

The ISOLATED CONTINENT

A ROMANCE OF THE FUTURE

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SYNOPSIS.

For fifty years the continent of North America has been isolated from the rest of the world by Z-rays, the invention of Hannibal Prudent, president of the united government. A message from Count von Werdenstein, chancellor of Germany, that he has succeeded in penetrating the rays hastens the death of Prudent. Dying, he warns his daughter Astra that foreign invasion is now certain. Astra succeeds her father as president. Napoleon Edison, a former pupil of Prudent's, offers to assist Astra and hints at new discoveries which will make North America impregnable. A man giving the name of Chevalier di Leon offers Werdenstein the secret of making gold in return for European disarmament. The chevalier is made a prisoner. Countess Rosina, a spy, becomes a prisoner in the hope of discovering di Leon's secret. She falls in love with him and agrees to join him in an attempt to escape. By the use of rockets he summons a curious flying machine. He escapes and sends a message to Astra which reveals the fact that he is Napoleon Edison. He warns Astra that the consolidated fleets of Europe have sailed to invade America. He calls on Astra the following night and explains his plans for defense. By the use of aeroplanes made of a new substance which is indestructible he expects to annihilate the European forces. He delivers a note to von Werdenstein on his flagship demanding immediate withdrawal. He is attacked and by destroying two warships and several aeroplanes, forces von Werdenstein to agree to universal disarmament. The countess, who has remained in America as a guest of Astra, receives an offer from von Werdenstein of the principality of Schomburg-Lithow in return for di Leon's secret. Edison and his assistant Santos, go in search of new deposits of the remarkable substance, clyrnyth. They find it on the estate of Schomburg-Lithow. The countess gets Santos into her clutches. She promises to reveal di Leon's secret as soon as von Werdenstein turns over the Schomburg-Lithow estate to her. On the day of the wedding of Astra and Edison the countess and Santos see the country. Santos perfects a machine, is made a count and marries the countess, now princess of Schomburg-Lithow. Edison finds a new deposit of clyrnyth and builds a new fleet of airships. He accidentally discovers a liquid that will render opposing airships helpless. Santos completes a fleet for the princess.

CHAPTER XX.—Continued.

"What need have we of European commerce and troubles? The American continent is ours, we love it and we can live on it. The Z-ray stations have been kept in order and we can easily cut ourselves off from those warring countries. We will not be the losers." So his address ran. He sat down amid tremendous applause.

However, another orator arose and propounded opposite reasons for open ports and no determination was reached.

Astra and her mother-in-law were sitting in the library at the Crystal Palace depressed and sad. The uncertainty of Napoleon's fate caused long, sleepless nights.

Thus they had lived, day after day, hopefully and fearfully.

The life of the woman who had been the mainspring of all their troubles was different. The Princess Rositta had never been happier than



"When I Opened My Eyes It Was Night and I Was on a Low Bed."

now. The twenty-first aerodromone was finished, and she, like a general, would drill her flying squadron personally.

Rositta had acquired great skill in handling the aerodromone, and she could execute the capturing act very easily. She was loved by the whole crew, which was composed of men from noble families.

These men admired their leader, they were hypnotized by her charms and she handled them so that they were, as one man, ready to give their lives for her.

After a successful maneuver day Rositta gave the order to her men to gather in the large hall. The hall was

the schoolroom where Santos taught them the art of aviation in theory.

There were forty men in all—young, vigorous, brave and bold. When Rositta entered, followed by her husband, a cheer rang out: "Hurrah for our princess!"

She walked to the platform, and her clear voice rang through the hall:

"Gentlemen!" The silence was intense. "I have called you together to explain the situation. The American continent has voluntarily taken from us Europeans, children of a different caste, a different race, our most cherished traditions. There is not one among you who is not a poleman. You all know the situation and Europe's eyes rest on us. Europe is awaiting our action to restore the old order of things. We have the might! Think of these words: 'We have the might!' Therefore, we have the right! The aerodromone flotilla is my own property. Think this over and consider!

"Is it right that I—that we—should obey orders that come from powerless rulers? That we, the gallant aerial fleet, should consider those who are held to the ground? That we who have the might should obey anyone else except the one we choose?"

"Gentlemen, we were all born to be rulers, or I would not have selected you as my aviators. Gentlemen! You must select one of us for our commander, and we will rule the world!"

"Hurrah for the queen! Hurrah for the queen of the air! Hurrah for Queen Rositta!"

How sweet that sounded to the beautiful woman! A tear glistened in her eye. She ran into their arms and kissed one after another. The last was Santos, and he was the least enthusiastic of them all.

Rositta, queen of the air! This was her election. When the enthusiasm had somewhat abated she gave them the oath of obedience, the oath that would be kept secret until the day of its world-wide proclamation. They swore to be true, obedient and brave for the queen. And she swore to be faithful and true to her little army.

"We have only one man to fear, and that man is Napoleon Edison. You all know him. Seemingly he has met with some misfortune, as he has disappeared. When he returns we will fight him and win, and then the world is ours!"

That same day while this infamous thing was happening in Suemeg the American Eagle slowly descended to the roof of the Crystal Palace. It was dusk and no one noticed its arrival. The tall man who alighted from the machine seemed weak, but he fastened the machine, then slowly found his way downstairs. After a gentle tap on Astra's private door he entered. Mother and wife were there. Napoleon had returned at last.

CHAPTER XXI.

The Valley of Xiuh.

The first raptures of the reunion were over. Words took the place of mute expressions of love. Napoleon began to tell his story:

"No one knows of my return, except my men at Ciryne, and they will keep it to themselves. I did not use the 'graph, as I did not want certain people to know that I was safe—the papers would get hold of it and by morning Europe would know." He smiled. "They have tried to surprise us, and now we will surprise them." His eyes rested lovingly on the two women who were his nearest and dearest.

"It is exactly eight weeks today since I left Washington to continue my search for something that I felt convinced nature had provided for a certain use; that is, to remove the electro-magnetism of clyrnyth. I found it, thanks be to Providence. The discovery nearly cost me my life, but I never was happier than the moment when my aerodromone was helplessly falling down. It is a wonder that I came out alive, but, aside from a few bruises, all is well.

"I was circling around an active volcano and the wing of the Eagle was touched by the warm fluid gushing up from a geyser. The wings folded together and the Eagle was helpless. I turned the tall rudder to break its fall, and thus escaped with my life."

A silent prayer went up from the two loving women, a prayer of thanks

to Him who had saved him to save America.

"I lost consciousness when the aerodromone struck the ground by being hurled into the bench. When I opened my eyes it was night and I was on a low bed. An ancient oil lamp was flickering on a table at my head. I tried to sit up, but could not. My strength was gone; even my eyelids fell down, down, and I had a feeling that I was falling from a great height. I felt some one come near, and a moment later I felt a cooling bandage placed on my head by deft hands. I lost consciousness again and do not know how long I lay in a stupor, but I think it must have been at least eight days.

"The first clear moment I had I found that I was in the home of some rich Indian family. Later I found that they were Aztecs—indeed, the direct descendants of the Incas. In the clear moments during my fever I saw a very beautiful Aztec girl by my bedside nursing me. She was the daughter of the high priest, to whose house I had been taken.

"It was five weeks before I recovered from the terrible fall.

As I regained my strength the old priest, named Xiluhama, assisted me to a porch-like structure that stood before the house, and I beheld a wonderful picture. A few hundred yards away was the smoking volcano, and several steaming geysers were spouting water in the air. At the foot of the cone-like peak stood a great church with strange statues and reliefs painted in vivid red, blue, yellow, black green and white colors. The whole reminded me of the pictures of ancient Egypt. Xiluhama's beautiful daughter came with us and brought cushions to make me a comfortable seat on the long, broad bench.

"The old priest could express his thoughts so plainly that I understood him almost as well as if we were able to converse, and when I was in doubt he took a board and made drawings in a childlike but expressive way.

"I soon realized that he considered me sent as a messenger by their god Itzcoatl. A prophecy made hundreds of years before by one of their great men told them that a deliverer would come as a bird. That reminded me of my Eagle that had, during my illness, been haunting me, as I feared it had been damaged beyond repair. In spite of all it meant to me I had not asked about it. I was led by the priest to the church, through the wide doors of which my Eagle had been carried and placed before the altar. I looked it over carefully and found that it was in good condition, except that the wings had lost their magnetism. I inspected it and found one wing coated by a pale yellow varnish—it was the wing that had been touched by the liquid from a geyser.

"It caused a perfect isolator, and if I had had the presence of mind to use my dry battery at the crucial moment I would not have had the fall; but everything turns out for the best.

"When I was able to work I succeeded in cleansing the wings, and the machine was in working order again.

"Yesterday I thought I was strong

enough to leave and I bade my host goodby with the promise that I would return and bring help.

"This is a short recital of my doings during the two months past, and now, my dear Astra, will you tell me all that is new here?"

Napoleon had heard a few things from Whistler in Ciryne that disquieted him, and he was anxious to know the truth. That Astra could tell him best of all. So she began to relate all the important happenings while Napoleon listened attentively, making notes from time to time. Astra spoke of the European decree and all the facts that were officially communicated to her. Then she told of the newspaper rumors concerning the aerodromone fleet and the preparations for war that were supposed to be occupying the time of the European rulers.

"We have nine days at our disposal. I will be very busy for the next few days, but next Monday I will be ready to appear in the congress as the president of the international peace committee."

Early next morning Napoleon communicated with his brother workers in the peace committee, and then left the capital. He spent some hours at work designing a device to be used on the aerodromones. With six machines, equipped with men and barrels, he headed for the valley of Xiuh that evening.

They landed in the valley the next morning and after a peaceful negotiation with the high priest they caught a large supply of the liquid that had put the Eagle out of commission and returned to Ciryne. While Napoleon analyzed the liquid his workmen made several trips between the valley and Ciryne, carrying the liquid away in vast quantities.

Napoleon, after a thorough examination, sighed. "Here is something new. It puzzles me, but it solves the question of superiority in the air."

Napoleon's next move was to try out the new swallow-type machine. It was smaller than the Eagle, but the wings and the tall rudder were comparatively larger. It had not the grace of the Eagle in flight, but its speed was something unprecedented—it shot through the air like a streak.

Two more days passed. The third found every aerodromone equipped with a long tube very similar to the old style fire extinguisher. To this tube was connected a small automatic gun, which protruded through a special aperture in the body of the aerodromone. The lever controlling this gun was within easy reach of the aeroman, and the gun itself was so arranged that it could be pointed in any direction.

The four aerodromones that had been sent toward the west were reporting every few hours. They had seen nothing so far that was out of the ordinary.

It was Saturday evening that the last of the aerodromones was made ready for prompt action. Turning the command of the island over to Whistler, Napoleon returned to Washington. The Swallow made the trip in two hours.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



SEEMS MOST FABULOUS SUM

Fortune of the Rothschilds Estimated at Two Billion—Own Property in All Countries.

A French statistician has just completed figures which, he asserts, show the fortune of the famous house of Rothschild. The entire fortune is estimated at ten milliards of francs. A milliard is a billion, so that in dollars the Rothschild fortune equals \$2,000,000,000.

Placed at 4 per cent, the Rothschild fortune would produce an annual revenue of \$80,000,000. But this sum is far from being a reality, as the great part of the Rothschild riches is in property. In Lancashire they own immense thread mills, while in Germany they possess numerous coal mines with a capacity of millions of tons per annum. In Brazil the Rothschilds own immense rubber forests, and in Persia factories where the most beautiful carpets in the world are made.

In Spain there are numerous zinc and lead mines operated by the Rothschilds. In South Africa also the Rothschilds own mines. The Rothschilds, in addition, own large forests in Siberia, while in Australia entire cities are their property. They also own large quantities of real estate in different European capitals.

Coal Smoke and Health. The medical officer of health for Manchester, England, presents evidence to show that the working life of the people of that city is shortened ten years by the acids in smoke and

the carbon particles which invade the lungs. Surgeon J. W. Stoner, of the United States public health service, traces a connection between a smoky atmosphere and the drinking habits of the people. Women living in smoky, gloomy homes, attired in somber clothes, breathing a smoke-filled atmosphere, are prone to be irritable, to scold and whip their children and to nag their husbands who flee to the saloon for solace and relief. Surgeon Stoner is also of the opinion that children reared in a depressing atmosphere are dull, apathetic and even criminally inclined. The smoke problem is still important.

Rock Cannon. When the island of Malta was under the rule of the Knights of St. John they defended their fortifications with cannon bored in the living rock. Each one of these strange weapons contained an entire barrel of powder, and as it was not possible to vary the aim of these cannon 50 were made ready, facing various directions from which the enemy might approach. When the fame of these arms of defence became known to the world the idea was taken up of transporting rocks to summits to serve the same purpose; but it was soon recognized to be impracticable, and the cannon of Malta, bored in solid rock, have passed into history as the sole weapons of the kind ever known.—Harper's Weekly.

Not Always Perhaps. In the long run it is with a profession as with marriage; we cease to remark anything but its drawbacks.—Valerius Maximus.

PROPER SILAGE CORN

Select Varieties That Will Produce Large Fodder.

Most Important Essential is to Find Kind That Will Mature in Your Locality—Silo is Always Profitable to Farmer.

In selecting a variety of corn for silage always use one that will mature its grain. Other things being equal, select a variety that produces a large fodder as the yield will be greater.

There are special ensilage varieties such as "Virginia Ensilage corn," but before trying any of these be sure to know whether or not it will mature in your locality.

Corn can be planted somewhat thicker than generally used in growing grain but not thick enough to prevent the good ear development.

One dairyman who has had good success in growing corn for the silo and puts up about 1,000 tons a year says that he plants one-third more seed for the silage corn than for the corn grown for grain.

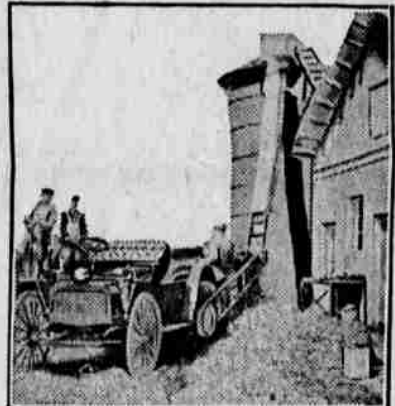
The amount, however, depends much upon the variety and the conditions of the soil.

The size of the silo of course depends upon the number of cattle to be fed. It should never be less than 20 feet high because pressure is necessary to preserve the silage.

The higher the better. A good rule is to have it twice as high as the diameter. The following table will show the size for a given number of cows for a 200-day feeding period:

Height	Diameter	Capacity	No.
feet	feet	tons	
10	24	34	8
12	25	52	13
14	27	78	19
16	30	119	30
18	32	166	42

Of course a silo will cost something—all farm buildings do—but, there is no building that can be erected on the farm that will pay better. A barn that would shelter the same amount of roughage and containing as much



Motor Farm Wagon Does Service in Many Ways.

feeding value as a 100-ton silo would have to have a storage capacity of 600 tons. Figure this out and see which would be the cheapest.

There are many kinds of silo and made of different materials. Concrete, cement, brick, tile and several styles of wooden silo. The wood silo is cheapest of course, but it is not so durable as the concrete or tile.

The different styles range from \$3 to \$5 per ton capacity for the concrete and tile silo, while the wooden stave silo will cost from \$2 to \$3 per ton capacity.

Keep Drainage Grades Even. In laying tile be sure the grade is made even enough so that the water can flow through at a uniform rate. This prevents sediment from being deposited, as will happen when a flat grade follows a steep one. Be sure the bottom of the ditch is perfectly level.

Handling Sows. Unless you spend a reasonable amount of time among the brood sows and gain their confidence very few will peacefully permit you to handle their pigs during farrowing time.

Equal Chance for All. It is an easy matter to put all the little pigs together to be fed by themselves or to enlarge the troughs so they may all have an equal chance.

Water for Hogs. Never give a hog waste water from the wash tubs, because the soap is not good for them any more than it is for any other animal.

Profit in Goats. Goats may be raised profitably on land which is suited for any kind of cultivation.

Ventilation for Horses. Do not keep your horses in poorly ventilated stables.

Pull the Weeds. When a vegetable goes to seed it becomes a weed. Pull it out.