some malefactor when he has been caught.

"Certainly the district attorney was correct when he said the Morse case was making precedents.

"The first precedent it established was that seven innocently made loans that profited the bank $200,000 could be constructed into 2 false entry accounts to deceive the bank examiner and defraud the bank.

MEANING OF "SCAPEGOAT."

"The second precedent was that the government should be permitted to conceal the correspondence and ignore the court's subpena, which would have refuted this charge. The third was that the same seven profitable loans might be construed into 14 misaplication counts to harm the bank.

"And the last precedent to be established was that it was permissible to charge conspiracy so as to introduce evidence otherwise inadmissible, and that the accused might then be acquitted of the conspiracy charge although no other charge could stand without the conspiracy.

"In the enforced leisure which I am enjoying (?) I have looked up with some care the real meaning of 'scapegoat,' and I find in the standard dictionaries it is defined as follows:

"'A goat, upon the head of which Aaron, on the great day of atonement, symbolically laid the sins of the people, after which it was sent away in the wilderness.'

"I do not believe the courts will do me a conscious wrong. I cannot believe that they intend to make me suffer beyond what I deserve.

"Born in New England, where a regard for law is the primary study of man, I am bound to hold to an abiding faith in the ultimate and final justice of our courts, and I court the opportunity to lay before the circuit court of appeals in unimpassioned way these two points:

"First—Can a man be sent to prison be cause he made $200,000 for his bank?

"Second—Can he be convicted because the record of these profits found their way upon the books?"

Tea grown at an elevation of 5,000 feet and upwards, where soil and climate combine to give that delightful fragrance and delicious flavor is used in "Salada." Its purity and strength make it much more economical to use than other teas.

The Rev. Craig W. Nichols is now carrying out, at his parish church, St. Mary's Ferry, the "Emmanuel" Health Conference idea of having intercessory prayer for the sick. Requests for prayer may be mailed to him, by, or on behalf of any one who is sick or suffering in mind or body; not necessary to give names; intercessory service each Friday evening.

Only One "BROMO QUININE," that is Laxative Bromo Quinine
Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days
E. W. Grove on every box. 25c

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20 value prizes—20 Diplomas—Contest closes March 20th.
SEE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN SATURDAY'S ISSUE OF THE EVENING TIMES.
BAIRD & PETERS, Wholesale Distributers, St. John, N. B.

NO MONOPOLY OF ANY WATER POWER

All Natural Resources Should be Public Utilities—Private Companies Should Not Control Any Water Power.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—The recommendations unanimously passed by the international conference at Washington for the conservation of natural resources were presented to parliament today by Hon. Mr. Fisher. Members of the conference found that the waste of the natural resources of Canada, United States and Mexico was practically the same and starting from this common basis a unanimous agreement was reached as to their recommendations to the respective governments.

The active principle of the recommendations is that each country shall appoint a conservation commission and shall make an inventory of the resources which remain to be conserved. This work will be begun promptly in each country.

It declared that timber, water, land, mineral, public health, power, fuel and other natural resources, used as means of life and welfare, should be regarded as public utilities, in regard to which measures should be taken to prevent a monopoly and waste. It recommends a world's conference on conservation.

For public health steps should be taken to prevent the pollution by sewage of rivers and lakes and that preventive legislation be enacted for this end.

That forests require protection from fire; that forest reservations should be created; that forest inventories should be made; that forestry officers should be trained and educated to supply efficient men; that exactions on standing timber should be so regulated as to prevent destruction and encourage conservation; that both public and private-owned forests should be protected with equal effectiveness; that owners of land unsuited for agriculture should be encouraged to reforest.

In regard to water, that for both irrigation, and power development reasons, there should be complete and concurrent development of streams and their sources for every useful purpose to which they may be put; that legislation should recognize the highest and most necessary use of water is for domestic and municipal purposes; that owing to the cheapness of water transportation there should be general plans for the development of inland avenues of water communication, and their retention when developed under exclusive public ownership and control.

The report makes a strong declaration against allowing any private monopoly of water power and declares that no rights to the use of water powers should hereafter be granted in perpetuity, but that each grant be conditional upon prompt development and the payment of proper compensation to the public for the rights enjoyed. A condition should also provide for revision of the rates and compensation periodically.

The commission favors participation of the public in the irrigation of arid lands to secure the fullest use of water available for irrigation.

The report favors the regulation of grazing on public lands and the subdivision of excessive holdings of agricultural or grazing lands, thereby preventing monopoly. Government control of grazing or non-irrigable public lands, too dry for cultivation, is favored.

Manslaughter in Second Degree

Cutting corns with a razor is dangerous and useless. The only remedy is Putnam's Corn Extractor, which removes corns and warts in one day. Because painless and safe, use only "Putnam's."

NEW BRUNSWICK EXHIBIT AT THE SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

New York, Feb. 26.—The fifth annual Sportsmen's Show was opened at Madison Square Garden tonight with the usual display of all the paraphernalia fond to the hunter, the fisherman and devotees of every other sort of out-door sport.

Finding particular favor with the thousands of out-of-door enthusiasts who visited the show tonight was the exhibit of the government of New Brunswick, which has erected a picturesque spruce log cabin and sent down eight of its best forest guides.

C. D. TRUEMAN'S AFFAIRS

At an adjourned meeting of the creditors of C. D. Trueman, held yesterday afternoon, the assignees, C. E. Macmichael and H. H. Pickett, reported that the gross assets were $8,193, with gross liabilities of $9,336, estimating the claim of the Bank of B. N. A. at $5,000.

Mr. Trueman was unable to make a cash offer and resolutions was passed authorizing the assignees to dispose of the stock by tender, auction, or private contract, and collect the rest of the assets and declare a dividend in a month's time. A. P. Hazen and John Jackson were appointed inspectors. The meeting adjourned for three months.

The assignees and inspectors subsequently came to a decision to dispose of the stock in the stores on the South wharf by auction on Tuesday, March 9.

RIBBON SALE

All Silk Ribbons and Satin and Silk Ribbons
Good values at 30c per yard. Our price for a few days
19c per Yard
And no charge for making the bows when the ribbon is purchased from us. Colors, black, white, cream, leghorn, navy, tabac, maroon, mexique, reseda, Saxe or Alice blue, myrtle, lotus, moss, champagne, sky, rose, cardinal, rosewood, turquoise, wine, paon, coral, gold, coquelicot, argent, lilac, prue and castor.
THE BEST RIBBON VALUES EVER OFFERED.
Marr Millinery Co.
Corner Union and Coburg streets, and 687 Main street, North End.
SAME VALUES ALSO AT MONCTON, N. B.

MAY DROP IT FOR PRESENT

Nothing Further Will Be Done Just Now in Plan to Exempt Small Incomes from Taxation

It is rumored around city hall that there is a strong inclination on the part of some of the aldermen to drop the proposal to exempt small incomes for this year. As the matter now stands the treasury board is committed to the exemption of incomes of $300 and under from all taxes, including a poll tax, making it optional for the small taxpayer to go to the chamberlain's office and pay taxes on $300 if he wishes to exercise his franchise. A motion at the meeting a month ago to give the franchise on payment of the poll tax was defeated. It is claimed that this action of the aldermen is an indication that some of them at least are not anxious to place themselves at the mercy of the small taxpayers, who number some thousands.

A private bill was advertised a few days later to permit the exercise of the franchise on payment of a poll tax. Since then there has been no sign from the treasury board of any report bearing on the question being prepared for submission to the council. The subject was not taken up at the regular meeting of the board this week and unless special meetings of the board and council are held the legislature will be in session before the next monthly meetings take place.

A bill to make certain changes in the assessment act has already been advertised, and under it, when any decision is come to, the matter can be brought up.

Besides the resolution which has been passed by the board, and which is said to have met with strong disapproval in labor circles, there are alternative proposals, either to adopt the graduated scale by exempting $300 from all incomes up to $800, or to exempt $300 incomes and levy a poll tax to give the franchise.

How the council will finally deal with the matter is being awaited with considerable interest. The impression is said to be gaining ground that nothing will be done.

ST. JOHN AND THE G. T. P.

G. T. P. Heads Confer With Government Members as to Facilities at This Port.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—C. M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and William Wainwright, vice-president, were in Ottawa today and had a lengthy interview with members of the government. This afternoon they had a long consultation with the minister of public works, and while no definite statement concerning the conference has been given out, it is understood the proposed terminal facilities at St. John were discussed and that there was a mutual exchange of views on this subject.

PILES CURED IN 6 to 14 DAYS
PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

Diaz is to be invited to be president of Mexico for another term.

A Woman's Sympathy

Are you discouraged? Is your doctor's bill a heavy financial load? Is your pain a heavy physical burden? I know what these mean to delicate women—I have been discouraged, too; but learned how to cure myself. I want to relieve your burdens. Why not end the pain and stop the doctor's bill? I can do this for you and will if you will assist me.

All you need do is to write for a free box of the remedy which has been placed in my hands to be given away. Perhaps this one box will cure you—it has done so for others. If so, I shall be happy and you will be cured for 2c (the cost of a postage stamp). Your letters held confidentially. Write to-day for my free treatment. MRS. F. E CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

A SEASONABLT RHYME.

Oh, wise or dull or fast or slow,
A carpet knight or hero;
Man wants but little here below—
Below what's known as zero.

Find the weather man.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Upside down, in front of man.