

# SERIAL STORY

## The Isolated Continent

A Romance of the Future

By Guido von Horvath and Dean Hoard

Copyright, 1918, by W. G. Chapman in the United States and Great Britain.

### CHAPTER I.

#### Astra's Inheritance.

A gloomy foreboding of approaching disaster hung over the capital.

Hannibal Prudent, ex-President of the United Republics, was dangerously ill. The people walked quietly and talked in subdued tones, as though they feared to disturb him.

Hannibal Prudent, the scientist whose invention had saved the country, was eighty-four years old, but he had carried the weight of his years lightly and had worked unceasingly. On a flying trip to Labrador he had contracted a severe cold which developed into pneumonia. Just as the disease was nearing the crisis a curious thing happened, something that had not happened in the half-century which had passed since he had put an isolator between America and the other continents.

A wireless message had come from Europe.

The great man had been awakened by the ringing of the 4,500-mile bell on the small electro-stylograph that stood by his bedside. To his astonishment the indicator that automatically registered the sending station pointed to Berlin, Germany. He stared in amazement at the instrument and saw spark following spark on its small, square, milk-glass plate.

He put forth a shaking hand and adjusted the receiving horn. The electric sparks then formed a picture—a moving picture that talked! A man in military uniform looked at him from the picture and a clear voice with a German accent said in English: "Professor Prudent!"

"Yes, sir, Hannibal Prudent." The figure bowed reverently. "I am Count Von Werdenstein. As you see, I have bored through your isolating rays with my sparks of electricity. This is the beginning. The next time I talk to you there will be nothing to keep the fleet of consolidated Europe from entering the ports of the Americas. I am giving you this warning because I admire you—you were my honored father's teacher."

The figure on the plate bowed again, then vanished.

Hannibal Prudent gazed curiously at the glass of the apparatus, trying to believe that he had experienced a vision; but when he saw the words of Werdenstein clearly printed by the magnificent instrument on a sheet of paper by the stylus he faintly. The vitality that could combat physical suffering could not bear the menacing news that the little instrument had brought.

When he opened his eyes his daughter Astra stood at the bedside and the house physician was counting his pulse. The scientist still held Werdenstein's message crumpled up in his old fingers—the message that conveyed such crushing news. Impatiently, as one who knows his time is short, he asked to be left alone with his daughter. As the door closed behind the doctor he cried out in agony: "All my hopes and all my life work are threatened. I had hoped that here where I had established it peace would abide—peace that has spread comfort, contentment and happiness over our continent; peace that created and conserved fortunes greater than any ever before known to man; peace that permitted developments so high that even the boldest would not have dared to dream them fifty years ago."

"All this will go," his voice faltered for a moment. "Read this." As the startled girl read Werdenstein's messages he cried bitterly: "They want vengeance." He felt his own pulse, watching the large chronometer on the wall opposite his bed. "My will is in the safe in my library. Here is the key. The Europeans think that the Z-ray alone hinders them from entering our beloved country, but they are mistaken." He gasped for air. "I will defy them again. Astra, write what I have to say."

His breath came gaspingly; his clear eyes grew dull; a whirlwind seemed to possess the great brain that had been able to create peace in America for half a century.

Astra watched him with apprehension; she did not speak, as she realized that it would be a waste of time, and the short time left her adopted father was precious indeed. The old man rested a moment, then seeing Astra was ready, he said:

"When the isolation has been broken through or destroyed (both are possible, if one knows how), then new isolations must be created, one ray after another. We can gain a year that way, and that year must be used to prepare for war. War! That horror will destroy the work of a peaceful country. But we are forced to it; we will win, and peace will come for-

ever. Plans are ready for a new craft that will be invincible. Navigation of the air will solve the problem." His voice had grown so weak that Astra could hardly understand him, but she had taken every word down in shorthand.

"Don't grieve when I am dead. I died in peace. All my life I have been a true apostle of that gospel—but hurry! Hurry to the island of—" He drew himself up with his last strength; an inarticulate sound came from his lips; he beckoned to Astra from the pencil and paper and forced his shaking hand to write one word: "Clyrnyth," ran the zigzag lines of the shaking old hand, then the pencil fell from his fingers. Calm stole over the face of the man who had lived for one great idea, "Peace." He had found it, but his last words advised "War." Astra looked sorrowfully at her father. Tears filled her eyes as she called the doctor.

But Hannibal Prudent had reared her, and after the first burst of grief she remembered her duty. Taking the message from Europe and her notes, she hurried to her father's library. With a steady hand she transcribed her notes on the typewriter, but when she came to the word written by Hannibal Prudent, "Clyrnyth," the tears came again.

She could not understand the meaning of the command: "Hurry to the island of Clyrnyth." Was there an island of that name? She had never heard of it.

While Astra was in her father's library the sad news spread through the city. The stylographed extras began to appear at the automatic news stand. The short paragraph telling about the wireless message from Germany alarmed everybody.

More than fifty years before, in the year 1919, the now prosperous and peaceful United States had experienced a great disaster. New emigration laws and the new tariff had precipitated an international conflict that had involved not only the leading European monarchies but Japan and China as well. The ultimatum came from the East and the West. Europe was mobilizing on one side; the orientals on the other; all the nations against one. The question was whether it was best to bow before the will of the united enemy, or to lose independence. Congress seemed unable to decide.

The time given the United States for consideration was rapidly passing. The President was in despair. He gave orders to the fleet and land forces, but in his heart he cried, "What is the use?"

The night before the day of final answer he stood before the window, looking hopelessly into the starless darkness. Suddenly a man's head appeared at the window. The next moment the intruder jumped into the room. Before the surprised executive could cry out the intruder exclaimed:

"For three days I have tried to gain an audience with you, but in vain. Since I know that tomorrow will be too late I have forced my way to you." "What brings you here?" the President asked.

"My desire to save my country, to repulse the enemy. I can defend the entire continent against any invasion. Don't think me mad—I am not; I have invented the greatest power. To be exact, I have discovered it. A man who solves one of nature's problems is not an inventor but a discoverer. My discovery is an invisible power that resists all attack. Don't doubt me before I have finished. I will create

around me a circle that will defend me and will ask you to try to touch me."

He took a small instrument from his pocket, and stepping back from the president, the continued:

"When I motion toward you try to touch me."

He manipulated springs on the instrument, then signaled to the President. The executive stretched his arm toward him. An invisible force bent first his hand, then his arm back. He could not touch the man from any side.

After several experiments the astounded President was convinced of the importance of the discovery.

The intruder removed the force from about him and told of his plans to save the country. They talked until long after the first rays of the morning sun shone through the windows.

When the midnight visitor had finished his confidences the President's face was brighter than it had been for many days. The careworn expression was gone. He escorted his visitor to the gate, putting his hand familiarly on his shoulder as he bade him good morning.

The midnight visitor was Hannibal Prudent, the greatest scientist of the new world.

The President spent the morning preparing dispatches for the representatives of the European and oriental nations. He gave them twenty-four hours to order their vessels from American waters, advising them that if they had not obeyed the order in that time the United States would not be responsible for their future.

The new laws that had been formulated by the United States government and which were so objectionable to the powers would stand, and the United States would see that they were enforced.

Three days later Hannibal Prudent created a current of the impenetrable Z ray that isolated the whole American continent from the rest of the world.

Fifty years had passed; fifty years of independent peace. The Central and South American republics had joined the great United States and a confederacy was formed that secured their independence and the freedom of commerce.

Those fifty years of peace had created wealth, happiness and a scientific progress such as had never been equaled.

Now the man whose genius had made this possible lay dead, and his last words urged preparation for war.

Astra sat before her father's desk; before her lay a document that demanded careful study—the will of her adopted father.

She did not look at the long list of bonds and stocks; she did not care for the vast wealth that from now on would belong to her alone. The paper she was reading contained far-reaching instructions, prophetic insight into the future. The last page was a farewell letter:

"My dear Astra, knowing that I am nearing the limit of human existence, and that rest awaits me after a long and full life, I set down such facts as will enable you to make the best use of the knowledge that I, the old tree, wish perpetuated in the blossoming plant; it is you who will be responsible for the coming prosperity of the country. God gave you a broad mind that has developed to its fullest capacity under my care and I am proud of you, dear girl; you are chosen to do great things for your country and humanity."

"There is only one man on earth who is worthy of calling you wife; you will find this man, or he will come to you, as you two are ordained mates, comrades."

"When I go to my rest I feel that I will leave turbulent times behind me. My Z ray will not remain impenetrable forever, and when the day comes that it is destroyed, the country will need a brave, competent man to drive away the dreadnaughts. He will come, as he has been fully instructed. Trust in him, my dear daughter."

"This country was not developed to be blasted by war; the adventures of warfare and strife are not for it. Our Creator selected this country to promote freedom, equality and science. Thundering cannons shall never more sound on our shore; our land shall be a land of love and peace."

"I have labored hard to spread this gospel. After I am gone the task is your inheritance, dear Astra."

"Before I die I will tell you where to find the one man competent to assist you and will further instruct you in your duty."

"God bless you, my daughter, you have ever been my joy and pride."

Astra put down the paper, and, starting out into the beautiful garden, murmured to herself: "Hurry to the island of Clyrnyth! Clyrnyth! I have never heard of the place, and he left no specific instructions."

The entrance of John, a faithful old servant, woke her from her reveries. With shaking lips he announced that a reporter for the Hourly Stylograph wished to see her.

Folding up the documents, Astra locked them in the safe, then said, "I will receive him at once in the green room."

The servant left. Astra hesitated for a moment, then she said aloud, with quiet determination:

"Father, I will accept the inheritance. I will wait for him to come and help me; I will take the burdens on my shoulders and faithfully carry out your teachings. God help me to!"

### CHAPTER II.

#### Nominees of the Continentals.

Morning found the great capital in the splendor of deep mourning. The elevated sidewalks, the roof gardens, the terraces were crowded by people dressed in black. The newspaper roof terraces were especially crowded; there, on immense opal glass plates sparks of electricity printed the latest news and illustrated the happenings of the moment with moving pictures.

On the main tower of the new capitol building (a colossal creation of pure American architecture) the Bell Orchestra, comprising four hundred players, played the march of "Coming Peace," a march that thrilled the hearts with its melody, that elevated the souls with thoughts of Heaven, that drove away evil thoughts with its exquisite harmony and foretold the happiness awaiting beyond. Resonant horns spread the melody farther and farther, until it soothed the mourning people in neighboring towns.

The fourteen-hour San Francisco limited had just slid into the central depot of the Tube Lines; the broad glass doors were flung open and the passengers hurried out.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

He was the Hungry One.  
"What's the trouble at your house?"  
"Hunger strikes for a new bonnet."  
"Your wife refuses to eat?"  
"No; she refuses to cook."

## TURKS INVADING BULGARIA

### King Ferdinand Implores Intervention by European Powers.

London—Without declaring war and apparently trusting that the jealousies of the powers will prevent any European interference, Turkey has begun an invasion of Bulgaria. The Turks have occupied and burned the villages of the Jamboli road and are reported to have pushed their reconnaissances as far as Philippopolis. No information has been received as to the strength of the forces which have crossed the frontier. Probably they are comparatively small bodies of Enver Bey's cavalry. Some skirmishing has occurred on the frontier but the Bulgarians have offered no serious resistance.

In Vienna it is reported the Turks have crossed the Bulgarian frontier in three places, roughly coinciding with the routes followed by the Bulgarians southward last October, namely, by the Maritza and Tundja valleys, as well as in the direction of Jamboli. King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, summoned the representatives of the powers to the palace at Sofia and addressed them as follows:

"I am anxious to protest before Europe against the outrageous action of the Turkish army, which not content with violating the treaty of London, is engaged in invading the old territory of my kingdom in the direction of Tirnova, Siemenli and Jamboli, and is giving itself up to the most frightful excesses, burning villages, massacring the inhabitants and spreading panic throughout Thrace."

"I cannot believe that the great powers who signed the diplomatic act now being trodden under foot can regard with indifference what is being done today, and remain impassive under the insult placed upon them, and to the crimes of which we are the victims."

"In the distress in which the Bulgarian nation finds itself, I have appeared on its behalf before the representatives of civilization and beg Europe, through you, to put an end to the sufferings of people fleeing before the return of their old oppressors."

It appears doubtful whether any armistice will be signed at Nish until peace preliminaries have been arranged. Both Greece and Serbia are throwing obstacles in the way of an armistice, while pushing their attacks in the direction of Sofia. It is reported that Roumania has warned Serbia and Greece that if they continue their advance the Romanian army will be ordered to occupy Sofia first.

### NEW SCHOOLS ARE DEFENDED

#### United States Board of Education Says Modern Way Is Best.

Washington, D. C.—Aroused by criticism of present-day educational methods in the public schools, the United States board of education has come to the defense of the system. It declared that the three "R's" were being taught as thoroughly as was the case in the "little red schoolhouse," and that they were being taught more scientifically and with a modern view to the needs of the individual child.

"We frequently hear that there are 'too many subjects and too many fads and frills,'" says the report, "and hence neglect of the 'three R's.'"

"As a matter of fact, the system of today is immeasurably ahead of the school system of the past. The growth has been steady."

### PROBES HIGH COST OF LIVING

#### Question of Minimum Wage Investigated in Washington.

Olympia, Wash.—An investigation of the cost of living in this state will be one of the first matters taken up by the Industrial Welfare commission of Washington, as a basis for fixing minimum wages for women and minors. This was decided at the organization meeting.

The three women members of the commission, Dr. Therese McMahon and Mrs. Jackson Silbaugh, of Seattle, and Mrs. Florence H. Swanson, of Raymond, although serving without pay, volunteered their services to obtain statistics from employers. This work will be taken up at once in addition to the cost-of-living probe. The commission resolved to do without a paid secretary as long as possible, to make the \$10,000 appropriation last as long as possible.

#### Boise Branch Discussed.

San Francisco—At a conference between President Sproule, of the Southern Pacific and President Mohler, of the Union Pacific, the main objects for discussion were plans for building a branch line from some point on the Central Pacific to Boise, Idaho, and line and service changes occasioned by the separation of the Southern and Union Pacific systems. The line to Boise is planned to meet the competition of a similar branch from Winnemucca, Nev., which the Western Pacific has under consideration.

#### Two Killed at Initiation.

Birmingham, Ala.—Donald A. Kenney, a chauffeur, and Christopher Gustin, an iron moulder, were killed by an electric shock at the hall of the local order of Moose. An initiation was in progress and it is said that an electric shock was a part of the ceremony. In some way not yet explained Kennedy and Gustin, it is said, received too much current.

## OREGON STATE NEWS IN GENERAL

Industrial and Educational Items of Interest To Oregonians

### OREGON FISH WINS FRIENDS

#### Hot Weather and Tariff Take Back Seat for Salmon.

Washington, D. C.—Herman Wise can retain the postmastership at Astoria as long as the Democrats retain control of the government if he will occasionally ship a fresh salmon to his friend, Will R. King, with instructions to serve it to the party leaders in Washington. Several days ago Mr. King received a big 50-pound king salmon from Mr. Wise, and, like the crafty politician he is, he called in all the Democratic national committee-men then in Washington, together with other prominent Democrats in official life, and gave them a taste of the fish of which Oregon is justly proud.

Fresh salmon is something rarely enjoyed by the people of the East, and invariably when salmon from the Columbia are shipped in ice to Washington, and served as they are served at home, they caused a distinct sensation.

Mr. King's big salmon made such a hit that those attending his salmon luncheon at the University club forgot, for the time being, that Secretary Bryan was out on the lecture platform earning extra dollars; they forgot, for a time, that President Wilson is running his patronage dispenser on low gear; they forgot tariff embarrassments, and even forgot the hot weather. Everybody present talked fish and ate fish.

### ASTORIA IS WATCHING MILK

#### Short-Weight Butter Charge Made Against One Dealer.

Astoria—It is not improbable that there is to be a big milk shakeup in Astoria that will put a stop to some flagrant abuses that are said to have been going on among the dairies in Clatsop county, both as to adulteration of milk and the unsanitary condition of the stables.

For the past few days a special deputy in the office of the state dairy and food inspector has been in Astoria investigating several cases. He has obtained a confession from one dealer; has evidence against several others, and within a few days will lay the cases before the prosecuting attorney.

Short weight butter again has made its appearance in Astoria, and one meat dealer has been brought to task. The Astoria creameries are not under investigation, but the butter shipped here from other parts of the state has been found short weight. Charges of selling adulterated milk will be preferred against two dealers of Seaside.

### COAST LINE WORK STARTED

#### Grants Pass and Crescent City to Be Linked by Railroad.

Grants Pass—Actual construction work has begun on the new California, Oregon & Eastern railway, with terminals for the present at Grants Pass, in Josephine county, Oregon, and Crescent City, in Del Norte county, California, on the coast, 20 teams and men being on the grade.

The Public Utilities commission of the city council has contracted with the Interstate Construction company for the completion of the road to Wilderville, ten miles from Grants Pass, within 90 days, and work is to be continuous and uninterrupted. The first unit of the road will be municipally owned, the construction company agreeing to take city bonds to the extent of \$200,000 in payment of construction. A contract has also been made with the California people composing the construction company above named whereby they may buy within three years' time the municipally-constructed and owned portion of the road, together with the terminals at Grants Pass.

A large order has been placed with the steel mills for 90-pound steel rails and with local lumber mills for ties. The road will be completed to Kerby, in the heart of the Illinois valley, 30 miles from Grants Pass, within 15 months, the winter to be consumed in tunneling through Hayes Hill, 18 miles from Grants Pass, which will be pierced by a half-mile tunnel.

#### "Pure Wool" Mostly Cotton.

Portland—"Pure wool socks," said the sign in the window of Nathan Bialkin, dealer in men's furnishings, at 64 North Sixth street.

"Seventy-five per cent cotton," was the result of the analysis of the hosiery in question submitted as evidence in Circuit court.

#### "Ten dollars fine," said Judge Morrow.

The case against Bialkin was brought last December by the law and ethics committee of the Portland Ad club under the state law against fraudulent advertising.

This makes the fifth conviction in such cases recently. Two were secured under the new city ordinance.

#### Sunstroke Is Fatal.

Quincy—Within a mile of where Adolph Barnick received a sunstroke recently, Jacob Neubrich, a farmer, suffered a stroke Saturday, dying Sunday. He leaves a large family. Barnick is still unable to take nourishment or speak, but can move one hand, showing that the paralysis is not complete. The heat although not so intense as in former years, following so closely upon cool weather, is given as the cause for the disastrous effects of the sun's rays.

#### Clatsop Cruising Progresses.

Astoria—The Nease Timber company has reported the cruise on 130 sections of timber land in Clatsop county, making 220 sections that have been reported thus far. The company has about 100 more sections cruised and 40 men are now engaged in the work. As an illustration of how the new cruise is comparing with the amount placed on the former assessment rolls, on 21 sections, picked at random, the new cruise shows 420,947,000 feet of timber, while the old estimate was 189,000,000 feet.

#### \$20,000 Orchard Sold.

Hood River—The largest cash sale of orchard real estate made in the valley this year was completed here when Mikko Udelious, a wealthy wheat grower of Wisconsin, purchased through Roberts & Simms, the 40-acre tract belonging to the William Ehrick estate. The consideration was \$20,000. The orchard land is located in the Odell district and comprises 35 acres in bearing trees.

### NEW CATALOGUE IS ISSUED

#### Interesting Data in Agricultural College 1913 Prospectus.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—A number of new courses in forestry and mining, as well as a re-organization of the work offered in animal husbandry, are announced in the new catalogue of the Oregon Agricultural college. The 428-page book also carries full information regarding the buildings, equipment and student enterprises, as well as the faculty directory and roster of students.

There are nine new courses offered by the school of forestry, all covering practical phases. These courses are outlined to cover existing lumbering conditions in the West.

In the department of animal husbandry two additions have been made to the faculty, and the work so apportioned that each instructor will specialize in a separate branch.

Last year's enrollment at the Oregon Agricultural college, as given by the new catalogue, was 2431 students. In the lists are found residents of 39 states and territories, as well as 62 whose homes are in Armenia, Canada, Hawaii, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Poland and Russia.

On Tuesday, September 23, the fall recitations will begin. The Friday, Saturday and Monday immediately preceding are set apart for registration and entrance examinations.

### ASTORIA IS WATCHING MILK

#### Short-Weight Butter Charge Made Against One Dealer.

Astoria—It is not improbable that there is to be a big milk shakeup in Astoria that will put a stop to some flagrant abuses that are said to have been going on among the dairies in Clatsop county, both as to adulteration of milk and the unsanitary condition of the stables.

For the past few days a special deputy in the office of the state dairy and food inspector has been in Astoria investigating several cases. He has obtained a confession from one dealer; has evidence against several others, and within a few days will lay the cases before the prosecuting attorney.

Short weight butter again has made its appearance in Astoria, and one meat dealer has been brought to task. The Astoria creameries are not under investigation, but the butter shipped here from other parts of the state has been found short weight. Charges of selling adulterated milk will be preferred against two dealers of Seaside.

#### Morrow Stock Is Prolific.

Ione—That Morrow county does not have to take a back seat among the stock and swine counties of Oregon has been proved by various ranchers in this vicinity. Milt Morgan, who lives just below town, has a sow that gave birth to a litter of 16 pigs this week, which totals 83 that she has raised in one year.

Mrs. A. Mason, who farms a creek ranch above town, has a cow that deserves a pension. In 1910 this cow raised twin calves, and in 1911 one more. In 1912 she again brought twins and each of her heifers raised a calf. This year the old cow and both the oldest heifers each raised one calf. Ten calves originating from one cow in four years' time is a record that is hard to beat.

#### Industrial Education Grows.

The current session of the Oregon Agricultural summer school at Corvallis emphasizes the remarkable growth made within the last decade by the industrial features of education. Ten years ago it would have seemed absurd for a teacher to study such things as bread-making, sewing, basket-weaving and similar useful arts, but at the present session, according to Professor E. D. Kessler, head of the industrial education department, practically every teacher is taking industrial courses, either in whole or in part.

#### Klamath Has Good Roads.

Klamath Falls—The roads to Crater Lake are now in fair condition and the summer travel has begun in earnest. The roads to Lakeview, Bonanza, and Merrill, are like boulevards and the road to Ager, Cal., is in good condition, so that automobiles have no trouble in traveling anywhere in the country.

#### The County court recently bought two steel bridges to replace the wooden structures at Keno, across the Klamath river, and near Klamath agency across Williamson river.

#### Poultry Farm Is Started.

Eugene—Entering the poultry industry on a large scale, M. J. Thompson and R. R. Bly are erecting pens to care for 6000 hens on a 30-acre farm near Eugene. Mr. Thompson, who has exhibited prizewinning stock at Northwest poultry shows for several years, will have the superintendency of the farm. It is intended to market the poultry and eggs in Eugene and Portland.

#### Orchardists Object to Rate.

Salem—Declaring that the Central Railway of Oregon charges an excessive rate for shipping fruit between Cove and Union, a number of orchardists of that territory have appealed to the State Railway commission for relief. The rate is 20 cents for 100 pounds and for common freight 8 cents.