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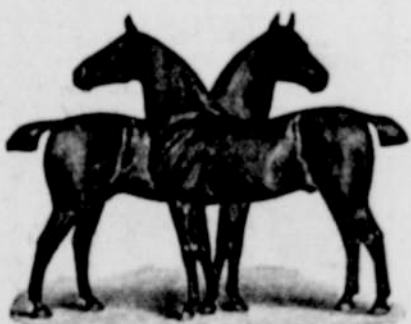
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To the Traveling Public

I have leased the Hotel Scio and intend to take care of my patrons in the best possible manner. My tables will be supplied with the best the markets afford and my rooms and beds are clean and wholesome. My charges to both transient and regular boarders are and will be as reasonable as conditions will allow. Special attention given to commercial men.

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22k Bridge Teeth	4.00
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Good Rubber Plates	5.00
Best Red Rubber Plates	7.50
Painless Extr. Fee	.50

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N I MORRISON



The Honorable Senator Sagebrush

By

FRANCIS LYNDE

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CHAPTER XVII

THE ROORBACK.

IT was on this same Monday morning, day of preparations for political battles, that Mr. Richard Gantry, answering a telephone call on the long distance line, hastily closed his desk and left his office to make his way by quiet side streets to the Railway club garage. Kittredge's car was in its place over one of the pits, and the chauffeur was polishing the brass.

"Get her in commission in about three shakes of a dead lamb's tail, Habersstro," said the traffic manager briefly. "I've got to go somewhere in a hurry. Do you want an order from your boss?"

The chauffeur shook his head. "No; I guess it's all right, if you say so, Mr. Gantry," he replied. And a little later he had taken on his supply of gasoline and the motor was whirling merrily under the hood.

"Where to?" he asked when Gantry climbed to the mechanician's seat beside him.

"Out of town to the north by the quietest streets you can find. Then take the Quarretaro county road. We are due at Cliffcrest inn just about fifteen minutes sooner than we can get there."

No more than a quarter of an hour was consumed before the car had wound its way to the summit of the mesa and was wheeling to a halt before the entrance of a small summer resort hotel perched among the pines at the edge of the canyon cliff. There were no guests on the hotel verandas, and Gantry knew that the inn's season had closed two weeks earlier. Yet he sprang from the car and went in as if he expected to find the place open and occupied.

It was open, and in the cozy guests' writing room at one of the tables drawn up before a cheerful wood fire sat the vice president of the Transcontinental seemingly in solitary state. But in the room beyond a battery of telegraph instruments clicked busily, and a close observer would have remarked that the small table before the fire was fitted with a row of electric call buttons.

Cliffcrest inn, deserted of guests, had been transformed into the hidden headquarters in the field of the commander in chief.

"Well!" said the great man, looking up quickly when Gantry entered. "You took your time about getting here. Whose car is that?"

"It is Kittredge's," said the traffic man.

"Better tell him to get one that will make time," was the impatient comment. Then: "Sit down and bring the situation up to date, and talk fast. Time is precious today."

Gantry drew up a chair and gave a hasty resume of the political situation. Everything had been done that could be done, and so far as the traffic manager knew the railroad forces were ready to meet the issue at the polls. At one point, and only one, the defenses were weak. "It's that Gryson deal," he explained. "It has been rather awkwardly handled, and if Evan Blount should happen to stumble upon it any time during the day I shouldn't like to answer for the consequences."

"You ought to have made sure by getting him safely out of the way," was the rasping comment of the great man. "You are just common bunglers—you and Kittredge—both of you."

Gantry's gesture was of humorous despair.

"There's a limit, Mr. McVickar. We couldn't very well garrote him and carry him off to a dungeon. We have tried every way we could to muzzle him. So far as I know, he hasn't been doing anything incendiary since you were here last week, but I had to put one across on him about the equalizing of the freight rates."

"What did you do?" snapped the vice president.

(Continued next week)