

Subtle Finance

(Continued from page 15)

through which the mail steamer would have to pass. More than one nervous passenger had changed his mind at the last minute, and had decided to postpone his voyage to Europe. Others scoffed at the idea of a modern liner being held up on the high seas, and were not backward in expressing it as their opinion that the stories of the outrages were nothing but figments of the imagination, hatched in the brain of some enterprising journalist.

The Captain himself was not by any means easy in his mind. He had the mails on board; in his hold was a valuable cargo; and in his strong room was £250,000 in gold. He was inclined to believe the stories of the pirate; and he thought it was quite likely that an attempt would be made to seize the money. But to the anxious questions of certain nervous passengers he gave a reassuring answer. Ship captains are not in the habit of sharing their anxieties with their passengers.

On the second morning of the voyage the look-out reported to the captain that a small steamer had appeared over the horizon far astern, and that she was gradually overhauling the liner. The captain's face fell as he hurried up on the bridge, and observed the stranger through his glasses. The other steamer was a great distance off, and at first it was difficult to make out very much of her appearance; but as she rapidly approached, the captain's heart sank, for the ship astern fitted exactly the descriptions of the pirate which had been circulated.

The ship's company and passengers had collected on deck, and were watching the approach of the stranger with interest. But soon this feeling of interest gave way to one of alarm. Most of those on board the liner had read the descriptions of the pirate, and had no difficulty in recognising the resemblance between them and the small steamer. Several of the lady passengers broke down and sobbed audibly, while more than one of the men became very pale; and as the captain turned his eyes from the stranger to his own decks he realised that he was likely to have a panic to deal with, in addition to his other troubles. He called his officers together, and gave a few orders quietly. He knew quite well that if the other steamer should turn out to be the pirate, resistance would be useless; but he intended to do all he could to preserve his honour. He had already rung down to the engine-room, giving orders that the very last ounce should be taken out of the engines and boilers; but the *La Patrie* was an old ship, and completely outclassed in the matter of speed by the stranger.

Indeed, the other ship had approached to within signalling distance and was even then sending a message by means of her semaphore, "Heave to."

The captain bit his lip. This peremptory order put all doubts as to the other ship's identity on one side. This was the pirate right enough. But he replied by asking the reason for the order, instead of complying with it at once.

Again came the signal, "Do as I tell you. Heave to."

But still the captain took no notice. His temper was roused; and though he knew that no useful purpose could be served by his delaying to obey, his pride made it very difficult for him to stop the ship.

But the stranger did not mean to be trifled with. No more time was

wasted in signalling. Instead, she fired a gun across the liner's bows, and as the shot splashed into the sea fifty yards ahead, a loud wail arose, and the passengers turned in a body to demand of the captain that he should stop his ship. They were thoroughly frightened, and quite expected the next shot to fall among them, or else to send the ship to the bottom.

The captain reached his hand towards the engine-room telegraph. He realised that to hold out further would mean that his passengers' lives would be placed in extreme peril; but he had not actually given the order to stop the engines, when he was checked by an exclamation from the first officer, who was standing by his side on the bridge.

"My word!" he cried, "we shall get out of it yet."

Something had gone wrong on board the pirate. She had suddenly become enveloped in a cloud of steam, had ceased to move forward, and was lying rocking violently in the trough of the seas. But the captain of the liner did not wait to make enquiries. He thanked his lucky stars, and continued on his course at top speed.

A feeling of relief spread through the ship, though there was still room for anxiety. The trouble in the pirate might be only slight, and at any moment she might start once more after her quarry. Indeed, as all eyes were turned towards her, she was seen to move forward again, but only slowly, and before long she was left a long way behind; so that by lunch-time she was nothing but a small speck upon the horizon; and the passengers went down to the saloon with grateful hearts.

But as the end of the meal was being reached there was a shout on deck, which brought all to their feet. Everyone rushed up the stairway, and there was a general feeling of consternation, as it was seen that the pirate was once more approaching, though not so quickly as before. They were not to be let off after all. The trouble was doubly bad, because of the recently-born hopes; and many gave way to feelings of utter despair.

But as they turned towards the captain they noticed a grim smile on his face. He was not looking at the pirate, but beyond, to where a small black mark appeared on the horizon; a black mark which was rapidly growing larger, and in which he recognised through his glasses a British cruiser. He was smiling at the prospect of seeing the biter bit; for, assuredly, the cruiser would give the pirate short shrift.

It seemed that the pirate had not yet seen the warship, for she continued the chase; but this took longer than before. Evidently the damage had not been entirely repaired. But slowly she crept up; and once more she fired a gun, and once more a shot splashed into the water close to the liner's bow.

A scream of terror arose from the lady passengers. What use would the British warship be to them if she did not arrive until after they had been sent to the bottom? There was a frenzied rush for the life-belts; for, in imagination, the scared passengers could already feel the decks sinking beneath their feet.

But suddenly another gun rang out its challenge, and a shell passed close over the pirate and fell into the sea. The British cruiser was taking a hand in the game. Instantly all was confusion on the decks of the pirate. From the liner men could be seen running hurriedly here and there,

For the Asking

The best table salt costs no more than the poorest—and can be had for the asking.

Windsor SALT

is sold in practically every grocery store in Canada—and is the best. Ask for it.

Chief Office for Canada: TORONTO
ALFRED WRIGHT, Manager



IRISH & MAULSON
Toronto General Agents

Consumption Book



FREE

This valuable medical book tells in plain, simple language how Consumption can be cured in your own home. If you know of any one suffering from Consumption, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma or any throat or lung trouble, or are yourself afflicted, this book will help you to a cure. Even if you are in the advanced stage of the disease and feel there is no hope, this book will show you how others have cured themselves after all remedies they had tried failed, and they believed their case hopeless.

Write at once to the **Yonkerman Consumption Remedy Co.**, 971 Rose Street, Kalamazoo, Mich., and they will send you from their Canadian Depot the book and a generous supply of the New Treatment, absolutely free, for they want every sufferer to have this wonderful cure before it is too late. Don't wait—write today. It may mean the saving of your life.

THE STANDARD LOAN COMPANY

We offer for sale debentures bearing interest at FIVE per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly. These debentures offer an absolutely safe and profitable investment, as the purchasers have for security the entire assets of the company.

Capital and Surplus Assets - \$1,340,000.00
Total Assets - \$2,500,000.00

PRESIDENT:
ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND.
VICE-PRESIDENT AND MAN. DIRECTOR:
W. S. DINNICK.
DIRECTORS:
RIGHT HON. LORD STRATHCONA.
AND MOUNT ROYAL, G.O.M.G.
J. A. KAMMERER. DAVID RATZ.
R. H. GREENE. HUGH S. BRENNAN.
J. M. ROBERTS. A. J. WILLIAMS.

Head Office:
COR. ADELAIDE AND VICTORIA STREETS, TORONTO

In answering advertisements mention Canadian Courier

Vapo Cresolene
ESTABLISHED 1879

For Whooping Cough, Croup, Sore Throat, Coughs, Bronchitis, Colds, Diphtheria, Catarrh

"Used while you sleep." VAPORIZED CRESOLENE stops the paroxysms of Whooping Cough. Ever dreaded Croup cannot exist where Cresolene is used.

It acts directly on the nose and throat, making breathing easy in the case of colds; soothes the sore throat and stops the cough.

CRESOLENE is a powerful germicide, acting both as a curative and preventive in contagious diseases.

It is a boon to sufferers from Asthma.

CRESOLENE'S best recommendation is its 30 years of successful use.

FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
Send Postal for Descriptive Booklet.
Cresolene Antiseptic Throat Tablets for the irritated throat, of your druggist or from us, 5c. in stamps.

THE LEEMING-MILES COMPANY LIMITED
Leeming-Miles Building, Montreal, Canada.

The Hudson River Route to **NEW YORK**

Head Office for Canada, MONTREAL
WM. MACKAY, Gen. Manager. J. H. LABELLE, Asst. Manager.

The Largest and Strongest Fire Insurance Company in the World.

Maguire & Cannon
GENERAL AGENTS
Office: "Royal Building," 27 Wellington St. E., TORONTO.
Telephones: Main 6000. Residence, North 3671 and M. 978.

FREE

Try "3 in One" on pianos, tables, any furniture, all veneered and varnished surfaces.

Doesn't form a crusty overcoat of grease and dirt like varnish, but sinks into the grain of the wood, removing scars and stains, bringing back the original finish. Soils nothing; helps everything; no grease; no acid; no offensive odor; all stores; big bottle; little price. Write for free bottle and new booklet. **3 IN 1 OIL CO.**, 57 Broadway New York City.

3 in One Oil

"PHYSIQUE"

The unrivalled course in health and strength-building. Only one on earth you practice with enjoyment. My newly-devised system, combining exercise with recreation,—surpassing every other—strengthens every muscle in the body. **A 10 weeks course to you for \$1.00.** With it goes my "Rules of Right Living"—a succinct, all-embracing work on healthy living that each man, woman and child should possess. Satisfaction or your money back. **WRITE TO-DAY.**

PROF. KEON, 136 O'Connor Street OTTAWA

In answering advertisements mention Canadian Courier