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THE LONELY GUARD, BY NORMAN INNES.

(Continued) As I stood in the moonlight I knew that the Countess von Rohm had pronounced my doom. There could be no withdrawal of the accusation, my enemy would not be deterred by my protest before a court-martial, witnesses would be sworn, and I should fall in proving my charge, though truth and justice were on my side. It meant ruin, disgrace, the scorn of my former comrades, if not the penalties of the law, if a malicious slander. Well might I see the folly of my speech, my heavy temper, my lack of foresight. Though the knife had blunted at my sudden charge, he had been quick to see his advantage, quick to seize it. A single glance of intelligence between him and his cousin, who had sworn vengeance against Austria and me, and I was caught in the spring of my own setting. In silence I followed them within their credit, there was no further question of my authority. Heaven knows, their victory was complete; he could spare me further humiliation. Blindly I sought my quarters, gave my orders to the trooper I had dismissed, that he should return to the post at the entrance to the garden, and flung myself upon a chair in my chamber nervously and broken. I had been warned of had failed, even Her Majesty could not save me now; Rohm and his leaders had gained my bitter experience. Why had I not fallen in that lonely sunning-lodge, sword in hand against it odds? Irony of fate, that had saved me, as if by a miracle, from certain death, to work my ruin within the next four-and-twenty hours! Strange indeed are Fate's workings if her manifold secrets. I had learned as much in the space of two short nights, and was yet to learn more, or as I sat, dressed as I was, at the foot of my bed without thought or sleep, though my eyes were aching from utter weariness, there fell a light knock on my door. I was upon my feet in a moment, hurried the key in the lock, jerked open the door, and started at the sight of Count Otto von Wegem. What was his business in my chamber at this hour? Had he come to taunt me with my rashness? Were his lips, he had come on a ticklish errand. I said not a word. Moodyly I frowned him. "Do I disturb thee, Captain von Wegem?" said he carelessly, though I fancied his lips were twitching. "What is thy business?" I growled, without bidding him enter. "I would speak with thee, sir," he replied, noting the blackness of my looks with evident dismay. In that hour I learned that this von Wegem was no better than a raven at heart, and that he had sent of him coming to my chamber. "Then speak," said I bitterly. He hesitated. "I have much to show thee, von Wegem. Canst thou spare me an hour?"

AN EATING ULCER.

Ulcers are a skin disease, and are more or less directly occasioned by a bad state of the blood, which produces scurf and corrupts the secretion. No one can expect to have a skin free from disease when the blood is in a disordered condition and the stomach and bowels acting feebly in consequence. Through its wonderful cleansing, purifying action on the entire system, Burdock Blood Bitters has made thousands of cures of various skin diseases during the past thirty years it has been on the market. Mrs. Joseph Robinson, Hallerton, Que., writes: "I had an eating ulcer on my ankle. I took two bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters and it worked like a charm, leaving out all the impurities from my system and improving my appetite. While asking the B.B.B. internally I used it externally to cleanse the sore, and it helped."

HOME RULE QUESTION UP IN BRITISH HOUSE

Irish Motion Carried by Large Majority in Modified Form

Resolution Adopted That Dublin Parliament Deal With Purely Local Affairs Subject to Imperial Approval--Change Doesn't Suit Nationalists--Mandate of People Necessary First.

London, March 30.—The House of Commons today, after a lengthy debate on the question of home rule for Ireland, adopted by a vote of 113 to 157, a resolution moved by John E. Redmond, the Nationalist leader, that "in the opinion of this house, a solution of this problem can only be attained by giving the Irish people legislative and executive control of all purely Irish affairs," after it had been amended by adding the words, "all subject to the supreme authority of the Imperial Parliament." It was known beforehand that the debate could have but an academic interest, because the government already had pledged that there would be no deal in the matter of home rule until it had been given a mandate at the general election. But the debate was made notable through the strong declaration of Chancellor Asquith, which was all the weightier because made at the moment Mr. Asquith was actually assuming the premiership. Mr. Balfour, in a brief speech, had accused his opponents of speaking with two meanings, a Radical meaning and a Nationalist meaning. He asked how it was conceivable possible to carry out great Irish reforms with British money, except by a British parliament and ironically challenged Mr. Asquith to clear up this ambiguity. Amid ironical laughter, Mr. Asquith rose and said that never in his life had he felt less embarrassed. For more than twenty years he and his colleagues had steadily and consistently advocated self-government for Ireland's purely local affairs. He held that opinion now as strongly as ever. He could not, however, support Mr. Redmond's motion in its present form, because he found in it no explicit recognition of Imperial supremacy and, further, because no parliament would be justified in embarking on such a task unless the matter first had been submitted to the electorate. It would be a gross and unnecessary violation of the present constitution. As far as the present parliament was concerned, he said, they had exhausted their powers in regard to the problem of Irish government in the Irish council's bill last year. Timothy Healy closed the debate, declaring that Mr. Asquith was mistaken if

HE ASKS QUESTIONS

Editor of The Times: Sir.—As the people are soon to choose their representatives to the city council, I have the honor to ask you to retain the confidence and support of your fellow citizens. I ask you to put yourselves on record as being in favor of the present council, and to let us know whether you think there has been any under ground methods used in this connection. If there is another reason why you should express your opinions, as these are another suit entered, or that you wish to bring their proposals clearly before the people at the next general election, Mr. Birrell said he believed the chief obstacle would be their help in solving the problem.

SCHOOL CADETS TO COMPETE FOR TROPHY

Dr. Inch Receives Particulars of Lord Roberts' Rifle Competition. J. R. Inch, chief superintendent of education, has received particulars of the rifle competition for Lord Roberts' trophy which is open to school cadets throughout the empire. The trophy for which the first competition will be held in all parts of the empire during this year, is styled the "Roberts' Trophy for British (Imperial) school boys," and will be competed for annually by representative teams of school boys who are not over sixteen years of age on July 1, in the year of the match. A bronze medal will be given to each member of the winning team and a silver medal to the captain. The team to represent Canada will be selected by the department of militia from those teams competing in the adult series of the Canadian Rifle League, 1908. The representative team of each empire, in order to comply with the regulations, will in the competition fire seven rounds and a sighter at 200 and 300 yards, under similar conditions to the first stage of the King's prize at Biley. In the colonies the match may take place on any range between January 1 and August 31.

Ask Him Lips white? Checks pale? Blood thin? Consult your doctor. Bad skin? Weak nerves? Losing flesh? Consult your doctor. No appetite? Poor digestion? Discouraged? Consult your doctor. We have no secret. We publish the formulae of all our medicines. J.C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

SHIPPING LAURIER OPPOSED TO PROPOSED REFORMS

Declares Against Purchasing Board for Government Supplies

Admits a Change is Necessary, But Says When a Minister is Responsible for Expenditures He Must Have Control--Foster Shows How It Costs Four Times More for Keep of Men on Cruisers Than Soldiers.

Ottawa, March 30.—This was private members day in the house. Mr. Taylor was told that 8,718 Ross rifles were now in the hands of the Canadian militia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, answering a question, said that twelve warships passed through the St. Lawrence during the past ten years. There were four passed out and eight in. These ships were used for training the navy militia. Mr. Fisher said that fifty-three claims, amounting to \$238,000, were made against the department for alleged damages of loss in connection with shipments of hay to South Africa during the war. Replying to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Brodeur said that tenders were received for the construction of an ice-breaking steamer and they were now under consideration of the government. To Dr. Daniel, Sir Wilfrid said that only one tender had been received for building the car and workshop at Moncton. No action had been taken yet. Foster Wants Purchasing Commission. Mr. Foster moved that all supplies purchased for departments should be on the basis of public tender and contract, under direction of a permanent purchasing commission and with regard to quality and price. Mr. Foster, in discussing the question from a non-political point of view, said that the service lagged behind and not up-to-date. What was a successful system and method twenty-five years ago was not sufficient to cope with the extended business of the present time. He said that as soon as modern business methods were to be applied all the old-time objections were raised. Those high in authority talked of keeping up their position in a dignified way. He had no sympathy with those who thought that a lavish expenditure of money was necessary to keep up their positions. In his opinion men high in authority should set an example by plain Canadian living for the great Canadian people. Modern methods should be adopted for buying supplies. The old system of tender and contract does exist to a certain extent but as far as supplies go it was almost a dead letter. The militia camp supplies, the penitentiary supplies and the mounted police supplies were to a certain extent given out by tender. In some cases there was the spurious system of sending out notice to friends for tenders which was better than none. Then there were middlemen and the patronage list. Again there was the personal buying. Prices first and just became a meaningless phrase when attached as a certificate to these purchases. Mr. Foster pointed out that it cost fifty cents per man a day for the food supply of the military college and only

CREW FROZEN TO THE DECK

American Sailors had Terrible Experience off the Aleutian Coast

San Francisco, March 28.—In lonely graves on the bleak shore of Ekatran Peninsula, island of Unimak, in the Aleutian archipelago, lie the bodies of ten men from the schooner John F. Miller, while out on the waves-worn reef that rims the coast. The bodies were found by the crew of the schooner John F. Miller, broken in half, mute evidence of the tragedy that was enacted on the morning of January 18 on the desolate coast where land and sea lie in the grasp of icy death.

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