

SERIAL STORY

The Chronicles of Addington Peace

By B. Fletcher Robinson

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MR CORAN'S ELECTION

Ten o'clock! Big Ben left no doubt about it; for the giant clock in the tower of the house of parliament is a noisy neighbor. The last stroke thundered out as I climbed the stairs that led to the modest lodging of Inspector Addington Peace, and silence had fallen as I knocked at his door. I was alone that night and in the mood when a man escapes from himself to seek a friend.

I found the little detective at his open window, staring across the tumbled roofs to where the abbey towers rose under the summer moon. The evening breeze that came creeping up with the tide blew gratefully after the heat of the July day. He glanced at me over his shoulder with a short nod of welcome.

"Even the police grow sentimental on such a night," I suggested.

"Or philosophic."

"The reflections of Diogenes the detective, or the Aristotle of Scotland Yard," I laughed. "May I inquire as to the cause of such profound thought?"

He held out a slip of paper, which I took and carried to the central lamp. It was an old newspaper clipping, stained and blurred, relating in six lines how James Coran, described as a student, had been charged at the Bow street police court with drunkenness, followed by an aggravated assault on the constable who arrested him. He was fined three pounds or seven days. That was all.

"Not a subject of earth-shaking importance," I said.

"No; but it has proved a sufficient excuse for blackmail."

"Then the victim is a fool," I answered hotly. "Why, from the look of the paper the affair must have taken place a dozen years ago."

"Thirty-two years this month."

"Which means that the riotous student is now a man of over fifty. If James Coran has gone down the hill, the past can't hurt him now; if he has led a respectable life, surely he can afford to neglect the scamp who threatens to rake up so mild a scandal. Blackmail for a spree back in the seventies—it's ridiculous, inspector."

The little man stood with his hands behind his head on one side, watching me with benevolent amusement. When he spoke it was in the ponderous manner which he sometimes assumed, a manner that always reminded me of a university professor explaining their deplorable errors to his class.

"Mr. James Coran is a respectable middle-class widower who lives with his sister Rebecca and two daughters in the little town of Brendon, twenty-four miles from London. He arrives at the 'Fashionable Clothing Company'—his London establishment in Oxford street—at ten o'clock in the morning, leaving for home by the 5:15. In his spare time he performs a variety of public duties at Brendon. He is a recognized authority on drama, and has produced a pamphlet on dust carts. As a temperance orator his local reputation is great, and his labors in the cause of various benevolent associations have been suitably commemorated by a presentation clock, three inkstands, and a silver tankard. His interests are limited to Brendon and Oxford street; of world movements he thinks no more than the caterpillar on a leaf considers the general welfare of the cabbage patch. Please remember the facts, Mr. Phillips, in consideration of his case."

"Six months ago an envelope arrived at his house with two inclosures. One was the newspaper clipping you hold; the other a letter denouncing him as a hypocrite, and warning him that unless the sum of twenty pounds was placed in the locker of a little summer house at the end of his garden the writer would expose him to all Brendon in his true character as a convicted drunkard."

"Coran was in despair. He had imagined his unfortunate spree long forgotten. Not even his own relatives were aware of it. He was trying for a seat on the county council; the election was due in a month, and he relied for his success on the support of the temperance party. As an election weapon the old scandal could be used with striking effect. So he paid—as many a better man has been fool enough to do under like circumstances."

"In three days—on Saturday, that is—the election takes place. This morning he received a letter similar

to the first, save that the demand was for a hundred pounds. He had just sense enough to see that if he allowed himself to be blackmailed again it would merely encourage further attempt at extortion. So when he arrived in town, he took a cab to Scotland Yard. I heard his story, and caught the next train down to Brendon. I did not call at the house, but gathered a few details concerning him and his family. In all particulars he seems to have spoken the truth."

"Must the hundred pounds be placed in the summer house tonight?"

"No. The blackmailer gave him a day to collect the money. It must be in the locker tomorrow night by eleven o'clock."

"Which means that you will watch the place and pull out the fish as he takes the bait. It seems simple enough, anyhow."

"Oh, yes," he said. "But it is the faulty sense of proportion in Coran which provides the interest in the case. Even at the time the scandal was no very serious matter. What must be his frame of mind that it should terrorize him after all these years?"

When I left him half an hour later it was with the promise that I should have first news of the comedy's conclusion—for a tragedy it certainly was not, save for the blackmailer, if Peace should catch him.

The following afternoon I was sitting in my studio with the cigarette—that comes so pleasantly after tea and buttered toast—between my lips, when my servant, Jacob Hendry, thrust in his head to announce visitors. They came hard upon his heels—a long, gray-whiskered man in the lead, and the inspector trotting behind. As they cleared the door the little detective twisted round his companion and waved an introductory hand.

"This is Mr. James Coran," he said. "We want your assistance, Mr. Phillips."

The long man stood staring at me and screwing his hands together in evident agitation. He had a hollow, melancholy face, a weak mouth, and eyes of an indecisive gray. From his square-toed shoes to the bald patch on the top of his head he was extremely, almost flagrantly, respectable.

"I am taking a great liberty, sir," he said humbly, "but you are, as it were, a straw to one who is sinking beneath the waters of affliction. Do you, by chance, know the town of Brendon?"

"I have never been so fortunate as to visit it," I told him.

"I understand from the police officer here that you have traveled abroad. Accustomed, therefore, to the corruption that taints the municipal life of other cities, you can scarcely comprehend the whole-souled enthusiasm with which we of Brendon approach the duties, may I say the sacred trust, of administering to the sanitary and moral welfare of our county. Those whom we select must be of unstained reputation. From a place on the sports committee of the flower show I myself have risen through successive grades until even the houses of parliament seemed within the limit of legitimate ambition. But now, sir, now it seems that, through a boyish indiscretion when a student at the Regent's street polytechnic, I may be denounced in my advancing years as a roysterer, a tippler, almost a convicted criminal. They would not hesitate. Mark my words, sir, if Horledge and Pantom—my opponent's chief supporters in Saturday's election—are informed of these facts, they will mention them on platforms, they may even display them on boardings."

He paused, sighed deeply, and wiped his face with a large silk pocket handkerchief. The situation was ridiculous enough, yet not without a certain pathos underlying the humor, for the man was sincerely in earnest.

"If I can help you, Mr. Coran, I am at your disposal," I told him.

"It is a matter of considerable delicacy," he said. "My younger daughter, Emily, has formed an attachment which is most disagreeable to me."

"Indeed," I murmured.

"The young man, Thomas Appleton by name, is of more than doubtful character. Miss Rebecca, my sister, has seen him boating on the Thames in the company of ladies whose appearance was—er—distinctly theatrical."

"You surprise me."

"He has been known to visit music halls."

"Did Miss Rebecca see him there, too?"

"Certainly not, sir; but she has it from a sure source. It was obviously my duty to forbid him the house. I performed that duty, and extorted a promise from my daughter that she would cease to communicate with him. In my belief, it is he who has discovered

the scandal to which I need not again refer, and, in revenge, is levying this blackmail. The law shall strike him, if there is justice left in England."

"And where do I come in?" I asked, for he had paused in a flurry of indignation.

"Perhaps I had better explain," Peace interposed. "Owing to this unfortunate love affair, it is plain that no member of Mr. Coran's family must learn that this young man is suspected or that steps are being taken for his arrest. It would not be unreasonable to fear that he might be warned. I am staying with Mr. Coran tonight, but I do not want to go alone. I might take an assistant from the Yard, but it is hard to pick a man who has not 'criminal investigation department' stamped upon him. You look innocent enough, Mr. Phillips. Will you come with us, and lend me a hand?"

I agreed at once. It could not fail to be an amusing adventure. After some discussion, it was arranged that Peace and I should be introduced as business friends of Mr. Coran, who had asked us down to Brendon on a sudden invitation. A telegram was sent off to that effect.

For the first fifteen minutes of the train we shared a crowded compartment. Gradually, however, our companions dropped away until we were left to ourselves. Mr. Coran was in evident hesitation of mind. He shifted about, screwing his hands together with a most doleful countenance. When he commenced to speak he leaned forward as if afraid that the very cushions might overhear him.

"I have mentioned my sister Rebecca," he said. "She is a woman of remarkable character."

"Indeed," I murmured, for he chose to address me more directly.

"We have differed lately on several points of—er—local interest. It is very important that she should not learn the cause of my appeal to the police. Anything that aroused her suspicions might lead to consequences very disagreeable to myself."

"I will be discreet."

"My daughters will—er—benefit largely under her will. She would cut them out of it without hesitation if she learnt that their father had been connected with so—er—disgraceful a scandal. You understand the situation?"

"Perfectly. It must render your position additionally unpleasant."

He sighed and relapsed into a melancholy silence, in which the train drew up at Brendon station. A cab was in waiting, into which we climbed. A couple of turns, a short descent, and we drew up at a gate in a long wall of flaming brick.

As we walked up the drive I looked carefully about me. The house was also of red brick and of mixed architecture. I believe the architect had intended it for the Tudor period, with variations suggested by modern sanitary requirements. The garden before the windows was of considerable size, with laurels and quick-growing shrubs lining the edge of a lawn and several winding walks. At the farther end a thatched roof, rising amongst the young trees, showed the position of the summer house which played so important a part in the story we had heard.

It was striking six as we entered the hall. Our host led us straight to our rooms on the first floor. We had been told not to bring dress clothes, so that ten minutes later we were ready to descend to the drawing room.

Mr. Coran's daughters, a pair of pretty, bright-faced girls, were seated in those careless attitudes which denote the expected appearance of strangers. Miss Rebecca, a tall, spectacled female, whose sixty years had changed curves for acute angles, reposed in the window, reading a volume of majestic size. She laid it down with a thump, removed her glasses and received us with great modesty and decorum. The inspector and a fox terrier, that set up a barking as we entered, were the only members of the party that seemed natural and at ease.

I found the dinner pass pleasantly enough, despite the gloom that radiated from the brother and sister. Emily, the victim of the "unfortunate attachment," quite captured my fancy, though I am not a ladies' man. Twice we dared to laugh, though the reproving eyes of the elders were constantly upon us. In the intervals of my talk with her I obtained the keenest enjoyment from listening to the conversation of Peace and Miss Rebecca. The lady cross-examined him very much as if he were a prisoner accused of various grave and monstrous offenses. Upon the question of anti-visitation she was especially urgent.

(CHRONICLES TO BE CONTINUED.)

MEAT UNDER PURE FOOD ACT

Cabinet Officers Combine to Prevent Misbranding.

Washington, D. C.—Probably the most radical and far-reaching exposition of the food and drugs act since its enactment was made Thursday when Secretaries Houston, McAdoo and Redfield, charged with enforcing this statute, ruled that meat and meat products in interstate or foreign commerce which hitherto have been exempt from the provisions of the pure food law, may be seized if misbranded or adulterated.

Beginning at once, manufacturers of meat foods will be required to comply strictly with the food and drugs act as well as with the meat inspection law.

This action was taken on the strength of an opinion by Attorney General McKeen. The three secretaries revoked a regulation adopted in October, 1906, only four months after the passage of the pure food law, which had prevented the department of Agriculture, according to a statement by Secretary Houston, "from prosecuting manufacturers of meat foods under the pure food law, or ordering seizures or prosecutions for misbranding or adulteration of domestic meats."

Secretary Houston said he could not understand why meat and meat products were not food in the sense of the wording of the pure food and drug act, and why his department could not seize adulterated or misbranded meat once it had entered into interstate commerce. Therefore he had sought the advice of the attorney general.

"Under the meat inspection law," the secretary said, "meat inspectors have absolutely no power to seize meat or meat food products that have become bad or have been adulterated after they have left a Federally inspected establishment. The only remedy possible under the meat act is to proceed economically against anyone selling bad meat, but even in this event, bad meat cannot be seized nor its sale prevented."

TO FIGHT LOW RATE RULING

Decisions Against Roads Only Beginning of Struggle.

Washington, D. C.—The state rate decisions which marked the session of the Supreme court recently are regarded by some as merely the beginning of a fight by the railroads against low rates.

In each case where a railroad failed to sustain its claim that the state rates were confiscatory the Supreme court specifically reserved the right of the road to begin new proceedings. This was true as to two roads in Minnesota, twelve in Missouri and two in Arkansas, where Justice Hughes said the data on which the contention of confiscation was based was too general. Whether any road can collect data before the Interstate Commerce commission concludes its valuation of all the railroad property in the United States sufficiently accurate to satisfy the court that proper valuations have been arrived at is a new question.

Elections Worry Jurist.

Chicago—Charles S. Cutting, for many years judge of the Probate court here, announced that he would resign from the bench September 1, to resume the practice of law.

"I am resigning because of the annoyance of constantly recurring elections," said Judge Cutting.

"A man is no longer judged on his merits as a judge. Judges are praised or blamed according to the parties they belong to. The constant worry and annoyance of this sort of thing has been too much for me. If it were not for that I would gladly remain on the bench."

Angora Goat Is Humbled.

Washington, D. C.—The Angora goat can no longer lord it over the pastoral sheep and proclaim its aristocracy, for the Democrats of the senate finance committee have put both on a level. By striking off the Underwood rate of 20 per cent ad valorem on the hair of the Angora goat and transferring it to the free list, with raw wool, the committee ran counter to the ways and means committee of the house and decided a much disputed point in the woolen schedule.

Mexican Loans Barred.

Berlin—The issues of the proposed Mexican National railways and Mexican government loans were barred from the German market by the Prussian minister of commerce. He notified the banks interested that they could not be listed on the Bourse. This action was taken as a sequel to the request of the German government to the great German banks to desist from further foreign flotations, in view of the monetary pressure at home.

Spanking Costs \$100,000.

Monticello, N. Y.—Mrs. B. Wolfe, of Fendale, Sullivan county, near here, tried to spank her young son and in so doing upset an oil stove. In the fire that ensued 12 business houses and three dwellings, including the Wolfe house, were destroyed. The loss will reach \$100,000.

Three Rise 15,480 Feet.

Vienna—The French aviator, Edmund Perryon, who holds the world's altitude record for an aeroplane with pilot alone, and pilot and one passenger, broke the world's record for carrying two passengers Thursday. He reached a height of 15,480 feet.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

General News of the Industrial and Educational Development and Progress of Rural Communities, Public Institutions, Etc.

NEW FISHING BANKS FOUND

Halibut Feeding Grounds Off Newport Boon to Fishermen.

Portland—Halibut banks recently discovered off Newport, Yaquina Bay, Or., are receiving much attention from Portland small boat operators. The banks are new and among the richest known. They are sufficient to supply all the markets of the Northwest with fresh fish from early spring until late fall.

There are eight gasoline launches at Newport being fitted up for fishing, three of these are already engaged in the business with great success and the opening of a cold storage plant at Newport next month will aid materially in the commerce of that industry.

In addition there is a sailing schooner from Seattle, at present held up by a lien, and Captain R. E. Voeth has resigned his position as master of the yacht Sea Otter and taken charge of the Wanderer, which he will take to Newport to engage in the halibut fishing.

Inquiries about the halibut banks have been frequently made by Portland merchants. Captain Tabell, of the Patsy, reported that he had observed launches fishing for halibut when he arrived on the present voyage, and his report is one of many of the same kind.

There will be a survey made of the banks by the government and doubtless Captain Voeth, who found them last summer while on the launch Ollie S., will receive credit for his valuable discovery.

GLADSTONE GETS LECTURER

Baumgardt to Be Heard Thrice at Coming Chautauqua.

Oregon City—One of the interesting features of the coming Chautauqs to be held July 8 to 20 at Gladstone Park, will be the B. R. Baumgardt lectures. Professor Baumgardt is perhaps the best-known Chautauqua lecturer in the field today.

Baumgardt first attained renown as a scientist, later as a globe-trotter, and finally as a lecturer. He has acquired a wonderful knowledge of the earth, having traveled in every interesting corner of the world, and at the same time continued his scientific studies of the stars and planets. This wonderful knowledge, coupled with a most interesting personality, and an excellent delivery, has elevated Baumgardt to a supreme place on the American lecture platform. He lectures on July 18, 19 and 20, the final three evenings of the Chautauqua and a fitting close to the assembly.

School Has Agricultural Club.

Mt. View rural school, in Benton county, has an agricultural club with an advisor chosen from among the neighboring farmers, to meet every fortnight through the summer to plan and discuss exhibits for the State fair and the local Industrial fair next fall.

Seniors of the Agricultural college, under the extension division, have inspired the organization by visits to the school, giving talks on crops, cooking and sewing, pests and soils. At the last meeting the children examined the tent caterpillar, bud moth and oyster shell scale, discussing treatment for them. Bread baked by one of the little girls was judged critically and found very good.

There is a regular student body organization, and a number of entertainments have provided funds for equipping a croquet ground, a tennis court, and a baseball diamond, and putting up a big swing. What was left at the end of the school year is to be used for fruit trees to plant on the unprotected side of the grounds, which can be used for shade and horticultural instruction.

Hood River Ready for Chautauqua.

Hood River—In addition to the amateur theatrical performances that will be presented by local talent on each night of the second annual Horticultural Chautauqua to be held here from July 22 to 28, the days will be filled with lectures by the best horticultural authorities of the country and a domestic course will be given for the valley housewives and bachelor housekeepers. One night of the Chautauqua will be devoted to a comic opera. J. A. Epping, well known as a teacher in Portland, is preparing "The Mikado." The valley has some excellent musical talent.

Southern Students Here.

Hood River—Five husky young agricultural students from the University of Tennessee, at Knoxville, who are touring the West to study horticultural and agricultural conditions, arrived here recently to take part in the strawberry harvest, which has now shifted from the lower to the upper valley. The young men are paying part of their expenses by working in orchards and grain fields. From here they propose to go to Eastern Oregon to take part in the grain harvest.

Navy Bean to Be Important Crop.

Quincy—The navy bean will be one of the important crops in this section this year, about 50 acres being planted. In addition to the beans that will be placed on the market in a dried state considerable acreage will be devoted to green beans, the output of which has already been contracted for Portland canneries.

CHERRY TO RULE AT SALEM

"Cherrians" Prepare Fine Carnival for July 3 to 5.

Salem—A cherry fair and carnival upon a more elaborate scale than ever before attempted in this city will be given July 3, 4 and 5. An old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration will be held. These and the Salem Chautauqua, which will be held July 8 to 18, inclusive, are expected to attract the capital city's largest crowd.

Business men have contributed liberally for the cherry carnival, and the farmers and fruitgrowers have promised to compete more extensively than ever before for the prizes, which will be the handsomest ever offered.

To advertise the carnival and bring to the minds of the people of the city and county a realization of what it means to them, "The Cherrians," an organization similar to "The Rosearians" of Portland, has been formed. It is composed of progressive men of the city, and they will see that no stone is returned to bring people to this city from all parts of the state.

This cherry carnival is second in importance only to the Rose Festival of Portland, has been proved by the success of the exhibitions of the past, and the prospect for a greater one this year than ever before has aroused the residents of this city and county to a sense of public duty never before. Many carnival attractions will be in evidence and the streets of the city during the fair will be suggestive of a great exposition, with unusual side features.

OREGON PROGRESSIVE STATE

Recognizes Necessity of Business Methods Among Farmers.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Oregon is the first state in the union to set its official seal upon public recognition of the necessity of promoting better business methods among the farmers through the public schools. The new text book, "Principles of Bookkeeping," by Dean J. A. Bexell, of the school of commerce of the Oregon Agricultural college, has been placed on the list of books adopted for the Oregon public schools for the next six years. It is intended for the eighth grade and rural high schools, and is an adaptation to an educational work of his previous thorough work in farm business methods for older students now widely used by progressive farmers.

Eighteen Berries Fill Box.

Hood River—Some of the largest strawberries ever seen in this city were displayed this week in the show windows of a local jewelry store. They were grown by Oscar Vanderbilt on his East Side place, and 18 of them filled a box. The new variety is known as the Goodell berry.

Mr. Vanderbilt declares that his earlier berries were larger than those on exhibition. "It is not just a few of them that reach such size," he said, "for all of the fruit is simply monstrous. It keeps well, too—just about as well as the Clark Seedlings, which the valley has become so famous. I put several boxes in my refrigerator the other day and they were in fine condition four days after."

Trout Planting Is Begun.

Shipment of trout from the Bonneville hatcheries and of pheasants from the state game farms at Corvallis has already been begun by the state and game warden.

The fish hatcheries have this year between 7,000,000 and 10,000,000 trout, and of these two carloads, about 180,000 have already been shipped out. One carload went to Cottage Grove and the other to Corvallis. The shipment of these trout the new especially designed for the purpose of being used and is proving very satisfactory.

About 1500 birds have already been hatched at the state game farm and nearly 5000 eggs are now setting. Of the pheasants the great majority are to be sent for the stocking of the ranges in Eastern and Central Oregon, since the Willamette valley is already well supplied with these game birds.

Campus Chautauqua Site.

Salem—The Willamette University campus has been selected as the place for holding the first Salem Chautauqua, July 3 to 11, inclusive. There is a fine grove on the campus and the Chautauqua management considers it an ideal place for the meeting of the association. The campus has been fenced and the senior class will present its class play in the grove. Although the Chautauqua will be the initial one for Salem, no other association in the state will furnish a better entertainment this year.

Crop Conditions Good.

Salem—Luther J. Chapin, government agricultural expert, who has recently returned from a trip through a large part of the county, says that crop conditions are unusually good and the prospects are for a record yield. The first crop, he says, will be much better than was expected earlier in the season. Mr. Chapin declares that the opportunities offered fruit growers and agriculturists in this county and the entire Willamette Valley are unsurpassed.



FORCE OF FEMININE POLICE

Norwegian Women, With Official Position, Are Given Appropriate Duties to Perform.

The appointment of another police-woman at Christiania now brings the feminine police force in Norway up to seven, three of whom are in Christiania, two at Bergen, one in Stavanger, and one in Christiansand.

The special duty of the chief police-woman in Christiania, Sergeant Osen, is to keep under surveillance girls and women suspected of living immoral lives and female beggars, while her two colleagues interrogate women tramps, and, if deserving, render them help, look after the children and see

that they are kept off the street as vendors and beggars.

The policewomen all perform occasional night duty and patrol some of the worst quarters of the city. With the exception of the policewomen at Christiansand, who wear a complete official uniform, the women are dressed in plain clothes, only wearing green capes bearing a small medallion stamped with the crown and lion of Norway, to distinguish them from ordinary citizens.

No Doubt.

Visitor—"What lovely furniture!" Little Tommy—"Yes; I think the man we bought it from is sorry now he sold it; anyway, he's always calling."