

THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

By CHARLES KLEIN.

A Story of American Life Novelized From the Play by ARTHUR HORNBLow.

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"Hello, senator!"
"You're punctual, as usual, Mr. Ryder. I never knew you to be late."
Ryder passed on and into the directors' room, followed by Senator Roberts and the other directors, the procession being brought up by the dapper little secretary bearing the minutes.

With a nod here and there Ryder took his place in the chairman's seat and rapped for order. Then at a sign from the chair the dapper little secretary began in a monotonous voice to read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Quickly they were approved, and the chairman proceeded as rapidly as possible with the regular business routine. That disposed of, the meeting was ready for the chief business of the day. Ryder then calmly proceeded to present the facts in the case.

Some years back the road had acquired as an investment some thousands of acres of land located in the outskirts of Astoria, on the line of their road. The land was bought cheap, and there had been some talk of laying part of it out as a public park. This promise had been made at the time in good faith, but it was no condition of the sale. If afterward, owing to the rise in the value of real estate, the road found it impossible to carry out the original idea, surely they were masters of their own property! The people of Astoria thought differently and, galled on by the local newspapers, had begun action in the courts to restrain the road from diverting the land from its alleged original purpose. They had succeeded in getting the injunction, but the road had fought it tooth and nail and finally carried it to the supreme court, where Judge Rossmore after reserving his opinion had finally sustained the injunction and decided against the railroad. That was the situation.

Several directors spoke, the arguments of each one being merely a reiteration of those already heard. Ryder did not listen to what was being said. Why should he? Was he not familiar with every possible phase of the game? Better than these men who merely talked, he was planning how the railroad and all his other interests could get rid of the troublesome Judge Rossmore.

He who controlled legislatures and dictated to supreme court judges had found himself powerless when each turn of the legal machinery had brought him face to face with Judge Rossmore. Sult after sult had been decided against him and the interests he represented, and each time it was Judge Rossmore who had handed down the decision. So for years these two men had fought a silent but bitter dual in which principle on the one side and attempted corruption on the other were the gage of battle. Judge Rossmore fought with the weapons which his oath and the law directed him to use, Ryder with the only weapons he understood—bribery and trickery. And each time it had been Rossmore who had emerged triumphant. Despite every maneuver Ryder's experience could suggest, notwithstanding every card that could be played to undermine his credit and reputation, Judge Rossmore stood higher in the country's confidence than when he was first appointed.

So when Ryder found he could not corrupt this honest judge with gold he decided to destroy him with calumny. No scruples embarrassed Ryder in arriving at this determination. From his point of view he was fully justified. "Business is business. He hurts my interests; therefore I remove him." So he argued, and he considered it no more wrong to wreck the happiness of this honorable man than he would to have shot a burglar in self defense. So having thus tranquilized his conscience he had gone to work in his usually thorough manner, and his success had surpassed the most sanguine expectations.

This is what he had done. Like many of our public servants whose labors are compensated only in niggardly fashion by an inconsiderate country, Judge Rossmore was a man of but moderate means. His income as justice of the supreme court was \$12,000 a year, but for a man in his position, having a certain appearance to keep up, it little more than kept the wolf from the door. He lived quietly, but comfortably, in New York with his wife and his daughter Shirley, an attractive young woman who had graduated from Vassar and had shown a marked taste for literature. The daughter's education had cost a good deal of money, and this, together with life insurance and other incidentals of keeping house in New York, had about taken all he had. Yet he had managed to save a little, and those years when he could put by a fifth of his salary the judge considered himself lucky. Secretly he was proud of his comparative poverty. At least the world could never ask him "where he got it."

Ryder was well acquainted with Judge Rossmore's private means. The two men had met at a dinner, and although Ryder had tried to cultivate the acquaintance, he never received much encouragement. Ryder's

Jefferson, too, had met Miss Shirley Rossmore and been much attracted to her, but the father having more ambitious plans for his little quickly discouraged all attentions in that direction. He himself, however, continued to meet the judge casually, and one evening he contrived to broach the subject of profitable investments. The judge admitted that by careful hoarding and much stinting he had managed to save a few thousand dollars which he was anxious to invest in something good.

Quick as the keen eyed vulture swoops down on its prey the wily financier seized the opportunity thus presented. And he took so much trouble in answering the judge's inexperienced questions and generally made himself so agreeable that the judge found himself regretting that he and Ryder had by force of circumstances been opposed to each other in public life so long. Ryder strongly recommended the purchase of Alaskan Mining stock, a new and booming enterprise which had lately become very active in the market. Ryder said he had reasons to believe that the stock would soon advance, and now there was an opportunity to get it cheap.

A few days after he had made the investment the judge was surprised to receive certificates of stock for double the amount he had paid for. At the same time he received a letter from the secretary of the company explaining that the additional stock was pool stock and not to be marketed at the present time. It was in the nature of a bonus to which he was entitled as one of the early shareholders. The letter was full of verbiage and technical details of which the judge understood nothing, but he thought it very liberal of the company and, putting the stock away in his safe, soon forgot all about it. Had he been a business man he would have scented peril. He would have realized that he had now in his possession \$50,000 worth of stock for which he had not paid a cent and furthermore had deposited it when a reorganization came.

But the judge was sincerely grateful for Ryder's apparently disinterested advice and wrote two letters to him, one in which he thanked him for the trouble he had taken and another in which he asked him if he was sure the company was financially sound, as the investment he contemplated making represented all his savings. He added in the second letter that he had received stock for double the amount of his investment and that, being a perfect child in business transactions, he had been unable to account for the extra \$50,000 worth until the secretary of the company had written him assuring him that everything was in order. These letters Ryder kept.

From that time on the Alaskan Mining company underwent mysterious changes. New capitalists gained control and the name was altered to the Great Northwestern Mining company. Then it became involved in litigation, and one suit, the outcome of which meant millions to the company, was carried to the supreme court, where Judge Rossmore was sitting. The judge had by this time forgotten all about the company in which he owned stock. He did not even recall it.

He only knew vaguely that it mine and that it was situated in Alaska. Could he dream that the Northwestern Mining company the company to which he had invested his few thousands were one and the same? In deciding on the merit of the case presented to him right see to him to be plainly with the No western, and he rendered a decision to that effect. It was an important decision, involving a large sum, and for a day or two it was talked about. But as it was the opinion of the most learned and honest judge on the bench no one dreamed of questioning it.

But very soon ugly paragraphs began to appear in the newspapers. One paper asked if it were true that Judge Rossmore owned stock in the Great Northwestern Mining company which had recently benefited so signally by his decision. Interviewed by a reporter, Judge Rossmore indignantly denied being interested in any way in the company. Thereupon the same paper returned to the attack, stating that the judge must surely be mistaken, as the records showed a sale of stock to him at the time the company was known as the Alaskan Mining company. When he read this the judge was overwhelmed. It was true then! They had not slandered him. It was he who had lied, but how innocently—how innocently!

His daughter Shirley, who was his greatest friend and comfort, was then in Europe. She had gone to the continent to rest after working for months on a novel which she had just published. His wife, entirely without experience in business matters and somewhat of an invalid, was helpless to advise him. But to his old and tried friend, ex-Judge Stott, Judge Rossmore explained the facts as they were. Stott shook his head. "It's a conspiracy!" he cried. "And John B. Ryder is behind it." Rossmore refused to be-

lieve that any man could so deliberately try to encompass another's destruction, but when more newspaper stories came out he began to realize that Stott was right and that his enemies had indeed dealt him a deadly blow. One newspaper boldly stated that Judge Rossmore was down on the mining company's books for \$50,000 more stock than he had paid for, and it went on to ask if this were payment for the favorable decision just rendered. Rossmore, helpless, childlike as he was in business matters, now fully realized the seriousness of his position. "My God! My God!" he cried as he bowed his head down on his desk. And for a whole day he remained closeted in his library, no one venturing near him.

As John Ryder sat there spinning like at the head of the directors' table he reviewed all this in his mind. His own part in the work was now done, and well done, and he had come to this meeting today to tell them of his triumph. Cries of "The chair! The chair!" arose on every side. Senator Roberts leaned over to Ryder and whispered something in his ear.

With an acquiescent gesture John Ryder tapped the table with his gavel and rose to address his fellow directors. Instantly the room was silent again as the tomb. One might have heard a pin drop, so intense was the attention. All eyes were fixed on the chairman. The air itself seemed charged with electricity that needed but a spark to set it ablaze.

Speaking deliberately and dispassionately, the master dissembler began.

They had all listened carefully, he said, to what had been stated by previous speakers. The situation no doubt was very critical, but they had weathered worse storms, and he had every reason to hope they would outlive this storm. It was true that public opinion was greatly incensed against the railroad and, indeed, against all organized capital and was seeking to injure them through the courts. For a time this agitation would hurt business and lessen the dividends, for it meant not only smaller annual earnings, but that a lot of money must be spent in Washington.

The eyes of the listeners, who were hanging on every word, involuntarily turned in the direction of Senator Roberts, but the latter, at that moment busily engaged in rummaging among a lot of papers, seemed to have missed this significant allusion to the road's expenses in the District of Columbia. Ryder continued:

In his experience such waves of reform were periodical and soon wear themselves out, when things go on just as they did before. Much of the agitation doubtless was a strike for graft. They would have to go down in their pockets, he supposed, and then these yellow newspapers and these yellow magazines that were barking at their heels would let them go. But in regard to the particular case now at issue—this Astoria decision—there had been no way of preventing it. Influence had been used, but to no effect. The thing to do now was to prevent any such disasters in future by removing the author of them.

The directors bent eagerly forward. Had Ryder really got some plan up his sleeve, after all? The faces around the table looked brighter, and the directors cleared their throats and settled themselves down in their chairs as audiences do in the theater when the drama is reaching its climax.

The board, continued Ryder with icy calmness, had perhaps heard and also seen in the newspapers the stories regarding Judge Rossmore and his alleged connection with the Great Northwestern Mining company. Perhaps they had not believed these stories. It was only natural. He had not believed them himself. But he had taken the trouble to inquire into the matter very carefully, and he regretted to say that the stories were true. In fact, they were no longer denied by Judge Rossmore himself.

The directors looked at each other in amazement. Gasps of astonishment, incredulity, satisfaction, were heard all over the room. The rumors were true, then? Was it possible? Incredible! Investigation, Ryder went on, had shown that Judge Rossmore was not only interested in the company in whose favor as judge of the supreme court he had rendered an important decision; but, what was worse, he had accepted from that company a valuable gift—that is, \$50,000 worth of stock—for which he had given absolutely nothing in return unless, as some claimed, the weight of his influence on the bench. These facts were very ugly and so unanswerable that Judge Rossmore did not attempt to answer them, and the important news which he, the chairman, had to announce to his fellow directors that afternoon was that Judge Rossmore's conduct would be made the subject of an inquiry by congress.

Ryder sat down, and pandemonium broke loose, the delighted directors tumbling over each other in their eagerness to shake hands with the man who had saved them. Ryder had given no hint that he had been a factor in the working up of this case against their common enemy, but the directors knew well that he and he alone had been the master mind which had brought about the happy result.

CHAPTER III.

AS the supreme reward of virtue the good American is promised a visit to Paris when he dies. Those, however, of our sagacious fellow countrymen who can afford to make the trip usually manage to see Lutetia before crossing the river Styx. Most Americans like Paris—some like it so well that they have made it their permanent home—although it must be added that in their admiration they rarely include the

Frenchman. For that matter, we are not as a nation particularly fond of any foreigner, largely because we do not understand him, while the foreigner for his part is quite willing to return the compliment. He gives the Yankee credit for commercial smartness, which has built up America's great material prosperity, but he has the utmost contempt for our acquaintance with art and no profound respect for us as scientists.

The logic of this position, set forth in Le Soir in an article on the New World, appealed strongly to Jefferson Ryder as he sat in front of the cafe de la Paix in Paris, sipping a sugared vermouth. It was 5 o'clock, the magic hour of the aperitif, when the glutton taxes his wits to deceive his stomach and work up an appetite for renewed



He sat in front of the Cafe de la Paix in Paris.

gorging. The little tables were all occupied with the usual before dinner crowd.

[Continued next week.]

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CONTEST NOTICE

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Roseburg Or. June 12, 1907.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Edwin E. Stillwell, contestant, against homestead entry No. 13335, made October 6, 1903, for the NW 1/4 of Section 25, Township 29, S. Range 15 W., by Robert A. Dusk, contestee, in which it is alleged that said Robert A. Dusk has wholly abandoned said tract and changed his residence therefrom for more than two years since making said entry and next prior to the date herein; that said tract is not settled upon and cultivated by said party as required by law; that said absence was not due to employment in the military or naval service of the United States in time of war, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on July 30, 1907, before C. T. Blumenthal, Notary Public, at his office at Bandon, Oregon, and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on August 17, 1907, before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Roseburg, Oregon.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed June 10, 1907, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by one and proper publication.

BENJAMIN I. EDDY, Register.

Notice of Street Improvement

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Town of Bandon, Coos Co., Oregon, by order duly passed on the 25th day of June, 1907, and entered in the Journal of its record for that day, proposes and hereby gives notice of such proposed to improve, grade, repair, replank, and reset sidewalks to be laid upon the following named streets, within the limits of the Town of Bandon, to-wit: Fourth, Bluff, Coquille, Pine, Spruce, Pioneer, the Extension of Pioneer, the County Road, known as the Plank Road, and in the Woodland Addition known as Abernathy Avenue, Columbia Avenue, Little Street, known as Pacific Avenue and First Street, said improvements being more specifically described as follows:

1. The said Board proposes to build a sidewalk on the North side of Fourth Street, beginning at the west line of intersection with Spruce Street, westward to the termination thereof, being the west line of intersection with the County road running North East and South West, and continuing on the West side of said County road to the South line of the Chris Rasmussen property.

2. Also to build a sidewalk on the East and West side of Bluff Street, beginning at its South line of intersection with Fourth Street continuing Southward to the point where Bluff Street diverts East, and from said point of diversion, said sidewalk to continue upon the West side of said Street, to the South line of intersection with Coquille Street.

3. Also to build a sidewalk on the South side of Coquille Street, in South Bandon Addition to said Town, beginning at the West line of intersection with Bluff Street (prolonged), continuing thence Eastward to Spruce Street.

4. To build a sidewalk upon the East and West side of Pine Street, beginning at the South line of intersection with Fourth Street, continuing Southward to the intersection of said street with Spruce Street.

5. To build sidewalks upon Spruce Street as follows: On the East side thereof, beginning at the North line of intersection with Fourth Street, continuing Northward to the North line of the Tupper property; also on the West side of said Street, beginning at the South line of intersection with Fourth Street, continuing Southward to and even with the Presbyterian parsonage; also on the East side of said street, beginning at the south end of the present sidewalk, continuing southward to the Horsfall property, thence continuing on the South side of said Street, to its intersection and merger with Pine, and diversion Southward, and from such point, to build a sidewalk upon the East and West side of said Street, to and even with the South line of said Horsfall property.

6. To build a sidewalk upon the East side of Pioneer Street and upon the East side the Extension of Pioneer Street, beginning at the South line of intersection with Fourth Street, continuing Southward to the terminal thereof.

7. To build a sidewalk on Wharf Street upon the East and West side thereof, beginning at the South line of intersection with Third Street, in the original Townsite, continuing Southward to the terminal thereof.

8. To build a sidewalk on the West side of the Street commonly known as the County plank road, known in Woodland Addition also as Abernathy Avenue, beginning at the South line of intersection with Third Street, in the original Townsite, continuing Southward on said side of said Street or road to the North line of intersection with Sixth Street, in said Woodland Addition.

9. The said Board proposes to survey and establish a regular and uniform grade for that portion of Columbia Avenue, between the North line of its intersection with First Street and the South line of intersection with Sixth Street, and to grade the said Avenue for the whole width thereof in accordance with the grade so established.

10. To survey and establish a regular and uniform grade for that portion of Little Street, otherwise known as Pacific Avenue, between the South line of intersection with Atwater Street, continuing Southward to the South line of intersection with Sixth Street, and to grade the said street or avenue for the whole width thereof in accordance with the grade so established.

11. Also to establish a regular and official grade upon First Street for that portion between the East line of intersection with Wharf Street, continuing Eastward to the East line of intersection with Homer Street, and upon such portion to reconstruct the sidewalks, and to replank the same, for the whole width thereof, where the same is not in accordance with regulation, with 4 inch plank.

12. Also upon First Street between the West line of intersection of said First Street, and Pacific Street, continuing Westward to the East line of intersection with Spruce Street, to survey and establish a sidewalk grade.

It is furthermore proposed that all sidewalks so built, shall conform to the following specifications: Three stringers, 3x4 or 6 inches, that all planking shall be 1 1/2 inch thickness, and that all walks shall be at least 4 feet wide.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That not less two-thirds of the property owners on the respective street or streets and avenue or avenues, shall file a written protest with the Recorder of the said Town of Bandon within 10 days from the final publication hereof, which said publication will be the 11th day of July, 1907, remonstrating against the proposed improvements, then an ordinance will be passed by the said Board, appropriating funds for the construction of such sidewalks on the respective streets and avenues, and for grading and planking the respective streets and avenues as designated above, and said ORDINANCE WILL FURTHERMORE PROVIDE for the assessment on the adjacent property owners of the respective streets or avenues for all such work or construction on the respective streets or avenues, and for carrying out said work in accordance with law.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 1907.
C. K. AARDE,
Recorder of the Town of Bandon.

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