

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Japan has accepted, in principle, Bryan's plan for universal peace.

A fight between bears in the Portland zoo resulted in the death of one of them.

Indications are that the 1913 hop crop of Oregon may not equal that of last year.

The senate finance committee has proposed to take meats and flour from the free list.

General Joseph B. Leake, one of the youngest brigadier generals of the civil war, is dead.

Barbers and bootblacks of Boston are on strike and many non-union shops have been stoned.

A freshman at Yale university died from an injury to the spine, caused by a baseball several years ago.

An accident to Tacoma's water system left the higher portions of the city without water for several days.

Sensors defend the actions of tariff lobbyists, saying they know nothing of the alleged "insidious" methods.

Early returns of Portland's city election give Albee a safe lead for mayor under the commission form of government.

The White Lumber company, of Pendleton, Or., whose plant was burned recently, will rebuild immediately on a much larger scale.

The International Bible Students' association declares that hell and hell-fire are but myths, and requests ministers to cease using the "offending words."

Representative McCormick, National Progressive leader, served notice on Governor Dunne, of Illinois, that he would attempt to hold up all the administration measures until the woman's suffrage bill is put to a vote in the house, where it is on third reading.

Sensors and representatives are tired of repeated allegations that they hire newspaper men to write their speeches and correct their spelling, and an old-fashioned spelling bee is to be held between them.

Representative Johnson, of Kentucky, after being unanimously elected chairman of the Democratic congressional committee, sprang a surprise by asking unanimous consent to withdraw his name, which was granted.

The house is puzzled over the problem of equalizing the duty on cattle, wheat, oats, and their products.

The Union Pacific board of directors has offered two new plans for the unmerging of the Western railroads.

A postoffice investigating committee attacks ex-Postmaster General Hitchcock's administration as one of false economy.

Residents of Copperfield, Ore., worked all night to subdue a fire which did \$30,000 damage to the business part of the town.

The senate has ordered an inquiry into Wilson's tariff lobby charges.

Many witnesses testified as to Roosevelt's sobriety during his hunting trip in Africa.

Judge Gary, chairman of the Steel corporation, says he believes the corporation has set a good example for the business world.

Two girls aged 18 and 20 are walking from Detroit, Mich., to San Francisco, "for the fun of it." One man has bet \$500 they will be married before they get back.

PORTLAND MARKETS

Wheat—Track prices: Club, 93¢; 94¢; bluestem, \$1.01@1.02; forty fold, 94¢@95¢; red Russian, 92¢; valley, 94¢.

Oats—No. 1 white, 92¢ per ton; stained and off grade, less.

Corn—Whole, \$28.50; cracked, \$29.50 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$24.50@25 per ton; shorts, \$26.50@27; middlings, \$31.

Barley—Feed, \$26.50 per ton; brewing, nominal; rolled, \$28.50@29.50 per ton.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy choice, \$18@19 per ton; alfalfa, \$13@14.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.25 per sack; new, \$1.25.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 75¢ per dozen; asparagus, Oregon, 75¢@1.25; beans, 10¢@12¢ per pound; cabbage, 24¢@3¢; cauliflower, \$2 per crate; eggplant, 25¢ per pound; head lettuce, \$2.50 per crate; peas, 70¢@8¢.

Potatoes—Burbank, 40¢@50¢ per hundred; new, 21¢@24¢ per pound.

Green Fruit—Apples, nominal; strawberries, Oregon, \$1.75@3.25 per crate; cherries, 12¢ per pound; gooseberries, 20¢@4¢ per pound.

Poultry—Hens, 15¢@15½¢; broilers, 25¢ turkeys, live, 19¢@20¢; dressed, choice, 25¢; ducks, old, 16¢@18¢; young, 24¢@25¢; geese, young, 14¢@16¢.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, case count, 19¢ per dozen; candied, 20¢.

Butter—City creamery butter cubes, 28¢ per pound; imprints, 29¢@29½¢ per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 11¢@11½¢ per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 13¢ per pound.

Hops—1912 crop, 9¢@14¢ per pound; 1913 contracts, 12¢@13½¢ per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 10¢@16¢; valley, 14¢@16¢ per pound; mohair, 1913 clip, 30¢@33¢.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$8.25@8.50; good, \$7.75@8.25; medium, \$7.25@7.75; choice cows, \$7.25@7.50; good, \$6.50@7; medium, \$6.00@6.50; choice calves, \$6.00; good heavy calves, \$6.50@7.50; bulls, \$6.25@6.50.

Hogs—Light, \$5.25@5.50; heavy, \$7.00@7.50.

Sheep—Wethers, \$5@6; ewes, \$3.85@5; lambs, \$5.55@7.

FORESEE BIG CROP INCREASE

Survey of Northwest Spells Prosperity for Everyone.

Seattle, Wash.—Reports from nearly 500 bankers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana insure an era of great prosperity for the Pacific Northwest, according to information in the Trade and Crop Bulletin of the Seattle National Bank.

The bank has issued a review of this kind every summer for some years, and the publications have been accepted universally as standard and authoritative.

The most important reports contained in the review, as affecting conditions in Washington, are summarized as follows:

"Forward again is the ringing note in the reports just gathered from the Pacific Northwest. We have received from nearly 500 banks reports covering every county in the states of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, a territory running over 1000 miles east and west, and 700 miles north and south. The products of this great domain cover almost everything which is grown in the temperate zone, and, with few exceptions, the reports indicate a great increase in productiveness throughout.

"In the analysis of replies lumber leads with regard to the proportion of increase, as compared with decreases indicated. There are 75 predictions for increase to every prediction for decrease. In logs there are 20 predictions of increase to one of decrease. In hay, 15 to 1; livestock, 10 to 1; dairying, 6 to 1; oats, 5 to 1; wheat, 3 to 1; small fruit and vegetables, 3 to 1, and fruit 1 1/2 to 1. In the case of wool, the percentage of increase predicted is slightly in excess of the percentage of decreases predicted.

"From Northwestern Washington logs and lumber production are predicted to be 25 per cent higher; from Skagit county, 25 per cent; from Lewis county, 40 per cent; from King county, 50 per cent; from Stevens county, 75 per cent on lumber.

"The production is predicted to be in Okanogan county 25 per cent greater; King county, 25 per cent; Benton county, 25 per cent; Cowlitz county, 25 per cent; Yakima county, 10 per cent; Whitman county, 10 per cent.

"As to livestock, Cowlitz county predicts 25 per cent increase; Yakima county, 15 per cent; Lincoln county, 10 per cent; one section of Benton county, 100 per cent; Stevens county, 50 per cent; Spokane county, 10 per cent.

"We have abundant evidence of the fact that the raising of livestock is on the increase, this being part of the tendency to diversify farm products.

"From Lincoln county: 'The prospects for a large crop of wheat and other small grains in the Big Bend country to this date, May 20, are the best promising they have had in the last ten years; the average of winter wheat is fully 50 per cent greater than was ever sown before in this section of the country.'

"From a report from a highly valued source, which has covered the entire Palouse country, we have the following: 'The condition of winter wheat in the Palouse country, a district comprising the greater part of Whitman county, Washington, and Latah county, Idaho, as a whole is reported as average, ranging from 5 per cent above in western part to 5 per cent below in the eastern. The acreage is slightly increased.

"Spring wheat on about 75 per cent of the usual acreage is nicely up and of healthy growth, except in the eastern part of the Palouse, where seeding and growth have been retarded by late rains. There is a material increase in the barley acreage.

"Oats occupy about half the acreage of former years. Timothy, alfalfa and clover show rank growth on an increased acreage.

"Oregon reports by counties indicate a big increase in dairying, in hog and cattle raising. In the wheat-raising counties of that state the gain in grain yield this year is estimated in some quarters as high as 50 per cent.

"Idaho reports indicate prosperity in both wheat and fruit raising. The Snake river country seems to be especially prosperous, due to big yields of wool, grain, hay and fruits."

Demand for Children Big.
Springfield, Ill.—The committee investigating home-finding institutions in Illinois reported to the lower house of the legislature as follows: "In most of the home-finding institutions the demand for children has been greater than the supply. The societies started out to find homes for homeless children, but they are now seeking children for childless homes. The moment a society so forgets its purpose, its license should be cancelled, as it is a standing menace to the homes of the poor and ignorant."

Japanese Tide Varying.
San Francisco.—The peak of Japanese migration to this country, as shown by the statistical abstract of the United States, compiled by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce and just received here, coincides with the surges of political feeling in California. Thus, the highest number of arrivals in any one year as 30,226 in 1907, at the time of the agitation suppressed by President Roosevelt. Again in 1912, before the enactment of the alien land law, the excess of arrivals over departures was 4617.

Small Cities Affected.
Harrisburg, Pa.—A senate bill which, if enacted, will establish a commission form of government in third-class cities of Pennsylvania, was passed finally in the house of representatives by a vote of 147 to 14. The bill was sent to the senate for concurrence in amendments. The bill abolishes the present form of government and vests municipal affairs in the hands of a mayor, and four commissioners.

Daniels to Visit Pacific Coast.
Washington, D. C.—Secretary Daniels, who returned Wednesday from a trip which included the dedication of the Maine memorial in New York, plans to leave in June for a tour of inspection to the Pacific Coast.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

General News of the Industrial and Educational Development and Progress of Rural Communities, Public Institutions, Etc.

LONG CREEK ROAD USABLE

Expense of Construction of 30 Miles Estimated at \$50,000.

Prairie City.—The preliminary survey made by William Narkus and E. C. Jones, under direction of the citizens of this place, for a new road extending through the mountains in a westerly direction to Long Creek, a distance of 30-odd miles, was completed Saturday. The viewers pronounce the project of building this road entirely feasible at a reasonable cost.

The object in building this new road is to open up to Prairie City trade the entire Northwest section of Grant county, a trade that has hitherto gone out by way of Astoria by means of a much longer haul. Work on the road will begin at once and be rapidly pushed to completion.

The expense of construction, about \$50,000, will be borne in large part by the county. It is reported that the Sumpter Valley Railway people will aid the enterprise in every possible way.

CUTWORMS BECOME EPIDEMIC
Condon Merchant Looks for Little Effect From Austrian Beef.

Portland.—The late spring has caused an epidemic of cutworms in the wheat fields of Eastern Oregon, according to Lester Wade, a young merchant of Condon, who is in Portland for several days on a business trip. The same reason is responsible for a shortness of range grass and the feeding of cattle, he says, is progressing slowly. In spite of these drawbacks, however, Mr. Wade is optimistic that the summer will be successful from an agricultural standpoint.

Mr. Wade, who conducts a retail store in Condon, is also an extensive feeder of cattle at his ranch. He looks for little material effect from the importation of Australian and Mexican cattle for beef, declaring the native animals far superior for the fancy trade at least.

ORENCO SCHOOL IDEA NOVEL
Children Have Elaborate Flower Gardens on Vacant Blocks.

Orengo.—Most cities and towns are satisfied when they have prepared school gardens for their children, but not so with Orengo. In addition to having school gardens of early and late vegetables at their homes the children have started an elaborate flower garden on a vacant block.

Plans for this garden were prepared free of charge by Charles P. MacDougall, a landscape architect of Portland. Winding walks are laid out between the beds of flowers with borders of tall growing flowers around the outer edges. Although the entire school has only about 100 pupils of all grades, about 75 are engaged in this flower garden work.

Along the front of the block in letters 10 feet in height, and extending 250 feet parallel with the Oregon Electric line are laid out in flowers "Orengo School Gardens."

Cherry Fair Dates Set.
Salem.—A movement was inaugurated at a big mass meeting under the auspices of the Board of Trade and Illicee Club, to have the most elaborate cherry fair this year ever held in Salem. The fair will be July 4 and 5, and a Fourth of July celebration will be held in connection with it.

The management of the Chautauque, which starts June 3, also will co-operate with the fair management.

Fred S. Bynon was named president; Joseph Baumgartner, secretary, and Harley White, treasurer, of the fair organization.

Rate Fight Is Planned.
Astoria.—Dr. Alfred Kinney, president of the committee of direction of the Port of Astoria, has announced the appointment of the executive board of 21 members, which will have direct charge of the energetic campaign for equitable rail freight between this port and interior points. The committee will also direct the efforts for the immediate dredging of a 40-foot channel to the sea, and the erection of modern port-owned docks, for the construction of which \$800,000 in bonds are to be issued.

Land Case Is Important.
Lakeview.—Testimony was taken here this week in what promises to be a series of the most important land cases ever tried in Oregon. It is the case of the government vs. O. E. Hoellner, of Astoria, whose desert claim in the Christmas Lake country has been contested on the ground that Mr. Hoellner has not complied with the requirements of the desert land law. It will be contended that instead of clearing and attempting to irrigate the claim, Mr. Hoellner merely burned the fallen timber from the land.

Pure Seed and Disease Laws.
Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.—The new laws on pure seed and on contagious diseases in Oregon are the subjects of important articles in the new issue of the Oregon Countryman, just off the Oregon Agricultural College press. Dr. James Withycombe designates the new livestock sanitary law as one of the best efforts for construction legislation enacted in this state for some years. Prof. H. D. Scudder urges every farmer to read the provisions of the new seed law.

Price of Wool Descends.
Pendleton.—Smyth Bros. have disposed of their Arlington wool clip to J. P. Dufour, receiving 15 1/2 cents for coarse wool and 12 cents for fine wool. The total clip was 260,000 pounds. This is one of the largest individual clips in Eastern Oregon. For a similar clip last year Smyth Bros. received 18 cents for coarse and 13 1/2 for fine wool. Tariff agitation is said to be the cause of general depression in the wool market.

WRONG CROPS ARE GROWN

Sheep, Hogs and Corn Are Natural Oregon Products.

Eugene.—Declaring that farmers in the Willamette valley can produce butter 50 per cent cheaper than can be made in New England, and that a pound of pork can be raised for the market for less than it can be raised for in the corn regions of the Middle West, Professor Thomas Shaw, agricultural expert of the Hill railroad system, told the University students that Willamette valley farmers are growing the wrong kinds of crops.

The Willamette valley, he said, is the one place in the United States where sheep can be grown to equal those of England. But instead of raising sheep, pork and dairy cattle, the farms of this district, he said, are raising hay, which can be cut, often, because of rain.

He advocated the cause of dry farming; declaring that the great barren areas of Eastern Oregon can be made fertile and farmable, and that, with dry farming as it is now being practiced in Montana, 30,000,000 acres in 14 states that are now barren may be made to raise enormous quantities of wheat. By dry farming, he declared, Montana has increased its wheat crop from 250 carloads to 20,000 carloads.

Unless this land is pressed into this use, the United States has reached its limit in wheat production, he said.

The growing of sweet clover and rape he advocated as profitable crops for Oregon, in the production of sheep, hogs and cattle.

Fish Obstructions May Go.
Astoria.—Deputy Fish Warden Larson returned last evening from a trip to the Upper Lewis and Clark river, where he went to inspect some dams that are obstructions to fish in working their way to the natural spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the stream.

He found two such dams, one located about eight miles above Stavebolt Landing and the other four miles further up. Each is an old splash dam put in by the loggers long ago, and they have not been in use for several years. Mr. Larson found that the obstructions entirely block the progress of the fish, as they are 21 feet high and there is not a sufficient flow of water over them to permit the fish to jump them. In the numerous ponds below the dams he saw large numbers of steelheads playing about, and it is said in the fall hundreds of silversides ascend the stream.

Mr. Larson has forwarded a report to the fisheries department, which is expected to take steps to have the obstructions removed.

Bad Hill Being Planked.
Cherryville.—Nearly all the planking on the Cherryville hill has been completed and with a few days more of good weather the work will be finished. This hill has been considered one of the most difficult points on the automobile road to Mount Hood.

The hotels have prepared to take care of the summer travel. The new hotel at Government Gap was finished up last week. It has 38 rooms and a dining-room for 125 persons. E. Coalmann is the Mount Hood guide, as in former years.

Cascade Locks Closed.
Hood River.—Hood River and points above Cascade Locks are without river boat transportation, all the Columbia steamers having been caught on the river, the stream running so high at the locks that the officials there dare not open them to allow the steamers to come in. If the water continues to rise and reaches a point four or five feet higher than at present the vessels can make the rapids at the locks. All of the lowlands north of the city have been flooded, and the water is higher than for five years.

Brookings to Have Bank.
Gold Beach.—Articles of incorporation of the Brookings State bank have been forwarded to the secretary of state by George D. Wood, cashier of the Curry County bank here. The \$30,000 capital stock was all subscribed. When Mr. Wood came to Gold Beach three years ago to organize a bank, he received little encouragement and could hardly get enough assistance to form a board of directors.

Oregon's Attraction Felt.
Salem.—A visit to Oregon five years ago by Mrs. Zella Nichols, then of Knox, Ind., has resulted in her becoming a permanent resident of this city. Mrs. Nichols declares that after returning home from her first visit to Oregon she was no longer satisfied elsewhere and began making plans to move to Salem, but it took her longer to dispose of her property interests in Indiana than she had expected.

Port Harrow In Use Soon.
Astoria.—The castings for the big disc harrow being built for the Port of Astoria commission to be used in improving the channel across the shoal at the mouth of the river are nearly completed and the harrow will be ready for use in a week or ten days. It is to be V-shaped with a spread of 20 feet and will have eight three-foot revolving discs.

Temperature Near 100.
Hood River.—Saturday and Sunday were the hottest days of the season here. In parts of the valley the temperature hovered around the 100 mark. The warm weather will tend to hasten the ripening of strawberries, and growers of the pickers and packers that growers can collect will be in demand during the next few weeks.

Cherry Fair Is Launched.
Salem.—Plans will be made for obtaining subscriptions for the greatest cherry fair ever held in Salem at the next meeting of the finance committee. If the warm weather continues the display of cherries will be the best ever made.

The Chronicles of Addington Peace

By B. FLETCHER ROBINSON
Co-Author with A. Conan Doyle of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' etc.
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THE VANISHED MILLIONAIRE

(Continued.)

I woke with a start that left me sitting up in bed, with my heart thumping in my ribs like a piston-rod. I am not generally a light sleeper, but that night, even while I snored, my nerves were active. Some one had tapped at my door—that was my impression.

I listened with the uncertain fear that comes to the newly waked. Then I heard it again—on the wall near my head this time. A board creaked. Some one was groping his way down the dark corridor without. Presently he stopped, and a faint line of illumination sprang out under my door. It winked, and then grew still. He had lit a candle.

Assurance came with the streak of light. What was he doing, groping in the dark, if he had a candle with him? I crept over to the door, opened it, and stared cautiously out.

About a score of feet away a man was standing—a striking figure against the light he carried. His back was towards me, but I could see that his hand was shading the candle from his eyes while he stared into the shadows that clung about the further end of the corridor.

Presently he began to move forward. The picture gallery and the body of the house lay behind me. The corridor in which he stood terminated in a window, set deep into the stone of the old wall. The man walked slowly, throwing the light to right and left. His attitude was of nervous expectation—that of a man who looked for something that he feared to see.

At the window he stopped, staring about him and listening. He examined the fastenings, and then tried a door on his right. It was locked against him. As he did so I caught his profile against the light. It was Harbord, the secretary. From where I stood he was not more than forty feet away. There was no possibility of a mistake.

As he turned to come back I retreated into my room, closed the door. The fellow was in a state of great agitation, and I could hear him muttering to himself as he walked. When he had passed by I peeped out to see him and his light dwindle, reach the corner by the picture gallery, and fade into a reflection—a darkness.

I took care to turn the key before I got back into bed.

I woke again at seven, and, hurrying on my clothes, set off to tell Peace all about it. I took him to the place, and together we examined the corridor. There were only two rooms beyond mine. The one on the left was an unoccupied bedroom; that on the right was a large storeroom, the door of which was locked. The housekeeper or kept the key, we learnt upon inquiry. Whom had Harbord followed? The problem was beyond me. As for Inspector Peace, he did not indulge in verbal speculations.

It was in the central hall that we encountered the secretary on his way to the breakfast room. The man looked nervous and depressed; he nodded to us, and was passing on, when Peace stopped him.

"Good morning, Mr. Harbord," he said. "Can I have a word with you?"

"Certainly, inspector. What is it?"

"I have a favor to ask. My assistant and myself have our hands full here. If necessary could you help us by running up to London, and—"

"For the day?" he interrupted.

"No, it may be an affair of three or four days."

"Then I must refuse. I am sorry, but—"

"Don't apologize, Mr. Harbord," said the little man cheerfully. "I shall have to find some one else—that is all."

We walked into the breakfast room, and a few minutes later Ransom appeared with a great bundle of letters and telegrams in his hand.

Ransom said not a word to any of us, but dropped into a chair, tearing open the envelopes and glancing at their contents. His face grew darker as he read, and once he thumped his hand upon the table with a crash that set the china jingling.

"Well, inspector?" he said at last.

"The little detective's head shook out a negative.

"Perhaps you require an incentive," he sneered. "Is it a matter of a reward?"

"No, Mr. Ransom; but it is becoming one of my personal reputation."

"Then, by thunder! you are in danger of losing it. Why don't you and your friend hustle, instead of loitering around as if you were paid by the day? I tell you, man, there are thousands—hundreds of thousands—melting, slipping through your fingers, every hour, every hour."

He sprang from his seat and started his walk again—up and down, up and down, as we had first seen him.

"Shall you be returning to London?"

"At the question the manager halted in his stride, staring sharply down into the inspector's bland countenance.

"No," he said. "I shall stay here, Mr. Addington Peace, until such time as you have something definite to tell me."

He stood there—a tall figure of all the respectabilities.

"The inspector here wishes you to go to London, Jackson," said the manager. "He will explain the details. There is a fast train from Camden at eleven."

"Certainly, sir. Do I return tonight?"

"No, Jackson," said Peace. "It will take a day or two."

The man took a couple of steps towards the door, hesitated, and then returned to his former place.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he began, addressing Ransom. "But I would rather remain at Meudon under present circumstances."

"What on earth do you mean?" thundered the manager.

"Well, sir, I was the last to see Mr. Ford. There is, at it were, a suspicion upon me. I should like to be present while the search continues, both for his sake—and my own."

"Very kind of you, I'm sure," growled Ransom. "But you either do what I tell you, Jackson, or you pack your boxes and clear out. So be quick and make up your mind."

"I think you are treating me most unfairly, sir. But I cannot be persuaded out of what I know to be my duty."

"You impertinent rascal!" began the furious manager. But Peace was already on his feet with a hand outstretched.

"Perhaps, after all, I can make other arrangements, Mr. Ransom," he said. "It is natural that Jackson should consider his own reputation in this affair. That is all, Jackson; you may go now."

It was half an hour afterwards, when the end of breakfast had dispersed the party, that I spoke to Peace about it, offering to go to London myself and do my best to carry out his instructions.

"I had bad luck in my call for volunteers," he said.

"I should have thought they would have been glad enough to get the chance of work. They can find no particular amusement in loafing about the place all day."

"Doubtless they all had excellent reasons," he said with a smile. "But anyway, you cannot be spared, Mr. Phillips."

"You flatter me."

"I want you to stay in your bedroom. Write, read, do what you like, but keep your door ajar. If anyone passes down the corridor, see where he goes, only don't let him know that you are watching him if you can help it. I will take my turn at half-past one. I don't mean to starve you."

I obeyed. After all, it was in a manner, promotion that the inspector had given me; yet it was a tedious, anxious time. No one came my way, barring a sour-looking housemaid. I

tried to argue out the case, but the deeper I got the more conflicting grew my theories. I was never more glad to see a friendly face than when the little man came in upon me.

The short winter's afternoon crept on, the inspector and I taking turn and turn about in our sentry duty. Dinner time came and went. I had been off duty from nine, but at ten-thirty I poured out a whisky and soda and went back to join him. He was sitting in the middle of the room smoking a pipe in great apparent satisfaction.

"Bed time, isn't it?" I grumbled, sniffing at his strong tobacco.

"Oh, no," he said. "The fact is, we are going to sit up all night."

I threw myself on a couch by the window without reply. Perhaps I was not in the best of tempers; certainly I did not feel so.

"You insisted on coming down with me," he suggested.

"I know all about that," I told him. "I haven't complained, have I? If you want me to shut myself up for a week I'll do it; but I should prefer to have some idea of the reason why."

"I don't wish to create mysteries, Mr. Phillips," he said kindly, "but, believe me, there is nothing to be gained in vague discussions."

I knew that settled it as far as he was concerned, so I nodded my head and filed a pipe. At eleven he walked across the room and switched off the light.

"If nothing happens, you can take your turn in four hours from now," he

said. "In the meanwhile get to sleep. I will keep the first watch."

I shut my eyes; but there was no rest in me that night. I lay listening to the silence of the old house with a dull speculation. Somewhere far down in the lower floor a great gong-like clock chimed the hours and quarters. I heard them every one from twelve to one, from one to two. Peace had stopped smoking. He sat as silent as a cat at a mousehole.

It must have been some fifteen minutes after two that I heard the faint, faint creak of a board in the corridor outside. I sat up, every nerve strung to a tense alertness. And then there came a sound I knew well, the soft drawing touch of a hand groping in the darkness as some one felt his way along the paneled walls. It passed over my head, and I was alone. Yet Peace never moved. Could he have fallen asleep? I whispered his name.

"Hush!"

The answer came to me like a gentle sigh.

One minute, two minutes more and the room sprang into sight under the glow of an electric hand-lamp. The inspector rose from his seat and slid through the door, with me upon his heels. The light he carried searched the clustered shadows; but the corridor was empty, nor was there any place where a man might hide.