

GOOD ROADS,
GOOD HOMES,
BEST CHEESE

CLOVERDALE COURIER.

The Nestucca Valley First,
Last and all the
Time.

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PEARL of the ARMY

Guy W. McConnell

SYNOPSIS.

Capt. Ralph Payne, U. S. A., is given secret plans of defense to deliver to Panama. He attends a ball at the Granada embassy with Colonel Dare's daughter, Pearl. As a climax to a series of mysterious incidents he is arrested for treason. The ambassador of Granada is found dead and the plans missing from Payne's coat. Major Brent, Payne's rival, enters into suspicious negotiations with Bertha Bonn. Pearl Dare follows a burglar from her home, is drugged and left in a field and later overhears plotters, who almost capture her. Payne is sentenced to life imprisonment. A train carrying Pearl, Bertha Bonn and Payne on his way to prison is wrecked and Pearl sees Payne's lifeless body at her feet. She meets a mysterious stranger who offers her his services to trace the traitors. She learns that he has the plans. Pearl finds Adams in Washington and learns of his peculiar actions. Adams warns Senator Warfield that he is in danger from a ring of spies. While they talk the senator's office is attacked by conspirators. Bertha Bonn asks Pearl to hand Adams a package which proves to be the plans. They escape and Adams steals the belt from her. Brent confronts Adams communicating with the enemy. Bertha Bonn warns Pearl against her professed friends. Pearl is captured again by the Grandadians. She is rescued by Adams. Disguised as his brother she accompanies him into the camp of the conspirators, and poses as a chemist. They are recognized; in the fight Adams saves Pearl from harm. Colonel Dare arrives with American troops. The black scarf appears. Pearl and Toko follow Adams on his way to an appointment at the chemical building. All three fall into the hands of the "alliance." Adams is arrested by counterfeiter soldiers who also take Pearl with them.

NINTH EPISODE

Greed Vs. Patriotism.

"If what this officer says is true, the Foreign Alliance must have tricked us by a bold ruse!" declared the astounded colonel turning to Major Brent. "How many of our men are here?"

"We had three full automobiles, sir!" cried Brent, shaking like a leaf. "There were four automobiles," quickly announced Toko.

"Then the fourth automobile belonged to the Foreign Alliance!" stormed the colonel. "Here's a pretty how'd do, major. Garbed as American soldiers these masqueraders got into this building among our own men and made away with my daughter and Orderly Adams and—" biting his moustache viciously. "—if this note be true, and not a trick of Adams,

A Story of "America First," Unmasking America's Secret Foes

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with chemicals which will decipher the Canal defense plans. Why, I even made their getaway easy by ordering Adams' arrest and turning him over to their make-believe corporal!"

He spun around and glared at the junior officer responsible for this startling information. "Have the police been notified?"

"The police are on the lookout—city and suburban both; a hundred secret



Pearl Overcomes the Cabin Boy.

service men in plain clothes are searching every alley and stable. It is regrettable that the rogues got a good start."

"How did you collect this information so quickly?" interrogated the colonel.

"I beg your pardon, sir!" apologized the under-strapper. He stepped back and whistled up the basement stairs. Several soldiers and a woman came down.

Brent smothered an oath. The woman was Bertha Bonn.

"Miss Bonn!" faltered Colonel Dare, taken by surprise.

She was pale and nervous. "I thought you had departed. Otherwise I would have come to you directly. Your orderly—"

"Adams?"

"—Adams," she sobbed; "was to have met me in front of this building at ten o'clock. He told me there

might be trouble. I was on hand to keep our engagement when Adams was arrested. I knew something had gone amiss. He leaned out of the automobile as it passed mine and told me to inform you that your daughter and he were in the hands of the Foreign Alliance, and Miss Dare tossed this box to me." She handed a little round box to the open-mouthed colonel.

"I told the first officer in sight," Bertha concluded, pointing to the beaming young lieutenant.

"The wafers!" ejaculated the colonel, after a hasty examination of the interior of the box.

Here was a mystery altogether confusing and alarming. If Adams was the Silent Menace, why did he send Bertha Bonn to tell him who Pearl's captors were?

Colonel Dare gave the box of wafers to Major Brent. "Guard these until I can take them in person to the war department." Then he drew the major aside and whispered: "Get at the bottom of this Bertha Bonn and Adams matter. We'll give her free rein."

In the seclusion of the basement stairs the desired opportunity for Brent to question Bertha came.

"What is there between you and Adams?" he whispered, sullenly.

"A great deal, major," she responded, enigmatically. "You surely know that—you who are completely in his power!"

Brent shivered. He had felt for a long time that he would eventually be dominated by Adams whether he willed it or not.

"You have revealed our secret!" he continued, furiously. "You have ruined me!"

"Oh, no, major, I haven't ruined you. You are ruining yourself. Adams did not learn of our relations from me and there is one way to silence him."

She paused and looked cautiously about. They were alone. She whispered: "Let me have those wafers. I will return them to Adams. You cannot afford to defy him; nor can I, just yet." There was an uneasy note in her voice.

"I can't do that, Bertha," groaned Brent in a despairing way. "It would be traitorous. I would be suspected the moment I tried to account for the loss."

"They must be returned to him," Bertha insisted in menacing tones. "I could not do otherwise than deliver them to Colonel Dare, if only to throw suspicion off Adams. But it was not intended that they should remain in his hands."

Brent guided her deeper into the shadows of the stairs. "I don't understand," he whispered, nervously. There was a spark of resentment in his attitude, too. "I ought to denounce you as an agent of the Foreign Alliance and the Silent Menace's tool—"

"You won't!"

"—or at least be rewarded by you—"

"In what way? Your miniature in my pocket, for example?"

"Yes," dully.

"Adams has it, Thornton," was the startling information he received.

"If I refuse to give the wafers up?"

Without replying Bertha reached in his coat pocket, took the box of wafers and hid them in her mesh bag.

"That settles that!" she exclaimed with a sigh of relief.

In another moment she was in her taxi, riding rapidly away.

Without looking to right or left, Brent went back to Colonel Dare.

It was now nearly midnight. The colonel's men had searched the chemical building from top to bottom and found nothing disturbed. Colonel Dare went to the war office to report and Major Brent escorted the soldiers back to the barracks to hold himself in readiness for further orders.

"How about the wafers?" Brent hazarded at their parting.

"Keep them, but be on your guard!" were the colonel's instructions. "The Silent Menace no doubt thinks that I have them. Let us see if he shows his hand to either of us. Bring them to the war office when you are called."

Brent was hardly able to repress his relieved feelings at that.

The president called a secret cabinet meeting at the White House as soon as Colonel Dare's report was delivered to him. Here the colonel narrated every detail of what had happened.

"Where did Miss Dare get the wafers? From Adams, do you suppose?"

This was the question asked by the harried president over and over.

"If from Adams, where did he get them?" was Colonel Dare's counter

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question. "That is, if he is not the Silent Menace."

"Are you sure they are the wafers?" suddenly queried the president.

"We only suppose that they are the wafers we need," replied the colonel, thoughtfully. "Shall I send for Brent who is guarding them?"

It was so arranged and the president's secretary was dispatched to do the telephoning.

During the interim, a hush fell upon the group.

"If every daughter in our American homes was like Miss Dare," remarked the president putting a kindly hand on the colonel's shoulder for he saw how depressed and worn the officer was and divined his thoughts; "what a nation of men we would be! If the man Adams is all I really think him somehow in spite of appearances to be, Miss Dare will be returned to us alive and unharmed. And now—" he stopped short. His secretary entered the room all excited.

"Major Brent has been drugged and the wafers stolen from him!" he an-

fore he could give warning, which was not true, for Brent had drugged himself.

The colonel believed him.

"Any news from Pearl?" Brent inquired anxiously.

"Toko has telephoned that the automobile has been found, ditched in the Potomac river," the colonel replied, frowning in his effort to force a hopeful smile. He went back to his house shortly after that and hid the Canal defense plans in his safe.

Morning dawned and found Pearl Dare and Orderly Adams prisoners in a bay freighter at anchor off the Packet Line docks in the Washington river harbor. During the night this vessel among all others had been investigated by the capitol police. At that time the prisoners were not on board. They were concealed in a dingy upstream not far from where the ditched automobile was found later. But immediately the coast was clear the dingy was propelled to the water side of the steamer and Pearl and



Pearl Raised Her Hand to Dash the Bomb on the Floor.

Adams were hustled into separate sections of the hold.

For a moment no one moved or spoke. Then the president adjourned the conference with a gesture of hopelessness.

"You better send the Canal defense plans here," said he with quiet emphasis to the secretary of war; "for they will now be sought. I'll lock them up in the White House safe, or better still, let Colonel Dare lock them in his private safe at home where they would be least suspected to be."

"America, gentlemen," he continued; "is in the grip of a secret foe. The first army is on the ground. We must obliterate it before the army of the invasion arrives. For you, colonel, I have the highest regard. The entire country will be your everlasting debtor if you succeed in unmasking our enemies."

The president walked out of the room amid profound silence, his head bowed.

Sometime before daybreak Colonel Dare visited his major. He found him in bed attended by a staff physician and a nurse. Brent told him, as best he could in his nauseated condition, that he had been attacked on the street outside the barracks when the box containing the wafers was stolen. Chloroform had been administered, which was the truth. His assailants, there were two he said, got away be-

Adams were hustled into separate sections of the hold.

Adams was searched from head to foot for the box of wafers. When they were not found on him, attention was turned to Pearl who refused to permit anyone to touch her. She blurted out the truth. But she would not divulge the name or describe the appearance of Bertha Bonn under all manner of threat, and when Adams was questioned about this he professed ignorance.

Subsequently a platter of breakfast was sent to Miss Dare by a galley boy who seemed to be deaf and dumb, and who behaved queerly. The moment he appeared Pearl seized him, found a bowie knife and a loaded revolver concealed in his clothes, gagged and bound him before he could make a disturbance and thus armed hurried over to that part of the ship's bottom, where Adams was confined. She freed the surprised orderly and briefly explained her escape. Then she gave him a start.

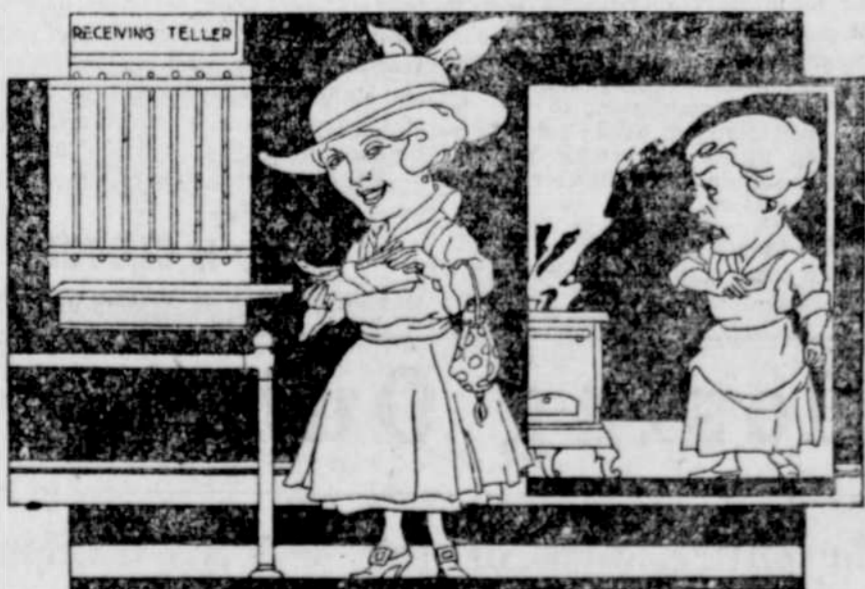
"Strip that lad and give me his clothes!" she whispered in a matter of fact manner.

An amused expression crept into Adams' face. "Ain't you afraid to let me loose? I'm 'sposed to be that there Silent Menace, ain't I?"

"Don't be exasperating!" she ex-

Continued on last page.

The Bank Is Safer Than the Stove.



SCARCELY a week goes by that the newspapers don't print a story of some foolish housewife who thoughtlessly started a fire in the stove where she had stored away the savings of a lifetime. Money placed in a stove or in a teapot or under a carpet does not draw interest. It is not safe from thieves. It is not safe from fire. Money deposited in a bank draws interest. The steel vaults in our bank are impervious to fire and thieves. Bank your money with us.

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