

VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren

SYNOPSIS: The strongest of tangles brings together the powerful King of Mezzosen, his son, the Major Napoleon Riccoli of the Foreign Legion, and the Major's father and son, all engaged in a struggle against France—and also against each other. Margaret Malpin, Jules Malpin's English wife, finds herself threatened by Riccoli, and her husband complains. Then Otho Bellême, her childhood sweetheart, is shown to her lying gaped and beaten on the floor. Otho catches a glimpse of Margaret, but faints. Later he comes to in the Legion's punishment cell.

Chapter 40
JULES' TREACHERY

PERHAPS they had just dumped him somewhere, Otho thought, apparently dead drunk, where he would be found and chucked into a cell to sleep it off.

But what was the game? And why, in spite of everything, was his heart singing a lark's song, a psalm of praise and joy?

Because he had seen Margaret again. Margaret was near; Margaret was here!

Here! In Mezzosen! And Otho's heart sank into the depths, as a sick feeling of anxiety overwhelmed and enfeebled him, mentally and physically.

Margaret in Mezzosen Citadel, Margaret whom he, himself, had seen



Margaret told herself she must not go mad.

violently struggling with the two men in whose absolute power she must be—her husband, and his cousin.

But, once again, why decoy him to that room for her to see him?

Perhaps when his brain ceased to ache and to swim, and this giddiness passed, he'd be able to think sufficiently clearly to reason it out. When this infernal cloud lifted, he might see daylight.

A clash of heavy keys and bolts against the iron door of the cell; and a blinding burst of sunshine as it was thrown open.

Sergeant-Major Vittorelli.

With the wall behind him for support, Otho stood to attention.

"Well, your drunken dog! Sobered up, have you?"

"Yes, Sergeant."

"Fit for duty?"

"Yes, Sergeant."

"Lucky for you, you slacking, shirking, boasting, worthless imitation of a soldier. If I let you out of here now, can you keep sober? Keep to your place—and keep your mouth shut!"

"Yes, Sergeant."

"Get out of it then, you scrofulous scum..."

"Yes, Sergeant. May I speak?"

"Well!"

"A Moor brought me a note, written in English, saying that if I cared to accompany the bearer, the writer would be very glad to see me and have a chat. It was signed by the King's son, Ralsul, whom I met in England. Being off duty, and free, I went."

"I drank nothing but a cup of coffee, and then found myself lying bound, hand and foot, and with blood running down my face from a wound on the head. I then..."

"Get out of here, before I..."

Words tumbled the Sergeant-Major.

"Yes, Sergeant."

And saluting, Otho, albeit a little unsteadily, marched out into the sunshine, in search of Joe Mummery.

Margaret felt that she was going mad, and told herself repeatedly, and aloud, that she must not go mad. She must keep sane and be strong, for far more was now at stake than her own life, honor and safety.

ranch on Applegate last week. It will begin mining operations there at once and will employ from twenty to thirty men when started.

Desirable houses always, in first-class condition for rent, lease or sale. Call 105.

WASCO CHALLENGE STATE TAX FIRST

THE DALLIES, Ore., Mar. 27.—(P)—Wasco county may challenge the

state's right to collect state taxes in full, despite delinquencies, it was indicated today by County Treasurer Johnson.

The county finances are in bad shape because of the tax delinquencies, he said, and two funds now are on a warrant basis. Under an arrangement by which the First National bank of Portland honored the

warrants, these warrants must be taken up first.

The laws says the state has a prior claim on first tax money received by the county. The state tax and elementary school funds this year amount to \$77,898 in Wasco county. Treasurer Johnson plans to pay the Portland bank first and then to send the state its share if enough remains. He expects a suit by the state to

force priority collection, which may result in a supreme court ruling on the constitutionality of the law.

Oregon Weather.
Rain tonight and Tuesday; moderate temperature; fresh southerly wind offshore.

Real estate or insurance—Leave it to Jones. Phone 756.

SALEM JEWS SEND GERMANY PROTEST

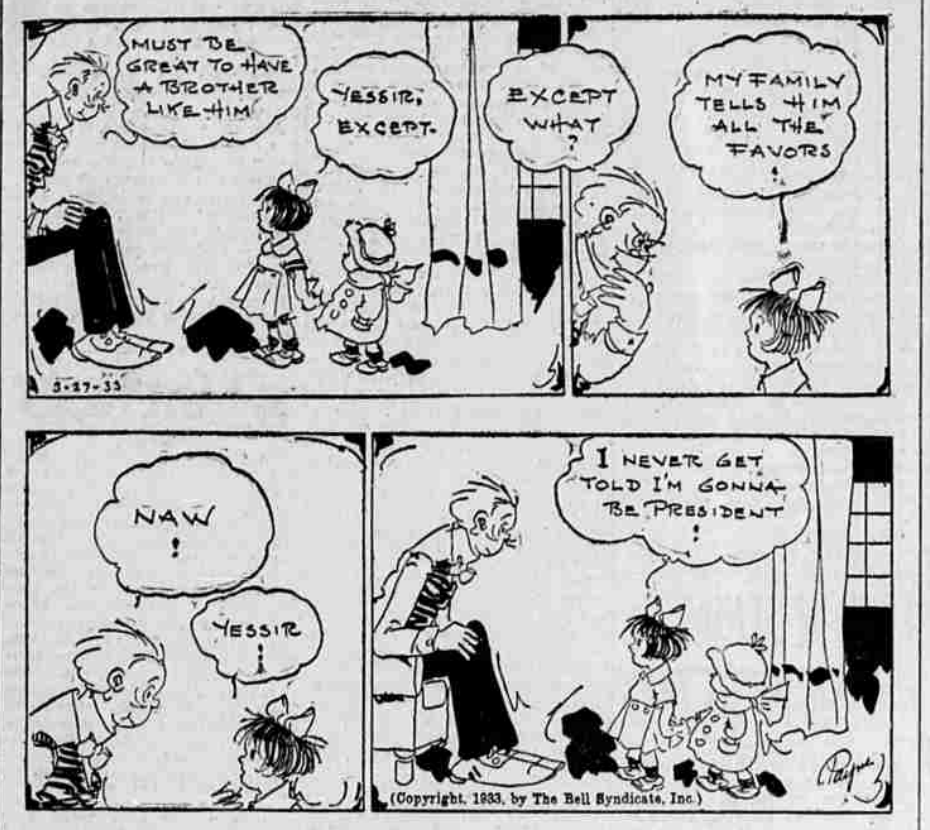
SALEM, Mar. 27.—(P)—Jewish citizens of Salem have drafted a protest

to anti-Semitic activities in Germany. The petition asks that our government make representations to Germany "in vigorous denunciation of, and solemn protest against the continuance of anti-Semitic persecution now being waged in that country."

The petition is addressed to the President of the United States and closes with: "All this we ask in the name of humanity."

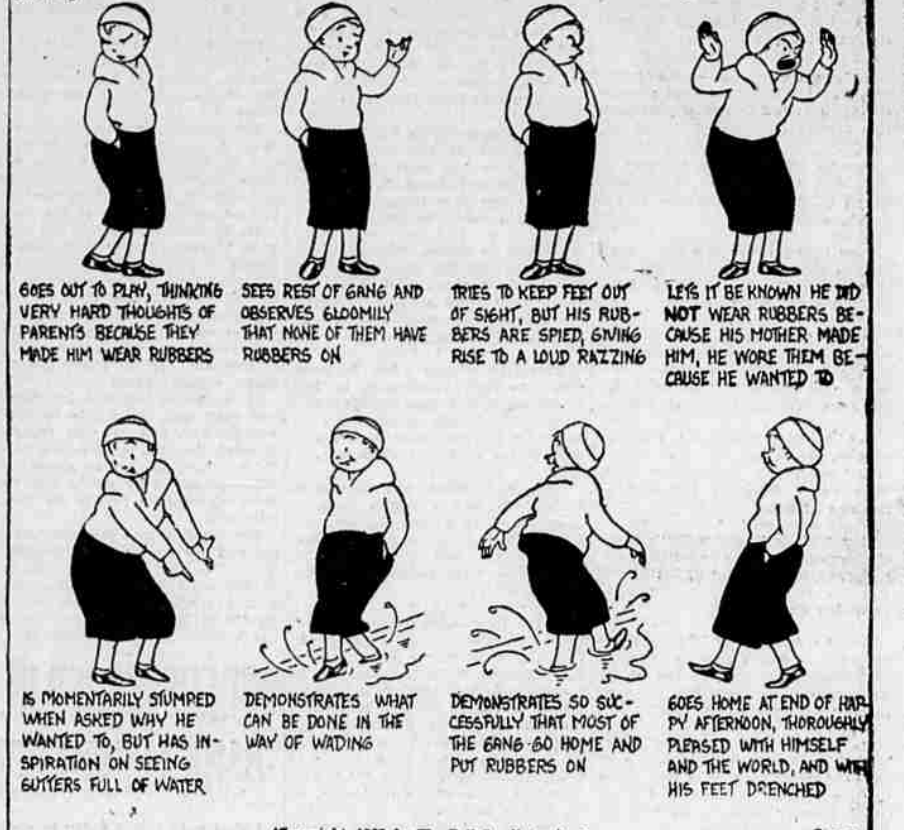
'SMATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



SNAPSHOTS OF A BOY WEARING RUBBERS

By GLUTAS WILLIAMS



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Standing Guard!

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



BOUND TO WIN—Trying To Head Off Ben!

By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—The Song Has Ended

By SOL HESS



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



APPLEGATE MINING OPERATIONS START

JACKSONVILLE, March 27.—(Sp.)—Wm. Von der Heilen took a large gasoline shovel out to the Taylor

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