

For Fletcher's

ORIAL

thought, and which has been borne the signature of a man made under his supervision since its infancy, to one to deceive you in this, and "Just-as-good" are but and endanger the health of hence against Experiment.

ASTORIA

ate for Castor Oil, Pare-syrup. It is pleasant. It relieves all the symptoms of the disease. It destroys Worms more than thirty years it the relief of Constipation, Teething Troubles, and the Stomach and Bowels, healthy and natural sleep. Mother's Friend.

ASTORIA ALWAYS

Signature of

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over 30 Years

Always Bought

NEW YORK CITY

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7:25 p.m.—Except Sunday for Waterloo, intermediate points.

9:25 p.m.—Daily for Waterloo, Scotland, Thomas, Windsor, Detroit and Chicago.

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B. & H. ELECTRIC R.R. Leave Brantford for Hamilton—6:20, 7:45, 9:15, 10:45, 11:45, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:45, 11:45. Those marked * daily except Sunday. All times daily.

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The Cash Intrigue

By George Randolph Chester

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CHAPTER XIV.

THE flat freight rate was a tremendous sensation. It was hailed as the great utopian realization, the one supreme act which was to level all distinctions, which was to place all business upon an equal footing, which was to cure all the economic ills of the country. And who was back of this benevolent move? Rollins, Summer Rollins, the Napoleon of the railroad world. And who was back of Summer Rollins? Henry Breed. Yet another step, who was back of Breed? Philip Kelvin. There was the man! Until Kelvin had come Breed had done none of these radical things. Since Kelvin had appeared upon the scene Breed had broken up the Stock Exchange, had reduced the price of bread to cost, he had disintegrated the United Steel corporation, he had removed the unjust discrimination of the railroads, ergo, Kelvin was really the big force of all this reformation.

Kelvin! Great was Kelvin! Colman upon column was printed about him, his past life, his phenomenal rise, his tremendous executive ability. He became a national figure overnight, as it were. Men talked about him at clubs, in cafes, in street cars, in their homes, wherever they were congregated. About the flat rate, however, certain men merely winked. It was a splendid piece of lumbago for the public. It was a splendid weapon which would give Breed power of life and death over any business upon which he chose to exert it, but that it meant just what it stated on the surface was past belief.

Some gentlemen representing various large interests trailed Rollins from his New York offices down to Forest Lakes to meet in succession quite rude strikes. There was positively no satisfaction to be had from Rollins.

The first of these was John G. Hepperton, the head of the petroleum trust, one of the most perfect combines in existence and one which had been built almost entirely upon rebates and freight concessions of various sorts. Mr. Hepperton was a little impatient over the necessity of having to make such a trip and was insistent upon coming to a crisp working basis at once. For that reason he did not go to Mr. Rollins at all. He very calmly walked over the gentleman's house to his head to Mr. Breed.

"Hello, Breed," said he, walking in upon that gentleman as he sat in his library poring over a set of photographs, one of which happened to be Mr. Hepperton's. "Let's get down to blunt business on this freight proposition. How much of a rebate are we to get, and what percentage of it goes to you individually?"

"Glad to see you, Hepperton," said Breed. "It has been a long time since I had the pleasure of a brush with you. Where have you been keeping yourself so long?"

"Just got back from Europe," said Hepperton. "But how about this freight business? I have to get back in the next train."

"Out of my hands entirely," said Breed. "You'll have to see Mr. Rollins, and he is going for Kelvin to whom he gravely introduced Hepperton. Mr. Rollins, take Mr. Hepperton down and introduce him to Mr. Rollins," said he.

Kelvin smilingly did so and, having

introduced the two gentlemen, quietly withdrew to a solitary comestant.

"There is to be no rebate," declared Rollins. "Why should there be a rebate? You have to ship over our roads, and you may be thankful that we are making only a fair percentage yielding rate. As a matter of fact, the previously published rate has been lowered."

"That is exactly what I don't like about it. You haven't set your rate high enough for a good margin of profit from the small shippers," replied Kelvin. "The margin of profit on all shipments is to be exactly the same," replied Rollins. "Just disburse your mind. Mr. Hepperton, of the idea that there is to be a concession of any sort. There is no use in discussing the matter because this is flat and final."

"Do you mean that?" demanded Hepperton. "I mean it absolutely."

Hepperton studied him in silence for awhile. There was no doubt that Rollins meant precisely what he said. "Very well," snapped Hepperton. "Within two weeks there will be a special bill introduced into the United States house of representatives dissolving your railroad combination."

Hepperton was waddling out of the house fuming, without stopping to make any further address to Breed when Kelvin stopped him in the hall. "Mr. Breed would like to see you for a few minutes before you go."

"Hepperton, about how much political influence do you actually control?" asked Breed.

"More than any one aggregation of business interests in the United States," declared Hepperton. "I own exclusively a cabinet officer, five United States senators, more than a dozen United States representatives and half a dozen governors and minor officials, state legislators and the like running up into the hundreds. Besides that, I have partnership interests in connection with two or three times as many more political leaders."

"That tallies very well with our estimate," said Breed. "We may want to borrow this influence of yours a little later on, Hepperton. In the meantime, suppose you just go ahead and pay this flat rate of Rollins and say nothing. Leave it to me."

"Sure," said Hepperton. "I knew there must be a nigger in the wood pile some place. You're looking very well indeed, Breed."

The next day brought Raymer, raven-haired and wooden featured, but fairly oily in his suavity, and the head of the beef trust, and Valentine, little and screechy and marked with countless black freckles, and the head of the woolen combine. In unison and garbed with many rugged expeditious, they came to the door of Mr. Rollins. Raymer and Mr. Valentine, who would invoke special legislation which would put his railway monopoly out of the business, dissolve it and separate it into healthy competition, scattered it into easily handled fragments for Mr. Raymer and Mr. Valentine to acquire and control.

The ensuing two weeks were taken up by a succession of such incidents as these, and at the conclusion of that time Representative Oswald introduced into the house a bill providing that no railroad should own stock in any other one; that no man should vote by proxy or ownership, in more than one of two or more competing roads and that no railroad official should hold either office or stock in another line of rails which reached between any two main shipping points. This was the straw, or, rather, the bale of straw, which snapped Rollins already highly strung nervous tension. He came to Breed and Kelvin in much distress. Really, it was not so much a surprise to Kelvin and Breed as it might have been, for it was they who had instructed Hepperton as to the psychological moment in which to have Oswald introduce his bill.

"I expected nothing else," said Breed, glancing at the marconigram and handing it to Kelvin. "You know, we told you in the first place that it might be necessary to make certain concessions."

"Correct," declared Rollins. "We'll fight them to the last ditch. They have introduced this bill, but they have not yet passed it."

"But they will the minute it comes to a vote," said Kelvin. "Come up to my rooms and let me show you a diagram, Mr. Rollins."

In his office Philip displayed a curious sheet of cardboard almost as large as the top of his desk upon which the name of every senator and every United States representative was set down. A few were marked in red as men who were not for sale, but the rest, the vast majority, were divided into groups, one "owned" by Hepperton, another by Raymer, another by Valentine, etc., and the names were in some places crossed grouped showing that certain of the senators and certain of the representatives served several nonconflicting interests. The diagram told at a glance precisely how every man would vote on this bill.

"This thing is incredible," declared Rollins. "Such a state of affairs can not exist."

"Such a state of affairs does exist," asserted Kelvin. "You may close your eyes and touch a pencil point in succession upon any half dozen names there not ringed with red. Wire those gentlemen and ask them to tell you by tomorrow how they intend to vote on this bill."

"I'll do it," said Rollins.

By afternoon Rollins had answers to all his wires. Four declared without reserve that they were for the bill on principle. Two answered evasively.

"It looks bad, but we mustn't allow this state of affairs," protested Rollins. "We must use counter strategy."

"There is only one that I know of," stated Kelvin quietly. "Concessions."

"I will resign from my management before I make a solitary concession," declared Rollins.

"Would you pay \$2,000 for a building on if you knew that you could immediately sell it for \$10,000?" demanded Kelvin.

"Certainly," replied Rollins. "But I don't see where the illustration applies."

"In just this way," explained Kelvin. "With concessions, but legislators from enough of those men to secure legislative control, and after the business. This gives your flat rate pretty wide scope. Rollins, and it protects us until we can control our own legislation. We have, Mr. Breed and myself, as you must have appreciated by now, certain large ideas of reform. There never has a more just and equitable compromise than your flat freight rate, but you can see at once what powerful interests are arrayed against it. We must conciliate those interests in order to cripple them. We will rear Hepperton and Raymer's senators until we can buy them or supplant them with some of our own."

Rollins was silent for a long time. "It is a very simple proposition, Rollins," said Breed. "You are only granting these concessions in order to be able later on to refuse them."

"Doing evil that good may come," laughed Rollins a little uneasily.

"Put it that way if you like," responded Breed dryly. "But when you are president of the United States with the house of representatives and the senate in thorough sympathy with you?"

"President!" exclaimed Rollins. "Yes, president," returned Breed. "I don't mind telling you our state now. Our program includes this coming campaign running Kelvin for president and yourself for vice president. Mr. Kelvin wants but four years as president. At the expiration of his term of office we intend to put you up for president."

"And we'll elect you," supplemented Kelvin confidently.

"President!" repeated Rollins in a daze.

"They had touched the right cord. The plans are under way," stated Breed. "We have had them secretly at work for a year. Today we could

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