

TAXI

By GEORGE AGNEW CHAMBERLAIN

(Continued from yesterday.)

"Never mind the letters," countered the oft-manned one, and proceeded to thread his way to a certain small room strategically placed well within the depths of the edifice and far from the maddening tumult of the streets. The said apartment at the moment of his arrival contained five occupants seated around a circular table of convenient height and clothed in pale green, kindest of all shades to the eye of man. There were no mirrors on the walls.

Mr. Randolph's entry was greeted first with consternation and then with three shouts.

"Bobby, you old scout!"

"Hav, by great balls of sweat."

"Randy, from where the devil?"

The speakers arose and pumped him on the walls, and then, as if by magic, they were gone.

"Ye gods, man where you been? Strayed in from a fancy-dress?"

"Never mind the fancy-dress, fellows," said Mr. Randolph, "I'm feeling lonely for the sound of chips. Room for another?"

"The surest thing! You don't know these two chaps," said Mr. Seegar, "passed on to us from 'Prisco' and Mr. Bowling-True, our latest new member. Gentlemen, this is Mr. Randolph, of New Haven and New York, to describe him still better."

"Take-stakes!" murmured Mr. Randolph, as he took his place, apparently at random, but at the left of the two comparative strangers.

"Of course! Same old man. Same old game. You talk as though you've been away for a month."

"For a moment," said Mr. Randolph, "Mr. Randolph was dazed. Was it possible that the last three weeks had been a year? He drew out his sixty-eight dollars and laid them out on the table. He looked up at the two men who were merely the loose change he had on his person, bought fifty in chips, and laid the small heap of what was left on the board. The strain on his nerves during the next half-hour put that of the five days' wait for a lunch on the street to the back of his mind. A moment when all his chips were gone, and he was forced to see with a full house for his small pile of change only.

"For services you right, Randy," said Mr. Seegar. "For forgetting to pile up the ready in a table-stake game, there are two and a half million walking the streets."

"Oh, set 'em!" murmured Mr. Randolph, as he counted out his share, amounting to ninety-two dollars and fifty cents, and laid across the rest of the fat pile to the next-best hand. He looked up and smiled. "I'm riding a hunch with four legs. Watch me!"

Five spectators did, but got little excitement for their pains. Mr. Randolph was playing that most difficult and uninteresting of poker variations, a four-card game, never bluff, and could surrenders three kings without a sigh to a low straight unseen. He began to make facetious remarks in connection with the safety of his campaign which was then at its height.

Mr. Randolph suffered in silence, and listening as well the punster took on the faces of his three old friends, nursed his pile through five long hours up to eighteen hundred dollars. Then it was that he and the S. P. C. A. should have been called to the case.

The roar of laughter that went up from all Mr. Seegar was more full and free than even such occasions usually produce. Mr. Seegar pounded Mr. Randolph on the back.

"Bobby, old boy," he said, "that was the uttermost, patientest, and deepest-aid trap I've ever witnessed in a life-long pursuit of the only national pastime."

The light merely flickered in Mr. Randolph's blue eyes, and he returned to his old job of sawing wood. Not for nothing had he made that grandstand flourish, and the object had been gained.

A new seriousness, masked in cold-edged, classic pokerisms, settled upon the table as a whole. The idea that they were gathered together merely to while away an idle evening faded into the background, and one by one, like stars coming out at evening, suggestions began to make their appearance. All but Randolph, they had been trying to make poker! now they began to play it.

That regularity continued for the next ten or twelve minutes, and then the even tenor of his stride except for a sudden concession to his insides. He ordered placed on a stand at his elbow a large tin of ice-cream, a plate containing four dozen sandwiches. No added touch could have done more toward rendering the friendly antagonists that he Randolph, out for thick dollar, and the Earl of Sandwich on just such an epochal occasion as this, he would probably have seen the high sign and beat it for home and bed.

Night was fast joining the discord when the weary Herbert dared to interrupt.

"Gee, Mr. Randolph, the officer on the beat says the grass is lifting your cash, sir, and he thought he ought to report anything like that."

"Tell him to turn the clock and let it feed itself down again," growled Mr. Randolph.

The day passed; night fell. Now one and then another of the six devotees of a science which even in the youth of this nation had forestalled all the wonders of the submarine, the flight of man, and wireless telegraphy withdrew just long enough to connect with the Daily Night Bank round the corner or some other convenient base of supplies and returned to set new money to catch old. But Mr. Randolph had no occasion to do this. His heap of chips and cash of the realm rested on too solid a base of its own.

There may be recorded an amusing diversion from the serious business in hand. It was when in the credit-fallen Herbert, who confessed that actual physical exhaustion had driven

SISTERS DROWN WHEN YACHT HITS ROCK

Montreal, Sept. 7.—Alida Veronica Starke, 25 years of age, and Margaret Helen Starke, 19 years of age, daughters of 11 La Salle road, Verdun, were drowned, and two brothers, Adrienne Robert, and his brother George, both of Verdun, were saved by a yachting party when their boat struck a rock and capsized off Mud Island, Verdun.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission.

TENDERS will be received by the above named Commission up to noon 31st day of September, A. D. 1920, for the following work:

(1) The construction of an earth dam across the East Branch of the Musquash River, including Spillway, locks, by-pass, and the grading of a bed to carry a penstock from the dam to the power house.

(2) The construction of an earth dam across the West Branch of the Musquash River, including the grading of a bed to carry a penstock from the dam to the power house.

(3) The construction of an earth dam across the Shogomoc River, including the grading of a bed to carry a penstock from the dam to the power house.

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MARINE NEWS

High water Low water
8 Wed. 7.55 19.57 1.05 13.58
9 Th. 8.50 20.58 2.16 14.46
10 Fri. 9.58 21.54 3.19 15.43

PORT OF ST. JOHN, N. B.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1920.

Arrived Tuesday.

Sch Charles Chester, 256, Warnock, New York.

Sch Wm Melbourne, 434, Cochrane, New York.

Coastwise—Gas sch Whisler, 31, McAdam, St. Martins; sch Milo, 23, Morrell, Sandy Cove N. S.; gas sch Hattie McKay, 74, Sims, Meteghan, N. S.; sch Arthur M. St. Hatfield, Port Greenville N. S.; gas sch Ida M. 77, Winters, Little Bass River, N. S.; sch Keith Cann, 177, McKinnon, Westport, N. S.; gas sch Oronhyateka, 21, Mitchell, Meteghan, N. S.; sch Regine C. 35, Gorman, Meteghan, N. S.; gas sch Laura Marion, 47, Trahan, Bellevue's Cove, N. S.; sch Bear River, 70, Moore, Bear River, N. S.; gas sch Alma Connor, 28, Barker, Beaver Harbor; gas sch Jennie T. 26, Barley, Margareville, N. S.; gas sch Champlain, 29, Weaver, Port George, N. S.; sch Glenholme, 128, Benkhorn, Maitland, N. S.; sch Grand Mamen, 179, Wilson's Beach; sch Marie Nicolevna, Newswick, Departures, none.

Two Hundred Passengers.

S. S. Governor Dingley, Capt. Ingalls, arrived at 12.45 o'clock yesterday afternoon after a good trip. She brought 200 passengers and a fair freight.

Montreal, Sept. 7.—Arrivals: St. Anthony, Boston; Grunco, Maracaibo; Hostliss, New York; Canadian Adventurer, St. John, N. B.; Grand Duchesse, Marie Nicolevna, Newswick, Departures, none.

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Two cents per word each insertion.
Minimum charge twenty-five cents.

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HEMSTITCHING AND PICTETING attachment, works on any sewing machine; easily adjusted; price \$2.50 with full instructions. Geo. Novak Co., Box 1061, Corpus Christi, Texas.

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I am instructed to sell by Public Auction on Market Square on Wednesday morning the 8th inst., at 12.30 o'clock (daylight) one Packard 60 horse power, 7 passenger touring car, just overhauled and painted, has new top, front fenders, new nobby tread tires, 2 spare tires, Kellogg's new tire pump, Hartford shock absorbers.