

"That's true," said the Captain, falling into meditation.

"Yet, all the same," went on Harman, "this chap Shiner said we would want an electrician, and that he'd come as electrician himself. Says he has a good knowledge of the work."

"Oh, he said that, did he?"

"Yes, and I guess he told no lie. This chap Shiner is no bar bummer by a long chalk. I reckon he's all there."

The Captain made no reply. He was thinking. At first he had fancied this to be a simple business; some rascal person or syndicate wishing to cut a deep-sea cable and so interrupt communication between the business centres. There were only two or three Pacific cables where this piece of rascality could bring any fruitful results. That is to say, there were only two or three cables the cutting of which could not have been negatived by collateral cables or wireless, and the simple cutting of those cables could not conceivably produce a