

SERIAL STORY

The Isolated Continent

A Romance of the Future

By Guido von Horvath and Dean Hoard

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CHAPTER I.

Astra's Inheritance.

A gloomy foreboding of approaching disaster hung over the capital.

Hannibal Prudent, ex-President of the United Republics, was dangerously ill. The people walked quietly and talked in subdued tones, as though they feared to disturb him.

Hannibal Prudent, the scientist whose invention had saved the country, was eighty-four years old, but he had carried the weight of his years lightly and had worked unceasingly. On a flying trip to Labrador he had contracted a severe cold which developed into pneumonia. Just as the disease was nearing the crisis a curious thing happened, something that had not happened in the half-century which had passed since he had put an isolator between America and the other continents.

A wireless message had come from Europe.

The great man had been awakened by the ringing of the 4,500-mile bell on the small electro-stylograph that stood by his bedside. To his astonishment the indicator that automatically registered the sending station pointed to Berlin, Germany. He stared in amazement at the instrument and saw sparks following spark on its small, square, milk-glass plate.

He put forth a shaking hand and adjusted the receiving horn. The electric sparks then formed a picture—a moving picture that talked! A man in military uniform looked at him from the picture and a clear voice with a German accent said in English: "Professor Prudent?"

"Yes, sir, Hannibal Prudent." The figure bowed reverently. "I am Count Von Werdenstein. As you see, I have bored through your isolating rays with my sparks of electricity. This is the beginning. The next time I talk to you there will be nothing to keep the fleet of consolidated Europe from entering the ports of the Americas. I am giving you this warning because I admire you—you were my honored father's teacher."

The figure on the plate bowed again, then vanished.

Hannibal Prudent gazed curiously at the glass of the apparatus, trying to believe that he had experienced a vision; but when he saw the words of Werdenstein clearly printed by the magnificent instrument on a sheet of paper by the stylus he faintly. The vitality that could combat physical suffering could not bear the menacing news that the little instrument had brought.

When he opened his eyes his daughter Astra stood at the bedside and the house physician was counting his pulse. The scientist still held Werdenstein's message crumpled up in his old fingers—the message that conveyed such crushing news. Impatiently, as one who knows his time is short, he asked to be left alone with his daughter. As the door closed behind the doctor he cried out in agony: "All my hopes and all my life work are threatened. I had hoped that here where I had established it peace would abide—peace that has spread over our continent and happiness over our continent; peace that created and conserved fortunes greater than any ever before known to man; peace that permitted developments so high that even the boldest would not have dared to dream them fifty years ago."

"All this will go." His voice faltered for a moment. "Read this." As the startled girl read Werdenstein's messages he cried bitterly: "They want vengeance." He felt his own pulse, watching the large chronometer on the wall opposite his bed. "My will is in the safe in my library. Here is the key. The Europeans think that the Z-ray alone hinders them from entering our beloved country, but they are mistaken." He gasped for air. "I will defy them again. Astra, write what I have to say."

His breath came gaspingly; his clear eyes grew dull; a whirlwind seemed to possess the great brain that had been able to create peace in America for half a century.

Astra watched him with apprehension; she did not speak, as she realized that it would be a waste of time, and the short time left her adopted father was precious indeed. The old man rested a moment, then seeing Astra was ready, he said: "When the isolation has been broken through or destroyed (both are possible, if one knows how), then new isolations must be created, one ray after another. We can gain a year that way, and that year must be used to prepare for war. Work! That horror will destroy the war! That peaceful country. But we are forced to it; we will win, and peace will come for-

ever. Plans are ready for a new craft that will be invincible. Navigation of the air will solve the problem." His voice had grown so weak that Astra could hardly understand him, but she had taken every word down in shorthand.

"Don't grieve when I am dead. I died in peace. All my life I have been a true apostle of that gospel—but hurry! Hurry to the island of—" He drew himself up with his last strength; an inarticulate sound came from his lips; he beckoned to Astra for the pencil and paper and forced his shaking hand to write one word: "Clrynith," ran the zigzag lines of the shaking old hand, then the pencil fell from his fingers. Calm stole over the face of the man who had lived for one great idea. "Peace." He had found it, but his last words advised "War."

Astra looked sorrowfully at her father. Tears filled her eyes as she called the doctor.

But Hannibal Prudent had reared her, and after the first burst of grief she remembered her duty. Taking the message from Europe and her notes, she hurried to her father's library. With a steady hand she transcribed her notes on the typewriter, but when she came to the word written by Hannibal Prudent, "Clrynith," the tears came again.

She could not understand the meaning of the command: "Hurry to the island of Clrynith?" Was there an island of that name? She had never heard of it.

While Astra was in her father's library the sad news spread through the city. The stylographed extras began to appear at the automatic news stand. The short paragraph telling about the wireless message from Germany alarmed everybody.

More than fifty years before, in the year 1919, the now prosperous and peaceful United States had experienced a great disaster. New emigration laws and the new tariff had precipitated an international conflict that had involved not only the leading European monarchies but Japan and China as well. The ultimatum came from the East and the West. Europe was mobilizing on one side; the orientals on the other; all the nations against one. The question was whether it was best to bow before the will of the united enemy, or to lose independence. Congress seemed unable to decide.

The time given the United States for consideration was rapidly passing. The President was in despair. He gave orders to the fleet and land forces, but in his heart he cried, "What is the use?"

The night before the day of final answer he stood before the window, looking hopelessly into the starless darkness.

Suddenly a man's head appeared at the window. The next moment the intruder jumped into the room.

Before the surprised executive could cry out the intruder exclaimed:

"For three days I have tried to gain an audience with you, but in vain. Since I know that tomorrow will be too late I have forced my way to you."

"What brings you here?" the President asked.

"My desire to save my country, to repulse the enemy. I can defend the entire continent against any invasion. Don't think me mad—I am not; I have invented the greatest power. To be exact, I have discovered it. A man who solves one of nature's problems is not an inventor but a discoverer. My discovery is an invisible power that resists all attack. Don't doubt me before I have finished. I will create

"God bless you, my daughter, you have ever been my joy and pride."

Astra put down the paper, and, starting out into the beautiful garden, murmured to herself: "Hurry to the Island of Clrynith! Clrynith! I have never heard of the place, and he left no specific instructions."

The entrance of John, a faithful old servant, woke her from her reveries. With shaking lips he announced that a reporter for the Hourly Stylograph wished to see her.

Folding up the documents, Astra locked them in the safe, then said, "I will receive him at once in the green room."

The servant left. Astra hesitated for a moment, then she said aloud, with quiet determination:

"Father, I will accept the inheritance. I will wait for him to come and help me; I will take the burdens on my shoulders and faithfully carry out your teachings. God help me to!"

The midnight visitor was Hannibal Prudent, the greatest scientist of the new world.

The President spent the morning preparing dispatches for the representatives of the European and oriental nations. He gave them twenty-four hours to order their vessels from American waters, advising them that if they had not obeyed the order in that time the United States would not be responsible for their future.

The new laws that had been formulated by the United States government and which were so objectionable to the powers would stand, and the United States would see that they were enforced.

Three days later Hannibal Prudent created a current of the impenetrable Z ray that isolated the whole American continent from the rest of the world.

Fifty years had passed; fifty years of independent peace. The Central and South American republics had joined the great United States and a confederacy was formed that secured their independence and the freedom of commerce.

Those fifty years of peace had created wealth, happiness and a scientific progress such as had never been equaled.

Now the man whose genius had made this possible lay dead, and his last words urged preparation for war. Astra sat before her father's desk; before her lay a document that demanded careful study—the will of her adopted father.

She did not look at the long list of bonds and stocks; she did not care for the vast wealth that from now on would belong to her alone. The paper she was reading contained far-reaching instructions, prophetic insight into the future. The last page was a farewell letter:

"My dear Astra, knowing that I am nearing the limit of human existence, and that rest awaits me after a long and full life, I set down such facts as will enable you to make the best use of the knowledge that I, the old tree, wish perpetuated in the blossoming plant; it is you who will be responsible for the coming prosperity of the country. God gave you a broad mind that has developed to its fullest capacity under my care and I am proud of you, dear girl; you are chosen to do great things for your country and humanity.

"There is only one man on earth who is worthy of calling you wife; you will find this man, or he will come to you, as you two are ordained mates, comrades."

"When I go to my rest I feel that I will leave turbulent times behind me. My Z ray will not remain impenetrable forever, and when the day comes that it is destroyed, the country will need a brave, competent man to drive away the dreadnaughts. He will come, as he has been fully instructed. Trust in him, my dear daughter."

"This country was not developed to be blasted by war; the adventures of warfare and strife are not for it. Our Creator selected this country to promote freedom, equality and science. Thundering cannons shall never more sound on our shore; our land shall be a land of love and peace."

"I have labored hard to spread this gospel. After I am gone the task is your inheritance, dear Astra."

"Before I die I will tell you where to find the one man competent to assist you and will further instruct you in your duty."

"God bless you, my daughter, you have ever been my joy and pride."

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CHAPTER II.

Nominee of the Continentals.

Morning found the great capital in the splendor of deep mourning. The elevated sidewalks, the roof gardens, the terraces were crowded by people dressed in black. The newspaper roof terraces were especially crowded; there, on immense opal glass plates sparks of electricity printed the latest news and illustrated the happenings of the moment with moving pictures.

On the main tower of the new capitol building (a colossal creation of pure American architecture) the Bell Orchestra, comprising four hundred players, played the march of "Coming Peace," a march that thrilled the hearts with its melody, that elevated the souls with thoughts of Heaven, that drove away evil thoughts with its exquisite harmony and foretold the happiness awaiting beyond. Resonant horns spread the melody farther and farther, until it soothed the mourning people in neighboring towns.

The fourteen-hour San Francisco Limited had just slid into the central depot of the Tube Lines; the broad glass doors were swung open and the passengers hurried out.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

He Was the Hungry One.

"What's the trouble at your house?" "Hunger strike for a new bonnet." "Your wife refuses to eat?" "No; she refuses to cook."

DEMANDS FULL STATEMENT

Secretary McAdoo Is Pressed for Facts by Congress.

Washington, D. C.—Demand for an investigation of Secretary McAdoo's charge that New York bankers had conspired to depress the price of government bonds was demanded in the house by Representative Henry.

In the senate there was a demand by Senator Weeks that Mr. McAdoo make public the information on which he based his charges.

"Mr. Henry is one of the so-called 'insurgent' Democrats on the house currency committee. He made a statement calling on Mr. McAdoo to appear before the house committee and give all the facts in the case."

"The secretary of the treasury should be summoned before the committee on banking and currency instantly and reveal the facts to the American people as their agent," said Henry's statement, "and the head of every great bank in New York should be sent for at the earliest possible moment, placed on the stand before the committee and grilled most thoroughly in order that the American people may know the exact facts about this controversy. The secretary can and doubtless will demonstrate exactly how these men manipulate the market, put up and down prices of United States bonds and control the financial destinies of the American people."

HEAT RECORD AGAIN BROKEN

Mercury Climbs to 110 in Central West—Chicago Has 99.

Chicago—The hottest weather of this summer visited Chicago Wednesday. On top of the Federal building inn, the coolest spot in the downtown district, the temperature was 99 degrees, but in other sections it was three or four degrees hotter. The heat wave, however, was relieved by brisk winds, and there was not the toll of death and prostrations which were caused by the hot spell of ten days in the early part of the summer. The forecast was for continued warm weather.

It was the hottest day on record in Galesburg, Ill., the thermometer reaching 104 degrees. John A. Miley, a teamster, is not expected to live, and several others are seriously ill, as a result of the heat. The thermometer registered 122 degrees in the sun in the afternoon.

It was the hottest day of the year at Dubuque, Ia., the government thermometer registering 99 degrees at 5 o'clock. In many factories workmen were forced to quit work.

Hot weather records for several years were broken at Des Moines, when the government weather bureau thermometer registered 101 degrees. Burlington reported a temperature of 110 degrees, officially, while Davenport's weather bureau registered 101. Other points in Iowa reported similar high temperatures.

The mercury climbed to 101 at the Peoria, Ill., station of the government bureau. It was the hottest in the history of the Peoria station.

CLAIMS MUST BE PRESSED

Commerce Commission Rules Out Delays in Prosecution.

Washington, D. C.—Shippers who file informal complaints with the Interstate Commerce commission in the future will be called upon to prosecute their claims on the commission's formal docket, and those who abandon such claims will not be allowed, until after five years have elapsed, to revive the complaint.

The commission laid down this rule in dismissing the claim of the Dillon Coal & Transfer Company, of Dillon, Mont., against the Oregon Short Line railroad and other lines for repatriation on coal shipments. In September, 1907, the coal company abandoned its claim, after the commission's refusal to consider it informally, and recently sought to have it adjudicated.

Little Dealers Are Helped.

Chicago—Except for the help of the Northwestern Lumbermen's association, small retail lumber yards everywhere would have been put out of business by the mail order houses, according to the statement of W. G. Hollis, secretary of the association, in the Federal suit against the so-called lumber trust.

"The help given the little fellows has been all that kept the control of the lumber business out of the hands of a few big houses," he said. "The activities of the association have helped in keeping the consumer from being placed at a disadvantage."

Standard Policy Wanted.

Burlington, Vt.—An argument for the adoption by all states of a standard insurance policy was made at the opening session here of the convention of the National Association of Insurance commissioners by President F. H. Hardison, insurance commissioner of Massachusetts. Such a policy, he said, "would be devoid of uncertainty, ambiguous language and would compel competition along the lines of measurable benefit." More than 30 states are represented by their insurance commissioners.

Confiscated Eggs Good.

Trenton, N. J.—The frozen eggs seized some time ago by Federal authorities as unfit for food, which have been the subject of litigation, were released for sale by the state board of health. Members of the board ate foodstuffs made from the eggs and gave the product a clean bill of health.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

FRUITMEN WILL VISIT EAST

Condition of Crops En Route Will Be Studied by Distributors.

Hood River—Wilmer Sieg, sales manager, and H. F. Davidson, president of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors, will attend a meeting of the officials of the distributors and then proceed to Minneapolis, Chicago and Cleveland, at the latter of which places the National Apple Shippers' convention will be held. They will be joined at Spokane by J. H. Robbins, general manager of the distributors.

After the convention Mr. Davidson will proceed to New York, where he will arrange for an office for the fruit distributors. Mr. Robbins will go to the Southwest, where he will make a study of crop conditions. Mr. Sieg will return home by way of Omaha and will visit Colorado points to make a study of the crop conditions there.

Hood River is the crop conditions there. The green fruit of different varieties will be taken back and the dealers will be able thus to make a prediction as to the size of the fruit on maturity.

"The crop conditions throughout the country," says Mr. Sieg, "are indefinite, and in the sections where they have the greatest quantity of apples the quality is poorest. It looks now as if the Northwest were going to have a reasonably good market, but it all depends on the judgment in getting the opening price. If we follow out our intentions as now set, and place a reasonable yet profitable price on our commodities, we will be able to create a consumptive demand that will allow us to advance the price from time to time."

WATER PROJECT IS FEASIBLE

Engineer Lewis Approves Proposed Dead Ox Flat Proposition.

Salem—Irrigation projects in Malheur county are proceeding satisfactorily, according to John H. Lewis, state engineer, who has returned from a trip of inspection through that county. He thinks the Dead Ox proposition, designed to irrigate 27,000 acres, feasible, but will make a further investigation before giving a definite decision.

The engineer inspected the work on Willow Creek and Malheur river and tributaries, where three surveying parties are measuring private ditches which divert water from the main streams. This information will be furnished the water board to be used in determining rights of property owners on the stream. Testimony will be taken by the superintendent of the eastern division next spring.

Polk Cherry Trees Hit.

Rickreall—As a result of attacks by slugs, aphids and borers, hundreds of young cherry trees in Polk county orchards have died. A large orchard east of this place on the Salem road presents a queer yellowish color, and the leaves have dropped off, as do the leaves on a maple tree in the fall.

A complete perforation has taken place, and the destructive work of the pests has attracted passers-by to such an extent that numerous inquiries have been made as to what is doing the damage. Despite the sprayings that have been given the orchards by the anxious growers, the pests kept on coming into the orchards until the leaves were so badly eaten that they dropped off the trees.

Governor West Assures Fishermen.

Medford—Governor West while recently with Secretary of the Navy Daniels en route north, assured local fishermen that he would make a personal effort to see that the new state law requiring fish screens in irrigation ditches preventing the destruction of numberless trout fry, be enforced. He also said he would either accompany the Medford good roads delegation to the good roads meeting at Eureka, Cal., August 21, or would accompany the party escorting Secretary of the Interior Lane to Crater Lake on August 22.

Asked if he would be a candidate for Governor again Governor West emphatically stated he would not consider the proposition under any circumstances.

Water Helps Crops.

West Stayton—There has not been a day for the past two weeks that irrigation has not been used in this district. One settler who did not get his potatoes in until June 22 has succeeded by irrigation in bringing them to fine condition and within four days after he irrigated his pumpkins they grew as much as five feet, while at the same time non-irrigated plants appeared dormant. Another farmer declares that within four days after irrigation his crop shows an increase of 25 per cent.

Fry to Be Planted in Hood River.

Hood River—The first 60,000 trout fry from the state hatchery at Bonneville was brought here on the state's fish car, "The Rainbow." William Stewart and W. L. Clark met the car here. It was immediately switched to the line of the Mount Hood railroad company and taken to Parkdale, where the fry were distributed in the middle and east forks of the Hood River.

FIND CURE FOR HATED PEST

Farmer's Hybrid Wheat Chokes "Jim Hill" Mustard.

Pendleton—Earl Tulloch, one of the biggest farmers of Umatilla county, declares he has found a positive cure for the "Jim Hill" mustard, which has proved such a pest to the farmers of the Inland Empire during the past ten years, in a hybrid wheat which is planted in a large tract that last year was filled with mustard.

Early in the season the mustard disappeared almost entirely, the wheat having choked it out. One of Tulloch's neighbors, who planted some of the same wheat, has had similar experience. The wheat he sowed from the Washington State Agricultural college at Pullman, which has a complete pedigree of the wheat, in addition to smothering the mustard, the wheat is showing well as a producer. Tulloch is getting from 20 to 24 sacks of No. 1 grain to the acre from 47 to 54 bushels to the acre. The soil in which it is planted is light.

CAR PROBLEM IS TACKLED

State Railroad Commission Seeks to Avoid Shortage This Year.

Salem—Announcing that the season for moving crops is near at hand, the State Railroad commission has issued a circular to shippers and railroads urging them to co-operate with each other and calling their attention to the rules for handling cars so as to avert a car shortage.

The farmers and other shippers have suffered severely for years because of a shortage of cars, and the commission is doing everything possible to prevent a recurrence of the conditions that caused the shortage. It is believed that if the shippers and transportation companies will co-operate and observe the rules of the commission there will be sufficient cars this fall to transport all products in seasonable time. Commissioner Miles will go to Eastern Oregon this week to make an investigation of crop conditions with a view to preventing a car shortage during the moving of grain.

Federal Aid for Dairymen.

The United States' Division of Dairying, in co-operation with the Extension division of the Oregon Agricultural college, will in the future maintain a dairy field man who will assist the farm dairy men of Oregon with the many problems of successful dairying. Professor W. A. Barr has been selected for this important work with headquarters at Corvallis. His assistance means a visit to the dairy farms when desired, suggestions in building up more profitable herds, feeding and management, barn, silo and milk house construction, and records of feed and milk weights. The use of the yearly record book for each cow will be shown, whereby the profitable cow will be selected and the unprofitable cow detected and eliminated from the herd.

Professor Barr calls attention to the need of better cows. A profitable herd, he says, can be had within four or five years by using a pure bred sire and making the actual record guiding the selection.

Agriculture in Schools.

The people of Oregon are making a demand for agriculturists in the public schools that must not longer be denied. A number of the best city superintendents in the state are in the field simply begging for practical school gardeners. "The people and times are ripe for public school agriculture, and it is too bad that we cannot get a trained teacher in our town," said the superintendent of a large school to the writer of the Oregon Agricultural College Press Bulletin. The Agricultural college is unable to train teachers fast enough to supply the demands of the schools of the state.

Welfare School to Open.

Ashland—A two days' session of a general welfare school, to be held under the auspices of the extension department of Oregon Agricultural college and the Oregon Hygiene society, will be open in this city August 11. Arrangements for the meeting have been made by M. O. Evans, Jr., of Portland. The slogan of this movement is "carrying the college to the people." A dozen specialists will be present and there will be lectures and discussions on pertinent topics, with other practical demonstrations.

Bill Deprives State of \$10,000.

Salem—By a provision of the bill creating a board of control, the state will be deprived of a revenue of about \$10,000 for the Feeble-Minded institute and \$4000 a year for the Insane asylum. It is learned that the bill repeals the section of the code providing that counties shall pay to the state \$40 a year for every person committed to the Feeble-Minded institute and the section giving county courts power to assess relatives or guardians of inmates of the Insane asylum.

Fire Danger is Slight.

Baker—Because of the heavy rains that have broken all precipitation records there is no danger from forest fires in Eastern Oregon. There have been no forest fires in this part of the state this season.

