

good friends as before."

bowed low and left the room

crucified her proud spirit.

then receiving no intelligible reply, he

To the avaricious Donna Isabel Cue-

was maddening, and the realization

upon his charity for her living, fairly

All day she brooded, and by the time

evening came she had worked herself

into such a state of nerves that she

could eat no dinner. Some time during

the course of the evening a wild idea

came to Isabel. Knowing that the man-

ager would spend the night beneath

her roof, she planned to kill him. At

first it seemed a simple thing to do-

merely a matter of a dagger or a pis-

tol, while he slept-but further thought

revealed appalling risks and difficul-

ties, and she decided to wait. Poison

Constant brooding over the treasure

brain, and as a consequence she often

dreamed about it. She dreamed about

it again tonight, and, strangely enough,

her dreams were pleasant. Sebastian

appeared, but for once he neither

cursed nor threatened her; and Este-

ban, when he came, was again the

lover who had courted her in Ha-

bana. It was amazing, delightful.

Esteban and she were walking through

the grounds of the quinta and he was

telling her about his casks of Spanish

sovereigns, about those boxes bound

with iron, about the gold and silver or-

naments of heavenly beauty and the

pearls as large as plums. As he talked

Isabel felt herself grow hot and cold

with anticipation; she experienced

dream-world dissolved. She awoke, or

thought she did, at bearing her name

shouted. But although she underwent

the mental and the physical shock of

being startled from slumber, although

she felt the first swift fright of a per-

son aroused to strange surroundings,

she knew on the instant that she must

still be asleep; for everything about

her was dim and dark, the air was cold

and damp, wet grass rose to her knees.

Before she could half realize her con-

hoarsely, fearfully, and knew, too late.

that she was indeed awake. Then-

Esteban Varona sat until a late hour

were unaware of its presence.

the poorer country people.

Asensio sighed gratefully as he seat-

ed himself. "One hears a great deal,

There is fighting in Santa Clara, and

Taking the unaddressed letter from

"That Lopez! He's here today and

his pocket, Esteban said, "I have an-

Maceo sweeps westward."

pursued an erratic course,

"What's that?" gasped the negro. He

began to tremble violently and his

Esteban said irritably.

days.

hear?"

Then of a sudden Isabel's whole

spasms of delight.

was far safer.

CHAPTER IV.

Retribution.

Although for a long time Donna Isabel had been sure in her own mind that Pancho Cueto, her administrador, was robbing her, she had never mustered courage to call him to a reckoning. Nevertheless, De Castano's blunt accusation, coupled with her own urgent needs, served to fix her resolution, and to's frank acknowledgment of theft on the day after the merchant's visit she sent for the overseer, who at the that she was helpless, nay, dependent time was living on one of the plan-

Cueto was plainly curious to learn why he had been sent for, but since he asked no questions, his employer was forced to open the subject herself. Through dry, white lips she be-

"My dear Pancho, times are hard. The plantations are failing, and so-" Pancho Cueto's eves were set close to his nose his face was long and thin and harsh; he regarded the speaker with such a sinister, unblinking stare that she could scarcely finish: "-and so 1-can no longer afford to retain you as administrador."

"Times will improve," he said. "Impossible! I tell you I'm bank-

"So? Then the remedy is simplesell a part of your land."

Although this suggestion came naturally enough, Donna Isabel turned cold, and felt her smile stiffen into a grimace. She wondered if Cueto could be feeling her out deliberately. "Sell the Varona lands?" she queried, after a mentary struggle with herself. "Esteban would rise from his grave. No. It was his wish that the plantations go to his children intact."

"And his wish is sacred to you, eh?" Cueto nodded his approval, although his smile was disconcerting. "An admirable sentiment! It does you honor! But speaking on this subject, I am reminded of that dispute with Jose Oroz over the boundary to La Joya. I have promised to show him the original deed to La Joya and to furnish him with the proofs about the boundary line. That would be better than a lawsuit, wouldn't it?"

"Decidedly! But-I will settle with him myself."

Cueto lifted an admonitory hand, his face alight with the faintest glimmer of ironic mirth. "I couldn't trust you to the mercies of that rascal," he said piously. "No, I shall go on as I am, sacrifice to myself. I love Don Esteban's children as my very own; and you, senora-

Isabel knew that she must win a complete victory at once or accept irretrievable defeat.

"Never!" she interrupted, with a tone of finality. "I can't accept your sacrifice. I am not worthy. Kindly the utmost care in its composition. It arrange to turn over your books of ac-

Then Pancho Cueto dld an unexpected thing: he laughed shortly and shook his head.

Donna Isabel was ready to faint and Letting himself out into the night, he her voice quavered as she went on: took the path that led to the old "Understand me, we part the best of sunken garden. He passed close by friends despite all I have heard against | the well, and its gaping mouth, only you. I do not believe these stories half protected by the broken coping. people tell, for you probably have enemies. Even if all they said were Rosa to cover it with planks. In its true, I should force myself to be leni- present condition it was a menace to ent because of your affection for my animals, if not to human beings who

The man rose, still smiling. "It is I who have been lenient," said he. "Eh? Speak plainty."

"Gladly. I have long suspected that Don Esteban hid the deeds of his prop. grumbling inwardly, for the night was now that you admit-"

mit! Are you mad? Deeds! What ged negro, dressed in the fashion of are you talking about?" Her eyes met his bravely enough, but she could feel her lips trembling loosely.

Casting aside all pretense, the overseer exclaimed : "Por el amor de Dios! An end to this! I know why you sent bing you. Well, to be honest, so I have. Why should I toll as I do while you and those twins live here in luxury and idleness, squandering money to which you have no right?"

"Have I lost my reason?" gasped the widow. "No right?"

"At least no better right than I. Don't you understand? You have no title to these plantations! They are mine, for I have paid the taxes out of other message for Colonel Lopez." my own pockets now these many

"Taxes! What do you mean?" "I paid them. The receipts are in

my name." "Heaven! Such perfidy! And you

who knew him!"

"The deeds have been lost for so long that the property would have re- | Spaniards I'd advise you to chew it up verted to the crown had it not been and swallow it as quickly as you can." for me. You doubt that, eh? Well, appeal to the court and you will find that it is true. Now, then, let us be frank. fear these Spaniards less than the Inasmuch as we're both in much the guerrilleros: they are everywhere. same fix, hadn't we better continue They call themselves patriots, but they our present arrangements?" He stared are nothing more than robbers. unblinkingly at his listener. "Oh, I They-" mean it! Is it not better for you to

"The outrage! I warrant you have grown rich through your stealing." was white and formless, and that it Isabel's voice had gone flat with con-

"Rich? Well, not exactly, but comfortably well off." Cueto actually breath became audible. Esteban was smiled again. "No doubt my frankness compelled to hold him down by main is a shock to you. You are angry at force. "It's old Don Esteban, your fa- proposed strike on the Pacific coast proposition, ch? Never mind. You ther. They say he walks at midnight. will think better of it in time, if you carrying his head in his two hands." are a sensible woman. But now, since Young Varona managed to whisper, coma shipyards will not shut down at last we enjoy such confidential re- with some show of courage: "Hush! Tuesday next.

ting Asensio an example of undignified flight when the mysterious object emerged from the shadows into the open moonlight; then he sighed with relief: "Ah-h! Now I see! It is my stepmother. She is asleep."

Walt! I don't believe in ghosts," Nev-

ertheless, he was on the point of set-

For a moment or two they watched the progress of the white-robed figure; ened too suddenly, and yet-'

When the somnambulist's deliberate continued he called her name softly.

lations, let us have no more of these "Don't be alarmed," he said, reasmiserable suspicions of each other. suringly. "It is only Esteban-Donna Let us entirely forget this unpleasant Isabel! Stop!" Esteban sprang formisunderstanding and be the same ward, shouting at the top of his voice, for at the sound of her name Isabel Having said this, Pancho Cueto stood had abruptly swerved to her right, a silent a moment in polite expectancy; movement which brought her danger-

listen, but continued to walk,

ously close to the lip of the well. "Stop! Go back!" screamed the

Above his warning there came a shrick, shrill and agonized-a wail of such abysmal terror as to shock the night birds and the insects into stillness. Donna Isabel slipped, or stumbled, to her knees, she balanced briefly, clutching at random while the earth and crumbling cement gave way beneath her; then she slid forward and disappeared, almost out from between Esteban's hands. There was a noisy rattle of rock and pebble and a great splash far below; a chuckle of little stones striking the water, then a faint bubbling. Nothing more. The stepson stood in his tracks, sick, blind with horror; he was swaying over the opening when Asensio dragged him back.

Pancho Cueto, being a heavy sleeper. was the last to be roused by Esteban's had long since affected Donna Isabel's outcries. When he had hurriedly slipped into his clothes in response to the pounding on his door, the few servants that the establishment supported had been thoroughly awakened. Cueto



that night over a letter which required "What's That?" Gasped the Negro. was written upon the thinnest of pathought they must be out of their per, and when it was finished the minds until he learned what had bewriter inclosed it in an envelope of the fallen the mistress of the house. Then, same material. Esteban put the letter being a man of action, he too issued in his pocket without addressing it. swift orders, with the result that by the time he and Esteban had run to the well a rope and lantern were ready for their use. Before Esteban could form and fit a loop for his shodlders there was sufficient help on hand to reminded him that he had promised lower him into the treacherous abyss.

That was a gruesome task which fell to Esteban, for the well had been long unused, its sides were oozing slime, its waters were stale and black. He was Seating himself on one of the old on the point of fainting when he finally stone benches, the young man lit a climbed out, leaving the negroes to cigarette and composed himself to holst the dripping, inert weight which wait. He sat there for a long time, he had found at the bottom.

Old Sebastian's curse had come erty with the rest of his valuables, and damp and he was sleepy; but at last true; Donna Isabel had met the fate a figure stole out of the gloom and he had called down upon her that day Donna Isabel recoiled sharply. "Ad- joined him. The newcomer was a rag- when he hung exhausted in his chains and when the files tormented him. The treasure for which the woman had "Well, Asensio, I thought you'd intrigued so tirelessly had been her never come. I'll get a fever from this!" death. Furthermore, as if in grimmest irony, she had been permitted at "It is a long way, Don Esteban, and the very last to find it. Living, she Evangelina made me wait until dark. had searched to no purpose whatsofor me. You think I have been rob. I tell you we have to be careful these ever; dying, she had almost grasped it in her arms. "What is the news? What did you

(Continued in next issue).

but one never knows what to believe. LEAGUE CHANGES ARE OUTLINED BY C. E. HUGHES

there tomorrow; one can never find NEW YORK, March 26.-Several amendments to the league of nations "Well, you must find him, and imcovenant intended primarily by their mediately, Asensio. This letter conauthor to insure the American contitains important news—so important, in nent against European aggression, to fact"-Esteban laughed lightly-"that protect the United States from enif you find yourself in danger from the forced administration of foreign territory and to revoke the "trouble breeding" guaranty of the existing "I'll remember that," said the negro, political independence of member "for there's danger enough. Still, I nations, were proposed here tonight by Charles E. Hughes.

Minor suggestions of the former republican presidential candidate were that definite limitation be plac-Asensio paused abruptly. He seized ed upon the league's field of inquiry, be content with what my generosity his companion by the arm and, lean- reserving to the several nations exprompts me to give, rather than to ing forward, stared across the level clusive control of immigration, tariffs risk ruin for both by grasping for too garden into the shadows opposite, and other internal problems and that Something was moving there, under provision be made for the withdrawthe trees; the men could see that it al of states from the organization.

STRIKE NOT LIKELY

TACOMA, March 29.—Despite vote among shipyard workers on a among metal trades on April 1, the levelopments today indicate that Ta-

WASHINGTON, April 1.-President Wilson has informed other then Esteban stirred and rose from his members of the American delegation are increasing the garrisons at Danseat. "She's too close to that well, to the peace conference that no sig. This is taken as indicating an in-There is-" He started forward a American soldiers should be used in tention to resist whatever dispost of items of interest and should be o pace or two. "They say people who any trouble in eastern or southeast- tion the peace conference may make so given to the public through the so walk at night go mad if they're awak- ern Europe, a Central News dis of the port.

patch from Paris says. PARIS, April 1 -- What is construprogress toward the mouth of the well | ed as a warning that the world could not long countenance further delay from the allied high command a de "Donna Isabel!" Then he repeated it in the adjustment of peace was de-"Donna Isabel! Wake up." livered to the allied premiers and The woman seemed to hear and yet military representatives of the assocnot to hear. She turned her head to iated powers by President Wilson

U. S. SECRETARY IS CERTAIN OF LOAN SUCCESS

WASHINGTON, April 1 .- Confidence in the financial condition of the forthcoming victory liberty loan Senator Calder of New York that a special session of congress should be called to stop depreciation in the market of liberty bonds.

Far from agreeing that the decline n outstanding bends might jeopardize the popular campaign for flotathereby tieing up credits by forcins and victorious people."

PREPARATIONS MADE BY BOCHE FOR RESISTANCE

PARIS, March 28.-News was received here today that the Germans

COPENHAGEN, March 28.-The government at Weimar has received mand for permission for Polish troops to land at Danzig and to march through German territotry to Poland, according to a dispatch received here from Weimar.

Fight to Start On Prohibition

CHICAGO, March 28.-A "wellplanned legal fight to test the con stitutionality of the dry amendment' the country and its ability to float will be put into operations today by was expressed today by Secretary leries in the United States, who, at representatives of the largest distil-Glass in replying to the suggestion of the same time, will seek appropriate relief from congress.

AUTO DRIVER HELD

PORTLAND, March 31.—Peter Argonne they were ordered to Flan-graph rates, effective Aprill, were Westberg of Colton, driver of the au- ders by General Foch, where they announced today by Postmaster-Gen tion of the victory issue this month, tomobile which ran down 7-year-old were under command of King Albert eral Burleson. Dorothea Moeller Sunday, inflicting of Belgium. When the armistice was the banks to take the new bonds, Mr. injuries from which the girl died at signed original orders directed these a meeting of the federal wire board Glass declared that he was assured 4 o'clock this morning, is in the countroops to join the Army of Occupatand was made necessary, Mr. Burie the treasury's efforts to solve the fi- ty jall charged with involuntary man- tion and they had almost reached son's announcement said, to meet the nancial problems of the country slaughter, on a warrent sworn to by German soil when they received or "increased cost of operation occawould have the support of "a united the child's father. Bail was fixed at ders to turn back and set out for sioned by wage increases now in ef-\$2500.

News of interest such as society items, visitors in the city, & * those visiting out of the city, or * n fact, activities of any nature @ will be appreciated by the En-

* terprise if they are sent in or * @ phoned Parties, entertainments, danc- & es, meetings, deaths, births, are *

· newspapers.

PACIFIC COAST BOYS ARRIVE

NEW YORK, March 31.-Aboard the transport Siboney, which arrived here today, were the first troops from the 91st (Pacific coast) division. It ent success of Japanese in obtaining was the first detachment of that di- a long-sought foothodl in Lower Callvision to return, and included a total fornia and because the tract of land

in France during the first week in July. Theye were in the big drive in St. Mihiel salient and they also play ed their part on the Meuse and in the which the Americans cleaned up the Argonne. They took 2360 prisoners and considerable war material.

The regiments lost about 1160 of ficers and men killed, and about 5000 wounded. After fighting in the

U. S. WANTS REPORT ON

American embassy at Mexico City was instructed today to make inquiries concerning the report that the Mexican government has granted agricultural concessions to Japanese in lower California and to report the facts as quickly as possible. No official information has reached the de partment about the concessions and surprise was occasioned by the dispatch from Mexico City yesterday quoting General Amado Aguirire, un IN NEW YORK der secretary of development and agriculture, as saying they had been granted.

The American government is in terested both because of the appar of 3020 men from the Pacific sea- involved was developed and is claimed by an American company, whose The Pacific coast troopers arrived rights were declared forfeited by the Mexican government in 1917.

Telgraph Rates Up 20 Per Cent.

WASHINGTON, March 29.-In

fect, made during the past year,"

The Gascline Problem of Supply and Demand

The second of a series of three statements

The war directed attention to the need of petroledm conservation. Speaking on this subject, Mark L. Requa, General Director, Oil Division, United States Fuel Administration, recently said:

"The disproportion between the supply of and demand for gasoline is enormous and constitutes a critical problem.

"Projected at the percentage of increase, 1904-1914, we should require in 1927 something like 700.000,000 barrels of petroleum. In 1918 our total production was only 350,000,000 barrels."

To meet this situation both the petroleum and automobile industries have for several years been making every effort. The problem has been approached from every angle:

- (a) The oil producers are constantly prospecting for new fields. They have sunk many wells and are doing everything possible to increase petroleum production.
- (b) The oil refiners, with the help of their chemical engineers, are ever devising new and improved processes of refining by which they squeeze every possible drop of gasoline out of each barrel of petroleum.
- (c) The automotive engineers have aided much in gasoline conservation by their constant improvement of automobile engines and methods of carburization. Their efforts are to secure the operation of automobiles on grades of gasoline that permit the maximum production of this motor fuel from each barrel of crude oil and which, at the same time, will give the greatest power and mileage from each unit of gasoline consumed.

All these methods are succeeding to a marked degree, and yet gasoline consumption is increasing much faster than production.

Facing these bald facts last summer, it became evident to President Wilson and the United States Fuel Administration that there was virtually as great need for gasoline conservation as for food conserva-

In consequence the United States Fuel Administration requested Eastern states to discontinue entirely all non-essential use of passenger automobiles, and for a time this request was so extended that only automobiles in Government, emergency or war service were in use on Sunday. These limitations were not extended to the Western states, because at the time there was enough gasoline being produced in California for Pacific Coast needs and its distribution did not require the use of transcontinental transportation facilities needed for war.

It was part of this same campaign to conserve gasoline that led President Wilson to appoint a Government committee to determine and adopt standard specifications for gasoline and other petroleum prod-

This committee consisted of the United States Fuel Administration and representatives of the War and Navy Departments, the United States Shipping Board the Director General of Railroads, the Bureau of Mines and the Bureau of Standards.

The committee was assisted and advised by technical experts from each of these departments and

After extended discussions, exhaustive tests and experimentation, this Government committee adopted standard specifications for gasoline, not only for aviation purposes, but also for general motor use on land and sea.

These United States Government specifications were drawn up with a view to providing a grade of gasoline that would meet every practical requirement and yet allow maximum production. They deal with the problem on the basis of the best utilization of our petroleum resources, and the maintenance of reasonable prices to the consumer.

Drafted as they were by impartial Government experts, these United States Government gasoline specifications are today being generally considered as the most practical standard for gasoline. They insure an efficient and satisfactory gasoline and at the same time have due regard for the necessity of petroleum conservation.

The gasoline being furnished today is more powerful and gives greater mileage than the gasoline of ten years ago. Its use is made possible by the improvements in automobile engines and methods of carburization. To go back to the gasoline of ten years ago would be to accept a more highly volatile but less powerful gasoline giving less mileage. It would also result in decreasing the production and increasing the cost of gasoline.

All Red Crown gasoline now being supplied in the Pacific Coast states is refined to conform with the United States Government standard specifications. It has the full, uniform chain of boiling points necessary for full-powered, dependable ganoline: Low boiling points for easy starting, medium boiling points for quick, smooth acceleration, and high boiling points for power and mileage.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY (California)

