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THE LONELY GUARD,

—BY—

NORMAN INNES,

Author of "The Surge of War" (London Magazine, Eveleigh Nash, 1906); "Parson Croft" (Eveleigh Nash, 1907.)

Continued.

I caught the oath that escaped the Count at this unlooked-for rencontre, marked the tremor of his lips, the fall of his mouth.

"Who are these?" panted zu Nettern, as he stared at the ladies, half in surprise, half in admiration.

"They are the Countess von Rohn," I answered—von Wegen had lost his tongue—"and——"

"Potztausend," gasped that heated red-faced coxcomb, breaking in upon my speech. "By Heaven and earth, the ten odd leagues 'twixt this and Salzburg are well repaid."

I saw a smile flicker on the Countess Elsa's face at the sight of this small man of the great body, buckled tight in the white tunic, but her sister's features were unmoved—an ominous sign for zu Nettern, von Wegen and perhaps for me also.

"Captain Lesly," said she—her words came slow and cold—"since you command in Rohn, may I look to you to shield us from these discourteous intrusions? One of these"—with a toss of her chin she pointed to the two grenadiers—"I know to my shame; who is this other? Are these officers whom her Hungarian Majesty sends to the relief of our castle?"

Brief silence followed her words; if the blood had faded from von Wegen's cheeks, his senior was purple.

"Madam," he cried, all but choking for rage. "Madam, I am Colonel Gustav zu Nettern, commandant of Salzburg, at thy service, and having relieved this place, am determined that another's carelessness and treachery shall——"

My hand had gripped my sword hilt.

"Treachery, sir; thy words are unwarranted and unwarrantable. At Her Majesty's comamnds, I hold the castle and till my commission is cancelled, none have a right to question my authority."

"But"—the Count was speaking. He had turned from his cousins with no little relief—"in the event of an officer proving false to his trust, of hazarding his charge, of harboring a spy, surely his superior is justified in immediately relieving him of his command and in making an inquiry as to his conduct."

"Sapperment!" cried the commandant, "Wilt thou deny my words? Where is the spy, the Spaniard whom my officer saw with his own eyes upon the wall? Account for his presence if thou canst, Captain von Lesly. Meanwhile I hold thee under arrest in thy chamber till such time as I have made full inquiry and sent my report to Vienna."

"Where is this spy of thine?" he cried, turning to von Wegen. "Go, take a company of the grenadiers and search the castle through."

That the errand was to the Count's liking was plain. Though he shrunk from meeting the ladies' gaze, he shot a look of triumph at me as for a few moments he spoke in low tones to zu Nettern.

Aghast and dismayed I stood. The Spaniard, I knew, was a spy—he had confessed it—and in face of witnesses and a hostile judge, I could not hope to clear myself of jeopardizing my command, even if I was so fortunate as to escape being branded as a traitor. Before the Queen or an unbiassed court-martial, I was confident of exculpating myself from the more serious charge, and in the light of the service Leon de Portugas had done the state in helping me to recover the Counteses of Rohn, on whose safety Her Majesty set such store, I felt satisfied that my subsequent conduct would be more than justified.

But how to escape from the present strait was beyond me. Force, discipline and circumstances were against me and I had no alternative but to submit to my superior officer's demands.

But there was a mingled flavor of sweetness in my cup of sorrow. Shamed and ruined though I was, those ladies at whose hands I had suffered so much, for whose sake I had risked even more, took the sting from my disgrace.

"And if a prisoner may put a question to the Commandant of Salzburg," said the Countess Inez, whose voice and manner were all humility, "who lays this charge against Captain Lesly?"

Zu Nettern's choler relaxed somewhat in the face of the Countess' bearing. With a low bow that brought the smiles once again to the young lady's lips, he replied—

"Count von Wegen—a cousin of Your Excellencies I understand—it is whom I have to thank for drawing my attention to these irregularities."

"And the spy?" asked the other almost breathlessly, affecting a pretty concern.

"A Spaniard, madam," answered the Colonel," some ruffian who has taken shelter of late in the castle with this traitor's permission."

The man spoke sententiously, taking no small pleasure in his authority, though Otto von Wegen, who entered the room at that moment, had little share in his joy.

"Hast thou found him?" continued his senior, and then reading failure in the other's face: "Donner-wetter, man, was it his wraith then upon the battlements? Drag the rogue from his hiding and we will see that his shrift is short."

"Nay, sir," cried the elder Countess, her eyes wide, her cheeks white for fear. "Nay, what wilt thou do?"

"Hang him, madam," replied that little tyrant, "hang him for the spy that he is, unless——" —he paused for a moment —"certain fair ladies should make intercession in his behalf, then I might take time to consider how best he should be dealt with."

Now at this, Inez von Rohn threw off the mask—Heaven knows she had been acting a part with her smiles, her humility and her fears.

"Then find him," cried she, blazing up in an instant, "and when ye have found him, hang him, and still I will laugh in thy face, Colonel zu Nettern, commandant of Salzburg though thou art."

"Madam, ladies are privileged," said the wretch, writhing beneath her fury, "but——"

"Aye, and traitors, and fools it seems," she cried with a toss of her chin, and her hands on her hips. Then she turned on the Count—I had waited long for this.

"Otto von Wegen, thou hast filled thy cup and Rohn is disgraced in thee. Answer me before God and man, before Captain Lesly, whom thou hast accused, before thy superior. Which is the greater knave, he who openly in his Sovereign's interests plays the spy, or he who, for his own ends, scorns not to call himself traitor to cozen two women, and they his kin? Go, lay false witness against the one, seek high and low for the other; let this officer make his report and send it to Vienna; by my name, by my race, I will cry thee liar and craven to the Queen thy mistress."

"And I, madam?" interposed the Colonel, with an assumption of dignity.

"And you, sir; a purblind fool, dazzled by thy authority, misled by a knave. Come, sister, let us leave these Austrians."

And slipping her arm in that of the younger Countess, sweeping a curtsey to the luckless zu Nettern, she passed him in silence. For a moment, Elsa von Rohn turned in the doorway—

"Till happier days, Captain Lesly," said she in her low sweet voice, "and thou, Otto von Wegen, till the hour of reckoning."

(Too be continued.)

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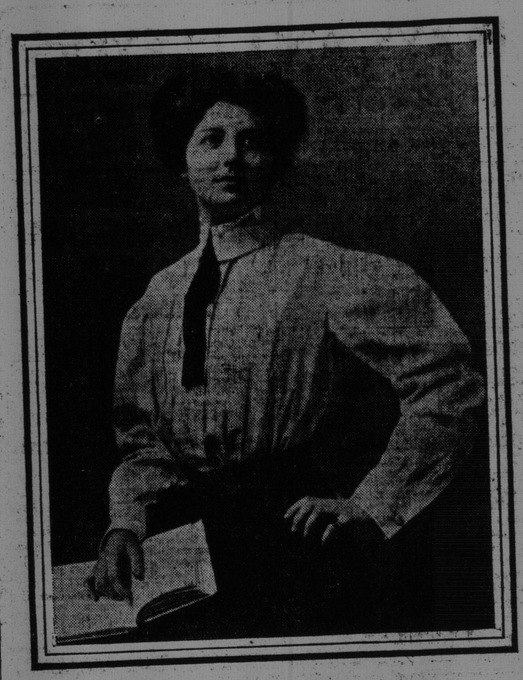

PRACTICAL GARB FOR EVERYDAY BUSINESS.

Tailored shirtwaist of navy blue strip ed linen; fronts are laid in six deep side tucks and close with wide band fastened with white pearl buttons. Full length shirt sleeves are gathered into moderately wide arm size and terminate with wide band cuffs, closing with links at the wrist; collar is a soft turnover, pinned together over a mannish silk four-in-hand. Waist is worn with a smart mohair skirt in navy blue and steel studded blue elastic belt.

DONALD MORRISON TO BE NEW SPEAKER

Dr. McInerney Will Move Address to Throne and F. M. Sproul Will Second It.

It is understood that Donald Morrison, M. P. P., of Newcastle, will be appointed speaker of the New Brunswick legislature. The address in reply to the speech from the throne will be moved by Dr. J. P. McInerney, M. P. P., of St. John, and seconded by F. M. Sproul, M. P. P., of Kings county.

LONGSHOREMEN AGREE TO THE 35 CENT RATE

At the annual meeting of the longshoremen's Association, held on Sunday afternoon in the rooms in Water street, was decided to accept the rate of 35 cents an hour offered for summer wages by the shipping interests. The election of officers resulted in the secretary, business agent and some other officers, excepting the president, being replaced by new men. The new officers are: John Sullivan, president; A. C. Hoyt, 1st vice-president; James London, 2nd vice-president; William Gillespie, financial secretary; John M. Martin, recording secretary; William Morrison, business agent. There were also some new men on the executive board, which numbers thirty.

After much discussion on the summer rate, the vote was taken and the verdict was said to be unmistakably in favor of the reduction. Last year the rate was 40 cents. It was stated by one of the new officers that the meeting was most harmonious.

The new society formed recently, agreed some time ago to work for thirty-five cents an hour, and it is understood that the new society will be given the first steamer coming to port to handle and the the old association will take the second and so on.

Mr. Drummie Goes to Henderson & Hunt.

Thomas F. Drummie who has been window dresser and card writer for Scovil Bros. Ltd. (Oak Hall) for the past two years, has accepted a responsible position with Henderson & Hunt at their new store in Charlotte Street. Before severing his connection with Oak Hall on Saturday night, his fellow employes presented to him through Frank C. Smith a handsome gold watch, as a token of the good fellowship that has existed between them. Mr. Drummie will look after the window dressing, card writing and store decoration at Henderson & Hunt's new store in Charlotte street.

WHAT THE C. P. R. SAYS ABOUT THE PROPOSED STRIKE

The Strikers Could Not Choose a Time That Would Suit the Company Better---Business Dull and Lots of Men Looking for Work.

(Montreal Gazette.)

If the western mechanics of the Canadian Pacific are determined to make trouble, and the eastern men decide to throw in their lot with them they could not pick out a time that would suit the company better, said Mr. H. H. Vaughn, assisant to the vice-president of the C. P. R. yesterday afternoon. If the mechanics at the Angus Shops, for instance, should strike; should matters come to such a pass, there has not been a season since the shops were built when it would embarrass the C. P. R. so little. In fact, Mr. Vaughn remarked that under present conditions the shops could be shut down for a month without difficulty, and were really being kept running more to hold the various staffs together and give the men a show, than because there was an immediate need for the output of the plant. Further, work is slack all over the continent, and literally thousands of mechanics and laboring men are looking for employment in every direction, so that the C. P. R. officials consider that should the men be so foolish as to strike at a time when they are really being kept at work more through the generosity of the company than anything else, they will be the chief sufferers themselves.

So far as the company was concerned, Mr. Vaughn said, it was standing pat. They had received official notice from the men here that in thirty days a reconstruction of the present wage schedule would be demanded. As it would be absurd for the men to demand higher wages at such a time as the present, and equally absurd to imagine that they would propose a lower schedule, the company concluded that they had taken this move merely to clear the decks for action, and leave themselves free to make any move they thought proper to aid their brother union men in the West.

"We here are not at all worried at the situation," said Mr. Vaughn. "The trouble has originated in the west, under Mr. Whyte's jurisdiction, and it is quite likely that it will be settled there without spreading here. The company had been held up pretty hard by the unions in Western Canada to such an extent that the various branches of mechanics working for the C. P. R. and Canadian Northern were getting considerably higher wages than similar mechanics on American lines immediately south of the border. When trade dropped off as it had done of late, it was impossible to keep up this high rate of wages, so the western officials gave notice of their intention to abandon the present schedule. It looks as though it were up to the men and officials in the West to settle their own difficulties.

"But if the employes in the East decide to make the quarrel their own they will be acting very foolishly, when there are already so many out of work that it will be no difficulty to fill the places of as many strikers as we think proper. If the men should strike we should not take on nearly so many men, because we really are keeping on more than we need now. But we should be sorry to see trouble here because we have now a well organized staff, which it would take some time to replace.

"As to the notice sent us by the men we have done nothing with regard to it, nor have the men made any move towards negotiations to show whether they really want anything or not. We, of course, could take advantage of the present dull conditions to serve a similar notice upon the men, and demand that the rate of pay, which has been continuously raised under good times, should be correspondingly reduced in dull times. But we have not as yet decided to take this step."

The Canadian Pacific Company was simply awaiting developments, continued Mr. Vaughn, confident that there would be no precipitate step, since their men had always honorably abided by their agreements, which had been made, so that neither company nor men could demand a revision of the wage scale without a thirty days' notice, in order to prevent the possibility of sudden strikes or lockouts. The western notice would not mature until May 1st, while the eastern one would not expire until about May 20.

Even should the two sides still be at loggerheads by that time there would be another armistice pending an appeal to a court of arbitration under the Lemieux Act. This would probably take at least a month to settle, before the arbitrators could report. Then, if the report favored the men the responsible companies would have to submit. But if it favored the companies the chances were that the men would hold themselves free to do as they pleased, as the longshoremen did here last year, so that if there is real trouble in sight it will not come until some time in June. The great advantage of this will be that it will give ample time for reflection, which always militates against strikes. It is understood that the western unions are already taking steps for an appeal under the Lemieux Act.

"But," concluded Mr. Vaughn,, "the Canadian Pacific could not be in better shape to meet trouble than it is today. We are really keeping a number of men on working short time rather than shut down. We have more cars than the traffic demands, and if our works were to be shut down for a time it would probably save us money rather than hold up the road."

Asked to the possibility of the trainmen's and other operating unions joining to help the mechanics, Mr. Vaughn said he did not think this at all likely.

All Run Down

In the spring—that is the condition of thousands whose systems have not thrown off the impurities accumulated during the winter—blood humors that are now causing pimples, boils and other eruptions, loss of appetite, bilious turns, indigestion, and other stomach troubles, dull headaches and weak, tired, languid feelings.

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DOUBLED IN FIVE YEARS

The Militia Expenditure in Canada Does Not Show Results --- There Are Too Many Officials.

(Toronto News.)

In 1903-04 the total expenditure under the authority of the Minister of Militia and Defence was about $3,500,000. This year's estimates provide for the outlay of $6,500,000. An increase in less than five years of $3,000,000 is sufficiently noteworthy to interest the Civil Service Commission, and the Commissioners in their recent Report express themselves with vigor and directness upon the subject.

By the act of 1904 a Militia Council was created presumbly to advise the minister. The act says: "The Governor-in-Council may appoint a Militia Council to advise the Minister on all matters relating to the militia which are referred to the Council by the Minister." Section 6 of the same act refers to the appointment of "a Deputy Minister and such other officers as are necessary for the carrying on the business of the Department." But it seems that the Council has swallowed up the Deputy and the whole Department. The Commissioners point out that the Reports of the Militia Council are now said to be the Reports of the Department, and that the chief duty of the Council seems to be the control of expenditure.

The Council is composed of the Minister of Militia and Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, the Master General of Ordnance, the Deputy Head of the Department and the Accountant. In addition to these elevated military personages the country supports an Inspector-General at a salary of $6,500. The Civil Service Commissioners point out that the Inspector-General is simply a reporting officer, and evidently they are disposed to wonder if his reports are worth the money. In the whole public service of Canada there are very few officers drawing so large a salary. The Deputy Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, and the General Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway receive $6,000, $7,500 and $6,000 respectively. Yet in the Militia Department two officers get $6,000 each. The members of the Militia Council receive $4,000 each, and an officer in one of the commands gets $5,200 a year.

There is a staff of Paymasters which the Commisioners think is utterly unnecessary in spite of the dictum of General Lake that an army in the field could not get on without paymasters. "This seems," says the Report, "to carry to the extreme the principle of being prepared for war in time of peace." If the Intercolonial Railway and the Post-office can pay employes by cheque, the Commissioners are bold enough to believe that the Department of Militia might do likewise, and do away with the Paymasters.

Glory seems to sit upon the banners of the Headquarters Staff from the Minister down. The minutes of the Militia Council are called "Minutes of the Minister of Militia in Council," and one begins to appreciate the splendor of a Minister of Militia who has become a pocket edition of a Governor-General.

The Civil Service Commissioners say that it is held by officers to be of serious importance that the expenditure on the Militia of Canada should increase with the growth of the revenue. Compared with the expenditure at Confederation the annual budget now, by this reckoning, should be $8,000,000. But the Commisioners are not impressed by this plan of calculation. They prefer that the expenditure should keep pace with the growth in population.

Now the staff is sufficient for a corps of 100,000 men, while only 40,000 men come out for drill. The permanent corps is under 3,000 men, and the desertions in that corps number one in three. Moreover, favored men of the service draw pensions, not only for themselves, but for their wives and children as well. In view of the large expenditure of money the Commissioners seem doubtful if efficiency is being obtained.

URGES THE NEED OF MANUAL TRAINING

The Boy of To-Day Should Be Taught to Use His Hands.

(Toronto World.)

"We are an industrial people. Eight out of every ten of the boys going through our schools will have to make their livings with their hands. Is it not a crime to twist and bend those boys away from the vocational ends they must pursue? It is a crime to keep boys at studies which will in no way enlighten them in the work they have to do. The demands of the commercial world set our present standards of education. The call is now heard from the industrial world for a new method of education."

James P. Haney, inspector of manual training in the New York city schools, was expounding to the Ontario Education Association in convocation hall yesterday afternoon the gospel of manual training. His lecture was illustrated with examples of work done by the children in the New York schools, and brightened by many witty and illustrative stories.

Education, he said, was the effort to relate the child to its environment. The arts were a means to this end. They now realized that the child was not merely a little man, but a changing thing, beauty loving, interested in movement, filled with a desire for expression and with instincts that showed how nature meant to educate him. In following these instincts of the child they would learn not only the process of education but also the means.

The advocates of the little red school house, with its three "R's", forgot that under the conditions in which it existed the child got most of his education out of school. He was in touch with all the activities of the farm and took an active part in them. The city child, however, was shut off from this educational process. The substitution of machinery and concentrated industry for the hand work and home industry of former days made it impossible for the child to see much of the community activities. And to bring the child into intelligent relation with the activities about him it was necessary to introduce the manual arts into the schools.

Manual training showed the child its capacity to transform materials and thus to transform its environment. It gave a true sense of the value of joint effort. It revealed to him the fact that he was a social unit, and one who had to help to make things go. It gave him a strong constructive bent. It was not education in art but education through art.

The arts should be taught together. For example, drawing should proceed and be definitely related to constructive work. The things made should be things that could be used, so that the boy would realize that the object of work is to give service. In all such training the idea of communal work should be emphasized. Manual training was general and cultural, and should not be confused with vocational training, which was specific.

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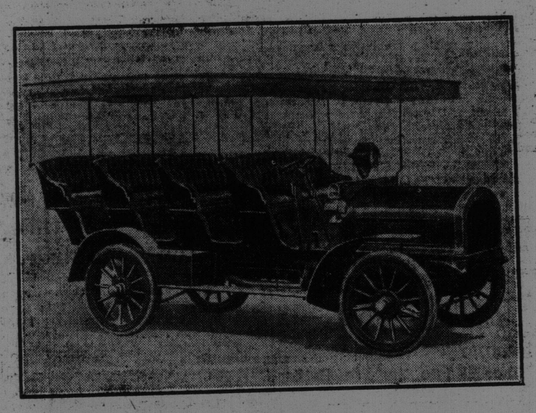

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

BUCTOUCHE MILLS DESTROYED BY FIRE

McLaughlin's Butter Factory, Flour, Carding, Saw Mills and General Store Burned

Buctouche, April 26.—This town was visited by a disastrous fire last night, when the McLaughlin Mills, probably the most important industry of the place, were burned to the ground. McLaughlin's Mills, which include a butter factory, flour, carding, saw mill and general store, were situated about 300 yards above the town, this side of the Moncton & Buctouche railway track, the buildings being located on both sides of the railway. How the fire started is not definitely known. A watchman was employed oin the premises, but has no knowledge except to say the fire had its origin in the engine-room. When discovered, the flames had made such progress that it was impossible to check them. The butter factory, general store, carding and flour mills were on one side of the track and the saw mill on the opposite. After destroying the former the fire crossed the track to the saw mill and the whole establishment was soon a smouldering heap of ruins.

A small culvert on the B. & M. Railway was also burned out, and men were engaged all day driving piling and effecting temporary repairs and it is expected the train will be able to run tomorrow as usual.

The destruction of the McLaughlin mills is not only a heavy loss for the compan but is serious for Buctouche. The industry gave employment to a large number of hands.

The loss to the concern will be heavy, probably $30,000 or $40,000 above the insurance. The mills cost to erect about $30,000. The inusuance amounts to $12,5000, divided amongst the following companies: London, Liverpool & Globe, $3,000; Norwich Union, Western, Richmond and Drummond, $2,000 each; British American, $1,000, and Scottish Union $2,500. The latter amount was on the saw mill. The company carried a big stock in store but saved nothing except their books. There was much valuable machinery in the mills and this will be almost a total loss.

Michael McLaughlin was manager of the concern, and Felix Michaud, another member of the company, is secreatry-treasurer. The company has not yet decided as to rebuilding. The mills were built some fifteen years ago.

On Rodney wharf, Carleton, on Saturday night about 10 o'clock car 37 of the Blue Rock loop collided with the tender of a C. P. R. yard engine and the side was torn out of the vestibule of the car. Only one passenger, a woman, and the motor man were aboard the car at the time. They escaped injury