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The Trail of the Dead:

THE STRANGE EXPERIENCE
OF DR. ROBERT HARLAND
By B. FLETCHER ROBINSON and J. MALCOLM FRASER
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CHAPTER XXV.—(Continued.)

I was nervous that night, and about one in the morning I thought I heard a noise in the passage outside. Very cautiously I opened my door and peeped out. My father's door was the next to mine and between the two lay Reek's in a great fur rug that he had. He waved his hand to me with a little smile, as if I were a child from the street, and he had good courage. I kept undisturbed after that.

It was as we took our place for a twelve o'clock dinner that we received the second telegram. This is how it read:

"If danger presses, communicate fully with me. I am at the house. If the message, and will be at Thuis by three. Should be at Pontreusa at one o'clock tonight. Order rooms—Graden."

I called in Reek's at once, for he had refused to have his meals with us, though my father had invited him. He looked very grave, indeed, when I translated the message.

"You sent no telegram, Franklin?"

"No, Henry Reek."

"No, you, men Henry?"

"No, Reek's, no," said my father.

"Then someone has sent it in your name. It does not like it. It would seem a trap."

I stared at him with fear gathering about my heart. Who had done this thing? And why?

"It would seem, Franklin, some scheme of the old grey devil. What he intends, I cannot guess; nor can I think how he discovered that we are here. But there is a thing plain to do. I will start for Thuis, to warn those who are hastening to us."

"I will come with you, Reek's," said my father.

"You know that cannot be. I have no fear, with Reek's to protect me. I will go."

Love gives great strength to woman and I spoke as one who expects to be obeyed. It was much trouble to persuade them; yet from the first I did not mean to yield. My dear father had barely recovered from the fatigues of his long journey; to let him take this drive of forty miles would be the gravest folly. Yet it was not right that we both should leave our duty to a man of whom we had no real knowledge. Mr. Harland and his cousin had endangered their lives to save us; now that peril seemed to be closing round those gallant gentlemen, we could not both sit idle. Plainly it was I who should go.

And so at last it was agreed between us.

It was shortly after one o'clock when Reek's and I rumbled off in our post-carriage across the snow-bound slopes of the valley to Pontreusa. There began a climb of dreary mountains. Up and up we went, the turn after turn through forests of larch and pine, with the Engadine growing wilder, and its houses sinking into specks beneath us. At last we reached the crest of the Albulas Pass, and trotted forward over the snow levels till we plunged down the steep descent of the rock-strewn Devil's Hall—so the mountaineers named it of old. The sun had set ere we reached Pontreusa, and the moon had swung from the eastward when Bergun was reached. Half an hour later we had passed through the forest into the shadows of that black and dangerous gorge—the Bergun's. Fresh snow had clogged the road on the Albulas, and we had made slow progress, to our increasing anxiety. It was now impossible that we should reach Thuis before they started; but we had calculated that near Tiefenastell we might meet them. That the snow had not fallen so deeply on the lower slopes, and that they had moved more quickly, we could not know.

We had passed the last bend that turned upward, leading in a long slope to the entrance of the gorge, when we stopped suddenly. Reek's sprang out, clambering after, I found him by the driver, who was pointing with his whip up the road. The man had been warned to give us notice of any approaching vehicle.

"It is a post-carriage," he said. "They have stopped to breathe their team."

The road had been carved and pitted along the cliff side, and where we stood under the mighty walls of rock, the shadows were gathered darkly. To our left the rugged barrier rose dimly into the night, clear only where its battlements broke the pearl of the sky at some great height above us; to our right, a low stone coping hid the grim outlines of the precipice. But fifty yards up the slope the cliffs fell back, and the road stepped out into the silver moonlight, mounting the hill, through a border of stunted trees, in a simple curve, as white and well defined as a chalk mark on a black board. On its crest I could see the patch on the snow carpet that marked the waiting carriage. It was, perhaps, the half of a mile away.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The patch of shadow moved slowly forward. Suddenly, though distance hid the suggestion of the scene, the pace increased. Faster and yet faster it swept down the road; in the white silence of the night the muffled hoof-beats came thumping to our ears. The carriage grew clearer. We could see how it rolled; it might have been some great ball that was bounding towards us.

For some moments we had stood motionless, helpless, before this sinister apparition. It was Reek's who first understood it; it was he who seized me by the arm, screaming in his excitement to run—to run down the way we had come. And in my panic I obeyed, flying wildly towards the sharp bend in our rear. I had almost reached it when there came a thought to me that justified our remembrance of my own safety, turning me back, with heaven knows what anxiety in my heart. Robert and Sir Henry—could they be the travelers that came rattling to almost certain death?

The runaways had but one chance—

SESSION WILL BE BUSY.

Congress May Make Changes in Several Important Laws.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The indications are that the short session of congress that opens December 3 and expires by adjournment March 4 next, will not go down in history because of any particular achievement. It will be a busy session; all short sessions are, for three months is none too much time in which to perfect and pass the regular appropriation bills. Aside from this legislation, little of national importance is likely to result.

Following out recommendations made by the president in his annual message, the house may frame, and possibly pass, some sort of bill limiting inheritance; some bill proposing changes in the rate law, the pure food law and the anti-trust law may be proposed and discussed, but nothing of this character is likely to get through the senate. Nor is there the slightest possibility of the passage of even report of a tariff bill. These problems are of too great importance to be disposed of in a short session, but a limited discussion may serve to bring the various topics fairly before the country, and may result in legislation at the long session of the next congress. This was the course followed in the case of the railroad rate bill, and it proved to be a wise move on the part of the house leaders.

GOLD IN THE WRECK.

Eastern Men Secure Concession from Mexico for Recovery.

Mexico City, Nov. 27.—A special to El Herald from Guadalajara says: R. F. Richardson, a capitalist of Pennsylvania, and C. Johnston, a Delaware man, have secured from the Mexican government a concession for the recovery of the gold that still remains in the hull of the Golden Gate, the American ship that was beached on the coast of Colima, a short distance from Manzanillo, in the winter of 1861-62. Mr. Richardson is now in this city. Mr. Johnston recently left San Francisco for the scene of the wreck, accompanied by divers and other assistants.

The Golden Gate was on the way from San Francisco to New York, and carried nearly \$1,500,000 in gold coin, destined for New York banks. While heading north toward Manzanillo fire broke out aboard the vessel, and in an attempt to save the passengers the ship was run ashore. However, nearly 200 persons were either rescued or drowned. Of the amount aboard the ship, between \$800,000 and \$900,000 was recovered some time later. It is believed that there still remains in the hull of the vessel at least \$500,000 in gold.

WOULD BUY CABLE.

Telegraph Company Seeks to Acquire Government Wire in Alaska.

Portland, Nov. 27.—If congress will authorize the sale of the government cable which reaches from Seattle to Seward, with branches to Juneau and Skagway, the North American Telegraph & Cable company will lay another wire from Seward to Vladivostok. The company stands ready to purchase the government cable, together with 1,400 miles of land lines, for \$2,180,000, which represents the actual cost. To extend the cable to Vladivostok will cost approximately \$1,500,000.

J. T. Flynn, secretary of the North American Telegraph & Cable company, is in Portland on route from Seattle to Washington, where he will represent his company at the meeting of the congress, when a bill will be introduced to authorize the sale of the cable. Mr. Flynn was in the real estate business in Portland about 16 years ago. He is a guest at the Oregon hotel, where he is meeting many of his former acquaintances.

"Probably the most perfect wireless telegraph stations in the world are in Alaska, and are managed by the government," said Mr. Flynn. "The stations in mind are on Norton sound, and one is at St. Michaels and the other at Safety Harbor. They are separated by a distance of about 38 miles. They are operated by soldiers, and the last season they transmitted 1,260,000 words without a single error."

Inspectors Not Pleased.

Mexico City, Nov. 27.—The Herald today says: "Unless there is a change of the plan of the committee which is now here to represent the conductors of the Mexican Central in their application for a revision of the wage scale, the management will be reminded that the system of retaining train inspectors is not pleasing to the men who run the train. The increase in wages to be asked for the passenger conductors will be from \$250 to \$300 a month. A proportionate increase will be asked for the freight conductors."

Alarmed by Mail Robberies.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 27.—The minister of the Interior issued orders that henceforth the postoffice shall only forward money within the Russian empire by means of money orders. The practice of sending currency in the register, and mail will be abandoned because of the almost daily robbery of mail trains by bands of armed revolutionists, whose booty from this source of procedure has reached such proportions that the government has to repay by installments.

Herds Lost in Blizzard.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 27.—A special to the Times from Amarillo, N. M., says that the great and sheep misers of the Sacramento mountains in New Mexico lost from 60 to 80 per cent of their herds during the recent blizzard, which, it is said, is the heaviest loss ever experienced by the industry in the West.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

STATE LAND SALES LESS.

Ninety Per Cent Decrease During the Last Two Years.

Salem—Sales of state land during the years 1905 and 1906 amounted to only 47,037 acres, or about 11 per cent as much as in the preceding two years, when the sales aggregated over 233,000 acres. This decrease of nearly 90 per cent is due chiefly to the act of the legislature in raising the price from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre, but is also due in part to the course of the State Land board in beginning prosecution of speculators who were purchasing state land in violation of law.

The decrease in receipts is not so great, however, for those who bought land prior to the advance in price have been making payments from time to time. The total receipts for the two years ending September 30, 1906, were \$473,808.90, as compared with \$670,964.58 for the preceding two years. The great decrease in receipts resulting from the diminution of sales will be apparent in the next two or three years, when deferred installments on previous sales will have been paid, and there will be little money due on sales made during 1905 and 1906. Nearly all sales of state land are made on the installment plan, the purchaser taking three or four years to make his payment.

The falling off in business in the state land office in the last two years is evident not only in the decrease in acreage sold, but in the number of certificates of sale and deeds issued. During 1903-04 there were issued 1,745 certificates of sale and 1,912 deeds. During 1905-06 there were issued only 238 certificates of sale and 987 deeds. The amount now due on outstanding certificates of sale of school land is \$460,212.70, or only about half the amount due two years ago.

Elk Protected by Law.

Salem—Overlooking an act of the special session of the Oregon legislature in 1903, quite a number of people have gained the impression that after January 1, 1907, it will be lawful to kill elk, and it is known that several hunters are planning to go to the mountains elk hunting after that date. But the legislature of 1903 anticipated a lapse of the law protecting elk by enacting a law which extends the protection until September 15, 1907, and after that time elk may be killed only from September 15 to October 15, and only one in a season by any person.

Spraying Decision Satisfactory.

McMinville—Nothing recently has given the conscientious fruit growers of this county more real joy than the decision of the courts giving to fruit inspectors the right to compel spraying. Yamhill has many fine orchards that are kept in excellent shape, but the old time moss covered orchard is also here in great numbers and the wormy product of it the perfect spoil the good name of the former. The big red apple will grow to perfection in the rich soil of Yamhill if only given a chance.

Test Barley in Valley.

Salem—In order to make brewing a higher standard and to encourage farmers to raise it more extensively, the officials of the bureau of agriculture have outlined a series of experiments with at least 10 different varieties of high grade seed, to be carried on in different sections the coming season. The Willamette valley has been selected as one of the most likely spots where the grain can be grown to perfection.

To Probe Edward's Charges.

Pendleton—It is announced here that an inspector will be sent by the Indian department to Pendleton to investigate charges recently made against Major Edwards, agent of the Umatilla reservation. Edwards is charged with refusing to have extensive dealings with the Commercial National bank, depository for Indian funds here. The inspector is expected the latter part of this month.

Linn Men Sell Timber Too.

Albany—A timber deal whereby 5,000 acres of splendid timber land in Linn county is to be transferred to John A. Merritt, of Niagara, N. Y., and Eastern associates, is said to be practically consummated. Merritt, who was third assistant postmaster-general under President McKinley, is now in this county inspecting the land and its outlets.

Light and Power for Vale.

Vale—The city council has granted a 20-year franchise to M. G. Hope, I. W. Hope and R. E. Fulton, to put in an electric light and water system for Vale. The work is to commence on the electric light plant within four months and to be completed within one year. It is understood that the company is ready to expend \$100,000 on the enterprise.

Shut Down From Lack of Cars.

Astoria—The Central Door & Lumber company, of this city, has closed down its plant temporarily. The cause of the shutdown is the inability to secure cars in which to ship the product, and the ruling high prices for logs. The mill will probably resume operations shortly after the first of the coming year.

REFORM SCHOOL'S NEW NAME.

Superintendent Looney Renews Recommendation to Legislature.

Salem—That the name of the State Reform school should be changed to State Industrial school is the recommendation made by Superintendent N. H. Looney of that institution in his biennial report. This recommendation has been made before and two attempts have been made in the legislature to secure a change in the name, but in each instance the effort failed. Mr. Looney also recommends the establishment of a state school for wayward girls and the construction of a cottage for small boys so they may be kept by themselves and not be thrown into association with larger boys. He asks for an appropriation of \$60,800 for the ensuing two years. The appropriation for the past two years was \$53,600. The number of boys in the school is 168.

Chaplain E. W. St. Pierre recommends that the maximum age at which boys may be committed to the reform school be raised from 16 to 18 years, so that some boys now being sent to the state penitentiary may be sent to the reform school and their reformation made more probable, but he would first provide buildings in which the older boys may be kept separate from the younger. Speaking of the proper care of the institution, he says that "the reform school should never be made a convenience to anybody. Criminally negligent parents should not be accommodated by being relieved of their children's support and care without being made to pay for it."

Good Showing of Athena Mill.

Athens—An idea of the magnitude of the business done at the flouring mills of the Preston-Parton Milling company at this place may be had from the records of the company's office, which show that 206 cars were shipped over the Washington & Columbia River railroad from January 1 to November 1 of this year. Up to October 1, 269 cars were shipped over the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company's road, making a total of 686. This mill turns out about 650 barrels of flour every 24 hours when running full capacity.

Granite Has Money in Bank.

Granite—Granite probably bears a distinction that no other town in the state can boast of. The city has several hundred dollars in the treasury, with all the funds paid, and yet there has never been a cent of tax levied for the maintenance of the city government since the incorporation of the town. The installation of electric lights is one of the improvements being considered by the city fathers and one that will probably be put into effect soon.

Oregon Goat Show at Dallas.

Dallas—The eighth annual Oregon goat show will be held in Dallas Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 9, 10 and 11, 1907. These dates were decided upon by the goat breeders at a meeting held in Brown's hall last week. A large number of farmers were in attendance and an enthusiastic meeting was held. It was decided to hold a three days' show this season, instead of a two days' exhibition as heretofore.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 50¢ to 70¢ per box; choice to fancy, 41¢ to 50¢; grapes, 60¢ to 1.25 per crate; pears, 75¢ to 1.25; cranberries, 10¢ to 12.50 per barrel; persimmons, 41¢ to 50¢ per box.

Vegetables—Cabbage, 1 1/4¢ to 1 1/2¢ per dozen; cauliflower, 41¢ to 25¢ per dozen; celery, 70¢ to 80¢ per dozen; lettuce, head, 20¢ per dozen; onions, 10¢ to 12 1/2¢ per dozen; bell peppers, 5¢; pumpkins, 1 1/4¢ per dozen; spinach, 45¢ to 60¢ per box; tomatoes, 30¢ to 50¢ per box; parsley, 10¢ to 15¢; squash, 16¢ to 18¢ per pound; turnips, 90¢ to 1.00 per sack; carrots, 90¢ to 1.00 per sack; beets, 1.25¢ to 1.50 per sack; horseradish, 90¢ to 1.00 per pound; sweet potatoes, 26¢ to 28¢ per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 75¢ to 1.00 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon, Burbanks, fancy, 75¢ to 1.00; common, 60¢ to 70¢.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25¢ to 27 1/2¢ per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35¢ to 37 1/2¢ per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 11¢ to 11 1/2¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 11¢; spring, 11¢ to 12¢; turkeys, 16¢ to 17¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20¢ to 22¢; geese, live, 10¢; ducks, 14¢ to 16¢.

Wholesale—Club, 64¢; bluestem, 66¢; hay, 60¢ to 65¢; red, 61¢ to 65¢.

Oats—No. 1 white, 24¢ to 25.50; No. 2, 23¢ to 24¢.

Barley—Feed, 22¢ to 25¢ per ton; brewing, 22¢ to 25¢; rolled, 23¢.

Rye—41¢ to 43¢ per cwt.

Corn—Whole, 23¢ to 25¢; cracked, 26¢ to 28¢ per ton.

Hay—Valley Timothy, No. 1, 11¢ to 12¢ per ton; Eastern Oregon Timothy, 11¢ to 12¢; clover, 17¢ to 18¢; alfalfa, 8.50; grain hay, 47¢ to 50¢; alfalfa, 11¢ to 15¢; vetch hay, 47¢ to 50¢.

Veal—Dressed, 5 1/2¢ to 8 1/2¢ per pound.

Beef—Dressed, 16¢ to 20¢ per pound; corned, 4¢ to 5¢; country steers, 5¢ to 5 1/2¢.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8¢ to 9¢ per pound; ordinary, 6¢ to 7¢.

Pork—Dressed, 6¢ to 8¢ per pound.

Hops—11¢ to 14¢ per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13¢ to 18¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢ to 21¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 26¢ to 28¢.

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