Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE
PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—(AP)—Dairy produce prices:
Butter: Extras 26; standards 24½; prime firsts 24; firsts 24.
Butterfat 26½-27.
Eggs: Large extras 20; large standards 19; medium extras 18; medium standards 16; small extras 17; small mediums 17.
Cheese: Triplets 13½; loaf 14½.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—(AP)—(US Dept. Agr.)—Hogs: Salable receipts 400; market active, steady to strong; some sales 10c higher than Wednesday's low time; good-choice 165-215 lb. drive-ins mostly 8.00; outstanding finds up to 8.25; 225-280 lb. butchers 7.25-7.60; light lights and slaughter pigs 7.25-7.75; packing sows 6.00-6.50; feeder pigs quotable 7.25-7.75.
Cattle: Receipts 100, calves 25; steers quotable steady; other classes slow, steady to weak; few common-medium steers 7.50; fed steers salable 8.00-9.00; common-medium heifers 5.50-7.00; good light heifers available up to 8.00; low cutter and cutter cows 3.00-4.00; common-medium grades mostly 4.25-5.50; outstanding dairy types upward to 6.00; good beef cows 6.75 or above; bulls mostly 5.25-6.00; good beef bulls up to 6.25; good-choice vealers mostly 9.00; extreme top 10.00; common 250-350 lb. calves 4.50-5.00.
Sheep: Receipts 100; market steady; good-choice truck-ins 8.00; medium grades 7.25; choice carloads quotable up to 8.50; slaable lots medium 107 lb. slaughter ewes 3.50; choice ewes quotable up to 4.25.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—(AP)—

Wheat:	Open	High	Low	Close
	68	68	68	68

Cash Grain: Oats, No. 2-38 lb. white, 37.50. Barley, No. 2 45 lb. BW, 23.00. Corn, No. 2-EY shipment, 26.50.
Cash Wheat Bid: Soft white, 69; western white 69½; western red 68. Hard red winter ordinary 65; 11 per cent 65; 12 per cent 68; 13 per cent 70; 14 per cent 74. Hard white-Baart ordinary 70; 12 per cent 70; 13 per cent 71½; 14 per cent 72½.
Today's car receipts: Wheat 80; barley 1; flour 13; oats 1; hay 4; milled 3.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—(AP)—Country meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 200 lbs. 10-11c; vealers 14c lb.; light and thin 10-12c lb.; heavy 10c lb.; lambs 15c lb.; ewes 7-8c lb.; bulls 10-10½c lb.; cutter cows 3-9c lb.; canner cows 7-8c lb.
Live poultry—buying prices: Leghorn broilers 1½ to 1½ lbs., 14c lb.; 2½ lbs. 15c; colored springs 3 to 3½ lbs. 15c lb.; over 3½ lbs. 17c; Leghorn hens over 3½ lbs., 15c lb.; under 3½ lbs., 14c lb.; colored hens to 5 lbs., 19c lb.; over 5 lbs. 18c lb.; No. 2 grade 5c lb. less.
Turkeys—Selling prices: Dressed, new crop hens 25-26c lb.; toms 26-27c lb. Buying prices: New hens 25c lb.; toms 24-25c lb.
Potatoes—Yakima gems 1.20 cental; local 1.00-1.10; Deschutes gems, 1.35-1.40 cental; Klamath Falls No. 1 Gems, 1.40-1.55; California sweets, 1.40-1.60 for 50 lb. crate.
Onions—Oregon, No. 1, 1.60-1.80 cental; Yakima 50-40c per 50 lbs.; sets 4½c lb.
Wool—Willamette valley, nominal; medium 22-23 lb.; coarse and braids, 22-23 lb.; lambs and fall 20 lb.; eastern Oregon 18-22 lb.
Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa No. 1, 16.00 ton; oat vetch 12.00 ton; clover 11.00 ton; timothy, eastern Oregon 19.00; Do valley 14.00 ton Portland.
Hops—New crop Clusters 20 lb.; Fuggles 23 lb.
Mohair—Nominal: 1938, 26-27 lb.
Cascara bark—Buying price, 1938 peel 5c lb.
Sugar—Berry and fruit, 100s, 4.90, bale 5.05; beet 4.80 cental.
Domestic flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1 to 25 bbl lots: Family patent, 49s, 5.55-6.15; bakers' hard wheat, net, 3.70-5.15; bakers' bluestem, 4.05-4.40; blended wheat flour, 4.30-4.55; soft wheat flour, 3.95-4.05; graham, 49s, 4.30; whole wheat 49s, 4.75 bbl.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—(USDA)—A moderate volume of business was being transacted on domestic wools in the Boston market today. Actual selling prices were not showing much change but they were very firm. Holders of some wools were trying to secure slight advances in prices. Good French combing lengths, fine territory wools, in original bags were quoted at 70 cents, scoured basis, but recent sales have been mostly 68 to 69 cents, scoured basis.

Day Irregular In Wheat Pit

Market Travels in Narrow Range, Ending ⅛ up to Fourth Lower

CHICAGO, Jan. 19—(AP)—Domestic wheat prices, influenced by action of foreign markets despite the export subsidy, bobbed up and down within a ¾ cent range today and closed ⅛ higher to ¼ lower compared with yesterday.

Dealers apparently followed the price trend at Liverpool, which closed ¼-¾ lower after early steadiness. Selling induced by this was offset partially, however, by independent firmness at Winnipeg which was strengthened by further improvement in export business, with sales totaling 500,000 bushels, mostly from the Pacific coast. After the close there was a reported sale of a cargo of U.S. Pacific coast hard wheat to China.

Subsidy Helps Market

The subsidy system has helped to bring about a situation in which domestic prices are 5 to 10 cents above those at other major world markets while U.S. wheat is priced to European importers on a competitive basis with most other varieties. However, no subsidized export sales have been announced officially for several weeks although milling interests have reported good flour business principally from the Pacific coast.

At the irregular close May wheat was quoted at 69½-⅝, July 69⅝-¾; corn was unchanged to ¼ lower, May 52⅛-¼, July 53¼; oats unchanged to ¼ down; rye ½-⅝ off; lard 2 up to 5 lower.

Dairy Meeting at Woodburn Today

The Marion County Dairy Herd Improvement association will meet this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at the Woodburn Grange hall, with all interested dairymen invited to attend, states County Agent Harry L. Riches.

Roger W. Morse of the dairy department at Oregon State college, and Roy Jones of the Bureau of Dairy Industry at Washington, DC, will be on the program.

The association will elect officers and discuss other matters in connection with testing.

Salem Market Quotations

PRICES
(Buying Prices)
(The prices below supplied by a local grocer are indicative of the daily market prices paid to growers by Salem buyers but are not guaranteed by The Statesman.)

Apples—All varieties, C grade, per bu. 60-65c.	
Bananas, lb., on stalk	.06
Hands	.06½
Calaves	1.65
Grapefruit, Texas pinks	3.75
Regular	3.00
Dates, fresh, lb.	.14
Lemons, crate	4.50
Oranges, crate	2.25 to 3.50

VEGETABLES
(Buying Prices)

Beets, doz.	.40
Cabbage, lb.	.02
Carrots, Calif., crt. 6 doz.	2.75 to 3.15
Cauliflower, Portland	1.25
Celery, Utah, crate	2.25
Celery Hearts, doz.	1.20
Lettuce, Calif.	2.00 to 3.00
Onions, boiling, 10 lbs. No. 2	.14
50 lbs.	.80
Green onions, doz.	.40
Radishes, doz.	.45
Peppers, green, Calif.	.15
Parsley	.40
Potatoes, local, cwt.	1.50
50 lb. bags	.50
Spinach, Texas, 1.50, Ariz.	2.00
Danish, doz.	.30
Hubbard, lb.	.01½
Turnips, doz.	.40

NUTS
(Price paid by Independent packing plant to grower)
Walnuts—Franquettes, fancy, 12c; medium, 10c; small 8c; orchard run, 8 to 10c. Walnut meats 25 to 30c lb.
Filberts—Barcelonas, large, 12½c; fancy 11½c; babies, 11c; orchard run 11 to 12c. Duchilly 1 cent higher.
(Co-op Prices to Grower)
Walnuts—Price range, depending upon way nuts run in 14 different grades, 11½ to 18c.
Filberts—All moved out.

HOPS
(Buying Prices)

Clusters, nominal, 1937, lb.	10 to .12
Clusters, 1938, lb.	20 to .21
Fuggles, top	.23

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Prices)

Wool, medium, lb.	.22
Coarse, lb.	.22
Lambs, lb.	.18
Mohair, lb.	.28

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Prices of Andresen's)

Large extra	.17
Medium extra	.15
Large standards	.15
Pullets	.12
Colored frys	.14
Colored medium, lb.	.15
White Leghorns, lb. No. 1	.12
White Leghorns, frys	.13
White Leghorns, lb. No. 2	.10
Heavy hens, lb.	.15
Roosters	.05

LIVESTOCK
(Buying price for No. 1 stock, based on conditions and sales reported up to 4 p. m.)

Lambs, top	8.00
Ewes	2.00 to 3.00
Hogs, top	8.00
130-150 lbs.	7.50 to 7.75
210-300 lbs.	7.25 to 7.50
Sows	6.00
Beef cows	4.50 to 5.00
Bulls	4.50 to 5.50
Heifers	5.00 to 6.00
Top veal	8.50
Dairy type cows	3.50 to 4.50
Dressed veal, lb. (Midget)	.12½
Hogs, top, (Midget Mkt.)	8.10

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price $2.10.
Co-op. Grade A butterfat price, FOB Salem, 26c.
(Milk based on semi-monthly butterfat average.)
Distributor price, $2.22.
A grade butterfat—Delivered 26c; B grade 24c; C grade 20c.
A grade print, 29c; B grade 28c.

MARION CREAMERY Buying Price

Butterfat, A grade	.26
Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs.	.10
Leghorn hens, under 3½ lbs.	.08
Springers	.13
Colored hens, over 5 lbs.	.14
Stags, lb.	.06
Old roosters, lb.	.05
Rejects, market value, No. 2 grade 5c less	

EGG PRICES

Large extras	.17
Large standards	.15
Medium extras	.15
Medium standards	.12
Undergrades	.12
Pullets	.12

GRAIN, HAY and SEEDS

Wheat, per bushel, No. 1 white, sacked	.65
Red	.65
Oats, grey, ton	29.00 to 30.00
White	26.00
Feed barley, ton	22.00 to 23.00
Clover hay, ton	14.00
Oat and Vetch hay, ton	14.00
Alfalfa, ton	15.00 to 16.00
Alsike Clover, lb.	.09 to .11
Red Clover, lb.	.14
Egg mash, No. 1 grade, 80 lb. bag	1.60
Dairy feed, 80 lb. bag	1.50
Hen scratch feed	1.75
Cracked corn	1.75
Wheat	1.30 to 1.40

Stocks and Bonds

January 19
STOCK AVERAGES
Compiled by The Associated Press

	30 Indus	15 Rails	15 Util	60 Stocks
	A .2	A .2	A .8	A .4
Net Chg.				
Thursday	74.3	22.2	37.8	52.0
Previous day	74.1	22.0	37.0	51.6
Month ago	74.9	21.1	34.7	51.2
Year ago	67.1	20.3	33.6	46.8
1938-39 high	79.5	23.8	37.8	54.7
1938-39 low	49.2	12.1	24.9	33.7
1937 high	101.6	49.5	54.0	75.3
1937 low	57.7	19.0	31.6	41.7

BOND AVERAGES

	20 Rails	10 Indus	10 Util	10 Forgn
	A .8	A .1	A .3	A .1
Net Chg.				
Thursday	61.1	99.0	93.6	62.7
Previous day	60.8	98.9	93.3	62.6
Month ago	57.7	98.0	91.4	62.2
Year ago	65.6	97.4	90.2	66.2
1938-39 high	70.5	100.3	95.1	67.0
1938-39 low	46.2	93.0	85.8	59.0
1937 high	99.0	104.4	102.8	74.7
1937 low	70.3	95.5	90.8	64.2
1932 low	45.8	40.0	64.6	42.2
1928 high	101.8	98.9	102.9	100.5

Utilities Give Stocks Boost

Rally in Final Hour Brings Gains of Point or More for Most Issues

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—(AP)—Late strength in utilities helped break the stock market's stalemate today and enabled selected issues to emerge with gains of a point or more generally. There were a few wider swings.

The turn-about came in the final hour when American Telephone began to climb. This stock jumped rapidly and ended with a net advance of 3 points at 156, a new top for more than a year. Trailing this leader were Consolidated Edison, North American, Public Service of N.J., International Telephone and Electric Power & Light.

The last-minute rally was attributed partly to the fact important liquidation in the power company shares, as well as in other groups, had been notably lacking in the past several sessions.

Volume Picks Up

Dealings were virtually at a standstill until the concluding lap when volume picked up appreciably. Transfers totaled 887,040 shares against 628,160 the day before, which was the smallest volume in about four months. The Associated Press average of 60 stocks was up .4 of a point at 52.

While spot news was without much stimulation marketwise, Wall street paid attention to forecasts the administration, with Harry Hopkins in the department of commerce saddle, was preparing to go half way with business and industry in mapping out a constructive program.

Gardeners' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—(AP)—(US Dept. Agriculture).

Apples—Delicious, medium to lge ex fcy, 1.60-1.75; fcy, 1.25-1.50; C grade F & F, 50-60c; Spitzenbergs, med to large fcy, 1.25-1.35 Newtons, med to lge ex fcy, 1.50-1.60; fcy, 1.35-1.40; unclass f & f, 50-60c. Wash Delicious, med to lge ex fcy, 1.85 1.90; fcy, 1.60; winesap, med to lge ex fcy, 1.60-1.65; fcy, 1.45-1.55; Romes, C grade f & f, 75-85c; ex fcy, 1.35-1.55.

Artichokes—Calif., 2.85-3.25.
Avocados—Calif. fuerte, 1.60.
Bananas—Per bunch, 5-5½c lb.; small lots, 5½ 6c.
Beans—Nominal.
Brussels Sprouts—12-cup, 75-80c.
Cabbage—Oregon ballhead, new crates 1.50-1.75; ordinary 1.15-1.25; broken lugs 1¾-2c; red 2-2½c.
Cauliflower—Local, No. 1, 80-95c; No. 2, 50-55c; Calif., 1.00-1.10.
Celery—Oregon, hearts, fancy 1.00-1.25 doz.; fair, 75c-1.00; Calif., Utah, 1.50-2.25; white, 1.85-2.00; hearts 1.10-1.15.
Citrus Fruit—Grapefruit, Texas marsh seedless, 2.75-3.00; pink, 3.00-3.25; Arizona, fancy 1.90-2.00, choice 1.60-1.75; Florida 54-64s, 3.00-3.25.
Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, 3.50-5.50; choice, 2.75-3.50. Limes, fists, 1.40.
Oranges—California navels, 344s, 2.35; fancy 126s, 3.50; other sizes 2.65-3.10; choice and PP, 1.85-2.10.
Cranberries—¼ bbl. Wash., Ore., McFarlands 3.50; fair 3.00-3.25.
Cucumbers—Hothouse, per doz., fancy 1.75-2.00; No. 2, 75c-1.00.
Eggplant—Calif., 11-12c lb.; lug, 2.00-2.15.
Grapes—California, lug boxes, Emperors, US No. 1, 1.25-1.50; few 1.75.
Garlic—Local, best, 8-10c lb., poorer 5-6c lb.
Lettuce—California Delano dry, 5 dozen, 1.25-1.60; Imperial, iced, 4-5s, 2.25-2.50; dry 2-2.25.
Mushrooms—Cultivated, 1 lb., 30-35c.
Onions—Washington yellows, 50-pound sacks, 65-75c; large, 80-90c; commercials, 50-60c; Oregon yellows, 50-pound sacks, US No. 1, 75-90c; 10-pound sacks, 17-18c; boilers, 10-pound sacks, 14-15c; sets, brown, 5-5½c.
Pears—Oregon, Bosc., loose, 50-60c; ex. fcy., 1.25-1.35; Anjou, ex. fcy., 1.40-1.50— 80-88s, med., 1.25-1.35; ½ box, 70c; Winter Nellis, orchard run, 60-75c; Comice, ex fcy., 2.85-3.
Peas—Calif., 2.50-2.65; 8-10c lb.
Peppers—Fla., 12-14c; crates 4.25-4.50.
Potatoes—Oregon, local Russets and Long Whites, No. 1, 1.10-1.15; No. 2, 50-lb., sacks, 37½-40c; Deschutes No. 1, Russets, 1.25-1.35; No. 2, 50-lb. sacks, 40-45c; Klamath No. 1 Russets, 1.35-1.50; No. 2, 50-lb. sacks, 42-45c; Wash. Russets, 1.25-1.35; bakers, 100 lbs., 1.60-180.
Rhubarb—Wash. hothouse, ex. fcy., 1.80; fancy, 1.60; choice, 1.50; Ore. choice 1.50.
Squash—Oregon Marblehead, 1¾-2c; Hubbard, 2¼-2¾c.
Sweet Potatoes—California, 50 pound crates, $1.50 1.60; No. 2, $1.20-1.30; Louisiana yams, 1.50-1.60.
Tomatoes—Oregon hothouse 16-20c lb.; Mex., $3.00-3.25; Fla., as is, 3.50-3.75.
Spinach—Calif., Imperial, 40 lbs., 2.00-2.25; Ore., 30 lb. crate, 1.50.
Bunched vegetables—Oregon, per doz. bunches: Beets, 25-30c; carrots, 25-30c; green onions, 25-30c; parsley, 20-25c; Jap radishes, 45-50c lug; radiches, winter, 20c; kale, 30-35c; leeks, 30-35c; turnips, 25-30c per dozen; celery root, 50c per dozen; broccoli, lugs, 40-45c, 50-55c per dozen; California parsley, 35-40c, Swiss chard, 35c dozen; radishes, 35-40c; broccoli, 5½-6c pound, 45c dozen bunches; carrots, 45-50c doz.; 2.25-3.00 crate; turnips, 65-75c.
Root vegetables—Carrots, lugs 40-50c; sacks, 90c 1.15; rutabagas, 1.25-1.50 hundredweight, lugs 45-50c; beets, 1.10-1.25; 35-40c for lugs; turnips, 90c-1.00 per sack, lugs, 35c; parsnips, 40-45c lug; horseradish, 15c lb.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Today's closing prices:

Al Chem & Dye	184	Coml Solvent	12⅛	Natl Dairy Prod	12⅝
Allied Stores	10⅛	Comwlth & Sou	1⅞	Natl Dist	26⅞
American Can	98¼	Consol Edison	33⅜	Natl Power & Lt	8⅞
Am For Power	3⅛	Consol Oil	8⅞	Northern Pacific	13⅛
Am Power & Lt	6⅜	Corn Products	65½	Packard Motor	4¼
Am Rad Std San	16⅛	Curtiss Wright	6⅜	J C Penney	79
Amer Roll Mills	20⅛	Du Pont de N	150½	Phillips Petrol	40¾
Am Smelt & Ref	47½	Doug Aircraft	71	Press Steel Car	13¼
Am Tel & Tel	156	Elec Power & Lt	12⅜	Public Serv NJ	35
Am Tobacco B	89¼	Erie RR	1⅞	Pullman	37
Am Water Wks	14⅜	General Electric	41⅝	Safeway Stores	33⅞
Anaconda	32	General Foods	39⅝	Sears Roebuck	71½
Armour Ill	5⅝	General Motors	47⅞	Shell Union	13¾
Atchison	38⅝	Goodyear Tire	35	Sou Cal Edison	24½
Barnsdall	17¾	Gt Nor Ry Pf	28⅛	Southern Pacific	19⅛
Balt & Ohio	7¼	Hudson Motors	7⅝	Standard Brands	7
Bendix Avia	27¼	Illinois Central	18⅝	Stand Oil Calif.	28¼
Beth Steel	73⅞	Insp Copper	15⅛	Stand Oil NJ	51
Boeing Airp	31	Int Harvester	55⅜	Studebaker	8⅜
Borge-Warner	29⅜	Int Nickel Can	53⅛	Sup Oil	3
Budd Mfg	7⅜	Int Paper & P Pf	48¼	Timk Roll Bear	40¼
Calif Pack	17	Int Tel & Tel	9⅝	Trans-America	6¾
Callahan Z-L	1⅞	Johns Manville	102	Union Carbide	88¾
Calumet Hec	7⅝	Kennecott	39⅞	United Aircraft	39
Canadian Pacific	5½	Libbey-O-Ford	51⅛	United Airlines	12¼
J I Case	92	Lig & Myers B	103⅛	US Rubber	47⅞
Caterpil Trac	46	Loew's	48⅞	US Steel	65⅝
Celanese	23	Monty Ward	50⅛	Walworth	8¼
Certain-Teed	12	Nash-Kelv	9⅛	Western Union	24
Ches & Ohio	36	Natl Biscuit	24¼	White Motors	12⅝
Chrysler	77½	Natl Cash	24¾	Woolworth	49¾

Entertains Club

MONITOR—Mrs. Ada Pomroy was hostess Thursday for the Sunshine club. A large number of members were present.

"Envoy Extraordinary"

By E. Phillips Oppenheim

SYNOPSIS

The grave issue of world war or peace was in the offing (though none seemed to realize it) when, Fergus, a secret British messenger, was mysteriously assaulted on route to Sir Ronald Matresser, who had just returned to his lordly county estate after another of his long and mysterious journeys. His mother, Countess Matilda; his sister, Lady Ann; and her new companion, Mademoiselle Elisabeth Stamier, a beautiful Austrian, welcomed the handsome young Matresser scion who recalled seeing the alluring Elisabeth on one of his trips abroad.... Dr. Andrews and Matresser, motoring late at night to the former's surgery to see Fergus, narrowly escape a smashup with a speeding auto.... Fergus in a semi-conscious state mumbles something about a young woman entering the hospital room and bending over his coat but does not know that the message he was carrying has been stolen.

CHAPTER VIII

Andrews reflected on the question of who stole the letter.

"The person who attacked him on the road," he suggested.

"Impossible," was the calm reply. "The oilcloth and cardboard were cut through with a pocket knife and without undue haste. That could not have been done during a struggle. Nothing happened to him in the Inn where he stopped for water, therefore the first opportunity was while he was lying unconscious in that field of roots. Humphreys was the first to find him and he was brought straight here."

"Precisely. My household consists of Mrs. Foulds and myself. You cannot suspect either of us of pocket picking."

"Granted," Matresser agreed. "Can anyone else possess a key to your surgery?"

"Not a—not a soul," Andrews declared.

"Why the break in your sentence?"

"It's a queer coincidence but it isn't amount to anything," the doctor meditated. "It seemed funny at the time, that's all. You see," he went on, "I always keep my surgery key in the right hand pocket of my overcoat. When we reached here tonight you saw me fumble about for some time. I ultimately discovered it in the left hand pocket of my coat."

"You think someone may have borrowed it while you were dining, then?"

"I left it in one pocket when I gave my things to your butler," Andrews declared obstinately. "It was in a different pocket when I reached home tonight. If you can make anything of that, do. I can't."

"Mystery upon mystery," Matresser said lightly as he rose to his feet. "We will let the matter rest here for the moment, I think. Don't let the man know that the letter is missing and have another look at him before you go to bed. I didn't exactly like his appearance but it may have been fancy. Are you ready to take me back now or have you any late visits?"

"Taking you back right away."

"Do you remember the place," Matresser asked as soon as they had started, "where that mysterious vehicle nearly ran into us?"

"I shall never forget it," answered Andrews.

"Just stop there for a minute, then, there's a good fellow."

The doctor, who was driving with the headlights on, did as he was asked.

"Got a torch?" Matresser inquired.

His companion produced one from the pocket of the car. Matresser disappeared for several moments, and when he returned he was smiling.

"Andrews," he declared as he took his place in the automobile, "if I had to start life again I should choose to be a detective."

"Why?"

"I should walk through the world much lighter minded because I should know what a fool I was."

Matresser let himself into the Grand House by the insignificant entrance which communicated with the gunroom below and his own private suite of apartments on the first floor. He was scarcely surprised to find Henry Yates, deeply absorbed in a detective story, waiting up for him.

"Anything special?"

Yates gravely marked the page in his story and laid the volume down.

"M17B rang up about a quarter of an hour ago," he reported. "They have established a special private line between Norwich and here. They wish to speak to you about it."

"You can get them," Matresser directed.

In five minutes, Matresser found himself speaking to an office in Whitehall. The low confidential voice at the other end was easily recognizable.

"That's Lord Matresser?"

"Speaking."

"Sir Francis would like a word or two with you personally. This is a private line upon which we are established now. Could you wait for a few minutes?"

"Certainly," Matresser replied. "I shall await Sir Francis' convenience."

There was a brief silence. Matresser lit a cigarette and leaned back in his chair. Presently a familiar voice spoke.

"Matresser?"

"Speaking."

"I sent you a long letter yesterday."

"So I understand. Your messenger, Fergus, is lying in the local doctor's clinic with concussion. He was attacked on the road and the letter stolen. I have just come from his bedside."

"Whereabouts was he attacked?"

"Within a few miles of here. Can you send me a copy of the letter?"

"I must consider that. Tell me, have you or Fergus any ideas about this theft?"

"At present none."

"The French are very busy, of course. Anything stirring in that direction that you know of?"

"Nothing."

There was a groan either of dissatisfaction or doubt.

"You won't be leaving the country without notice?"

"I have only one engagement," Matresser replied. "Sandringham to shoot, dine and sleep on the thirtieth."

"I shall be there a few days after. We must not clash. Remember that, Matresser. There could not be a worse place for us to meet, and you had better take from the third to the eighth out of your diary. You may find those days exceptionally occupied."

"I am asking you nothing about the letter," Matresser said.

"Don't," the other interrupted. "We have just had specifications from our liaison man in the telegraphs of a new invention that taps the telephone by wireless. Still, I will go so far as to tell you this. As regards Colony Number?—"

A thin squeaky voice intervened.

"The connection is interrupted," it announced. "An attempt is being made between Norwich and Holt to tap the private line."

Matresser replaced his receiver. He looked thoughtfully across at Yates.

"By-the-by, Henry," he said, "you don't happen to have come across her ladyship's new personal maid? Hortense her name is, I think. Brilliant eyes—very Parisian."

Henry Yates smiled.

"I have received a note from the young lady," he confided. "She admits to feeling very lonely here because none of the other servants speak French. She asks if a half an hour's conversation now and then would be possible."

Matresser smiled.

"Go to it, Henry," he advised. "Mademoiselle Hortense has already the too eager gleam in her eyes. She will give herself away."

"But what has Mademoiselle to learn from us?" Yates proceeded. "We are her allies."

"France mistrusts everybody," Matresser told his secretary as he rose to his feet, "but just now, believe me, if there is any nation whom she mistrusts more than any other, it is England."

Matresser, at the close of the last partridge drive before luncheon on the following morning, waited for Andrews who was struggling along in the rear.

"Terribly sorry to have missed a slice out of the morning, Matresser," he apologized. "I simply couldn't help it."

"My friend who got into trouble on his way down was not responsible, I hope?"

"No, it was an outside patient altogether," the doctor continued. "A man who brought a small private yacht into the harbor last night. He seems to have twisted his ankle, and one or two of the crew had cuts and bruises. I didn't know how serious it might have been so I felt obliged to go. I called in to tell Humphreys on the way down. I hear you have had a thundering good morning."

"I forget what we get here generally," Matresser admitted, "but everyone seems to have been shooting very well. The pheasants flew really high over the home woods. You arrived here in time for that, I was glad to see."

"Best shooting I ever had in my life," Andrews declared enthusiastically.

"Who is this new patient of yours on the yacht?" Matresser inquired.

"Tells me that he is a Dutchman and that his name is Jan van Westrheene. He is a perfect giant of a fellow—pretty glum, with the air of trying to make himself amiable all the time."

"I caught a glimpse of him bringing the boat in," Matresser observed. "He looked like a Viking who had taken the wrong turn. Nothing serious the matter with him, I suppose?"

"Bruises and a slight sprain, that's all," the doctor confided. "He must be something of a seaman to have brought in a boat that size. The Pier Master told me that he was at the helm all the time and that he never saw a finer piece of work."

"What brought him into these parts at this time of the year, I wonder?" Matresser speculated.

"Just what I wanted to ask him myself, but he didn't give me any encouragement."

"Did he say how long he was staying?"

"Not for very long, I gathered, but he can't leave the harbor just yet. The wind's only fallen on the land. Just one of those extraordinary Norfolk storms, yesterday's seems to have been, that blow themselves out and then fade dead away. It is as still as possible everywhere here but there's a swell out at sea and will be for days in these narrow approaches. A boat like his would be almost unmanageable by the estuary."

"And how is your home patient?" Matresser inquired, glancing across at the village.

"To tell you the truth," the other confessed, "I have not been in to see him this morning. I should think you will be able to get him away whenever you want. The only thing that puzzles me is where and how anyone could have taken that letter away from him."

The two men looked round at the sound of galloping hoofs coming down the ride. Lady Ann and Elisabeth Stamier cantered up to them.

"We have come to lunch, Ronnie. Is that all right?" the former called out.

"I should say so," her brother assented hospitably. "Your mother may be coming down. Mrs. Humphreys is getting the best parlor ready I know."

He handed his gun to his loader and crossed to Elisabeth's side.

"I'm afraid you find this branch of our English sport rather tame, Mademoiselle Stamier," he remarked.

"But on the contrary I love it," she assured him. "There are so many other things beside the actual shooting. A morning like this when there are so many changing lights and colorings, your country is very beautiful—and your home and its entourage reminds me, except that we have not the sea, of some of our own country chateaus as they used to be when I was a child."

(To be continued)

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