

THE GREAT K&A TRAIN ROBBERY

By PAUL LEXESTER FORD, Author of 'The Vanished Staircase'

CHAPTER V—Continued.

We rode into the camp at the Grand Canon about eight, and the deserted look of the tents gave me a moment's fright, for I feared that the party had gone. Tolfe explained, however, that some had ridden out to Moran Point, and the rest had followed Hance's trail. So I breakfasted and then took a look at Albert Cullen's Winchester. That it had been recently fired was as plain as the Grand Canon itself; throwing back the bar, I found an empty cartridge shell, still oily from the discharge.

That completed the tale of seven shots. I didn't feel absolutely safe till I had asked Tolfe if there had been any shooting of echoes by the party, but his denial rounded out my chain of evidence.

Telling the sheriff to guard the base of the party carefully, I took two of the posse and rode over to Moran's Point. Sure enough, there was Mr. Cullen, Albert, and Caspian Ackland. They gave a shout at seeing me, and even before I had reached them they called to know how I could come so soon, and if I had caught the robbers. Mr. Cullen started to tell his pleasure at my return, but my expression made him pause, and it seemed to dawn on all three that the Winchester across my saddle, and the cowboys' hands resting conclusively on the revolvers in their belts, had a meaning.

"Mr. Cullen," I explained, "I've got a very unpleasant job on hand, which I don't want to make any argument about. Every fact points to your party as guilty of holding up the train last night and stealing those letters. Probably you weren't all concerned, but I've got to go on the assumption that you are all guilty, till you prove otherwise."

"Aw, you're joking," drawled Albert.

"I hope so," I said, "but for the present I've got to be English and treat the joke seriously."

"What do you want to do?" asked Mr. Cullen.

"I don't wish to arrest you gentlemen unless you force me to," I said, "for I don't see that it will do any good. But I want you to return to camp with me."

They assented to that, and, single file, we rode back. When there, I told each that he must be searched, to which they submitted at once. After that we went through their baggage. I wasn't going to have the sheriff or cowboys tumbling over Miss Cullen's clothes, so I looked over her bag myself. The prettiness and daintiness of the various contents were revelation to me, and I tried to put them back as neatly as I had found them, but I didn't know much about the articles, and I saw a terrible job trying to fold up some of the things. Why, there was a big pink affair, lined with silk, with bits of ribbon and lace all over it, which nearly drove me out of my head, for I would have defied mortal man to pack it so that it shouldn't muss. I had a funny little feeling of tenderness for everything, which made fusing over it all a pleasure, even when I felt at the time I was doing a sneak act and had really no right to touch her belongings. I didn't find anything incriminating, and the posse reported the same result with the other baggage. If the letters were still alive existence, they were either concealed somewhere or were in the possession of the party in the Canon.

Telling the sheriff to keep those in camp under absolute surveillance, I took a single man, and saddling a couple of mules, started down the trail.

We found Frederic and "Captain" Hance just dismounting at the Rock Cabin, and I told the former he was in custody for the present, and asked him where Miss Cullen and Lord Ralies were.

He told me they were just behind; but I wasn't going to take any risks, and ordering the deputy to look after Cullen, I went on down the trail. I couldn't resist calling back:

"How's your respiration, Mr. Cullen?"

He laughed, and called, "Digits! put me on my feet like a flash."

"He's got the most brains of any man in this party," I remarked to myself.

The trail at this point is very winding, so that one can rarely see fifty feet in advance, and sometimes not less. Owing to this the first thing I knew I plumped round a curve on to a mule, which was patiently standler

she put such surprise and grief and disbelief into the four syllables that I wanted the earth to swallow me then and there.

"Why, Miss Cullen," I cried, "look at my position. I'm being paid to do certain things, and—"

"But that needn't prevent your being a gentleman," she interrupted.

"That made me almost desperate," Miss Cullen said, "I groaned, hurriedly, 'I'd rather be burned alive than do what I've got to, but if you won't give me those letters, search you I must.'"

"But how can I give you what I haven't?" she cried, indignantly, assuming again her innocent expression.

"Will you give me your word of honor that those letters are not concealed in your clothes?"

"I will," she answered.

I was very much taken aback; for it would have been so easy for Miss Cullen to have said so before that I had become convinced she must have them.

"And do you give me your word?" I said, "I'm affirmed, but she didn't look me in the face as she said it."

I ought to have been satisfied, but I wasn't, for, in spite of her denial, something forced me still to believe she had them, and looking back now, I think it was her manner. I stood reflecting for a minute, and then requested, "Please stay where you are for a moment." Leaving her I went over to Frederic.

"Mr. Cullen," I said, "Miss Cullen, I want those letters."

rather than be searched, has acknowledged that she has the letters, and says that if the men will go into the but she'll get them for me."

He rose at once. "I told my father not to drag her in," he muttered, sadly. "I don't care about myself, Mr. Gordon, but please keep her out of it. She's as innocent of any real wrong as the day she was born."

"I'll do everything in my power," I promised. Then he and Hance went into the cabin, and I walked back to the culprits.

(To be continued.)

Boy Burglar Fights Shot.
Sam Price and Albert Bryan, each 16 years old, broke into three burglaries at Marham, near Salisbury, in jail. During the excitement attending the pursuit of the boy burglars Price was shot and died.

Collector Fights Robbers.
Mike Steuber, Jr., tax collector of Romine township, was held up at his home Sunday night about 8 o'clock by six men. The house was attacked, doors broken down, windows smashed, and forty shots were fired, but on account of the snowstorm the robbers escaped. Mr. Steuber had several thousand dollars in the house, and succeeded in driving off the robbers, and saving the entire amount.

State Republican Convention.
The Republican state central committee, through Chairman West and Secretary Wheeler, has issued the call for the state convention, to be held at 10 a. m. Monday, May 14, in the state arsenal at Springfield, for the purpose of electing a candidate for state treasurer, a candidate for superintendent of public instruction and three trustees of the University of Illinois. The ratio of representation is one delegate for every 400 votes cast for Roosevelt in 1904, and one delegate for each additional fraction of 200 or over. The convention will be the largest ever held by the Republicans in Illinois. There will be 1,582 delegates, against 1,504, in 1904.

Dismisses Farm Gate Cases.
Eight cases, four on the criminal and the others on the civil side of the circuit court of Logan county, against William R. White, have been dismissed. The cases are those known throughout the middle west as the "White gate cases," having arisen over the sales of certain rights for the White farm gates, which has involved the inventor in innumerable law suits. Four of the cases were for conspiracy and the others for damages asked by investors. It is understood that Mr. White is in falling health, and that the cases were settled to avoid further litigation.

Pig Aids in Lifting Church Debt.
The Ladies' Aid society of the First Christian church of Sullivan cleared \$23 for the church debt from the exhibition of a two-foot pig owned by one of the members of the congregation and loaned to the society.

Fatal Quarrrel Over Whisky.
During a quarrel over the payment for a bottle of whisky, purchased jointly by two men, a negro employee of the Big Four railroad was stabbed to death at Carmel by an Italian, who surrendered.

Displeased With Sus Canal.
It is urged by the Liverpool Underwriters' Association that the Sus Canal be double-headed, or else that an entirely new canal be built.

ILLINOIS NEWS

RESULT OF MINERS' ELECTION
Seventh Sub-district Casts Largest Vote in Its History.

The auditing committee of the seventh sub-district, E. M. W. of A., finished counting the ballots of the recent election at Murphysboro March 17. The vote polled was the heaviest in the history of the organization in southern Illinois, and represented nearly 12,000 miners. Practically the present roster of officers was re-elected.

Following are the leading candidates for the various offices in the order of the votes received: President, James Kelly of Carterville, and William Brown of Johnston City; vice president, W. R. Rodman of Danvers; Charles H. Sullivan of Harrisburg; Paul Smith of Marion; secretary and treasurer, P. H. Strawhorn of Murphysboro, Robert Little of Carterville, A. B. Talmage of Marion, and John Henderson of Willisville; board member from Perry county, G. W. Froner of Duquoin and John Henrhan of Willisville.

FOIL PLAN TO SWINDLE BANK
Wire Tappers Seek to Secure Large Sum on Bogus Dispatch.

A plot to rob the First National bank of Nashville, Tenn., was foiled by J. A. Willis up to \$5,000. It appears that a message, purporting to be signed by a bank at Carmel, was sent to the Nashville bank, authorizing the Nashville bank to honor drafts drawn by J. A. Willis up to \$5,000. The alleged message bore the signature, it is said, of the First National bank of Carmel. Investigations disclosed that the message was never found at the Western Union office at Carmel, and the Nashville bank was wired to arrest any person attempting to realize on the draft. The message must have been sent by wire tappers.

Dog Bite Troubles Student.
Robert Hutchinson of Newman, a student at the James Millikin university in Decatur, St. Mary's hospital suffering from a serious and peculiar trouble. Nine years ago he was bitten by a dog and recovered and now he is in great pain on account of the old bite, while in apparently perfect health and walking on the street he was suddenly seized with such suffering that he had to be removed to the hospital and the old dog bite wound was renewed.

Township Asks County Aid.
Action has been brought by the supervisors of the county to annul the court decision in the case of Phillips township vs. the county, in which the township demanded that the county board be required to make an appropriation to assist in the township building bridges. The board refused and the circuit court ordered mandamus proceedings. The case will be argued in the supreme court on the technical allegation that the county board cannot legally make appropriations exceeding five per cent of the last assessed value of the county. The present total indebtedness of Whiteside county is \$136,000, and the total valuation shown by the last assessment in the county aggregates only \$2,869,541.

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BRIBERY CHARGES FALL FLAT
Witnesses Are Lacking in Chicago Drainage Canal Cases.

It is declared on good authority that the March grand jury, which was positively instructed by Judge T. N. Green of Pekin to investigate charges of bribery in connection with the recent trial of a \$45,000 damage suit of Joseph Y. Graff and Judge Curran against the sanitary district of Chicago, would adjourn without making an investigation of these charges. It is stated that the witnesses to whom Judge Green referred the jury cannot be found, that the juror who claimed to have been offered a bribe is unable to prove any such offer, and that the jury, after hearing his testimony in case, decided to drop it. It is certain that the bribery charges, which affected agents of the sanitary district, have not been seriously considered by the grand jury, the fact that an early adjournment is now planned adds to the belief that no report will be made upon this case.

RAILROADS ARE HOARDING COAL
Coal Famine Is Threatened in Central Part of State.

A coal famine in central Illinois is imminent, as in part by the strike of the coal miners, Springfield is the center of the richest bituminous coal fields in the country, and the railroads center of the coal business, have endeavored to monopolize the entire supply of coal from the central Illinois mines. They demand "every car of coal mined." The strike of the coal miners, which is now in progress, will probably ease the public mind some. Coal bins are empty, and the short supply, coupled with the bad weather, makes it impossible for the homes to get fuel.

GIVES SALARY FOR A FOUNTAIN
Chicago Alderman to Beautify Washington Square at Cost of \$600.

Washington square, the small north side breathing spot bounded by North Clark street, Washington place, Dearborn avenue and Walton place, Chicago, is to be beautified through an ederman salary. The playground is to be beautified by the erection of a fountain in front of the Newberry library, and \$600 has been donated for the purpose by J. J. McCormick, the retiring council member from the Twenty-first ward. That amount is due Mr. McCormick for services rendered for the city in the drainage board.

Women Rural Carriers.
These women rural mail carriers in the United States, and Madison county has two of them, Mrs. Philip Hale of Alton and Miss Mattie M. Marshall of Granite City. The latter is the former Chief Justice Marshall of the United States supreme court. She was recently held up by highwaymen, but fought them off. She delivered mail through the winter months, working six and seven hours late each trip.

Good Price for Property.
A frame building at Danville, in poor repair, one story in height and 120 feet in width, has been sold by C. M. Young to W. F. Baum for \$10,000, or \$1,000 a front foot. It is in Vermilion street, in the best business section of the city. A larger building near door sold at the same rate a front foot but a short time ago. A five-story office building will be erected on the site.

Kankakee Wants Tax Excess.
State's Attorney J. Bert Miller has served notice on former Township Collectors George Newman, Ernest Radtke, M. J. Baker and A. T. Kerr for Kankakee to turn over commission on \$12,000 collected for the years 1899 to 1903 inclusive. They aggregated about \$2,500.

Weds Girl Who Nursed Him.
George Bender, son of Capt. George Bender of Belleville, has been married to Miss Estella Smith at Denver, Colo. Miss Smith was a nurse in a Denver hospital and cared for Mr. Bender through a long illness. Capt. Bender was several terms treasurer of Belleville.

Lone Robber Holds Up Family.
A lone highwayman, masked and armed, entered the house of James R. Pierson, near Danvers, and held up his wife and daughter, Mrs. C. C. Bosfield, and ransacked the premises. He secured \$100 of value. There is no clue to the robber.

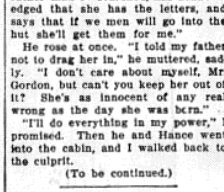
Hamilton Primary April 28.
The Hamilton county Democratic central committee has chosen April 28 for the county primary.

Canadian Boundaries.
In an endeavor to foster home industries the Canadian government has established a number of bonanza mines to be worked by Canadian miners, which last year aggregated \$1,000,000 on iron and steel products, \$324,000 on lead, \$332,000 on crude petroleum and \$12,900 on manilla fiber.

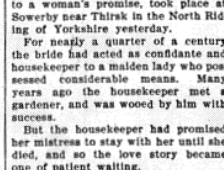
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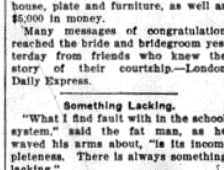
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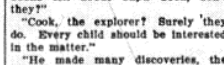
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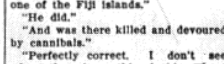
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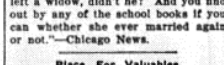
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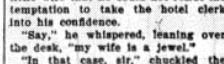
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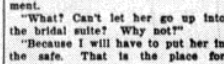
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