

THOROUGHBREDS

BY
W.S. FRASER

CHAPTER XXVIII. (Continued.)

It was after banking hours, quite toward evening, by the time Crane had obtained his concession. He had brought the winnings for John Porter's acceptance, should the latter prove amenable to reason. Now it occurred to him that he might leave the money with one of the bank staff, who could deposit it the next day.

Crane drove back to the village and went at once to the cashier, Mr. Lane's house. He was not at home; his wife thought perhaps he was still in the bank. Crane went there in search of him. He found only Mortimer, who had remained late over his accounts. From the latter Crane learned that the cashier had driven over to a neighboring town.

"It doesn't matter much," remarked Crane; "I can leave this money with you. It's to meet a payment of three thousand due from John Porter about the middle of June. You can put it in a safe place in the vault till the note falls due, and then transfer it to John Porter's credit."

"I'll attend to it, sir," replied Mortimer. "I'll attach the money to the note, and put them away together." On his way to the station he met Alan Porter.

"I suppose you'd like a holiday to see your father's mare run for the Derby, wouldn't you, Alan?" he said.

"I should very much, sir," but Mr. Lane is set against racing.

"Oh, I think he'll let you off that day. I'll tell him he may. But like your mother, I don't approve of young men betting—I know what it means."

He was thinking with bitterness of his own youthful indiscretions.

"If you go, don't bet. You might be tempted, naturally, to back your father's mare Lucretia, but you would stand a very good chance of losing."

"Don't you think she'll win, sir?" Alan asked, emboldened by his employer's freedom of speech.

"I do not. My horse, The Dutchman, is almost certain to win, my trainer tells me." Then he added, apologetically of his confidential mood, "I tell you this, lest through loyalty to your own people you should lose your money. Racing, I fancy, is very uncertain, even when it seems most certain."

Again Crane had cause to congratulate himself upon the somewhat clever manipulation of a difficult situation. He had scored again in his diplomatic love endeavor. He knew quite well that Allan's determination was only made possible by her expectations of gaining financial relief for her father through Lucretia's winning the Derby. Should she fail, they would be almost forced to turn to her difficulties. That was what he wanted. He knew that money won over Diabolo, if accepted, must always be considered as coming from him. The gradual persistent dropping of water would wear away the hardest stone; he would attain to his wishes yet.

He was no bungler to attempt other than the most gently delicate methods.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Encouraged by Jockey Redpath's explanation of his ride on Lucretia, Allan was anxious that Dixon should take the money that her father had set aside for the purpose and back their mare for the Brooklyn Derby.

"We had better wait a day or two," Dixon had advised, "until we see the effect of the hard gallop in the handicaps on the other mares. She ain't cleanin' up her oats just as well as she might; she's a bit off her feed but it's only natural, though; a gallop like that takes it out of them a bit."

It was the day after Crane's visit to Ringwood that Dixon advised Allan Lucretia seemed none the worse for her exertion.

"Perhaps we'd better put the money on right away," he said. "She's sure to keep well, and we'll be forced to take a much shorter price day."

"Back the stable," advised Allan, "then if anything happens to Lucretia we can start Lucretia."

The trainer laughed in good-natured derision. "That wouldn't do much good; we'd be out of the frying pan into the fire; we'd be just that much more money out for the jockey an' startin' fees he'd oughter been struck out on the first of January to save fifty dollars, but I guess you all had your troubles about that time an' wasn't thinkin' of decorations."

"It may have been that," said Allan; "but Lucretia would only try, something tells me he'd win," contended the girl.

orders—perhaps prompted by a sentimental regard for Lucretia.

The Chestnut was a slow beginner; that was the trait which even Allan's seductive handling had failed to eradicate.

When the starter sent Lucretia trailing behind the other seven runners she had a slight cold. Redpath made a fair essay, experimentally, to hold to Allan's orders, by patiently nestling over the Chestnut's strong withers in a vain hope that his mount would speedily seek to overtake the leaders.

But evidently Lucretia had no such intention; he seemed quite satisfied with things as they were. That the horses galloped so frantically in front interested him slightly best evidence was by his cocked ears; but beyond that he might as well have been the starter's hack bringing that gentleman along placidly in the rear.

"Just as I thought," muttered the boy, "this ain't kiddin' me just as he does the gal. He's a lazy brute—it's the bud he wants."

Convinced that he was right, and that his orders were wrong, Redpath jockey asserted for himself. He proceeded to ride Lucretia most energetically.

In the horses mind this sort of thing was associated with unlimited punishment. It had always been so, and was in his two-year-old days; first the general hustle—small legs and arms working with concentric swing; then the impatient admonishment of fierce-voiced purses; and, lastly, the unreasoning raising out of vicious unreasoning whip.

It was not a pleasurable prospect, and at the first shake-up, Lucretia pictured it coming. All thoughts of the future were crowded from her mind; it was dreaded punishment that interested him most; figuratively he humped his back against the anticipated onslaught.

The Redpath felt the unmistakable sign of his horse sulking; and he promptly had recourse to the jockey's usual argument.

"Sitting in the stand Allan saw, with a cry of dismay, Redpath's mare gallop up that Lucretia had been trailing six lengths behind the others had not bothered her in the slightest—it was his true method; his work would be done in the stretch when the others tiring."

If the boy will only sit still—only have patience," she had been saying to herself, just before she saw the flash of a whip in the sunlight; and then she just moaned, "It's all over."

Lucretia was sulking again. Everything is against us—everybody is against us," she cried bitterly; "will good fortune never come father's way?"

By the time the horses had swung round the bend Lucretia had swung in the slightest improved his position it dawned upon Redpath that his efforts were productive of no good, so he desisted. But his move had cost the "porter's" whatever chance he had.

Lauzanne undertook an investigating gallop on his own account. Too much ground had been lost to be made up at that late stage, but he came up the straight track until he finished close among the unplaced horses.

Allis allowed no word of reproach to escape her when Redpath spoke of Lucretia's sulky start. "The mare's sulky—it would be like crying over split milk. The boy was to ride Lucretia in the Derby; he was on good terms with the mare; and to chide him for the ride on Lucretia would but reflect on his confidence in himself for the other race."

"I'm afraid the Chestnut's a bad actor," Dixon said to Allan, after the race. "We'll never do no good with him until we get the best of his temper."

"He would have won had I been on his back," declared the girl, loyally.

"That's no good, Miss; you can't ride him, you see. We've just got one peg to hang our hat on—'that's Lucretia.'"

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I thought it was dust. I wiped it out, and there was nuthin' more come that I could see.

"What's the row?" asked Mike Gaylor, as he joined Dixon.

When the details were explained to him Mike declared, emphatically, that some one had got the mare. "Redpath that was the man," he said; "it's that devil on wheels, Shandy; ye can bet yer sweet loife on that. I've been layin' for that crook; he cut Diabolo's bridle an' 'frew th' ould man; an' he done the job."

"But how could he get at her?" queried the Trainer. "The stable's been locked; an' Finn an' Carter was sleepin' in the saddle room."

"That devil could get where a spar-rack could. How did he get in to cut th' bridle rein—'t'rough a manure window no bigger'n your hat. He done that, as I know."

"Well, if the mare's got it we're in the soup. Have you seen Miss Porter about Mike?"

"I did a minute ago; I'll pass the word ye want to see her—here she comes, there she goes. Damn me if I want to see th' marky eyes when ye tell about the little mare. It'll just break her heart; that's what it'll do. An' maybe I wouldn't break the back ay' the devil as put up this dirty job. It'll be a long time before I'll be able to get the blackguard that worked him."

Dixon ran over in his mind many contorted ways of breaking the news to Allan, and finished up by blurring the words, "I'll be in this mornin'." Miss Gaylor, however, was not in a hurry to get the news; "I'm afraid she's in for a sick spell."

Coming to the course, the girl had allowed rosy hope to tint the gray evening. The mare had a little more had worked herself into a happy mood. Lucretia's win would put everything right; even her father relieved of financial worry would improve.

It was not long, however, before she was again in a state of sulking; and she promptly had recourse to the jockey's usual argument.

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John Porter was undoubtedly brightened by the daughter's visit. Lucretia's defeat in the Handicap had increased his dependency. To prepare him gradually for reverses Allan intimidated, rather than asserted, that Lucretia might possibly have a slight cold—Dixon wasn't sure; but they were going to run Lucretia also. Like the Trainer, her father had a very poor opinion of the Chestnut's powers in any other hands but in that of the girl.

"Who'll ride him?" he asked, petulant. "It seems you can't trust any of the boy's now-a-days. If they're not pln-headed, they're crooked as a corkscrew. Crane tells me that Redpath didn't ride Lucretia out in the Handicap, and whether he rides the mare or Lucretia it seems all the one—we'll get beat anyway."

"Another boy will have the mount on Lucretia," Allan answered.

"What difference will that make? You can't trust him."

"You can't trust your father, as you might trust your own son, Alan."

"I don't know about that. Alan in the bank is all right, but Alan as a jockey would be a different thing."

"Father, you would trust me, wouldn't you?"

"I guess I would, in the tightest corner ever chissled out."

"Well, you can trust the jockey that's going to ride Lucretia just as much, as I know him, and he's all right."

"It's all Lucretia," objected Porter, the discussion having thrown him into a petulant mood. "It's Lucretia that beats all the other mares."

"She galloped to-day," answered the girl, eagerly. "But if anything happens her we're going to win with the horse. Just think of that, father, and cheer up. Dixon has backed the stable to win a lot of money, enough to—enough to—well, to wipe out all these little things that are blotted against you, dad."

(To be Continued.)

THEIR EXCELLENCIES WELCOME TO VANCOUVER

Earl Grey Spoke at Luncheon Given by Canadian Club—Possibilities of Trade With Orient.

Vancouver, Sept. 26.—Yesterday's celebration in honor of the visit of Their Excellencies closed last evening with a reception in the drill hall. Very early in the evening the balconies were crowded and during the evening many hundreds of people were present to the Governor-General. In the meantime Japs carried on a fireworks display in the square opposite the drill hall.

The reception yesterday was very enthusiastic. The streets were gaily decorated and people crowded all downtown thoroughfares.

More than three hundred people attended the luncheon given in the afternoon by the Canadian club, when Earl Grey was presented with life membership. His Excellency spoke for fifteen minutes and made several very practical points regarding the growth of trade between Pacific ports and the Orient and the necessity for waking up an association of the immense possibilities of business between here and China.

LEFT WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Mr. Justice Duff and Wife Started for Ottawa.

A special dispatch from Ottawa to the Times to-day says that the order in council appointing Mr. Justice Duff to the Supreme court of Canada has been passed by the cabinet.

Mr. Justice Duff left Wednesday for the East, where he will be at once sworn in and take his seat on the Supreme court of Canada for the sitting on October 2nd.

Mrs. Duff accompanied her husband to the railway station at the city, in his intention to return to Victoria and make arrangements for their removal permanently to the East.

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METHODISTS ELECT FRATERNAL DELEGATES

COMMISSION REPORTS ON SUPERANNUATION FUND

Victorians on Book Committee for West and the Epworth League Board.

Montreal, Sept. 26.—At yesterday's session of the General Conference fraternal delegates to other Methodist churches were elected as follows:

To the British Methodist churches, Rev. Dr. Antiske.

To the Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. James Henderson, D. D., the parson of the Conference church.

The members of the court of appeals and almoners of the special committee of the General Conference are being elected by ballot.

The report of the commission appointed four years ago on the superannuation fund was adopted practically without change. The conference is apparently satisfied that this fund is not to be regarded on the same basis as an insurance society for not only do the ministers contribute to it, but the members of the congregation also.

Rev. J. P. Hicks, of Victoria, and R. W. Harris, of Vancouver, were elected members of the book and publishing committee for the west.

Rev. W. H. Barraclough and Wm. Manson were appointed members of the Sunday School committee, while Rev. S. J. Thompson, of Victoria, was elected on the Epworth League Board.

AUTOMOBILE RACING.

Drawing For Position in the Competition For the Vanderbilt Cup.

New York, Sept. 26.—The racing board of the American Automobile Association, who have in charge the Vanderbilt cup race, met at Garden City, Long Island, yesterday, and debated on the machine driven by Lytle Saturday in the elimination trials in favor of the car driven by Lawell next in position.

The board decided that Lytle violated one of the rules which prohibit against a racing car being taken into cases of emergency. In drawing for positions for the cup race on October 8th, the Americans drew 1, the French 2, Germans 3, Italians 4.

SALT GOES UP.

International Company Raises Prices on All Grades.

New York, Sept. 26.—The Journal of Commerce to-day says: "The International Salt Co. yesterday raised its prices on all grades of salt approximately 60 cents per ton. This is said to be the third raise within a period of three months. Yet another is expected which will place the commodity upon a price basis equal to the top notch figure of last season. The reasons given for the latest advances are that the shutting down of two of the largest producing plants in the Utica district has caused a shortage in the supply."

LISTED ON BOURSE.

American Securities Are Now Quoted in Gay Paris.

Paris, Sept. 26.—American securities were for the first time to-day listed on the Paris Bourse, with the final approval of the governing committee of the stock exchange of America. The Pennsylvania railroad stock at \$50.00, 900 bonds became the subject of quotations. Two other American railroads, it is understood, are already arranging to follow Pennsylvania's example.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, 60 days from date, for permission to purchase the following described land for cannery and fishing purposes: Beginning at a post marked B. W. L. N. W. corner, situate at the S. W. corner of Pre-emption No. 75 in Sec. 29, Township 30, Rupert District, thence east 20 chains, thence south 90 chains, thence west to the shore following the shore line north and east to the point of commencement, being in all 120 acres more or less. Dated this 8th day of September, 1906.

INSURANCE FRAUDS.

Four Men Convicted in City of Mexico and Sent to Prison.

City of Mexico, Sept. 26.—Of twenty defendants charged with swindling the New York Life, Mutual Life and the Equitable Life Insurance Companies, four were convicted yesterday. They received sentences ranging from eleven months to four years imprisonment. The frauds involved approximately \$300,000.

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Illness Compels Him to Cancel All Engagements for This Autumn.

London, Sept. 25.—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is not recovering from the gout as well as had been expected. It was declared recently that he certainly would keep an appointment to address a political meeting at Northampton on October 12th, but now it is announced that on the advice of physicians he has cancelled all engagements for this autumn. Mr. Chamberlain is able to drive about the grounds of his Birmingham residence, but still he is far well acquainted with the intricacies of

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WANTED—Girl of about 16 to help with house work and child. Wages \$10 per month. Address Mrs. John Nelson, 3 Linden Ave., Victoria.

I hereby give notice that, 60 days after date, I intend to make application to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described tract of land, to-wit: Beginning at a post marked B. W. L. N. W. corner, situate at the S. W. corner of Pre-emption No. 75 in Sec. 29, Township 30, Rupert District, thence east 20 chains, thence south 90 chains, thence west to the shore following the shore line north and east to the point of commencement, being in all 120 acres more or less. Dated August 30th, 1906.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that, 60 days after date, I intend to make application to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to take and carry away timber from the following described land, situated in Rupert District:
No. 1. Commencing at a stake placed at the N. E. corner of Section No. 4, thence east 20 chains, thence west 80 chains, thence south 80 chains to the point of commencement.
No. 2. Commencing at a stake placed at the N. W. corner of Location No. 1, thence east 20 chains, thence north 80 chains, thence west 80 chains, thence south 8