

SOPHY OF KRAVONIA.

A Novel, by Anthony Hope
Author of "Prisoner of Zenda," "The Intrusions of Peggy," Etc.

(Continued.)

"The offence against discipline! An attempt to assassinate!"

"I see you cling to your own memory—you won't have anything to say to Rastatz?" He rose and bowed over her hand. "Much may happen between now and Saturday. Look about you, watch, and think."

The General's final injunction, at least, Sophie lost no time in obeying; and on the slightest thought three things were obvious: the King was very grateful to her; Stenovic wished at any rate to appear very grateful to her; and for some reason or another, Stenovic wished her memory to be wrong, to the end that the life of Stenovic and his companion (the greater included the less) might be spared. Why did he wish that?

Presumably—his words about the relation of discipline to policy supported the conclusion—to avoid that disturbance which the Prince had forecasted as the result of Stenovic's being put to death. But the Prince was not afraid of the disturbance—why should Stenovic be? The Commandant, with all confidence, was the Minister afraid? In some sense he was afraid. That she accepted. But she hesitated to believe that he was afraid in the common sense that he was either lacking in nerve or overburdened with humanity, that he either feared fighting or would shrink from a salutary severity in repressing tumult, if he feared, he feared neither for his own skin nor for the skin of others; he feared for his policy or his ambition.

These things were nothing to her; she was for the Prince, for his policy and his ambition. Were they the same as Stenovic's? Even a novice at the game could see that this by no means followed of necessity. The King was elderly, and went a-fooling. The Prince was young, and a martinet. In fact, Stenovic was between the two—nearly twenty years younger than the King, a dozen or so older than the Prince. Under the present regime he had matters almost entirely his own way. At first sight there was, of a certainty, no reason why his ambition should coincide precisely with those of the Prince. Fifty-nine, forty-one, twenty-eight—the ages of the three men in themselves illuminated the situation—that is, if forty-one could manage fifty-nine, but had no such power over a younger man.

New to such meditations, yet with a native pleasure in them, taking to the troubled waters as though born a swimmer, Sophie thought, and watched, and looked about. As to her own part she was clear. Whether Rastatz was right—whether only most virtuous and—indeed memory of her was wrong—were questions which awaited the sole determination of the Prince of Slavna.

Her attitude would have been unchanged, but her knowledge much increased, could she have been present at a certain meeting on the terrace of the Hotel de Paris that same evening. Markatt was there, and little Rastatz, whose timely flight and accompanying memory rendered him today not only a free man but a personage of value. But neither did more than wait on the words of the third member of the party—that Colonel Stenovic of Slavna, who had an old feud with Markatt, for whom Stenovic had mistaken the Prince of Slavna. A most magnanimous, this spare, slim-built man with thoughtful eyes, his whole countenance was to get Markatt out of the mess. The feud he seemed to remember not at all; it was a feud of convenience, a feud to swear to at the political-martinet. He was as ready to accommodate Stenovic with the use of his name as Rastatz was to offer the requisite modifications of his memory. But then—with that supply of a convenient Hercules—his pliability stopped. He spoke to Markatt, using the words of the feud, and the words would flow through to General Stenovic.

"If the General doesn't want to see me now—and I can understand that he must be caught confabulating with any supposed parties to the affair—you must make him plain to him; you must stand. Somehow and by some means our dear Hercules must be saved. Hercules is an ass; and the roadways must be cleared. They love their Hercules, and they won't let him die without a fight—and a very big fight. In that fight what might happen to his Royal Highness the Commandant? And if anything did happen to General Stenovic? I don't know that either, but it seems to me that he'd be in an awkward place. The King wouldn't be pleased with him; and we here in Slavna—are we going to trouble ourselves about the Round-faced Markatt noddled in a perplexed fashion. Stenovic clapped him on the shoulder with a laugh.

"Per Heaven's sake don't think about it or you'll get it all mixed! Just try to remember it. Your only business is to report what I say to the General." Rastatz sniggered shrilly. When the wine was not in him, he was a cunning little rogue—a useful tool in any matter which did not ask for courage.

"If I'd been here, Stenovic wouldn't have done the thing at all—or done it better. But what's done is done. And better. We expect the General to stand by us. If he won't, we must act for ourselves—for there'll be no bearing our dear Commandant if we sit down under the death of Stenovic. In short the men won't stand it. The General must release unto us Barabab!"

The man's easy self-confidence, his air of authority, his untroubled poise of his companions. If there was a good soldier behind the Commandant in Slavna, Stenovic was the man; if there was a head in Kravonia cooler than Stenovic's, it was on the shoulders of Rastatz. He was the brain to Stenovic's body—the mind behind Captain Hercules's loud voice and brawny fist.

"Tell him not to play his big stake

on a bad hand. Mind you tell him that."

"His big stake, Colonel?" asked Markatt. "What do I understand by that?"

"Nothing; and you weren't meant to. But tell Stenovic—he'll understand."

Rastatz laughed his rickety giggle again.

Stenovic does that to make you think he understands better than you do. Be comforted—he doesn't. Rastatz's laugh broke out again, but now forced and nervous. "And the girl who knocked Stenovic out of time—I wish she'd killed the stupid brute—what about her, Markatt?"

"She's—er—a very remarkable person, Colonel."

"Er—is she. I must make her acquaintance. Good-bye, Markatt."

Rastatz had meant to stay for half an hour, but he went.

"Good-bye, Rastatz."

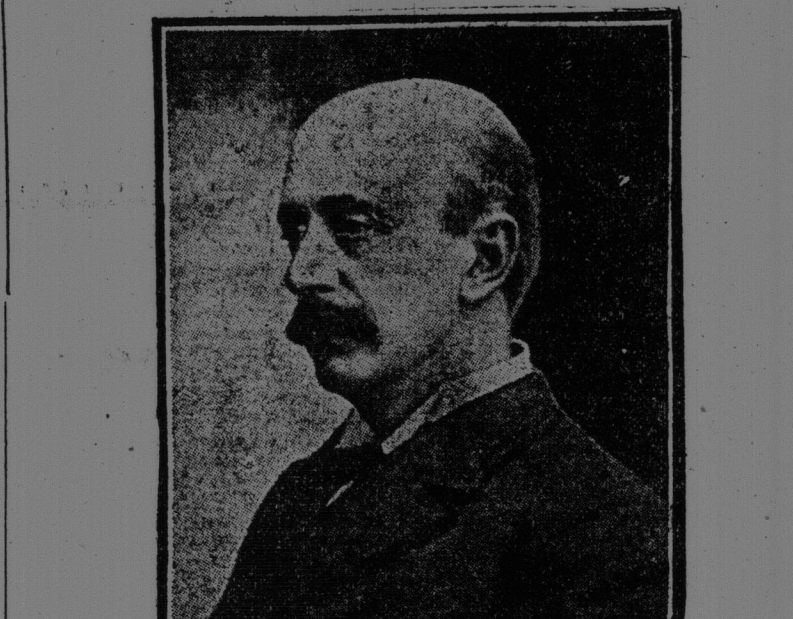
Rastatz had just ordered another liqueur; but, without waiting to drink it, he too went. Stenovic sat alone, smoking his cigar. There were no signs of care on his face. Though not gay, it was calm and smooth; no wrinkles, witness d to worry, nor marked the comely remains of youth which had survived his five and thirty years.

He finished his cigar, drank his coffee, and rose to go. Then he looked carefully round the terrace, distinguished by the prettiest woman who momentarily lingering look, made a salute to a brother officer, and strolled away along the boulevard.

Before he reached the barracks in St. Michael's Square he met a woman whose figure pleased him; she was tall and like, moving with a free grace. But over her face she wore a thick veil. The veil no doubt annoyed him; but he was to have other opportunities of seeing Sophie's face.

CANADA'S MAJESTIC FUTURE AND HER IMPERIAL DUTIES EARL GREY'S LOFTY THEME

Strong Appeal for Imperial Unity and Ultimate Federation In Splendidly Eloquent Address at Halifax, Governor-General Pays Magnificent Tribute to Canada.



EARL GREY

HALIFAX, N. S., Aug. 8.—A vigorous and almost impassioned appeal for colonial contentment to the support of the royal navy and for the confederation of the Empire, a profound faith in "the majestic future" of the Dominion, a strong plea for the nationalization of the Canadian route for transatlantic mails, glowing tributes to Halliburton, Howe and Grant as far-seeing Empire statesmen, and a graceful commitment to and warm appreciation of Nova Scotia, which holds a position second to none in the Dominion, were the outstanding features of a half hour address which Earl Grey made to the Canadian Club this afternoon.

It was three years, he said, since he had landed at Halifax to take up the duties of Governor-General. He had employed the interval in visiting as much of Canada as possible, in making acquaintance of the people, and in learning the stimulating and unending story of her unlimited resources. Every province in turn had captured his heart and confirmed his faith in the majestic future of the Dominion. And he had no hesitation in saying that so long as the British Empire was sound, wholesome, honest and patriotic—and they must remember that no ruler could hope to rise to the level of justice in entertaining ambition to make their Canada one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest of all the self-governing dominions which contribute to the might and glory of the crown and to the civilization of mankind.

Referring to the inspiration of Howe and Grant and their work for imperial unity and predicting that the future must be stronger than the past, he believed, give hope of the success of the federation of all self-governing dominions of the British Empire, and the Imperial Conference, the inspiring keynote of which had been an aspiration towards unity and a desire to unite the local interests to those of the Empire. Mutual confidence and service appeared to be the motto which animated the discussions of the Conference. Along this noble road the United Kingdom led the way. It was recognized that the complete command of the sea was necessary, and that for this purpose the Imperial Conference must be strengthened by the combined forces of any other two powers. The home government, recognizing that the pressing need of self-governing dominions across the seas was to develop their resources and to make themselves stronger, had undertaken to provide single-handed for the whole of this defense, and to ensure the safety of our overseas trade until the time came for the dominions to take up their share of what should be a common Imperial burden.

He felt proud to belong to that small portion of the British Empire which carried on a relief of their own share of the burden, and which thus has given an example of that sacrifice and service which was a necessary part of every dominion's duty. He warned his hearers that with the population of Germany 50 per cent. and of the United States 100 per cent. above that of the United Kingdom it was obviously impossible for the people of the United Kingdom to keep command of the seas unaided forever.

Canada had been assured that she could depend upon the British government to come to her aid in time of need with the greatest good-will, and without any sort of drawback, whatsoever, and he felt sure from what he had seen of Canada and its people that the British Empire could depend in the future, as in the past, on the willingness of every Canadian to strain every nerve to the fullest extent of its power to strengthen the Empire of which it was a part.

It was unnecessary for him to refer to the fact that Canada in regard to the preference, Canada had given the lead in this direction and in so doing had earned the gratitude of all time every portion of the British Empire.

As a further instance of Canada's services to the Empire in the cause of the empire, he referred to the new postal arrangement by which Canada secured to the people of the United Kingdom, as well as of Canada, the advantage of cheap mail service, of which Canada paid the whole expense of collection and delivery over a continent the size of Europe. The greater part of the burden of postal services between Canada and the United Kingdom

WINNERS OF CANADIAN RIFLE LEAGUE MATCHES ANNOUNCED

OTTAWA, Aug. 8.—The winners of the Canadian Rifle League matches which have been shot all over Canada this summer, have been announced. For city corps the first team prize goes to Ottawa, and the individual prize to Toronto. The rural corps team was won by Annapolis county, N. S., and the individual champion is an Ottawa man. The rifle club prize was won by Prince Edward Island, and the individual by a Prescott man. In the competition among city corps the 4th Ottawa first team won with a score of 3,774; the 10th Toronto first team was second with 3,732; and the first Halifax Rifle third with 3,721. The 62nd Fusiliers were 15th with 3,181. The individual champion of this series and of the league shoot was Sgt. William Kelly, 10th Toronto, with 338 points, next to him was Sgt. Major Dymond, of R. C. E. Halifax, with 289 points. In the second series, which was confined to mounted, rural and departmental corps, the military college and the mounted police, the 69th Annapolis (N. S.) regiment finished first with 3,098 points, and Dr. and H. Coman's teams of the 74th Montreal regiment, were second with 3,040 points.

LITTLE ENGLAND'S QUESTIONS IN REGARD TO ALL-RED ROUTE

OTTAWA, Aug. 8.—A special London cable says that irrepressible little England, W. E. Byles, will ask in the house of commons on Monday whether Lord Strathcona's visit to Canada has any bearing on the suggested subsidies by this country to the railway steamship route to Australia, does he carry any instructions or authority from the British government, and can the house be assured that no encouragement will be given to the Canadian proposal to establish an All-red route.

At a meeting of the department committee of the Board of Trade, on the 7th inst., the question of the proposed route, at which Mr. Grimthorpe, secretary of the high commissioner's office, and Mr. Fether Heave were present, interesting evidence was given by the promoters of the Blackwood and Newfoundland schemes, also very important evidence showing the immunity of the Halifax route from fog as compared with New York.

Howe in 1850, fifty-eight years ago, pointed out the folly of the arrangement under which the British government was paying £145,000 per annum in order that transatlantic mails might traverse 1,000 miles more than were necessary, and in order that the correspondence of all Europe with all America might be delayed 12 hours beyond the time required for its conveyance. He pointed with his accustomed vigour that God had made the Maritime Provinces the front door of America and the national post office of the United States for all transatlantic mail purposes. It was a standing cause of amazement to his excellency that people on both sides of the Atlantic should have tolerated for so long this colossal imperial blunder which had caused natural and geological advantages of Canada to have been destroyed by mail subsidies to steamers plying to New York.

He rejoiced to believe that his majesty's government were in earnest in their resolve to bring the distant parts of the empire nearer to the centre and to make the Empire more compact. The laws of nature and geology were on the side of those who recommended that the transatlantic mails from Great Britain should be via Canada and not New York.

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BELIEVE "SIR VERE GOULD" ARRESTED FOR MURDER ONCE LIVED IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, Q., Aug. 8.—There is apparently ground for the belief that "Sir Vere Gould," arrested by the French police at Marseilles in connection with the murder of Emma Levin, whose body was found in Lady Gould's trunk, is none other than the man who for some years prior to 1904 lived at 58 Drummond street, where the then Madame Gould conducted a high class dressmaking establishment.

A late cable received yesterday from Monte Carlo states that the couple have been identified as persons who were known as "Sir Vere and Lady Gould," and that their arrest at Marseilles has created a sensation at the famous gambling resort, as the parties were regarded as persons of leisure and respectability. The police state the investigation already made indicates that the woman, whose name has been definitely established as Emma Levin, was murdered by the Goulds and the jewels believed to have belonged to the victim were found in the female prisoner's hand satchel.

A commission has been dispatched to England to investigate the antecedents of the Goulds.

SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW

Marconi People Had Conference With Sir Wilfrid and Marine Department Officials Yesterday.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 8.—The Marconi people, who have been petitioning the government in the executive court, this is practically the result of the meeting of the representatives of the company with the government today. Those who were present at the meeting were: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Mr. Thompson (acting minister of marine), Deputy Minister of Marine, C. Doute (government superintendent of wireless telegraphy), J. D. Oppe (manager of the Marconi Co.), and H. A. Allan of the shipping federation.

The representative of the Marconi Company maintained the claim that the company, under its contract, has practically the exclusive right to do wireless business in Canada. The government declined to admit this contention. Mr. Oppe stated that if the company accepted the form of license of wireless depots which the government insists upon it would be abandoning the rights that it claims, under its patents and its contracts with the government. The reply of the government was that the justice department had reported that the company did not have the rights it claimed, and that it would facilitate the testing of the question by the courts. It was suggested that the matter should be left in abeyance until the return of Hon. Mr. Broome.

Mr. Allan was present on behalf of the Shipping Federation to urge that the station which the federation has asked for at Three Rivers should be erected, and to learn what objection there was to the granting of this request.

He was told that the company had been offered a license for the operation of the Three Rivers station, but had declined to construct it if required to conform to the terms of the license compelling it to exchange messages with all other systems.

At the conference it was practically agreed that the erection of the station should be proceeded with by the government or the company. If the company erect it they will be required to take out the license but without prejudice to the suit they propose to bring to establish the rights they claim under their contract and patents.

THE N. B. LIBERAL MEMBERS AT OTTAWA

Talked Over the Vacant Portfolio With the Premier—The Names Discussed.

OTTAWA, Aug. 8.—The Liberal members and Senators from New Brunswick: Messrs. Turgeon, LeBlanc, Michaud, Logie, Carvell and Senator Thompson, all saw Sir Wilfrid Laurier at various times today and left for the east again this evening. The filling of the cabinet vacancy opened by the resignation of Hon. H. R. Emerson was the chief topic which was discussed. The members gave Sir Wilfrid their advice as to the way in which the selection should be made and left with the assurance that their representations would be carefully considered and that the man would be chosen who was regarded as best for the country and the province. The names of ex-Premier Pugsley and Mr. Carvell, were those mentioned in connection with the portfolio. It was agreed by all of the members that both have strong claims to the place, and that either would make a capable minister.

One of the gentlemen before departing said: "I am satisfied that Sir Wilfrid has not yet made up his mind as to whom he will select as his confere from New Brunswick, but I am certain that it will either be Mr. Carvell or Hon. Mr. Pugsley."

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