

WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest and Other Things Worth Knowing.

The death at the front of General von Vietinghoff is reported in a dispatch from Berlin. General von Vietinghoff formerly was governor of Strassburg.

The loss of the Zeppelin L-22 is officially admitted by the German admiralty. The British reported that it was destroyed in the North Sea by English forces.

Rumors are in circulation that the principal express companies are about to file with the Interstate Commerce commission an application for an increase in rates.

Presiding Judge Martin, of Common Pleas court of Philadelphia, signed a decree authorizing the removal of Harry K. Thaw to the Pennsylvania hospital for the insane.

To allay apprehension of Mexicans in this country near the border that they might be drafted into the United States army, the government has issued a denial of any such intention.

According to the best information obtainable, President Wilson, following the signing of the conscription army bill, will offer Colonel Roosevelt a commission as brigadier general in the army.

H. J. Herrin, of Wolf Creek, Montana, and Philip Cavalier, near Johns, have contracted to sell their 1917 wool clips for 52 cents a pound. This is as high as any price ever received for wool in this district.

Assurances of the closest co-operation by the military forces of the United States with those of Cuba will be carried to Havana by the Cuban commissioners, who have concluded their work at Washington and left for home.

A vigorous movement to increase income surtaxes of the proposed war revenue bill another 25 per cent on all amounts above \$40,000 has started in the house, under the leadership of Representative Lenroot, Republican, of Wisconsin, and Representative Shively, Democrat, of Kentucky.

It was made known at the Chicago semi-annual convention of the National Association of Garment Manufacturers that employers are strongly in favor of their girl employees wearing overalls and that 10 large factories have already supplied their girl workers with that article of masculine apparel.

The British prime minister has sent a letter to John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalist party, outlining the government's project for the settlement of the home rule question. He asked Mr. Redmond to state his views on the government's suggestions, that the government may be able to consider the matter at once.

The United States lent Russia \$100,000,000. The money was lent to be spent as needed, without stipulation or understanding of any sort further than Russia stands back of the obligation, will make it good, and will spend the money in this country under the supervision of a representative of the Treasury department or a commission to be named by the American government.

Chihuahua City newspapers tell of the execution of Colonel Sixto Vega and Francisco Saenz, of the home guards of Casas Grandes, who were convicted as Villa spies.

In sections of New York City where the trading stamp was popular before the advent of war prices, the onion and potato have been substituted. In the Ridgewood section of Brooklyn a small potato or onion is given with each 10 per cent. Motion picture houses also have adopted the same scheme, giving an onion or potato with each adult ticket.

In reply to a question in the house of commons, Chancellor Bonar Law said no treaty had ever been contemplated with Japan in which that nation would overrun Siberia if Russia relaxed her efforts in the war.

The French passenger steamer Medjerda has been sunk by a submarine while voyaging between Oran, Algeria, and Marseilles. The survivors were picked up and taken to different ports. The Medjerda was a vessel of 1918 tons gross.

From April 9 to May 12, Germans to the number of 49,579 have been made prisoners in France by the British and French. In addition, 444 heavy and field cannons, 943 machine guns and 396 trench mortars were captured.

Seventeen merchantmen were sunk by German submarines during February, March and April, according to an official statement issued Tuesday. During the same period nine French vessels were attacked by underwater craft, but made their escape. No arms-merchantmen have fallen prey to the U-boats.

Crops in the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe river valleys were ruined Monday when flood waters broke through the St. Joe river dike and flooded 15,000 acres of land. All sawmills along the two rivers have been forced to close because of high water.

Orders to bring the regular army to its full war strength of 293,000 men are announced by the War department. Organization of 44 new regiments will begin immediately with further efforts to stimulate recruiting and bring in the 116,455 men needed to fill up the ranks.

WAR CENSUS FACTS

Important Information for Guidance of Public in Registration on War Census Day, Tuesday, June 5.

Who Must Register—Every male resident between the ages of 21 and 30 years, inclusive. This includes aliens as well as Americans. Japanese, Chinese, Italians, Germans, English, Americans and men of any other nationality who are of the designated ages, must register. Aliens will not be drafted for war duty, of course, but a complete record of them is desired.

Who is Exempt—No male resident between the ages of 21 and 30 years, inclusive, is exempt from registering. Those to be exempted from military service will be determined later, but first all must register. Men with physical disabilities, no matter how serious, must register if they are of the designated ages.

Where to Register—Registration must be made in the home precinct of the man registering. Register at your regular voting place.

Hours for Registration—Booths at regular voting place in each precinct will be open on War Census Day from 7 o'clock a. m. to 9 o'clock p. m. Don't register until the last moment. Register early.

Registration of Absentees—If you find you will be unavoidably absent from your home precinct on War Census Day, you should apply at the earliest possible date to the county clerk of the county in which you may be at the time, whether in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, or elsewhere, who will fill out your registration card. He will then give you the card, which you must mail to the registrar of your home precinct, in care of the sheriff of your home county, in time to reach the registrar by War Census Day. If you live in Portland, or a city of over 30,000 population in another state, mail the card to the registrar in care of the mayor.

But remember, the burden of having your car reach the registrar of your home precinct by War Census Day is on YOU.

Registration of the Sick—Men of military age who are too ill to go to the voting booth to register must send a competent person before War Census Day to the county clerk to explain the circumstances, and secure instructions from the Federal regulations which these officials will receive from the government.

Penalties—The penalty for failing to appear to register, or for giving false, misleading or incorrect answers, is imprisonment. There is no alternative of a fine.

ATLANTA, GA., HAS BIG FIRE

Loss Estimated at \$2,000,000, Mostly in Residential Section.

Atlanta, Ga.—Fire that started Monday afternoon in an obscure negro section swept a broad path through the residential section of Atlanta, devastating scores of blocks and destroying many of the city's finest homes and hundreds of negro houses.

Fire Chief Cody announced late Monday night that the fire had been brought under control.

First estimates of the damage placed it at between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. So far as could be learned the only life lost was that of a woman who died from shock.

The fire was confined to the North-western part of the city, and the only business houses burned were several warehouses.

A high wind carried the flames northeastward with a speed which soon outran the efforts of the fire department.

Within an hour after the first alarm the blaze began to assume the proportions of a conflagration and fire officials called in several hundred men from the Fort McPherson officers' training camp to aid in the fight. Appeals for help also brought fire equipment from a half dozen neighboring cities.

The thousands of homeless were being cared for by a citizens' committee and by the Atlanta Red Cross chapter. Most of them were quartered in public buildings.

The fire started in a storage house on Decatur street and swept unobstructed into the better residence sections. A large part of the devastation, however, was in neighborhoods composed largely of homes ranging in value from \$2500 to \$6000.

Paris Meat \$1 a Pound.

Paris—With the inauguration of the regime of two meatless days a week, beef went to \$1 a pound Tuesday, and vegetables and fish followed the upward tendency.

The rush for meat supplies to carry over until Friday swamped the butchers, although they had laid in extra amounts. There was a good deal of crowding and some sharp talk was heard against rich buyers who paid any price the dealers asked, sending the quotations too high for modest purchasers.

Munitions Ship Wrecked.

Boston—The Leyland liner Colombian, 6440 tons, was wrecked Tuesday on the south coast of England, according to a cablegram received by the agent of the line. The message said that the steamer, which was carrying a cargo of munitions, grain, lumber and cotton from this port, probably would be a total loss. The cause of the accident and the fate of the crew were not mentioned. The steamer with her cargo was valued at \$2,000,000.

Men, 40, May Join Army.

New York—The age limits of applicants for enlistment in the regular army has been raised from 17 to 35 years to 18 to 40 years.

This order was made public at the office of Major John H. Hughes, in charge of recruiting offices here.

W. H. Taft's Son Enlists.

New Haven, Conn.—Charles P. Taft II, son of former President Taft and a junior in Yale College, was enlisted for the artillery branch of the regular army Tuesday.

HOOVER TO HANDLE COUNTRY'S FOODS

Volunteer Plan Outlined by Wilson as War Policy.

NEED CURB ONLY FEW

Absolute Authority is Declared Necessary and Government Asks All to Help While War Lasts.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson in a statement Sunday outlining the administration's food control policy, announced he had asked Herbert C. Hoover to become American food administrator and that Mr. Hoover would accept the offer.

A statement given out by Mr. Hoover after the White House announcement was made, gave his plans for food administration and called on the country to render voluntary assistance in carrying it out.

Explaining that it is absolutely necessary to vest unquestionable powers in the government, the President declared he is confident that exercise of the authority granted will be necessary only "in the few cases where some small and selfish minority proves unwilling to put the nation's interests above personal advantage."

He makes it clear that the food administration is only for an emergency situation and that since it will be composed for the most part of volunteers "there need be no fear of the possibility of a permanent bureaucracy arising out of it."

Mr. Hoover proposed that the food administration be divided into four great branches, whose duties he defined in detail. Most of the work would be carried out by men and women of the country on a voluntary basis.

"If this cannot be done," Mr. Hoover's statement says, "I shall certainly and willingly surrender the task to some other method of emergency. I hold that democracy can yield to discipline, and that we can solve this food problem for our own people and our allies in this way, and that to have done so will have been a greater service than our immediate objective, for we will have demonstrated the rightness of our faith and our ability to defend ourselves without being Prussianized."

PATRIOTISM TO RULE

Portland Rose Festival Will Celebrate National Flag Day Second Day of Yearly Spring Carnival.

Portland—Between 25,000 and 50,000 men and women will participate in the huge patriotic pageant on National Flag Day, the second day of the 1917 Rose Festival, June 13, 14 and 15, while 20,000 school children will take part in the children's parade, June 13.

Oregon's great floral event will this year have patriotism for its theme, and the flag will be entwined with the rose. The eight Italian societies represented in Portland, the Italian Red Cross, the Girls' National Honor Guards, the Spanish-American War veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps, and other semi-military organizations have signified their desire to take part in the military pageant. Other entries are pouring in daily. The Festival Center this year will also be the Court of Patriotism. The heart will be a replica of the Statue of Liberty, towering 50 feet in the air and composed of roses and myriad electric lights.

President Wilson has endorsed the Festival as a demonstration of patriotism and of loyalty to the Oregon rose, and at the White House on the evening of June 13 he will press the buttons which will set the lights of the statue aglow and mark the formal opening of the Festival.

June 15 will be given over to the annual floral parade and in the evening the spirit of the rose will blend with the spirit of patriotic America.

High Food Prices Hit.

Seattle, Wash.—Robert Bridges, president of the Port Commission announced Saturday that he is working on a plan by which the commission will engage in the commission and wholesale business in food products, acting as a selling agency for the farmers who store their products in the public warehouses. The object, he declared, is to regulate the price of food products brought here for local consumption. The commission will not enter the retail business, but will leave that field to the grocery stores.

Streetcar Men Receive Raise.

Tacoma, Wash.—The Tacoma Railway & Power company and Pacific Traction company voluntarily have increased wages of all motormen and conductors in their employ effective June 1 of the increase ranging from 5 to 10 per cent.

This is the second voluntary increase that has been made in six months to December 1, 1916. About 300 men are affected by the increase.

Nine Cuts to a Pie is Plan.

San Francisco—Increased prices and decreased portions have been decided upon by local caterers to combat the high cost of food. Pies, a year ago cut into five pieces, will be divided into nine hereafter.

Nippon Boats in France.

Paris—A number of Japanese gunboats have arrived at Marseilles to aid in the war on German submarines and convoy French merchantmen. If the experiment has satisfactory results it will be extended.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Cook Bay again is threatened with an invasion by I. W. W. and prompt measures are being taken to prevent the organization obtaining a foothold there.

The referendum petition directed against the Gill bill of the last legislative session has been filed with Secretary of State Olcott by the Clackamas Fishermen's union. The petition contains 16,160 names.

E. B. MacNaughton, an architect of Portland, has been named by Governor Withycombe as a member of the Industrial Welfare Commission to succeed Father E. V. O'Hara, of Portland, who has submitted his resignation. The appointment becomes effective June 1.

The State Highway commission will hold a joint session on June 1 at Fossil with the Wheeler County court and award a contract for six miles of improvements between Fossil and the Wheeler County line on the John Day highway. It is expected the improvement will cost about \$10,000.

The past week has seen several mad dogs in Lakeview, and it is feared that an epidemic is about to break out. A dog belonging to F. M. Duke went mad a short time ago and had to be killed. It is feared that this dog ran at large during one night and infected a number of dogs throughout the town.

Bids for contracts for paving the Siskiyou Highway from the summit of the mountain to the California line are to be advertised for at Ashland, according to State Highway Engineer Nunn, who is in the valley to attend the tri-state good roads meeting. Work is to be started immediately and finished this summer if the money holds out, according to Mr. Nunn.

Governor Withycombe has appointed the men who will serve on the State Lime board under the provisions of chapter 397, enacted at the last session of the legislature. The appointees are: Benton Bowers, Ashland, recommended by the Taxpayers' League; B. G. Leedy, Corvallis, recommended by the State Grange; John Simanek, Crabtree, recommended by the Farmers' union.

With the business streets of Roseburg patriotically decorated with carnival colors and gaily emblems, the citizens entertained several thousand people at the festivities attendant on the opening of the Ninth Annual Strawberry Festival Thursday. Although a "strawberryless" Strawberry Festival, there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of the visitors, and the first day's program was pronounced the best ever witnessed in Roseburg.

A number of farmers are making application to come under the Workmen's Compensation act, since the recent ruling of the Supreme court, which declared farm hands were protected under the Employers' Liability act when engaged in hazardous occupations. At the present time, a statement issued by the commission recently says, an average of 11 employers are daily bringing their operations under the act, and during the last 20 days 215 additional employers have been listed.

Jacob Trott, of Echo, who was seriously burned Wednesday while starting a gasoline engine, died from the burns at a Pendleton hospital.

Damage from the cloudburst at Heppner probably will reach \$100,000. Crops, roads, bridges and fences are ruined, and wires are down. Some stock was killed.

Though the weather has been showery, the majority of the farmers of the Gaston section have taken advantage of every available moment to get their plowing done and get their grain crops in. There is no scarcity of fuel so far, and plans for a larger acreage than usual are going forward.

The stigma of "deserter" will be removed from the National Guard records of Carl von der Ahe and Arthur Loftis, the Hood River young men who recently were posted as deserters when they left the Twelfth company, Oregon Coast Artillery, and enlisted in the navy without first having obtained their discharges from the Twelfth company.

Crumbling like tinder when the abutments gave way, the county bridge at Island City, three miles from La Grande, dropped into the Grand Ronde river Monday, and now rests on the bottom of the turbulent stream. Some estimates place the total land under water in the Grand Ronde valley following the recent high floods and present inundation at 20,000 acres.

A box factory and sawmill located on Neil creek, seven miles south of Ashland, formerly operated by the Ashland Manufacturing company, but which have been in the hands of the First National Bank of Ashland for the past year, have been sold to a group of Los Angeles capitalists, who expect to have 100 men at work in the woods and at the mills inside of 30 days.

Thurm Coulson, a resident of Blaine, in Tillamook county, was arrested by the sheriff for manufacturing and selling intoxicating liquor. Coulson appeared in the Justice court, pleaded guilty to a violation of the liquor laws and was fined \$150 and costs.

Lieutenant W. M. For, United States army recruiting officer, returned to Klamath Falls Thursday from a trip to Lakeview, Or. He and his host had the unique experience of nearly losing their automobile in a big snow drift in the mountains about 50 miles east.

The handsome residence belonging to Jack Merrill, of Medford, one of the show places of the valley, burned to the ground Monday afternoon at a loss of \$25,000, largely covered by insurance.

More than 500 men, employees of the C. A. Smith mills at Bay City and Bunker Hill, were at their places after a general strike which lasted just one week. The men demanded more pay, claiming they were unable to meet current expenses on the minimum wage of \$2.50 in force when the walkout occurred.

SHEEP'S CLOTHING

By LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

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CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

But before she could re-collect her wits and slip quietly away Craven abruptly lifted his head and looked directly at his daughter; and now she knew him positively. Though his jaw dropped, his mouth opened, and his eyes stared prominently from a countenance that in a twinkling darkened portentously above the blank pallor of his shirt bosom, in every lineament he was Thaddeus Craven of the sempiternally youthful face, showed never a line to declare he wasn't thirty-one but a round decade older.

For a moment whose tension lent it the length of many, father and daughter remained transfixed and staring. Then his emotion communicated itself to the woman in his arms. Startled and wondering, she unrolled her eyes, caught a shadowed glimpse of the third figure, disengaged, and drew away. And Craven suffered this without a sign to indicate that he had not forgotten her, maintaining his poise and stare with a fixity that, penetrating Lydia's confusion, stirred her curiosity.

Taking one step toward him, she paused again, lifted one hand in a gesture of apologetic and appealing, and said falteringly, "Daddy—"

With visible effort Craven pulled himself together and made an attempt to speak; but only a husky whisper rattled in his throat. Then his glance veered uncertainly to Mrs. Merrilees.

Abruptly this last, overcoming her astonishment, precipitated the situation. The blush that had shadowed her exquisite face ebbed again, leaving it incomparably fair. She threw back her shoulders and took full advantage of her inches.

"Really, Miss Carteret—" she began; and then her voice of crystal clearness broke in a cool and tinkling laugh.

"Oh, do forgive me, Mrs. Merrilees! I never dreamed—I expected to find my father alone—"

"Father?" With that iteration of superb insolence, Mrs. Merrilees became once more completely mistress of herself; and if her tone cried scorn upon a presumptuous girl, her look demanded explanation of the man.

But Craven had needed no more time to make good his recovery. It was his familiar self who stepped into this breach, amiable, untrifling, perhaps a shade too devil-may-care; but to balance that there was a not unbecoming ring of deference in his voice. "I'm afraid," he said, "my surprise knocked me silly for a moment. Lydia, I'd no idea you were on board; but you seem already to know Mrs. Merrilees. Betty permit me to present my daughter."

"Your daughter, Tad?" There was unpropitious rallery in the woman's tone.

Craven replied only by a bow.

"Do you realize this is my first intention that you were asking me to become a stepmother?"

"I've much to tell you, Betty," Craven answered with grave simplicity; then, turning to his daughter, "Lydia, Mrs. Merrilees has just done me the honor to promise to become my wife, and—the truth is—"

"To come out!" Mrs. Merrilees supplied involuntarily.

He laughed a little awkwardly. "Exactly! I mean to say, it was all quite unpremeditated. It isn't fifteen minutes since we found we—ah—loved each other; since when I—have been 'nother too preoccupied to advise Mrs. Merrilees of all my affairs. In another year, of course, she would have known. As it is if the fact of my prior marriage—"

"Tad!" Mrs. Merrilees interjected with a spirit that commanded his deference. "We're neither of us fools. Don't overdo things. You're talking stupidly—quite unlike yourself. I don't care to hear more until you've found your bearings; and I want time to find mine, into the bargain. That's fair, isn't it?"

"Nothing more so," he affirmed cheerfully.

"Then I'll leave you to your—family reunion!"

"My dear Miss Craven!" she said with an odd little catch in her voice. "I'm not sure yet I ought to call you Lydia; but I'm awfully fond of your father, and—and if I can get over what doesn't seem an unfair suspicion that he's kept me too long in the dark about you, I shall probably marry him."

"I can't wish him greater good fortune," said Lydia quietly.

"You are a dear! And so beautiful—I'm jealous. Do you think, Tad, it is wise to have two blondes in one family? Don't answer, please. It's a riddle I must solve to my own satisfaction before I listen to you again. But—I'm serious—think it over."

With a transient tightening of her grasp on Lydia's shoulders, a pressure that conveyed a hint of friendliness, the woman turned away.

"No!" she insisted when Craven promptly ranged himself at her side. "Let me go for tonight, Tad. I'd prefer to be alone to think things out. Tomorrow, perhaps—"

Her smile flashed uncertainly toward Lydia as she disappeared round the shoulder of the deckhouse.

Craven delayed, however, barely long enough for a word, "Wait here—I shan't be long."

Lydia said nothing, but watched him go with eyes confused with pain, she who had found herself suddenly relegated from the status of a well-beloved child to that of a stumbling block in the path of her father's ambition, who could no longer doubt that he had planned to keep her existence secret until his marriage to this Mrs. Merrilees of the fabulous fortune should be a consummated fact.

A footfall sounded behind her, and she wheeled sharply about to join issue with her father. But it was Peter

LYDIA CRAVEN SURPRISES HER FATHER MAKING LOVE TO ANOTHER WOMAN—THERE IS EMBARRASSMENT, BUT LYDIA MAKES TWO REAL FRIENDS

SYNOPSIS.—A well-bred young Englishwoman, nervous and suspicious, finds when she boards the steamer Alsatia, bound from Liverpool to New York, that her stateroom mate is Mrs. Amelia Beggarstaff, a fascinating, wealthy American widow of about sixty years. The girl introduces herself as Lucy Carteret and says she is going to America to meet her father. Lucy's behavior puzzles Mrs. Beggarstaff, who is vastly surprised to find her possessing a magnificent necklace which was stolen from a museum collection some time previously, and passes the news on to her friend, Quoin, a private detective on board. Lucy, dressing in the dark in her stateroom, hears a mysterious conversation between two men just outside her window and recognizes one of them as Thaddeus Craven, her father. Amazed, she hurries up on deck, searches about and finds him making love to Mrs. Merrilees, wealthy, beautiful young widow and friend of Mrs. Beggarstaff, to whom Lucy has just confessed that she is really Lydia Craven.

Traft who, briskly rounding the deckhouse, pulled up short at sight of that tense young person, Lydia, with her shoulders back, her chin up, and defiance a-glimmer in her eyes.

"I beg your pardon—" He peered eagerly to make certain; for the moon was just then thinly veiled in cloud. "It's Miss Carteret, isn't it?"

"Yes, Mr. Traft," said the girl quietly, relaxing. "Good evening."

He seemed puzzled by her manner, started to say something, reconsidered sharply, then ventured with engaging deference, "It's good to see you up and about again."

"It feels pretty good, thank you," she said, with a smile that gave him courage.

"Hope I didn't startle you, galumphing into your solitude without warning. Fact is, I was looking for old Tad Craven. We're meeting a fourth. I can't suppose you know Craven, though?"

"Oh, yes, I've known Mr. Craven a long time."

"Really? He's a wonder, isn't he?" Traft exclaimed with enthusiasm. "Everybody's friend—not an enemy in the world. I don't believe there's a better-liked man in New York—our New York, that is."

"Your New York? You see, I've always lived in England, and have lots to learn about—"

"Sheer snobbery on my part," Peter admitted cheerfully. "I mean, the very small part of New York that we like best, whom my friend Mr. Martin likes to call the 'idle rich.' If he only knew!"

"But are you?"

"I'm afraid I'm idle enough; but as for riches, I'm poverty's poor relation."

"But what do you do?"

"Oh, I play a good hand at bridge, a fair racket at tennis, and am always on hand to fill in when somebody doesn't show up for dinner. The least trace of bitterness flavored this gratuitous account of himself, and the conversation was accompanied by an uneasy laugh. "In short, I'm what your English friends call a waster. But please don't think that I'm bidding for serious consideration."

"I understand," the girl said quietly. "I didn't mean to bore you, either."

"You didn't; but you made me think—and wonder."

"Why I'm content to be—so useless?"

She nodded, with her shadowy smile. A wry grin answered that. "You certainly take the curse of it, Traft. I've never heard of a man who is so good for the egotism. The register of my self-esteem is now subnormal."

"I didn't mean to be unpleasant, Mr. Traft."

"Don't, please. Thus far you've done me good; but if you say more, betray the least real interest in me, I'll get chummy and need taking down again. And I'm forgetting Craven."

"He was here only a few minutes ago, and promised to come back before long."

"Then may I wait? You don't mind?"

"No," said the girl. "Indeed, I've something to tell you. You've praised him to my face, and that makes me want to tell you. I'm not Lucy Carteret, really, Mr. Traft. My name is Lydia Craven. Thaddeus Craven is my father."

"Oh, I say!" Peter stared incredulously. "Not Tad Craven's daughter? You're serious?"

"Quite."

He nodded. "I see you are. But—well—you have surprised me. I don't suppose a soul who knows him would believe Tad Craven anything but a convinced bachelor."

So—it was true—Craven had never mentioned his daughter to his friends! Staring seaward, Lydia worked her hands together gently; and, watching her closely, the man saw her face fugitively convulsed. And wisely he held silence.

"Mrs. Beggarstaff knows," the girl said presently, "and Mrs. Merrilees, and I dare say by tomorrow all his acquaintances on the ship will know. So, you see, I'm not violating his confidence. Only you spoke of him so warmly that you made me want you to understand." A quaver touched her tone; but she persisted: "I'm afraid I've made a great mistake—embarrassed him horribly, turning up this way. But I didn't know he was a passenger. I supposed, of course, he was at home—in New York—"

Much of Peter's charm lay in his instinctive recognition of those times when it is wisest to say nothing.

"I couldn't help it— They forced me to it—the people I lived with in London. I knew it wasn't right, because I didn't love him. How can one marry a person one doesn't love? But when I wrote to daddy he wouldn't even answer, and I couldn't help it—I had to run away! And now, of course, he's furious with me—turning up here like the bad penny—"

"Why should he resent that? I don't see why he couldn't have told us he had a daughter—especially one like you. It seems to me, the innocent bystander, that Tad hadn't any right to pose—"

"Don't! We mustn't misjudge him. You're his friend; surely you ought to make allowances for him, if I can. I'm sure he must have had his reasons—good enough reasons, if we only knew. Why must he take the world into his confidence?"

Dumfounded, Peter stared; then remembered himself that woman's nature was a singular thing, its mental processes defying masculine analysis. "You're right," he asserted meekly,

after a pause. "Of course you're right! I've known Tad Craven a long time and pretty well, if he is a bit older, and I know he wouldn't do anything dishonorable or calculated to hurt anybody. He's not that kind."

Impulsively Lydia's hand went out to Peter's; but in the long instant that they sat hand in hand and eye to eye, each smiling a trace consciously, signals of distress showed in her swaying glance, and within his grasp the pressure of her firm young fingers lessened until reluctantly he released them.

"What is it?" Peter asked gently. "Only my presumptuousness—inflicting you with my troubles, demanding your sympathy, as if I'd any right whatever—"

"I'm your father's friend, at least, Miss Craven, and—such as I am—I'm sure you care to think of