

STEEL

or Definite results in All Kinds of Mining

es and Dies WORKS.

St. Victoria, B. C.

Co., Nicholles &

WOODS,

RIA, B. C.

CONTRACT

addressed to the Post-

office, Victoria, B. C.

10th April, 1903.

LATIONAL MINERAL CLAIMS.

Victoria Mining Division.

Where Located: Buge-

River.

I. H. E. Newton, Free-

holder, intend 600

to purchase the fol-

lowing claims situated on

the coast of British Col-

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BETWEEN TWO FIRES

By Mrs. C. N. Williamson.

Author of "Lady Mary of the Dark House," "The Woman in Grey," "Queen Sweetheart," "Fortune's Sport," "The Barn Stormers," Etc.

CHAPTER XIII. Told by Juliette de Nevers.

The Last Hand in the Great Game. "If there were still another indentured laborer to lay your help, if you will not give it," continued Miss Revelstoke, "there was a paper—or rather a parchment of some importance to you, perhaps—"

"I darted at the girl and caught at her wrist, hardly knowing what I did. "For Heaven's sake," I gasped, "what do you know of the parchment?"

"If I could get it for you—"

"What, you would bargain still at such a moment as this?—ask anything like for the parchment, if it is yours to give, and you shall have it."

"I ask you to tell the authorities that Noel Brent was here last night from twenty minutes past twelve until—"

"Until half-past one," I flushed, thoughtlessly; then I saw by the lightning of her face that, young as she was, childishly innocent as she looked, she had all along been cleverer, more self-controlled than I, in this matter, and had been leading me on.

"You will tell the police that?"

"I must, if you will sell me the parchment at no less price. Yet, if I do what you ask it will spoil my life. The man I love will know, and he can never know the real truth."

"Let me take him the diamonds and say to him that Noel Brent and I found them. That will be all right, for I did not see them until the night before last. I was at the gate. I misjudged Noel as you say your lover may misjudge you, but I give more clearly now. And though I am not quite bright as a promise before, you quarrelled to make up to him for everything, I would marry him as soon as he was free. If it is for you to help free him, have I made it easier for you to trifles?"

"I must risk it. Anything for the parchment, for that may save me yet. Though how you can possibly have got it into your possession I cannot imagine. Search the papers, if you have searched their prisoner before—"

"No, not before he had time to save it. He hid it in the stove in the room where the man was murdered. When I went to him to-day, I did go—he implied me quickly in Italian to find and bring it to you. And oh! Mademoiselle de Nevers, he did not bid me sell it to you for a price. That was my thought. Yet you have said—"

"And Noel would not forgive me for this?—cannot let you have what I have gone through so much to get for nothing. It was awful—that room—the horror of it—the stains of blood, and the frightful disorder of the death struggle; everything as it had been except that the dead man lay there no longer. I had to buy my way in; it cost me a hundred pounds, which I paid to the man who had the key, but that was nothing. The terrible part was going into the room. I was not there five minutes, but it seemed an hour and was the fear of being caught, of having the parchment seized after I had unwrapped it from among the ashes, and the concierge waiting outside the door, pale as death, his eyes big and his great white face damp. Oh, I have a right to sell my own property, and my parchment!"

"I think that you have. You are a brave girl and a loyal one," I said. "The price I will pay. But trust me, for Heaven's sake don't keep back the parchment until I have paid you."

"I do trust you," she answered. "And here is the parchment." She whipped from her pocket the treaty—for I was sure of its identity at a glance—and put it into my hand. "To feel it in my fingers—oh, how it has thrilled me! I had suffered to know, too, what its blessed safety yet might mean for me, was almost too much of joy. I trembled at the touch of the folded parchment."

"Do you know what this is, Miss Revelstoke?" I asked.

"No," she said. "It was your property or Noel's. Of course I did not open it. I tried to brush and shake the ashes away without that."

"She said the words with such pretty dignity, such a look of honest concern, I could have broken into a shriek of hysterical laughter. She had tried to clean it—this thing worth nothing, yet worth millions—this Franco-Russian Treaty; I could have kissed her. But instead, I was going out to keep my word. Now that I had the parchment in my hand, ashes and all, I could do anything."

"But the danger was not half over yet—I had the healing medicine in my grasp. I dared not think how many a slip might be between the cup and lip."

"I sent her away—for it would not be well that she should be in the room, and when I had dressed for the street I went out. I had eaten nothing. But Agnes, who is a tyrant, made me drink a cup of soup while I waited for the carriage."

"This brave English girl trusted me, and I would not fail her; but before my promise was kept there was something else to do—something else upon which depended far more than my life—Maxim's honor, which I (deceiving myself with the thought it was for his sake) had dared to risk."

"As I drove, having told my coachman to take me to the Foreign Office, I thought of the danger, and the great loss to my brain, like the fluttering wings of a burrowing bird."

"How was I to make all right—if all had gone as I wished? Could I save him—could I save him?"

"I had in my hand the ace of trumps for that desperate game in which I had staked Maxim's honor and my happiness. Miss Revelstoke held another high trump for me (strange that they should

both come back through her), but all the other trumps, and many a good card besides, were still the enemy's. Everything depended now on the way the next hand was played, and it was I who must lay down the first card."

"I had ordered my coachman to drive fast, for I missed Maxim; it would be too late to replace the treaty in the safe to-day, while who could tell what tomorrow might bring forth? and I might, too, easily miss him at this hour. It was but a chance that he might still be at the office."

"The fear of finding him gone was so absorbing that I could scarcely collect my thoughts; but I must think, and clearly."

"I had got the treaty in the first place by a ruse; but what excuse could I make to-day to wheedle Maxim again into opening the safe from which I had purloined it? Even a lover would surely be so good-naturedly reckless of his trust for a second time."

"Suddenly, however, an inspiration came to me—a plan by which I might induce him to unlock the door for me. My purse has a notebook attachment, with a tiny gold pencil held by a ribbon loop. I wrote a few lines—shakily, as the wheels travelled fast—tore out the leaf, folded it into a tiny square, and slipped it into my glove. Three minutes later my carriage drew up before the Foreign Office."

"I dreaded to learn my fate. "Was the Comte de Ribamont in?" I asked. "He was not here," the clerk answered. But he was expected back again, as he had an appointment a little later. In ten minutes, perhaps, he would return. There was still hope for to-day, then."

"I must wait, but I left word that I also in ten minutes would be back for a word with the Comte de Ribamont. There was another card now to be played, since the ace must wait. I drove to the nearest telegraph office, and had written out the message which I wished to send, when a voice well known and loved spoke close behind me."

"Juliette!" exclaimed Maxim. "I had just come to telegraph to you. And now I am here!"

"I turned with a start, laying my hand over the telegraph form on which Count Ipanoff's name and address were written, also these words: "I have changed my mind. You need wait no longer. All stands as before. Do what you choose."

"I went to you at the office," I said, my voice trembling a little. "You were not there, so I came to send a wire. Now you are here, we can go back together. You shall tell me what you were meaning to telegraph. That will be better."

"It was only to say that I have no news of the necklace, though I have done all I can. I do not deserve to see you after my hateful conduct last night and my brutal carelessness, which is costing us both so much. Yet I was going to ask if I might come to you after the papers to-night. I shall send you a telegram for you, and then we can go to the office, since you are so good, so exquisitely forgiving."

"Send the telegram! Lightning shot through my brain, yet I forced a smile. "No, I thank you, dear one," I said quietly, "since it concerns a surprise for you. I do not wish to have it spoiled." (Which was true, if ever I spoke truth.)

"I drove him back to the Foreign Office, but was not five minutes' drive—and fortunately because I looked pale and my eyes showed sleeplessness, Maxim forgot in his loving anxiety for my wellbeing to ask what brought me to him. I wished to leave the explanation until we had arrived, that it might try my plan."

"As soon as we were in Maxim's office, he said to me, "I have been very curious as to why I came?"

"I hoped it was because you longed to see me a hundredth part as much, perhaps, as I do to see you," he answered.

"It was partly that, and partly something else," I returned, smiling at him with eyes full of love and longing—longing for the happy calm which might be ours after storms if only—only all went well within the next hour. "I have news for you," I said, "and I want you to learn it in a certain way; not from my lips, but from something I have written."

"You have written me a letter?" he asked.

"A very little one."

"Give it to me, then."

"Ah! but that is not what I want. Give me your own way, just this once, to atone for last night. It will show me that you put the note I have written for you in your safe, among the great and important state documents which you gave me to keep at the other end of the street. It is so important as I promise you; but I shall not believe you think it so unless you let me lay it there, not to be read until I have left you."

"Then it can wait, for I have you now. That is enough, good at one time. But I cannot wait to be put in the post box," I cried, pushing him away when he would have taken me in his arms, and laughing nervously. "Am I to have my wish?"

"There need be no great difficulty in that," laughed Maxim, "since you are you, and I know that I could trust you with my soul."

"Oh, how the words hurt—though I loved him for them!"

"He opened the safe from which I had stolen the treaty with a quickness which would have seemed to him—if he had known—slight of hand. But now I was trembling all over, and terribly afraid of bungling at the last. His loving eyes hurt my face. I laid one hand over them. "Don't look at me like that," I whispered. "or I shall tell you, and spoil my plan."

"With my palm softly pressing down his eyelids, as he held open the door of the safe, I kissed him full upon his lips, with the treaty where I had found it. So great was the relief when it left my fingers that I could have fallen into weeping. But I only sighed as I kissed my lover, and was in the act of dropping the twice-folded note. I had written in the carriage into the safe where Maxim would be sure to see it, when there was a knock at the door."

"Instinctively my fingers tightened on the scrap of paper. I drew back hastily;

Maxime pushed the door of the safe, shut and locked it, and when he came to the treaty? I was at the other end of the room in a chair meant for visitors. My bag in which I had brought the treaty) was open, and I had in my hand a tiny folder, before which I was adjusting my hair with a confused and coquetish look. This it is to have been an actress half one's life!"

"For a moment Maxim spoke in a low voice with a young man at the door. Then the young man went away, and in an instant returned to usher into the room an elderly, official-looking personage."

"If only I could have escaped two minutes sooner! But there was no actual indiscretion in my being here, with my carriage waiting at the door. I rose, bade Maxim adieu in a formal manner, and slipped into his hand the note which I had intended to put into the safe."

"At seven, then, Monsieur le Comte," I added, as if I reminded him of an appointment; and I knew that he would take it so. He would come to my house, and I should see him for a few minutes before leaving for the theatre. Then I would tell him what I had hoped to tell him now—about the beautiful English girl who had called upon me in the fiancée of my friend Noel Brent. That would pave the way for Miss Revelstoke, and help me to make him believe in me if Count Ipanoff tried to take such revenge as still lay in his power."

"I had to go—there was nothing else for me to do. And at last I had time to keep my promise to Miss Revelstoke."

"My brain was clearer now—now that the treaty was in a safe at the Foreign Office—and I could think. On my way to the chief of police I devised a story which should render one of the enemy's trump cards useless. It would depend but little from the truth; and, thanks to the revelations made to me in malice by Ipanoff, it would exactly fit in with the tale which Noel Brent had told to the Judge d'Instruction. It would, in fact, supplement his."

"I was sure of an audience with the chief of police, who is a gentleman and a patron of the theatre—when he finds time."

"A gallant man is the chief of police. His first words to me were in congratulation upon my success in the new play last night. This gave me the cue I wished for. It was well, I said, that I had not to act the part for the first time to-night, or I should fear to disgrace myself, so much anxiety had I suffered since seeing the papers and reading what had happened to a friend of mine who was accused of a murder which he could not possibly have committed."

"You say he could not possibly have committed it, dear mademoiselle?" smiled the chief. "You are a staunch partisan."

"But Mr. Brent was at my house when the murder was committed," I said, quickly. "It is hard for me to come and tell you this, because if the Comte de Ribamont, to whom I am engaged, should come to know it, he would not easily forgive me, Monsieur Blanchard, if I tell you the whole truth frankly, cannot you save me from exposure, yet at the same time free the man whose innocence I can prove to you? It would kill me to break with the Comte de Ribamont."

"Dear mademoiselle, trust me to do the best for you," said the chief, moved as ready, as I could see, by the tears in my eyes and the flash of my hand on his arm. "You have been frank. I will be equally so. I should have communicated with you on the subject of the accused Englishman, as I was aware of what took place between you at the hotel, but I received a request from a very high quarter indeed to hold my hand for the moment. How comes it, if you are engaged to the Comte de Ribamont, that you made the statement to me at the Elysee Palace concerning this Monsieur Brent?"

"It is—that which I have come to tell you, and that, much besides," I answered. "I throw myself upon your mercy. You shall have all my confidence."

"In England I had what might be called a slight flirtation with Noel Brent, who is popular in society. We exchanged letters, which were a little foolish, nothing more. Yet when I became engaged to the Comte de Ribamont, on a short time ago (it was to have remained a secret until next year, on account of my professional engagement), I was distressed that such letters should be in another man's possession. I would not be satisfied with being told they were burnt, at my request. I wrote and asked Mr. Brent to bring the letters and the safe according to the terms of my contract. He came to me at the Elysee Palace and to take them from him."

"He came under another name."

"Because, it appears, he is engaged to be married also within the last few days, and wishes to keep his meeting with me a secret. I only learnt of it last night."

"He came to you after calling at the house of the British Home Secretary in London. He was seen to enter there by a private detective, and though he certainly was not seen coming out, he must have done so, as he was in Paris in the evening."

"But it is to the daughter of the British Home Secretary that he is engaged; and she, too, is in Paris now. She came, I think, a little later, and with friends, so that the situation was dangerous for him. Yet say you know what happened at the hotel, but I will explain the inner meaning of it. Mr. Brent was to have brought me my letters. He gave me a letter-case, saying they were in it; but that instant the lights went out, whether by design or accident I don't know."

"But the necklace—" I breathed. "You will be glad to have it again?"

"A lovely girl will give it to you to-morrow. If he ever tries to make you believe of me and Noel Brent, you will understand now how little truth there is in them, since he adores another woman, almost—but not quite—as I adore you."

"I had listened to Ipanoff for the last time," said Maxim. "You can lead better not speak evil of you!"

"I hope he will see that it is useless," I answered. "I am so tired of storms. I want love—and peace—and you."

"You shall have all—and for always," said Maxim.

"As he clasped me the world outside faded away. I forgot that I had been ill my life a woman who dared. I was now—I am now—only a woman who loves, and has more than she deserves."

(The End.)

C. P. R. DELEGATION. Representatives of That Company Interview Government—Private Bills Committee Meet.

The C. P. R. has apparently determined that its contention with respect to the coal and oil lands of Southeast Kootenai requires to be urged upon the government more strongly. The Premier has declined to rescind the order-in-council respecting the land grant to the Columbia and Western Railroad Company, and the determined attitude of many members of the legislature against the company, being given any further concessions, has led to a visit to the city of General Superintendent Marpole, of the C. P. R., and E. P. Davis, K. C., counsel for the company. They had an interview with the government on Wednesday in connection with that vexed question in the southeast corner of the province.

The importance of these lands are becoming more and more apparent, and it is conceded in many quarters that a judicious handling of them would result in sufficient income to wipe out the entire indebtedness of the province. The President will be on his way East by the private bills committee of the House met this forenoon. The following petitions were considered, and it was decided to report them to the legislature: Morrissey, Premier, for the Railway Commission, Quaintance Railway Company and B. C. Northern & Mackenzie Valley Railroad Company.

The former was represented by Geo. Jax, J. B. Hinchey, K. C., and the latter by C. A. Bury, which was represented by C. A. Bury, Trench, Henry Croft and C. A. Bury. The latter is a railway from Fort Rupert to Quaintance, B. C. Northern & Mackenzie Valley Railroad Company, which C. H. Ludgren represented, is to be limited to the original route. The petitions presented in addition to the above were those of Deane Lake and Glenora to Atlin. The private bills committee struck this addition out.

The committee adjourned until Friday morning at 10 o'clock. To-morrow morning the special committee dealing with the matter of subsidies to the Columbia & Western Company will meet.

FINED TWO HUNDRED. Young Stewart Convicted of Committing Aggravated Assault on Chinaman.

The case of aggravated assault, charged against Alfred N. Stewart, A. Anderson and S. F. Sutton, was continued in the police court on Tuesday afternoon. The case was continued up the better part of the morning, and all the afternoon to within a few minutes of 7 o'clock.

The case against Stewart was completed by the reading of the evidence of the President of the United States on the Sound about May 24th should affect Victoria's demonstration of loyalty. While people from the country south of the line would be made heartily welcome, the question of whether or not they would come should not make any difference here for many years, and it would be a stigma on the city's loyalty if it was allowed to pass unobserved this year. He also pointed out that if the Prince of Wales was to visit this city on the 4th of July it certainly would not affect the celebration in Seattle or Tacoma.

Magistrate Hall pointed out that the evidence against Stewart was that he had assaulted Sutton and Anderson were liable as well as Stewart, under the section of the code relating to a common intent to commit an unlawful act, and if the defence desired to produce authorities it was open for them to do so. Anderson, who was previously out on his own recognizance, had to procure bail equal to that of Sutton.

It will be remembered that the three men were charged with assaulting Lung Fong, a Chinese laborer, at No. 80 Colman street, on Tuesday morning, the 7th inst. Particulars of the case have been given in these columns on several previous occasions.

Chief Langley in giving his evidence, said that he knew the place where the assault occurred, and that up to a few minutes past 10 o'clock he was sitting in a box, he had seen half-dozen sewing machines there at one time, and that he never knew the place as a gambling house at any time in his history.

Mr. Higgins, for the defence, in addressing the court, said that the evidence given was most contradictory. He could see nothing whatever to hold Sutton and Anderson, other than the clause of the code relating to a common intent to commit an unlawful act. The young men went into the house for no other purpose than to watch a Chinese gambling game, an act committed by thousands of Victorians. The young men could not see that trouble would be the result of their curiosity. Now the point to decide was whether there was any evidence against Stewart, for he reasoned that there was no case against the other two. The evidence given by the Chinaman was so contradictory that it was not to be relied upon. The motive for the Chinaman telling such stories as they told in the witness stand was that they were gambling, and as trouble had occurred when the three men came in, they were compelled to trump up a charge against the latter to save themselves from being charged with unlawful gambling.

The magistrate summed up at length, and in fine Stewart pointed out that he had made his penalty as light as possible on account of his wife and mother. As before stated the fine was \$200 or four months' imprisonment.

Next Sunday the anniversary of the Metropolitan Methodist church, Sunday school