SERIAL STORY

The Isolated Continent

A Romance of the Future

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SYNOPSIS.

For fifty years the continent of North America had been isolated from the rest of the world by the use of Z-rays, a wonderful invention of Hannibal Prudent. The invention had saved the country from foreign invasion, and the continent had been united under one government with Prudent as president. For half a century peace and prosperity reigned in this part of the world. The story opens with President Prudent critically ill. His death is hastened by the receipt of a message from Count von Werdenstein of Germany that he has at last succeeded in penetrating the rays. Dying, he warns his daughter Astra that this means a foreign invasion. He tells her to hurry to the Island of Ciryne, but dies before he can tell the location of the place. Astra is nominated for the presidency by the continental party. Napoleon Edison calls on Astra, informs her that he was a pupil of her father's, and promises to help her. He gives her a ring made of a newly discovered substance which, he says, will solve the problem of flying. Chevalier di Leon appears in Europe. He calls on von Werdenstein and offers him the secret of making gold in return for absolute disarmament and peace. The chevalier is suspected of being an American. He is seized at night and carried off in an areoplane. Astra is inaugurated as president. She receives a message from Edison, whose long silence has worried her, that he has been a prisoner for two months on the island of Helgoland and has just escaped. He announces that the confederated fleet of Europe has sailed for America. He promises to call on her the following night. Countess Rosiny, a spy, becomes a prisoner in hope of securing Napoleon's secret. She falls in love with him. She agrees to join him in an attempt to escape. By the use of fireworks he summons a curious flying machine which resembles a monster eagle. He escapes and sends his message to Astra. Edison calls on Astra as promised. He tells her his plans for defense have been completed, but that he will give fuller details at his workshop on the island of Ciryne in the Pacific. They make the trip in three hours. His plans are based on the peculiarity of the new substance, cirynith, which is lighter than any known metal and is practically indestructible. The Europeans succeed in passing the line of isolation, but find that the Americans have established a second one. Edison delivers a note to von Werdenstein in his flagship demanding that the fleet be withdrawn. Edison is attacked, but by the use of some mysterious power he destroys two warships and several aeroplanes. Realizing his helplessness Werdenstein withdraws his fleet and consents to universal disarmament. Edison's mother is ill on the island of Ciryne. Countess Rosiny offers to go and comfort her, hoping to discover Edison's secrets. She begins to weave a net around Santos Duprel, Edison's assistant. The countess gets a letter from Werdenstein offering her the princedom of Schomburg-Lithow for Edison's secret. Edison and Santos start in search of a new deposit of cirynith, their supply being almost exhausted. They find it on the estate of Schomburg-Lithow. The countess finally gets Santos into her clutches. She gets another letter from Werdenstein asking her to find out why Edison is interested in the Schomburg estate. Edison applies personally to Werdenstein with an offer for the property, but gets no satisfaction.

CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

"Is there an answer?" he asked in English.

"Will you see the countess personally?" asked the chancellor.

"Who?" he asked stupidly.

"Oh, never mind," answered the chancellor, knowing the man knew nothing whatever about the message. "Who will come after the answer, if there is one?"

"A bird man."

"A bird man?" The count did not know whether the man was really simple or not. "Where do you live?"

"In America."

"H'm; that is a broad answer. Yes, there will be a message."

He sat down and wrote:

"My Dear Countess: I am glad to hear from you. Your wishes will be fulfilled to the letter. I will do my best to prepare things for your reception. Your legal advisers will receive the necessary papers in due course.

"With best wishes and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

"Von Werdenstein."

He sealed the letter, then gave it to the man, who left the room.

The chancellor pondered deeply over the situation, then started for the royal palace to report Napoleon's visit and Rositta's promises to his majesty.

When Napoleon arrived home he had a long conference with Astra. They were both somewhat depressed. His disappointment in not securing the Peak Suemeg was great, because he had many inventions that required the use of cirynith, and he knew that the count's actions were a menace to the peace movement.

They decided that they would marry in the month of July. That evening they went to Ciryne to tell their determination to Mrs. Edison.

Napoleon and Astra spent another day on Ciryne. This time Napoleon conducted the three women through the wonderful plant where cirynith was refined and manufactured into parts of aerodromones and other useful articles.

Rositta kept her ears and eyes wide open, but not being trained along mechanical lines she could not understand many of the things she saw. Still she was glad that Napoleon honored her with his confidence as from now on there would be no objection to her visiting the shops whenever she pleased.

Napoleon took Astra back to Washington late in the afternoon. Mrs. Edison and Rositta walked down to the sandy shore and sat listening to the waves. The mother was dreaming of the happy future for her son. The other was weaving fine threads of the net she was tangling about her friends.

Santos was away, but he was expected back soon. She disliked to see him leave her side, as she feared to lose the control that she had gained over him.

He returned that evening. When Mrs. Edison retired the countess stole out of the house and strolled toward the shore, where she knew Santos would be awaiting her. Santos was the happiest of men when she greeted him with passionate embraces and kisses.

He was like a faithful, obedient dog. Whatever Rositta asked he did without question. Tonight he handed her the count's letter, that came in answer to the one he had sent for her.

Rositta opened it, and he held his pocket flashlight so she could read.

"My little blond boy, the time is nearing when my name will be changed to Duprel. What do you think of that? Mrs. Duprel? Doesn't that sound good to you?"

Santos' only answer was kisses; he had begun to master the so-called lost art very quickly.

"Do you know how I have missed you? Mr. Edison and Astra were here, but since I know you I can't enjoy them any more. I know it is not right to feel that way, as Napoleon has been very good to me, but my sympathy is with you, dear." Her arm slipped around his neck. "I cannot bear him criticise you."

"Criticise me? Is he dissatisfied with me?" The words were heavy with dismay. Rositta knew that she had touched the right strings. "Who told you that?"

"Don't take it seriously, Santos. I have tried to keep it to myself, but I—I could not."

"Did he say that I had not served him well? Did he say that?"

"He did," whispered Rositta.

Santos breathed fire and flame. Rositta subtly convinced Santos that he was the man, and not Napoleon Edison, whose name should be the revered one in American history. When arguments were weak, kisses strengthened them, until poor Santos was molded into a form that suited Rositta. Then she said:

"I own the cirynith deposits in Hungary. I never will give them to Napoleon. I want you to be his master. Will you come with me?"

"I am with you and yours forever!" The tone in which this was said was enough for Rositta. She knew she had won.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Fifteenth of July.

July 15, the marriage day of Astra and Napoleon, had been declared a continental holiday.

From near and far came congratulations. They had not planned a gorgeous ceremony, but they could not stop the expressions of love that came from the loyal citizens. The whole capital was alive with color, and the messages that came and the sincere joy of all, made the day one to be remembered for years to come.

Astra had missed Rositta very much. She had been unable to attend the wedding, as she had been ill on the Island of Ciryne for the last few weeks.

When Napoleon heard that the countess was unable to attend their wedding on account of her indisposition, he thoughtfully shook his head. It seemed incredible that Rositta, who was so full of vitality and energy, should be ill. He only said: "Every illness has a remedy."

He did not give the matter further thought. He spent the last day before his marriage in his aerodromone, the American Eagle. Where he was, or what he did, no one seemed to know, and he did not volunteer the information.

After their wedding luncheon Astra returned to her presidential office, as there were things that she wanted to attend to personally. Especially the criminal case of Nikolay Mozrak. The Criminal Court of the continent had decreed capital punishment for attempted assassination of the President of the United Republics of America.

Astra read the document carefully, and instead of signing it, she wrote:

"Pardoned, and shall be instantly released."

(Signed)

"ASTRA PRUDENT EDISON."

She dispatched the pardon by a special messenger, and then took up other matters.

At seven o'clock she was at the Crystal Palace, to dress for the banquet of the Continental Commercial and Industrial Association, one of the most powerful societies organized to promote the welfare of business people.

She and Napoleon drove to the new Capital Hotel in an open car. The banquet was arranged for 4,000 guests and the whole upper floor was thrown open for the purpose.

At eleven o'clock the presidential party left and threaded its way toward the Crystal Palace. At the Palace Judge Scanlan of the Continental Court awaited them. His mission was to deliver a heavy looking letter to the President.

"Your excellency will pardon me for taking this liberty, but Mr. Mozrak, the prisoner you so kindly pardoned, insisted that this letter is important, and would not leave the prison until I promised him that I would deliver it personally."

Astra took the letter and thanked him for its safe delivery, then dismissed him with a few kind words. Napoleon escorted his mother to her rooms, then returned to the library, where Astra awaited him. Her candid, beautiful face was pale and tears glistened in her eyes. Her whole being expressed sorrow.

"What is it, dear?" asked her husband, sympathetically.

Instead of replying, she handed him a letter. He recognized the fine handwriting of the Countess Rosiny. It read:

"My dear Friends and Protectors:

"I am writing this to you both, as I know you will be married when you receive it. I know you will receive all kinds of presents, surprises and congratulations, as you are both the beloved of your followers. But in order to give more value to the kind wishes, I have decided to tell you the truth, the unvarnished, cruel truth.

"I wonder if it will surprise you to find that I am, and have been in the service of Count von Werdenstein. You have been the kindest of hosts, indeed, so good that you made my task really despicable but much easier.

"Don't take this very seriously. Life is made up of an equal portion of bad and good, and the end is always the same. Death gathers us all in, and puts in our places others who may find pleasure in destroying all that we have created. You both dream of world peace—I wish I could create peace in my own heart!

"I admire you both, especially Napoleon, and for that reason, I hate you both, being unable to love you, as there are no middle streams in my nature.

"There is no use of my telling you what I intend to do; you will know it soon enough, and you both will be sorry that you ever met the unhappy person whose name was, once, Rositta Rosiny.

"And now, I wish you all happiness, until we meet again.

"ROSITTA,
"Princess of Schomburg Lithow."

Napoleon quietly folded the letter and handed it back to Astra. He did not seem disturbed at all. He picked up the envelope and saw the New York postmark.

"It is clear. The countess has the secret of cirynith and, very likely, of the aerodromone."

"But how did she get it?"

"That remains to be seen. Werdenstein evidently thinks that everything is fair in love or war."

"Will you read me that other letter, the one the judge brought?" asked Astra.

"Of course, dear. This is Mozrak's communication. I wonder what he has to say." He opened the heavy envelope and a number of sheets fell to the table.

"To the President of the United Republics of America:

"Since that unhappy event, in which I was selected by Fate as the instrument of Death, I have had many hours to think clearly and to learn from my inner self that it is the rule of Love, and not the rule of Force that should rule the world. I have set down the following facts, so that your ladyship shall know all the motive powers that may govern human actions.

"The fact that my bullet went astray is due, not so much to the quickness of the great humanitarian and American patriot, Napoleon Edison, as to the fact that I beheld the Countess Rosiny in your company. A moment of hesitation is enough to frustrate plans. Her influence naturally, unintentionally saved your life, as my hand and eye are always true. I am happy that things turned out as they did.

"Before I explain why the countess' presence saved you (she has done, however, involuntarily, at least one good act in her life), I want to tell you that my name is not Mozrak, and I am not a Russian.

"My name is Aetzel von Rothenberg, and some years ago I wore the uniform of the famous Red Hussars.

"Years ago, when on a vacation trip, I traveled through Italy; at that time I could enjoy the great marvels of Nature. I was young and noble-thinking—and free. On the shore of the Lago di Maggiore I found destruction.

"I was tramping through the country with a sketching outfit and let people think me an artist. In a secluded and beautiful spot, from where I had an uninterrupted view of the snow-covered peaks of the Alps, and a wide vista of surroundings pine-covered land, I struck my easel and began work. A girl emerged from the only path and walked toward me. I say a girl, but I ought to say a vision. She was the most bewitching creature I had ever seen.

"She came to me fearlessly and greeted me in a friendly way; I sketched her in my picture. Inside of an hour my fate was sealed, as I had fallen in love with her.

"One day near the end of my vacation, I received an invitation to visit the castle of the Rosinys. There I found her. She was married and had a beautiful little girl about three years old. She told me that she loved me, that her husband was cruel to her, and I believed everything. We eloped—and she made me a traitor inside of a few weeks. I was entrusted with important secrets and I entrusted them to her. I loved her so!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Vanity.

* * * There is a stirring of the body. People are breaking down under the tyranny of material possessions. There never was a time when women's intelligence was so eager and inspirational; never a time when men were so weary of metal and meals and miles. It is all clear to a prophetic understanding that we are nearing the end of our lessons in three dimensions and five senses.

Striving to Oblige.

Angry Diner—Waiter, you are not fit to serve a pig.

Waiter—I am doing my best, sir.—Judge.

PUT NEW IDEA IN CURRENCY BILL

Republicans Aid Reed and Hitchcock In Its Favor.

Administration Leader Says Plan Equivalent to Central Bank; Predicts Dire Results.

Washington, D. C. — An entirely new feature was tentatively written into the administration currency bill by the senate committee, after a full day of heated wrangle.

The new plan was characterized by Chairman Owen, chief administration supporter in the committee, as "equivalent to a central bank." He said the committee adjourned with the matter "up in the air."

The new scheme would provide for the centralization of one-half of the reserves to be held by the regional banks in the proposed new system. This proportion would be placed under the complete control of the federal reserve board and would be held in Washington to be administered for the aid and convenience of the entire banking system.

As finally voted on the proposal was a modification of a plan proposed by Senator Reed, of Missouri, who suggested it as a means of composing the wide difference among members of the committee. Senator Reed and Senator Hitchcock joined with the Republicans in voting for the plan, which was opposed by Senators Owen, Pomerene, Hollis, O'Gorman and Shafroth.

Senator Owen was plainly agitated over the progress of affairs in the committee. After the vote on the Reed proposal he declared that if an opportunity were given him he would demonstrate that the plan would not work.

COMMISSION MEN MEET TO GET BIGGER SHARE

Seattle, Wash.—A call for a secret meeting has been sent to commission men along Western avenue requesting members of the clan to gather at a secret place to consider ways and means of increasing commission rates from the accepted standard of 10 per cent to 12 and 15 per cent.

Commission men and jobbers from the entire North Pacific Coast territory will be in attendance. It is insisted by the commission men that it is impossible to make a profit on a strictly 10 per cent commission basis. No attempt will be made to regulate jobbing prices, it is announced.

BOTH PARTIES ARE PLEASED

Republicans Note Gains, Democrats See Indorsement of Plans.

Washington, D. C.—Both Chairman Doremus, of the Democratic congressional committee, and Chairman Woods, of the Republican congressional committee, express satisfaction with the result of the elections.

"Massachusettss, New Jersey and Maryland voters," said Mr. Doremus, "have indorsed President Wilson's progressive policies, including tariff, currency and Mexico. The results indicate that manufacturing interests are not apprehensive of the tariff reductions."

"Many Republicans have been elected to public office now held by Democrats," said Chairman Woods. "There has been a tremendous Republican gain and a tremendous Democratic loss compared to the last elections in the same districts. The Bull Moose as a party demonstrated that they have practically no strength at all; their candidates would have received probably more votes if they had simply been candidates on an independent ticket."

Progressive party headquarters made no statement.

Women Rule Grand Jury.

Redwood City, Cal.—Women will direct affairs of the San Mateo county grand jury, organized here with eight men and 11 women members. The jury was drawn from a venire of 17 women and 13 men. Judge Buck made the selections, holding that women may serve on juries, although Judge Cabaniss and Attorney General Webb recently have ruled to the contrary. As soon as the jury went into executive session the women elected Miss Diva Belli as secretary, although the men nominated a candidate.

Rate Frauds Punished.

New York—The firm of Eimer & Amend, among the country's largest dealers in chemicals and laboratory apparatus, pleaded guilty in Federal court to classifying freight shipments improperly and was fined $600. This firm is one of 150 prosecuted for similar offenses by the Interstate Commerce commission. Two other firms have pleaded guilty. Eimer & Amend shipped chemical and scientific apparatus as "glassware," thus obtaining a lower freight rate.

Tennis Cabinet Revived.

Washington, D. C.—The days of the Roosevelt "tennis cabinet" were recalled recently by passers-by at the White House. Julius Jusserand, the French ambassador, who often played with President Roosevelt, engaged in a tennis match with Secretary McAdoo of the treasury department and the Misses Eleanor and Jessie Wilson, daughters of the President.

HUERTA SILENT ABOUT NOTE

Friends of General Regard Communication as Ultimatum.

Mexico City—The undercurrent of conversation at the national palace carries rumors regarding President Huerta's attitude in the face of Washington's demands that he retire, but the president himself remains silent.

Huerta's intimates are familiar with the terms of the communication which they regard as mandatory. The memorandum from Washington says that unless General Huerta retires immediately and thereafter has nothing to do with the conduct of affairs or the formation of a new government, the President of the United States will issue an ultimatum, which if rejected, will cause him to call on congress to authorize him to use sterner methods.

Huerta's friends regard the American communication as conclusive, since General Huerta is given no choice regarding further participation in Mexico's official affairs.

General Huerta is reminded that any attempt on his part to leave as his successor any of the men connected with the coup d'etat by which he obtained the presidency or to utilize in the proposed government any of those chosen in the recent elections, even those named as congressmen, would result in the definite breaking off of all relations.

YUAN MAKES DRASTIC MOVE

Martial Law Prevails in Pekin—Arrests and Executions.

Pekin — The struggle between the Chinese parliament and President Yuan Shi Kai has brought about drastic action by the president, which, in the opinion of many, will have a serious effect on parliamentary government. Lengthy presidential proclamations were issued at midnight expelling the Kwo Ming Tang party, numbering more than 300 members, from parliament.

The proclamations recount the difficulties with which the government has been struggling since the Manchu reign and describe disasters certain to follow if parties such as the Kwo Ming Tang are permitted to exist.

A crisis in the situation was reached last week when the draft of the proposed constitution which would make the president absolutely dependent on the parliament was decided on.

Martial law is in operation in Pekin and the authorities are making arrests and summary executions. Preparations are under way for the elder statesmen who served under the Manchus to resume their positions in the cabinet.

At various legations the opinion is held that only by strong action can the president prevent the disruption of China by her own people. Little had been accomplished by parliament, which has devoted its time to opposing the president since it convened. Disorders are spreading.

STRIKERS HOARDING FOOD

Copper Mine Workers Prepare for Idle Winter.

Calumet, Mich.—With no hope of a settlement of the copper strike in sight, the strikers have begun preparations to carry their fight for recognition of the union through the winter.

Stores have been opened at Hancock and Red Jacket by the Western Federation of Miners, and others will be started at Laurium, Ahmeek and South Range. These stores will be stocked with provisions contributed by strike sympathizers and labor unions and will be the distributing centers in their respective districts. Leaders declare there is no suffering among the strikers. Donations of money are being received from organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The Calumet & Hecla company is importing strike-breakers. Present production is one-fifth of normal for the district.

The injunction against picketing will remain in force until November 18, the date set for arguments before the State Supreme court.

Foreign Butter Arrives.

Portland—The first important shipment of foreign butter has arrived here. A lot of 5600 pounds of the New Zealand product was received by a local broker, and later was put on sale in a retail market at 37½ cents a pound. The price of the best Portland-made butter is 40 cents.

The imported article was pronouced good by experts, but the differennce between its price and that of local butter was not great enough to cause any flurry in the trade.

Low Cable Rate Wanted.

Tokio—In consequence of the growing commercial relations between Japan and the United States, and in view of the opening soon of the Panama canal, the Japanese government has entered into negotiations with the object of obtaining reduced rates for telegraphic communication across the Pacific ocean. Much of the telegraphic business is now relayed by way of Europe, but Japanese officials believe the interests of the United States and Japan require the establishment of a cheaper system of communication.

Indian Land to Be Sold.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Lane has signed an order authorizing the sale of the remnant lands, comprising 36,365 acres, in the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache and Wichita Indian reservations in Oklahoma. The sale will be by public auction at Lawton, Okla., beginning December 8.

DEMOCRATS WIN TWO GOVERNORS

Massachusetts and New Jersey Follow Nation's Lead.

New York Goes Republican—New Jersey Progressives Far Behind Roosevelt Vote.

RESULTS IN BRIEF.

New York City.

John Purroy Mitchell, Fusionist elected mayor by 75,000 plurality over McCall, Tammany Democrat.

Ex-Governor Sulzer elected to assembly by large plurality.

New York State.

Republican victory for assembly and state judiciary indicated.

Massachusetts.

David I. Walsh, Democrat, elected governor by probably 50,000.

Gardner, Republican, and Bird, Progressive, close for second place. Governor Foss, Independent, fourth.

New Jersey.

James F. Fielder, Democrat, elected governor by more than 20,000 plurality. Senate and assembly Democratic. Progressive candidate falls far behind.

Maryland.

Blair Lee, Democrat, elected to United States senate.

Virginia.

Henry C. Stuart, Democrat, elected governor; unopposed.

Congressional.

Third Massachusetts—Calvin D. Paige, Republican, succeeds a Republical, the late Wm. P. Wilder.

Thirteenth New York — George W. Loft, Democrat, succeeds a Democrat, the late "Big Tim" Sullivan.

Twentieth New York—Jacob A. Cantor, Democrat, succeeds a Democrat, Francis Burton Harrison, now governor general of Philippines.

Third Maryland — Charles R. Coady, Democrat, succeeds a Democrat, the late George Konig.

New York—Election returns show a complete triumph for the Democrats in Massachusetts, where a governor and state ticket were chosen in a four-cornered fight, the selection of a Democratic governor and state ticket in Virginia without contest, the ascendancy of fusion over Tammany in New York City, with indications of Republican victory for the New York assembly and the judicial ticket, and the election of James F. Fielder, Democrat, as governor of New Jersey.

A feature of the New Jersey election is that the vote cast for Everett Colby, the Progressive candidate, will not exceed 40,000, as compared with 145,410 received a year ago by Colonel Roosevelt for President. Fielder's indicated plurality is about 15,000.

Fielder's vote in the returns at hand is running slightly below that received by Woodrow Wilson a year ago, which was 178,289. Stokes' vote probably will exceed 150,000, as compared with 88,838 received by Taft last year. Fielder's plurality in the state is probably 20,000 and may exceed that amount.

Estimates from Hudson county, Fielder's home county, show that Fielder has carried it by 20,000. Stokes apparently has carried Essex county, the home of Colby and also the home of ex-Senator Smith and ex-Democratic State Chairman Nugent, whom Fielder, on the stump, accused of working against him.

MULTNOMAH VOTES FOR INTERSTATE BRIDGE BONDS

Portland—Returns virtually complete from Multnomah county show that the Columbia River interstate bridge bond issue of $1,250,000 has carried by an overwhelming vote and that all the state measures on which the referendum had been invoked, with the single exception of the sterilization act, have received large majorities.

These returns are from 179 complete and 14 incomplete out of the 193 precincts in the county.

Sentiment in the county for the two state university appropriation measures was especially strong. The first one, that appropriating $75,000 for repairs and additions to buildings, carried by approximately two to one. The majority in favor of the $100,000 appropriation for a new administration and classroom building, while not quite so large, was decisive.

The sterilization bill failed to carry in the county by a vote clearly indicating public sentiment in regard to it. The measure ran behind by a majority of about 4 to 3.

Lee Elected in Maryland.

Baltimore—Based on incomplete returns from this city, which are regarded as a sure indication of the final result, Blair Lee, Democrat, has been elected to the United States senate to fill the unexpired term of the late Isidor Rayner by an estimated plurality of from 30,000 to 35,000 over ex-Representative Parran, Republican, and ex-United States Senator Wellington, Progressive. Charles P. Coady, Democrat, was elected to congress from the Third district in place of the late Representative Konig.