

# VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren

**SYNOPSIS:** To the great joy of the officers garrisoned at Hellport, Lieutenant Le Sage returns from a tour of duty in the beautiful island of Hawaii. He is particularly overjoyed to see his beautiful wife, who has been waiting for him since he left. He is also overjoyed to see his young son, who has been waiting for him since he left. He is also overjoyed to see his young daughter, who has been waiting for him since he left.

of his head, Le Sage pulled the trigger. For the fifth time the hammer clicked harmlessly. "Now, Man of Destiny," said Le Sage, and offered the pistol, handle foremost, to Riccoli.

That gentleman again placed his hands behind his back and violently shook his head. "Murder," he shouted.

"As you please," replied Le Sage. "It's certainly suicide if it isn't murder, now that we've come down to number six."

"Murder, I say," cried Riccoli again, and clutched his throat. "Or suicide," agreed Le Sage.

"Neither," cried Riccoli. "But surely you couldn't walk away from here, and look yourself in the face again?" asked Le Sage.

"What is life worth to a man who has lost self-respect, lost the respect of his brother officers?"

"No one would..." began Riccoli.

"Oh, yes, they will," interrupted Le Sage. "Everyone will. I shall tell every man I know, and my wife will tell every woman she knows."

He thrust the handle of the pistol against Riccoli's chest. "Take it, man," he said, "and shoot yourself—like a man."

"I won't... I will fight you with swords. I will not commit suicide

## Chapter 2 MAN OF DESTINY

**A** GAIN Madame Le Sage buried her face in her hands as her husband pulled the trigger.

For the third time the hammer fell with a harmless click, and a look of mingled disappointment, wrath, and despair clouded the handsome countenance of Lieutenant Napoleon Riccoli.

With a cheerful smile, Le Sage offered him the pistol, while Madame sat erect and watched him with the deepest interest.

"No, no! Enough of this folly. This is sheer madness. I will not do it," cried Riccoli, exhibiting the anger of fear. "I am not a dog..."

"No," agreed Le Sage. "Dogs are nice beasts."

"... and I will not die the death of a dog," continued Riccoli. "This is murder, I say."



Riccoli held the pistol to his head.

"I'll give you one minute," interrupted Le Sage, glancing at his watch. "If at the end of that minute you have not taken your chance, I will shoot you—like a dog. Which will be an honor for you. Now..."

Looking more like a trapped jackal than any kind of dog, Riccoli extended a slightly trembling hand, took the pistol, and held it to his head.

His face cleared, and he smiled. "Fate has great things in store for me," he said. "Not for nothing was I born, not only in Corsica, but mark you, in Ajaccio itself!"

"Speech!" interrupted Lieutenant Le Sage... and, with an angry glare at that imperturbable man, Riccoli pulled the trigger.

For the fourth time a sharp click sounded through the little room, startling, by its mighty smallness, the ears of the three protagonists of this drama.

"You see?" Riccoli smiled palely. "I am protected... I am a Man of Destiny."

"So far, so good—or so bad," observed Le Sage, and taking the pistol, turned it upon himself.

"Stop," cried Riccoli. "We have had the courage to fight two rounds of your terrible duel, and that is enough. As I said before, honor is satisfied."

"Yours, or mine?" inquired Le Sage.

"Honor is satisfied, I say, and if it is not, I will agree to fight yet a third duel with you. But it shall be the duel of civilized people... of gentlemen... of men of honor... of soldiers..."

"Swords, eh?"

"Yes, swords."

"You are the champion swordsman of the Nineteenth Army Corps, one recalls," observed Le Sage. Riccoli bowed.

"Then I think we'll go on with our present effort," continued Le Sage. "In the circumstances, I think I'll trust to chance rather than skill, eh?"

And putting the pistol to the side

## ECONOMIC CONFAB ASSURED NATIONS

LONDON, Eng., Feb. 10. — (AP) — Roused to new hope for the return of prosperity, the nations of the world have been assured by Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald that the world economic conference will be held at the earliest possible moment.

A survey by Associated Press correspondents stationed in the various European capitals shows that the conference preparatory commission, with its work just completed, has focused attention on a six-point program for recovery.

To Be Paid in Full  
MADRID, Spain, Feb. 10. — (AP) — Arrangements whereby depositors in the First National bank of North Bend may be paid in full were made last night at a conference of bank officials, the city administration and the citizens' committee.

## SLAYER'S HISTORY UNDER SCRUTINY

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 10. — (AP) — The past history of William J. Moore, held in solitary confinement here for the murder of a Brooklyn tourist, was studied by detectives today in the expectation it would lead to the solution of other crimes.

The 24-year-old man, arrested Tuesday for the slaying of Harold F. O'Connor, young motorist who had given him a ride through eastern Oregon, stood revealed today as one of mixed nature. Police said he admitted killing O'Connor and taking his money and automobile.

For Fuel Oil delivery, Phone 332  
Reinking Trucking Company. We give S. & H. green stamps.

## ECONOMY WILL OPEN DOOR TO RUM RUNNER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10. — (AP) — The customs bureau notified the senate today that passage of the

treasury bill as it stands with its drastic economies would necessitate discharge of 1500 men by '30; would open the Canadian and Mexican borders to wholesale liquor smuggling and perhaps close all of the 40 odd inland customs offices except Chicago.

## 'SMATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



## THE WORLD AT ITS WORST



## TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Senor Is Grateful!

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



## BOUND TO WIN—Fast Work!

By EDWIN ALGER



## THE NEBBS—If I Had Known

By SOL HESS



## BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



## Hudson Plant To Resume Is Work

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 10. — (AP) — Resumption of steady production late today was predicted by officials of the Hudson Motor Car Co., with their announcement that 1,000 of the 4,200 men employed before the walk-out in the body plants Tuesday were back at their benches and that others were responding to the invitations to return while differences were ironed out.

## TIDAL WAVE STRIKES NEWFOUNDLAND SHORE

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Feb. 10. — (AP) — A report from Sandy Point today said that village had been inundated by a big wave which swept in from Bay St. George as a result of a south-westerly gale.

Real Estate or Insurance—Leave it to Jones Phone 704

Dr. R. W. Glancy has resumed practice in Medford, Room 208 Medford Bldg. Phone—Office 77, Res. 118.

fresh as a new day  
**WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT**  
THE PERFECT GUM  
KEPT RIGHT IN CELLOPHANE

# There's No Guesswork in Tribune A. B. C. Circulation