

ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1906

SEVEN

# THE SEALSKIN JACKET.

(Continued from Story Page.)

"Well," inquired Carl, "how's it coming?"

"They have served an answer," returned Cousin William Henry, "and I have noticed the case for the November term."

"November," mused Louise, "and by December I can buy a new sealskin jacket—by Christmas, sure."

"You mean," said Carl, "that you will get ready for trial just yet. This case, you know, cannot possibly be reached for trial for something like two years and a half—more?"

"What," retorted Carl, "two years and a half? What are you giving us?"

"Two years and a half," wailed Louise von Winkler-Holstein.

"I'm merely stating a fact," answered Cousin William Henry.

"But, why not?" answered Carl.

"Why not? We're all ready for trial. The case is what you call at issue. What's the matter? Let's go on and try her. We can't wait two years and a half—not by a long shot."

"Not-for a sealskin jacket," wailed Louise again.

Cousin William Henry laughed. "There are a few thousand other people in this city saying that same thing."

As the months went on, Louise forgot about the jacket. "Dear me, Carl," she said one day, as they were fixing up their little house. "When Cousin William Henry says that money, I'll have the loveliest curtains, and a lovely Turkish rug, and—"

But other things happened. For one day Carl came home, and he was met at the door by a young woman in a seersucker dress.

"S-s-s-s," commanded this young woman. And Carl leaped up the stairs two at a time. And when he reached there his eyes bulged.

"Dear me," he said, "and who is this?"

"This," answered his young wife, her arms clasped tightly about a bundle. "This seems to be little Carl von Winkler-Holstein, that's who it seems to be."

And big Carl knelt down, and gathered little Carl and little Carl's mother into his arms. And for the time being they forgot about the sealskin jacket and the suit.

Little Carl, he grew and grew, and big Carl, he worked and worked, and Louise, she sewed and planned, and suddenly, when they had almost forgotten about it, by the time the sealskin jacket and the suit were reached on the calendar and the trial was hard upon.

"Not," exclaimed Louise, "now, we'll get that money."

But when they reached the courtroom and started in, they found out what Cousin William Henry had known all the time—that a tremendous principle was at stake. The difficulty was just this: The steamship company like all steamship companies desired to eat its cake and have it, too. After they steamed landed at the dock, there was a hiatus in the passage of the baggage in the hold, when the steamship company relinquished its hold upon the baggage and laid it down to the draymen of the custom house. At this critical stage the company had no control over it. But for the accommodation of its passengers, and to induce traffic in its own direction, it had been accustomed for years to relieve its passengers of worry and excitement at the critical period of home-coming, and had tacitly taken complete charge of all the baggage.

"But," said the steamship company, "we don't want to be held liable thereafter. We are doing our customers a favor, and we can't afford to be held responsible because we do a favor."

And, therefore they found, tooth and nail, the Von Winkler-Holstein suit. For it was the first of its kind that had arisen, and both Cousin William Henry on the one hand and Colonel Miller, counsel for the steamship company on the other, were flushed with excitement when they started in, for one or the other of them was bound to make, and had tacitly taken complete charge of it, to make a little reputation on the side.

It was simple. She had bought the jacket; paid so much for it; had jacket it carefully before she started, and that was all. A New York furrier testified to the New York office of a first-class, London dyed, Alaska sealskin jacket. Carl told his story under oath. Both sides rested.

"That was easy," whispered Carl to Cousin William Henry.

"It's only the beginning," said the lawyer. "Now for the tug of war."

He was right. The counsel on both sides spent all day arguing the question, which was to decide a principle far away and beyond the sealskin jacket of importance—one that affected the rights and liabilities of millions of passengers, of hundreds of steamship companies. Finally the court shook its head.

"This case," he said finally, "is one for the jury."

Cousin William Henry sat down. "We've won," he whispered to his clients.

He was right. The court merely said a few words to the foreman, and the foreman rose.

"For the plaintiff. Full amount," he said. And that was all.

"And now," said Louise, "those Peters girls—But no. What was I going to get for little Carl? They went down to Cousin William Henry's. 'When will we get the money?' they inquired."

"Thunder!" exclaimed Hawkins.

"Why," this case will be appealed. But," he smiled, "I've not Colonel Miller dead to rights, and Colonel Miller knows it, too. I've got him beat, all right."

But Colonel Miller did appeal. He appealed once and was beaten. That took a year. He appealed to the court of appeals in the last resort, and he was beaten. It took Cousin William Henry just three years more to beat the steamship company out on its appeal.

One day he wrote over to Louise.

"Come over," he told them. "I've got a check."

They came over. They got the check. It was enough; and it included three years' interest.

"Now," said Carl to Louise, "you can get the best sealskin jacket that New York affords." But Louise shook her head. "Well, then," suggested Carl, "you can spend it all on little Carl."

But still she shook her head.

"Carl," she said, laying her hand upon his arm, "I want your mother and come over here to see us—you and little Carl. I want her—oh, so much."

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## EXPLOSION OF GAS IN

AN ABANDONED WELL

Resulted in the Death of a Laborer and Nearly Killed a Soldier

PARIS, Sept. 6.—Near Saint Etienne, Brittany, an extraordinary accident has happened in a well. A laborer went down to clean it, and never came up. He called up from the bottom that he felt faint, and was being hoisted up, when he let go the rope and fell in again. A bystander volunteered to go down after him, but soon had to be pulled up half stifled. A gardener then offered to go, reached the bottom, and was tying a rope round the lifeless man, when a sergeant, looking down, noticed that the gardener was in difficulties, and had him hauled up just in time, as he was already unconscious. The sergeant himself then went down to investigate, carrying a lantern with him. He had not been lowered many feet when there was a terrific explosion, and a column of flame and smoke shot up from the well, knocking down the bystanders. The sergeant was pulled out with his head and face frightfully burned. Five other men were injured, one of them being in danger of losing his eyesight. It has been found that the well had opened up a natural



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## LEGION OF HONOR FOR SARAH BERNHARDT.

Government Will Insist That it is Granted.

A Syndicate Formed to Establish a Grand Opera in London—Paris Taverns to Close on Sundays.

(By Arthur W. Lamoureux.)  
PARIS, Sept. 8.—Colonel Henry Macdon, the president of the International Society of Music, which has its headquarters in Paris, has been away in London for several weeks negotiating on behalf of a French syndicate for the purchase of the London Coliseum, with a view to converting it into a grand opera house to be open all the year round.

Colonel Macdon states that the capital of the syndicate is \$1,000,000. He has been authorized to make a cash offer of \$300,000 to Mr. Oswald Stoll, the managing director of the Coliseum Company, and the offer will be placed before the debenture-holders as soon as a meeting can be convened.

The French syndicate which Colonel Macdon represents is composed of the principal patrons of the International Society of Music, who have subscribed the \$1,000,000 between them. Should this offer be accepted, it is proposed to run opera entirely on continental lines, and present, in addition to the standard operas, several successful works which have not yet been performed in London.

Madame Emma Calvé, discovered in a Pyrenean village, has told a friend, among other reminiscences, how she began her artistic career. The story is brief and to the point. While staying at the Brussels Monnaie she was engaged by the Paris Opera Comique at a salary of \$6,000 a year. This seemed to her a fortune, and she ordered a complete wardrobe at once. When her bills came in her budget for the year worked out at a deficit of \$12,000. America came to the rescue and she accepted an engagement for that sum. By the time she had returned she owed \$40,000 more, mostly to dressmakers. This is the experience of most actresses and singers. She went back to America and made \$100,000. She has made more since, and has learnt to put by, and is building a house for herself at Montpelier. The moral she draws from her story is that nothing is so stimulating as debt. It may be added that no actress has a reputation in Paris for being more generous than Madame Calvé.

Alarm, not to speak of excitement, has been caused by fearful rumors that Madame Calvé, her dressmakers, and tailors are to be closed on Sundays, not only during church time, as in London, but all the year round. The case owners say that the consequence of the new law as to a weekly rest they propose to act with makers in shutting up shop on Sundays. This project, or threat, has raised the ire of the syndicates of cafes, taverns, and restaurants employed by the licensed victuallers. These men propose to hold a meeting to protest against the intended closing of the order, the various ministers are bound to consult the Council of the Order before making any nominations. The decision. The result has been that the Council can merely offer advice. In practice, however, an unfavorable decision by the council has been regarded as a veto on the appointment. This was inevitable. Thousands of names are annually submitted to the various ministers. They cannot possibly know the claims and qualifications of every candidate. The names are therefore passed on to the Council of the Order, which makes an investigation and reports on the qualifications of the candidates. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the reasons are all sufficient, and the minister accepts the decision. The result has been that the Council has ended by creating a little imperium in imperio and arrogated itself powers of veto which constitutionally it does not possess. It had only to make a "break" like that in regard to Mme. Bernhardt to bring up the whole question.

## A HOTEL ESPECIALLY FOR THE "HELLO" GIRLS

PARIS, Sept. 5.—A fine home, or hotel, for the telephone and postoffice girls of Paris is nearly ready. Although called the Hotel des Demoiselles des Telephones there is also in its accommodation for the married and unmarried women employed in the various other departments of the postoffice. The building is in the Rue de Lille, in the vicinity of the central postoffice, and is due to the initiative of M. Moncey, a high official. Funds were supplied by philanthropic capitalists, \$20,000 being collected in a few days. The occupants of the home have a library, sitting rooms, recreation rooms and a court yard, which is to be a sort of garden, or rather a garden in winter. The accommodation for the married women is limited to the restaurant, or eating room, and to the library, which they are at liberty to use. The unmarried occupants have bed and sitting rooms for four or five francs weekly. It is proposed to organize another and a larger Hotel des Demoiselles des Telephones later on.

## SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 24 not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less. Entry must be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situate. The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans: (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years. (2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother. (3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land. Six months' notice in writing should be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

## INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, June 24th, 1906, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted), as follows:  
TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN.  
No. 2—Express for P. du Chene, Sydney, Halifax and Campbellton..... 6.00  
No. 4—Mixed train to Moncton..... 7.45  
No. 4—Express for Moncton, P. du Chene, Quebec, Montreal (connecting with Ocean Limited at Moncton)..... 11.00  
No. 26—Express for Point du Chene, Suburban for Hampton..... 11.15  
No. 8—Express for Sussex..... 11.15  
No. 4—Express from Sussex..... 11.30  
No. 134—Express for Quebec and Montreal..... 11.30  
No. 10—Express from Halifax, Sydney, Halifax and Pictou..... 11.30  
TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.  
No. 4—Express from Moncton..... 6.25  
No. 13—Express from Montreal and Quebec..... 12.50  
No. 17—Suburban from Hampton..... 12.50  
No. 5—Mixed from Moncton..... 12.50  
No. 3—Express from Moncton and Point du Chene..... 17.00  
No. 25—Express from Halifax, Pictou, P. du Chene and Campbellton (connecting with Ocean Limited at Moncton)..... 17.15  
No. 1—Express from Sydney, Halifax, Pictou and Moncton (Sunday only)..... 17.15  
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## DARING ESCAPE OF A MOSCOW BANK ROBBER

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 8.—An estopart clerk named Belentsoff, who planned the great Moscow bank robbery a few months ago, made a daring escape from a railway train, 100 miles from St. Petersburg, while being brought back to the capital from Switzerland. Belentsoff was sitting in a second-class compartment surrounded by eight soldiers, while two more soldiers were stationed in the corridor outside. As the train slowed down, approaching Novodevitsk station, Belentsoff suddenly leaped from his seat and flung himself through the closed window. A few minutes later he was seen by a pedestrian near the station, running in the direction of a dense forest. Belentsoff was streaming down his face in consequence of cuts inflicted by the broken glass. The attention of Belentsoff's guards had been momentarily attracted by the passage of a lady along the corridor of the carriage when he made his escape.

## BELGIUM AND HOLLAND WILL NOT UNITE

BRUSSELS, Sept. 6.—The question of closer political relations between Holland and Belgium is the echo of a similar discussion here, which created a more than passing interest. It is, however, generally felt that there are serious obstacles to any practical step toward a definite union, economic or military, between the two countries. Holland inclines to free trade; Belgium is protectionist. The most favored nation clause exists in most of the commercial treaties which Belgium has made with other countries, and, until these are denounced preferential trading with Holland is inadmissible. The military side of the question is beset with difficulties. While admitting that it behooves smaller states to follow the tendency of the larger Powers to group themselves for their self-protection, it is doubtful how far a coalition of the Dutch and Belgian armies would serve the purpose of self-defense against an invasion by a Power of the first rank.

"Now, Pat," said a magistrate to an offender, "what brought you here again?" "Two policemen, sir," was the laconic reply. "Drunk, I suppose," queried the magistrate. "Yes, sir," said Pat; "both aw thim."