

"MASTER of MONEY"

BY ROY VICKERS



"Did you know I've got machine guns here," Abramov?

CHAPTER XLIV.

"Look up that ridge," he told her. "That's where they showed themselves. They're riding away now to come through the track we made to get into the camp from that end—that's where I intended to have the machine-guns. There's another defile at the west. I tell you, in this position we could cut off a whole force. Oh! what's the good of talking! I bet on their not coming so soon."

"Suppose Maurois sent them," suggested Shirley. "He knows a lot of them. He may have passed the word."

"That's a bit of an idea," he agreed. "We'll see. Here they come."

As he spoke he saw the leader come at a trot round the bend, followed by his men.

"What will they do with us, Alan?"

"I don't know. They may come to terms—they may cut our throats."

The comitadjis were riding through the camp, making straight for Alan's shack.

"They're going to talk or they would have shot at us by now," he told her. "Everything depends on how the talk goes."

The men, in every description of dress from Greek to shabby European, now filled the clearing in front of the shack and were dismounting.

"Just what I thought," said Alan. "It's sheer poverty that drives them into this game for the most part. Look at those horses—and the men themselves look as if they were starving."

He had spoken within hearing of the leader, who was advancing upon them.

"You're quite right there, Mr. Brennaway," said the leader.

"You've earned regular money before now and you know it works out much better than this bandit game. I'm paying my gang ten francs a day and all their food—as much food as they can eat."

"I'll pay your fellows just the same for working with the gang—and I'll give them another ten francs a day to stay by with their rifles and keep off any other bands of comitadjis that turn up. You'll draw double that as leader, and there will be a bonus on the amount of work done, and special arrangements if there's any fighting."

Abramov gasped with astonishment at the offer.

"Just get this at the back of your head," said Alan impressively. "During the war you fel-

lows couldn't do this little game. Most of you were earning good wages with the English army and having the best time of your lives. Well, here's a chance to do the same again. You do your work properly here—and I can give you all employment—year in and year out.

"I'll build houses for you and you can make your own villages, and there will always be plenty of food. Just go and talk it over with your friends. Come along, Shirley, we'll leave them."

She went back into the shack and he followed her. He dropped into a chair and lit his pipe.

"Alan, that was splendid!" she exclaimed. "Do you think they'll accept?"

"I don't know," he answered. "It depends on what kind of discipline they have. We've got that leader, all right. Judging by the look of him, he's trying to talk them over already."

"If they don't?" she suggested.

"If they don't, I shall give in to their terms—because you are here," he answered savagely.

For half an hour they waited, then the leader came towards the shack.

"It's no good, Mr. Brennaway," he said apologetically.

"Don't be a fool, Abramov," said Alan sharply. "What good would it do you to kill me? You'll get that thousand francs and no more—that's only one day's money."

"That's all right, sir," cut in Abramov. "But your offer wouldn't last more than a week. There's Stephanos—he's got a hundred men—more than that, maybe—and they're all well armed. And he'll be along here as soon as he's assembled—call it a week."

For a moment Alan was silent, and then:

"Did you know I've got machine guns here, Abramov?"

"No, sir."

"Well, I have. And I've got some army pattern rifles—and in three days I shall have more, and any amount of ammunition and—round about 50 Serbians who will fight under your orders and mine. You've had a good look at this place, I daresay, and you know perfectly well that if I had had a dozen armed men here I could have kept you off."

"With a hundred of us here we could not only keep Stephanos off—we could cut him off and

finish him. Then you'll be top-dog if you're ever fool enough to go back to the game. Get along and talk that over. If you agree, we'll get down to Salonika this morning and be back here in three days with the men and the arms."

"Right you are, Mr. Brennaway!" said Abramov eagerly and hurried back to his followers.

(To be continued tomorrow.)

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COURTESY OF PORT DENIED IN FUTURE

By D. HAROLD OLIVER
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (AP)—An amendment to the tariff bill which would deny the "courtesy of the port" and other special privileges now granted to senators and representatives and other high government officials returning from foreign countries was adopted today by the senate.

The proposal, offered by Senator Harrison, democrat, Mississippi, provides that "no courtesy of the port, free entry, or special privileges or preferences in examination of merchandise or baggage shall hereafter be extended to any person who is subject to payment of customs duties."

Although not now the law, it has been the custom of the treasury department to grant such privileges to returning members

of the senate and house. This means merely that baggage of the travelers is expedited in the examination process and does not exempt the baggage from inspection, but charges have been made in recent months that the courtesy has been abused.

As adopted, the amendment would not apply to members of the diplomatic corps. In proposing it, Harrison said he wanted it to "apply to officers of the government in high places as well as those in ordinary life."

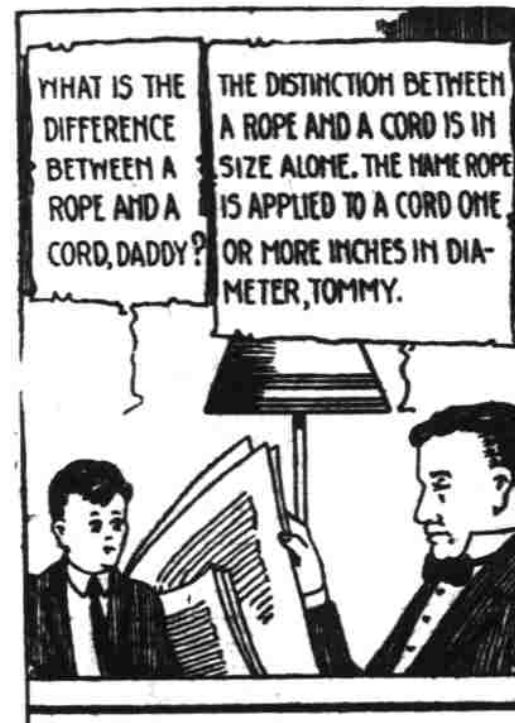
"I am not sure but what it ought to be enacted into law," said Senator Fess, republican, Ohio, the only other senator to comment on the proposal.

The question came up in connection with an effort by Senator Couzens, republican, Michigan, to have eliminated from the bill a section already in existing law, which permits returning American tourists to bring in goods valued at not more than \$100 free of duty.

Commercial fliers in Alaska operate between points where on a single hop there is a variation of as much as an hour in the daily length of daylight.

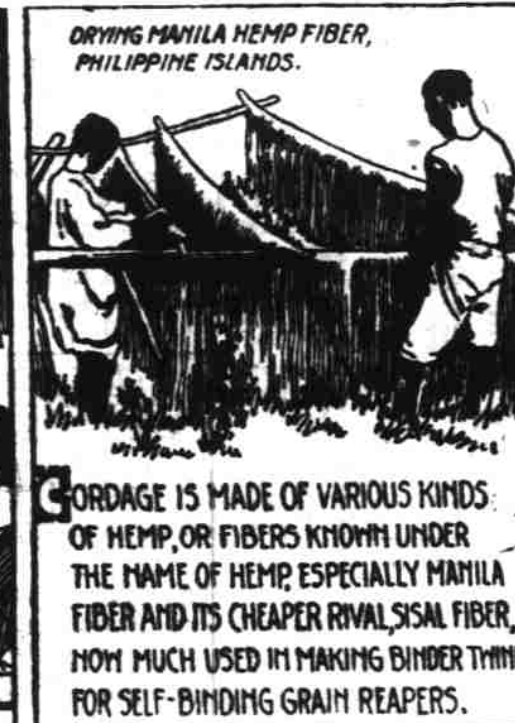
By PIM

"TELLING TOMMY"



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ROPE AND A CORD, DADDY?

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A ROPE AND A CORD IS IN SIZE ALONE. THE NAME ROPE IS APPLIED TO A CORD ONE OR MORE INCHES IN DIAMETER, TOMMY.



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POLLY AND HER PALS



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TILLIE, THE TOILER



HELLO, IS THIS THE MODERN DESK CO? HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DESKS WE JUST BOUGHT SENT OVER TO JONES, WHIPPLE AND CO.



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LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY



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TOOTS AND CASPER



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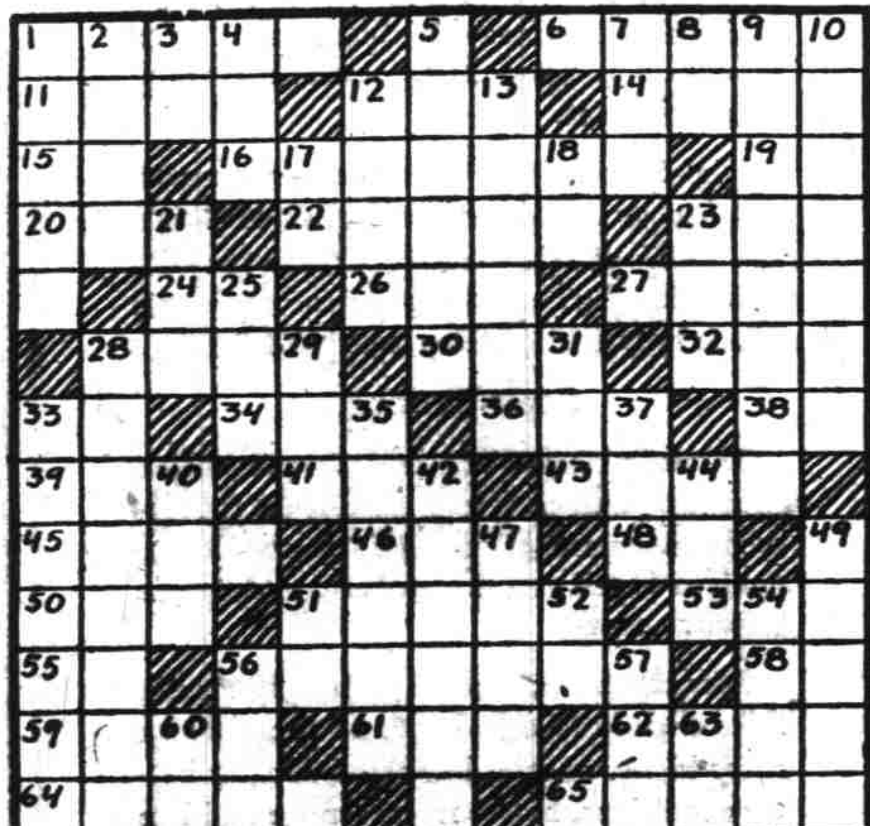
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Cross-Word Puzzle

By EUGENE SHEFFER



- HORIZONTAL**
- trans-
 - parent
 - resin used for
 - varnish
 - cognizant
 - sugar
 - single
 - Moham-
 - medan
 - prince
 - plural
 - pronoun
 - ridiculed
 - prefix:
 - down,
 - away
 - unit of
 - work
 - morning
 - prayer
 - spasmodic
 - switch
 - like
 - unyielding
 - agreement
 - disclosed
 - to view
 - speak
 - regret
 - prefix: to
 - net
 - tatter
 - light
 - dragoons
 - abbr.)
 - en-
 - countered
 - saturated
 - with liquid
 - head of
 - the Roman
 - Catholic
 - Church
- VERTICAL**
- cried, as a
 - crow
 - above
 - mixed type
 - find the
 - sum of
 - joined
 - compact
 - mass
 - part of to
 - be
 - scuff or
 - meat
 - built
 - Anglo-
 - Saxon
 - money of
 - account
 - (pl.)
 - one who
 - editors
 - printer's
 - measure
 - half an en
 - breach
 - black oily
 - liquid
 - stitch
 - any skilled
 - worker
 - novel
 - touch
 - lightly
 - general
 - name for
 - for
 - Western
 - Hemi-
 - sphere
 - scold
 - obtained
 - inclined
 - powerful
 - explosive
 - seed cap-
 - rule
 - lady or
 - madam, in
 - Spanish
 - speaking
 - countries
 - wear a
 - cheerful
 - aspect
 - Scotch for
 - call
 - symbol for
 - neon
 - minute
 - particle
 - foot-like
 - organ
 - transgres-
 - siver in
 - Mark
 - Italy



By CLIFF STERRETT



DO YOU KNOW WHAT ROPES ARE MADE OF, BETTY?

ASK THE MAN AT THE CIGAR STAND! UNCLE JACK SAYS HE KNOWS ALL THE ROPES.

CLIFF STERRETT

By RUSS WESTOVER

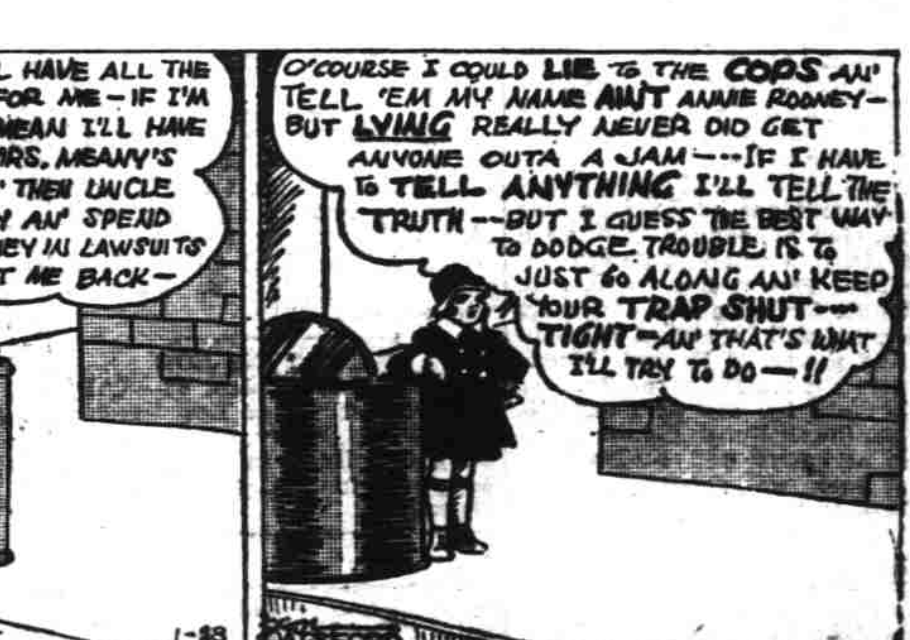


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By BEN BATSFORD



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By JIMMY MURPHY



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