

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1905.

The RETURN OF RICK HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE
Illustrated by F. D. STEELE

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THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND STAIN

(Continued.)
"Surely it is final as regards the man's death."

"The man's death is a mere incident—a trivial episode—in comparison with our real task, which is to trace this document and save a European catastrophe. Only one important thing has happened in the last three days, and that is that nothing has happened. I get reports almost hourly from the government, and it is certain that nowhere in Europe is there any sign of trouble. Now, if this letter were lost—no, it can't be lost—but if it isn't lost, where can it be? Who has it? Why is it held back? That's the question that haunts my brain like a hammer. Was it, indeed, a coincidence that Lucas should meet his death on the night when the letter disappeared? Did the letter ever reach him? If so, why is it not among his papers? Did this dead wife of his carry it off with her? If so, is it in her house in Paris? How could I search for it without the French police having their suspicions aroused? It is a case, my dear Watson, where the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals are. Every man's hand is against us, and yet the interests at stake are colossal. Should I bring it to a successful conclusion, it will certainly represent the crowning glory of my career. Ah, here is my latest from the front!" He glanced hurriedly at the note which had been handed in. "Hallo! Lestrade seems to have observed something of interest. Put on your hat, Watson, and we will stroll down together to Westminster."

It was my first visit to the scene of the crime—a high, dingy, narrow-chested house, prim, formal, and solid, like the century which gave it birth. Lestrade's bulldog features gazed out at us from the front window, and he greeted us warmly when a big constable had opened the door and let us in. The room into which we were shown was that in which the crime had been committed, but no trace of it now remained, save in ugly, irregular stains upon the carpet. This carpet was a small square ruglet in the centre of the room, surrounded by a broad expanse of beautiful, old-fashioned wood flooring in square blocks highly polished. Over the fireplace was a magnificent trophy of weapons, and which had been used on that tragic night. In the window was a sumptuous writing-table, and every detail of the apartment—the pictures, the rugs, and the hangings—pointed to a taste which was luxurious to the verge of effeminacy.

"Seen the Paris news?" asked Lestrade.
Holmes nodded.
"Our French friends seem to have touched the spot this time. I don't doubt it just as they say. She knuckled at the surprise visit. I guess, for he kept his life in water-tight compartments—he never in, couldn't keep her in the street. She told him now she had hated him, he proceeded him, one thing led to another, and then with that dagger so handy the end soon came. It wasn't all done in an instant, though, for these chairs were all swept over yonder, and he had one in his hand as if he had tried to hold her off with it. We've got it all clear as if we had seen it."

Holmes raised his eyebrows.
"And yet you have sent for me?"
"Ah, yes, that's another matter—a mere trifles, but the sort of thing you take an interest in—your own knowledge, and what you might call freakish. It has nothing to do with the main fact—can't have, on the face of it."

"Well, you know, after a crime of this sort we are very careful to keep things in their position. Nothing has been done by the officer in charge here day and night. This morning, as the man was buried and the investigation over, so far as this room is concerned—we thought we could tidy up a bit. This carpet, you see, it isn't fastened down, only just laid there. We had occasion to raise it. We found—"

"Yes! You found—"

"Holmes' face grew tense with anxiety. 'Well, I'm sure you would never guess in a hundred years what we did find. You see that stain on the carpet? Well, a great deal must have soaked through, must it not?'"

"Undoubtedly it must."

"Well, you will be surprised to hear that there is no stain on the white woodwork to correspond."

"No stain! But there must—"

"Yes, so you would say. But the fact remains that there isn't."

He took the corner of the carpet in his hand and, turning it over, he showed that it was indeed as he said.

"But the underside is as stained as the upper. It must have left a mark."

Lestrade chuckled with delight at having puzzled the famous expert.

"Now, I'll show you the explanation. There is a second stain, but it does not correspond with the other. See for yourself. As he spoke he turned over another portion of the carpet, and there, sure enough, was a great crimson spot upon the square white facing of the old-fashioned floor. "What do you make of that, Mr. Holmes?"

"Why, it is simple enough. The two stains did correspond, but the carpet has been turned round. As it was square and unfastened it was easily done."

"The official police don't need you, Mr. Holmes, to tell them that the carpet must have been turned round. That's clear."

with the whole affair. Well, he has confessed, all right. Come in here, MacPherson. Let these gentlemen hear of your most inexcusable conduct."

The big constable, very hot and pent, added into the room.

"I meant no harm, sir, I'm sure. The young woman came to the door last evening—mistook the house, she did. And then we got talking. It's horrible, when you're on duty here all day."

"Well, what happened then?"

"She wanted to see where the crime was done—had read about it in the papers, she said. She was a very respectable, well-spoken woman, sir, and I saw no harm in letting her have a peep. When she saw that mark on the carpet, down she dropped on the floor, and lay as if she were dead. I ran to the back and got some water, but I could not bring her to."

"Then I went round the corner to the Ivy Plant for some brandy, and by the time I brought it back the young woman recovered and was off—ashamed of herself, I dare say, and dared not face me."

"How about moving that ruglet?"

"Well, sir, it was a bit rumpled, certainly, when I came back. You see, she fell on it and it lies on a polished floor with nothing to keep it in place. I straightened it out afterward."

"It's a lesson to you that you can't depend on the Honorable Mrs. Watson, Lestrade, with dignity. 'No doubt you thought your brush of duty could never be discovered and yet a mere glance at that ruglet was enough to convince me that someone had been admitted to the room.'"

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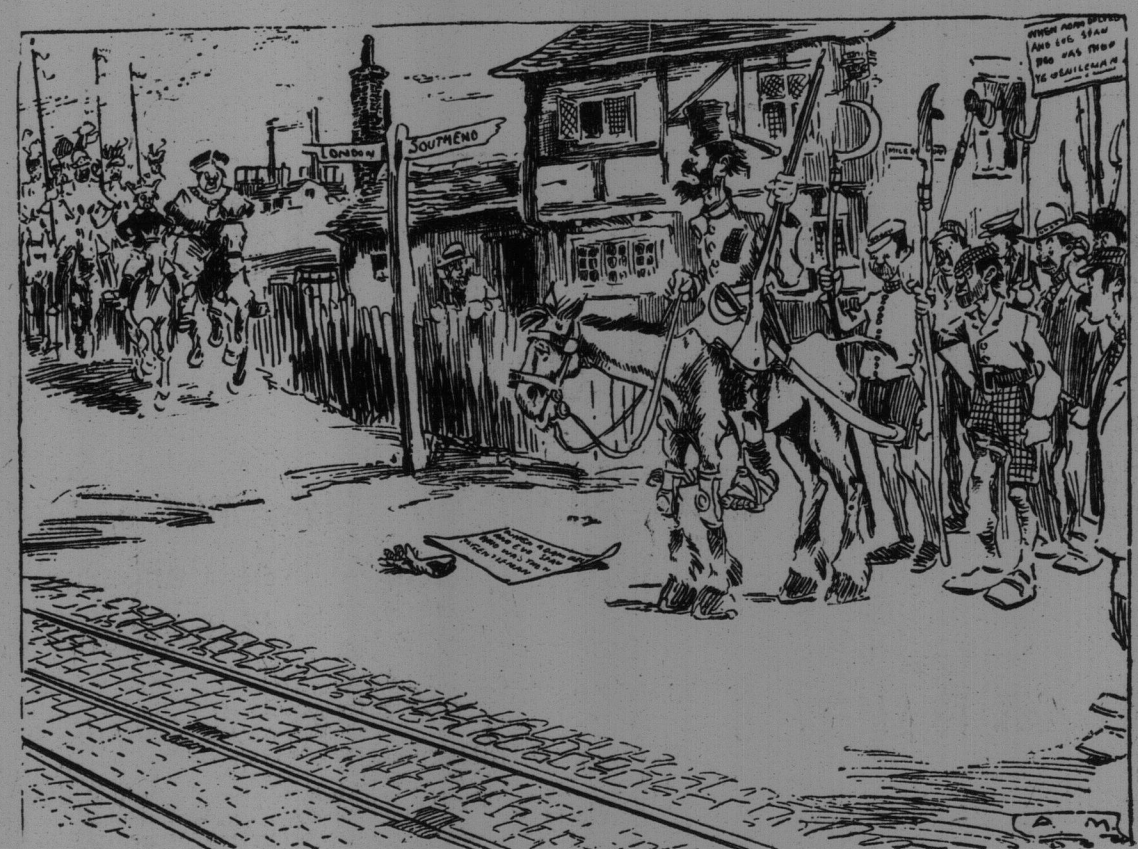
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HUMORS OF HISTORY---114.



What Tyler at Mile End. A.D. 1377.

The poll tax was the cause of a rising in Essex and Kent. Sixty thousand men roughly armed, led by Wat Tyler, marched on London. The young King met the rioters at Mile-end and granted their demands, one of which was that the rent of land should be enforced an acre; but next day the King held a conference with Tyler, who had 20,000 men with him. The rebel leader, happening to lay his hand on his dagger, was stabbed by Wat Tyler, the Lord Mayor. The death of Tyler put an end to the rising, and though pardon was promised fifteen hundred rebels were gibbeted.

LIQUOR LICENSE FEES SHOULD BE HIGHER

So Says Mayor Urquhart of Toronto—Would Make the Fee \$1,500—Controller Spence Would Make It \$2,000—A Clergyman's View.

(Toronto News.)
In the opinion of many thinking men, total prohibition is such a remote prospect, that an effort should be made forthwith to try to secure greater control of the liquor traffic by a system of higher licenses. Since the adoption of a liquor licensing system in this city, the policy has generally been to increase license fees at various intervals, as a method of reform along temperance lines. It is asserted that it is time for another advance in this direction.

Where Power Lies
There was a time when the Municipal Council, in their discretion, could fix the amount of license fee to be paid by the license-holders of the respective municipalities. That privilege was, however, absorbed by an amendment made to the Liquor License Act in 1890, and since that time the Ontario government requires more revenue, and the fee was increased by the Legislature to \$450, from \$350 per license. The hotel-keepers protested against this "imposition," and the government reconciled them to a certain extent, by inserting a clause in the act, preventing any further increase being made by the municipal councils. Now, therefore, as the result of this treaty between the Ontario government of 1890, and the hotel-keepers, the liquor licenses cannot be further increased except by general legislation by the legislative assembly, to affect the entire Province of Ontario.

City's Proposition
The clause in the liquor license act respecting the proportion of the revenue obtained from liquor licenses to be paid to the license-holders of the respective municipalities. That privilege was, however, absorbed by an amendment made to the Liquor License Act in 1890, and since that time the Ontario government requires more revenue, and the fee was increased by the Legislature to \$450, from \$350 per license. The hotel-keepers protested against this "imposition," and the government reconciled them to a certain extent, by inserting a clause in the act, preventing any further increase being made by the municipal councils. Now, therefore, as the result of this treaty between the Ontario government of 1890, and the hotel-keepers, the liquor licenses cannot be further increased except by general legislation by the legislative assembly, to affect the entire Province of Ontario.

Should be Changed
This method of dividing the spoils is not satisfactory to the municipal authorities. His Worship, Mayor Urquhart, told a representative of The News the other day that the principle of the province regulating and fixing the fees to be charged for liquor licenses, was all wrong. The province should say how much it required from each license fee issued in the municipality under its jurisdiction, and leave the municipal councils free to fix their own fees. Different conditions prevailed in different localities. In some districts a \$450 fee might be sufficient, and in others not less than \$2,000 should be the tax. Of the conditions peculiar to their own district, the municipal councils were the most competent to decide and those councils should be given power to act accordingly.

Favors an Increase
"I am certainly in favor of an increase in the license fee, so long as we have to put up with the liquor traffic," said the mayor, who is hopeful that total prohibition will be a feature of life in Ontario soon. "In Toronto I should not think \$1,500 would be any too much for a tavern-keeper to pay for his license. I think there should be a graded scale. It is not fair that a liquor shop keeper should have to pay as much as the tavern-keeper. The tavern is a much greater menace to the community in my opinion, than the shop, though the latter is bad enough."

Make It \$2,000
Controller F. S. Spence, editor of The Pioneer, the temperance weekly, is of the opinion that the license fee should be at least \$2,000.
"It would be to the benefit of everybody interested to stop this buying and selling of licenses and good-will of liquor interests. Large prices are demanded for these licenses because they have a fictitious value. If a still fee had to be paid every year the brewers would not be so anxious to invest in these hotels. This license selling system is very good. When the commissioners wish to cancel a permit, they are met with the plea, 'Why I paid thousands of dollars for this license. Am I to lose everything?'"

A Clergyman's View
One of the local Roman Catholic clergymen, who takes an interest in temperance affairs, said he was strongly in favor of a higher license fee for all classes of the licensed liquor business.
"It seems to me," said he, "that if we charged a higher fee, a better class of men would be drawn into the business. On the other hand, the proprietors of the most dangerous class of hotels could not afford to pay the price and would have to go out of business. Anything that would contribute directly or indirectly to a decrease in the number of drinking places would to some extent commend itself to me."

BRITISH PREMIER'S REMORSE
(Mr. Balfour, in C. B. Fry's Magazine.)
I belong to that unhappy class of beings for ever pursued by remorse, who are conscious that they threw away in their youth opportunities that were open to them of beginning golf at a time of life when alone the muscles can be attained and practised to the full perfection required by the most difficult game that perhaps exists.

The remarks of the man who constrained another to the care of his satanic majesty were considered impractical.
A whinnying horse is a bad neighbor.

GILBERT LANE DYE WORKS.
LACE CURTAINS cleaned and done up EQUAL TO NEW.
Carpets cleaned and beaten. Dyeing and scouring.

MACAULAY BROS. & CO., City Agents

WE ALL SMOKE KING CIGARETTES
GET THE HABIT—SAVE THE BANDS

ENGLAND'S PAUPERS A Great Increase of Able Bred Unemployed.

(From the London Mail.)
On the first day of this year 932,267 persons were in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales. Of this number 148,013 were in London, being an increase of 11,500 on the figures on Jan. 1, 1904. Outside London the number was 784,254, the increase in this instance being 51,589.

The number in receipt of relief, says the half-yearly statement from which these figures are taken, was comparatively high throughout last year, and the total on Jan. 1 last was 7.3 per cent. higher than that on the previous Jan. 1. The proportion to the population was one in 36, or 27.6 per thousand. In London the proportion was higher, being one in 31, or 31.8 per thousand.

Exclusive of the insane and the casual, 463,800 of the total consisted of 116,024 families, comprising 378,813 persons. There was a considerable increase in the class of married couples relieved with children, particularly in the number receiving out-door-relief. The total number of adults returned an ordinarily abled-bodied amounted to 122,688, an increase of 17.7 per cent.; those classed as not abled-bodied numbered 28,400, an increase of 3.4 per cent. London had 51,849 of the abled-bodied paupers, an increase of 23.7 per cent., but the greatest increase was 149.8 per cent. in Essex, which had 9,103 abled-bodied paupers.

Compared with the corresponding figure in the previous year, the class of men returned as relieved "on account of want of work or other cause" was the highest increase, amounting to 6,837, including increases of 1,381 in London and 2,210 in West Ham. During 1904 were relieved under a labor test in labor yards.

CIGARETTES CAUSED DEATH

Smoked Six Dozen a Day—Nicotine Caused Blood-Poisoning.

(Montreal Witness.)

The cigarette had added another to its long list of victims. This time it is Rudolph Paquet, a brickmaker by trade, who resided with his parents at 180 LaSalle avenue. The young man, who had lately attained his majority, acquired a habit about three years ago, and its influence over him increased so rapidly that during the few months preceding his death he was believed to have daily consumed at least five dozen. Paquet was taken ill two weeks ago, while at work, and suffered great pain that he had to be carried to his home by his fellow-workers. The illness terminated fatally. The attending physician, Dr. J. I. Belanger, of Mount Royal avenue, attributes his premature death to the abuse of cigarettes, the nicotine of which induced blood poisoning. Dr. L. A. Lacombe, of 1 Fabre street, who was called in to make an examination of the young man, confirmed Dr. Belanger's diagnosis.

AUSTIN ON ARMY REFORM
The campaign led by Field Marshal Earl Roberts against the unpreparedness of the British army for war has been reinforced by Alfred Austin, the poet laureate, who contributes to the newspapers four verses, the first one of which is typical. It reads:

England, supine on couch of peace
And palled on your splendid past,
Think you from wars mankind will cease
Or goodness undefeated last?
Glory and fame
Decline to shame,
And towering empires pass away,
If front be gold, foundation clay.

GILBERT LANE DYE WORKS.
LACE CURTAINS cleaned and done up EQUAL TO NEW.
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