

TOILERS OF THE COLUMBIA

BY PAUL De LANEY.

Author of "Lord of the Desert," "Oregon Sketches," and other Pacific Coast Stories.

CHAPTER XXI—Continued.

The clash finally came. The boats came together like so many battering rams. Curses arose loud over the calm waters. The boats surged back and forth like living animals. The grim dark forms of the fishermen writhed and contended with each other like serpents of the sea.

"Back you gillnetters! You destroyers of the fish!" shouted the northsiders.

"Away with you, you trappers! You cause our families to starve!" replied the men from the southside, with bitter oaths.

The resistance on the part of the northsiders was short lived. The overwhelming numbers against them soon began to tell. By sheer force they were driven toward their traps. The prowess of the southsiders' boats was against theirs, and they were swept along like driftwood before a huge raft.

The red in the east was making things more visible on the water. It was easy to see that the northsiders were losing ground at every point. But suddenly a volley of shots rang out down the river. Another followed. The curses of the fishermen rose above these.

"The soldiers!" shouted the northsiders.

"Curses upon the head of Gabe Jarvi!" shouted the southsiders.

Then the steamer carrying the militia appeared dividing the contending fishermen like chaff. They fired volleys occasionally above the heads of the retreating belligerents in order to hasten their departure.

"Bang!" rang out a rifle shot from a retreating party to the south.

"Take that!" exclaimed a murderous looking southsider as the smoke cleared from the muzzle of his gun.

Old Seadog fell back into the arms of his sons. The bullet had found its mark.

"Take this!" said another southsider as he raised his rifle to his shoulder.

"You have betrayed us, Gabe Jarvi, and you shall pay the penalty!"

"Don't shoot, fool, it is a woman!" exclaimed a man as he seized the muzzle of the would-be assassin's gun.

It was Dan Lapham. He had been overpowered and taken a prisoner. As he grabbed the southsider's gun it discharged. Lapham looked in the direction the bullet had gone and saw in the pilot house of the steambot which had come to their rescue the form of Sankala!

The girl was pale as death, but she clung to the wheel in a spirit of desperation, and the boat continued upon its course, plunging through the craft of the contending fishermen, the southsiders retreating with all possible speed.

CHAPTER XXII.

HAZEL SEEDS SANKALA.

"It is simply a shame—it is a burning shame!"

"That it is, but it is the way of the Seadogs. They were always hardhearted wretches. The girl takes after her father and is not to blame so much after all."

"But she ought to have enough woman about her to show that she has a heart. The idea of going to the ball and her poor old father lying at the point of death."

"But she is in love, you know, and all people are fools who are in love. Since that militia captain set foot on shore she lost her head and has thought of nothing else since. I don't see anything in a state militiaman to lose one's head over. Why my husband was a United States regular. If I had a daughter I would teach her a lesson she would remember. A regular wouldn't wipe his foot on a militiaman."

"Still Captain Budlong is a nice fellow and was kind to us. He did his duty and made the southsiders go home. He is not a bad looking either, and you know that counts, too. It would be a feather in Hazel's cap if she could capture the captain of the militia."

"The average state militiaman is no more than a dude, a rich man's son kept in idleness and is not worth a woman's while. He thinks all of the women are crazy over him and struts around with uniform on like a peacock and more fit to look at than to use. I have no patience with militiamen. My husband was a regular."

"They say, though, this young Captain Budlong is poor. The most of his men are rich but he is only a clerk in a store and was chosen by his men because of his honesty and bravery. I think Hazel would be a good catch for him. He could take good care of her father's business, and if all accounts are true some one may be needed, for the old man is threatened with blood-poisoning from that wound the southsiders gave him."

"Yes and to think that Hazel would go to the ball when her father is expected to die! It is simply a shame—a burning shame!"

The above conversation took place between two matrons of the fishing village on the northside of the Columbia.

Ten days of peace had reigned on the river. Since the arrival of the militia and dispersion of the fishermen there had been no further trouble. The boat carrying the command of Captain Budlong had kept up a constant patrol of the river day and night and no attempt

had been made on the part of the southsiders to renew hostilities.

In fact committees had been appointed consisting of fishermen from each side of the river to arrange duplicate bills governing the fishing industry of the river which were to be passed by the respective legislatures of the two states. Dan Lapham was a committee man from the northside.

It was the night of the day upon which the agreement had been reached. Peace was at last declared between the toilers of the Columbia. The northsiders were not to extend their trapping any farther south and the southsiders agreed to cross a certain line with their nets which was settled upon as the center of the stream through the fishing waters.

The active and exciting life of the fishermen had its influence upon their manner of obtaining pleasure and recreation. They did not cultivate the intellect as a whole. In fact only a few turned their attention to books. Athletics by nature the men devoted much time to athletics. They had their ball grounds, tennis courts and club rooms. Indoor sports were as much in favor as their outdoor sports. As hand-ball players the village team stood ready to challenge any of the cities. Foot-ball and baseball playing, in their respective seasons, found these fishermen in the field opposing the best teams in the country.

Aside from athletics, dancing was the magic means of amusing both young and old. No week ever passed during the season that the fishermen did not engage in this pastime. It was an occasion in which all took a part and the large hall provided for the purpose was always crowded. A fisherman is never too old or too young to dance.

Dancing was the means of celebrating all important events. No higher tribute could be paid an individual or event than by giving a ball. It was the zenith point in bestowing honors.

The settlement of the dispute between the northsiders and southsiders occasioned the greatest ball in the history of the northside village. They were weaker in numbers but had won out in a measure and were determined to celebrate the occasion in a fit and proper manner.

There were honors due to many and the fishermen were not slow to bestow these upon the deserving ones. The occasion of peace came on for its share. In fact it was called the great peace ball. While there were individuals who shared the honors, Captain Budlong and his men were the honored guests. Dan Lapham had distinguished himself on the water and as a commissioner in settling the trouble and Sankala was the heroine of the hour. To Captain Budlong and his men she was the most conspicuous personage at the mouth of the Columbia. The fishermen were so accustomed to excitement of river life, the act of the girl in saving the boatload of soldiers was not looked upon as a much out of the ordinary, though they all recognized in Sankala a remarkable young woman.

The hall was decorated as it had never been decorated before. The floor was waxed with greater care, and musicians had been employed from the nearest town. The rude fisher-folk were decked out in their best garments. The women took unusual care with their toilets. When the ball room was filled at an early hour, the people of the fishing village presented a very good appearance. The soldiers, many of them from the city, were surprised to see the pre-arranged changes from the rugged men of the fish-traps, and the careless girls of the beach to the gallant and gay figures of the ball-room.

Human nature is much the same among all classes, and it was not materially different among the fisher-folk. Many of them had gathered early. The women were seated in groups, and commenting on those who entered later. Young boys and girls were skipping across the hall in a frolicsome, aimless manner. Old men sat in the corners and looked on in silence.

A faint cheer rose over the room. Captain Budlong entered accompanied by Hazel Seadog. The applause was for the captain.

"Is Sankala coming?" asked one of the women of another.

"She promised after long persuasion to come. But she only agreed to remain a short time. Kingwood is about exhausted from his work with the wounded and Sankala does not think it right anyway, to celebrate while the wounded are so low. She thought it wrong to give the ball while Old Seadog is lying at the point of death."

"It doesn't seem to worry Hazel, his daughter," remarked another woman who was watching the rich fisherman's child, wreathed in smiles while she entertained the captain of the militia.

The crowd had gathered and the grand march and quadrille that followed were over. All were seated again when a slight sensation near the door caused the pleasure seekers to look in the direction. The soldiers commenced to applaud, and continued until the house fairly shook. Dan Lapham and Sankala had just entered.

Sankala was very pale. She was dressed very plainly but neatly, and carried her left arm in a strip of white silk which pended from her neck. The soldiers flocked about her and were profuse with congratulations.

"Excuse me, there is Sankala, our brave little heroine!" said Captain Budlong and left Hazel and rushed to grasp the hand of the orphan.

The men broke away at the approach of the commander. Captain Budlong was full of praise for the girl, inquired about her wounded arm and was very attentive.

"May I have the next waltz after this one—pardon me Mr. Lapham!" said the captain turning to Sankala's escort

after making the request of her.

"Dan doesn't waltz," replied Sankala.

"Then may I have this one—I will be careful with the arm?" said the captain, for the music was just starting up and the dancers were beginning.

"Certainly," replied Sankala as Dan nodded his approval.

When the waltz was over Captain Budlong escorted Sankala to a seat near Hazel Seadog. Sankala spoke to Hazel but the latter took no notice of her. Captain Budlong saw it but thought Hazel did not hear Sankala speak.

"I have just had a nice dance with our little heroine," remarked the captain. "Don't you think she is pretty and good?"

"She is only one of our employes and I do not recognize her as a social equal," replied Hazel with all the Seadog venom expressed in her voice and eyes.

Captain Budlong looked sharply at his companion. The first lieutenant relished Sankala's embarrassment by leading her to another portion of the room. Dan Lapham was engaging a number of fishermen at another portion of the house by telling them of the result of the peace commission's labors.

The dance continued until nearly midnight without further incident when a messenger rushed in, almost out of breath, and announced that Old Seadog was dying.

"Kingwood, too, has collapsed and is at the house of Seadog," said the bearer of bad news.

Captain Budlong hurried away with Hazel and Dan and Sankala followed.

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(Timber land, Act June 3, 1878.)
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, Nov. 28, 1904.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1882,

NEALS NELSON
of Blackfoot, county of Beltrami, state of Minnesota, has on October 4, 1892, filed in this office his sworn statements No. 2133, for the purchase of the E 1/2 NW 1/4 and E 1/2 SW 1/4 of section 9 in Township No. 7 North, Range No. 9 E. W. M.; and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the register and receiver of this office at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 17th day of March, 1905.

He names as witnesses: August Wolden, of Bend, Oregon; Ernie Willis, of Portland, Oregon; Louis Nelson, of Deschutes, Oregon; S. W. Cannon, of Wier, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the 17th day of March, 1905.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN, Register.

(Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878.)
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, Nov. 21, 1904.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1882,

FRED URRAN,
of Waycross, county of Woods, Territory of Oklahoma, has on April 12, 1904, filed in this office his sworn statement No. 2281, for the purchase of the S 1/2 SW 1/4 and lot 4 of section No. 7, in Township No. 1 North, Range No. 11 W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the register and receiver of this office at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 30 day of March, 1905.

He names as witnesses: Arthur R. French, Ardie G. French, Albert M. Caldwell and Bert L. Woolley, all of Waycross, Oklahoma; Edgar C. Miller, Gilbert D. Woodworth and Ralph French, all of Hood River, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the 30 day of March, 1905.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN, Register.

(Timber Land Act June 3, 1878.)
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, October 27, 1904.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1882,

CHARLES A. HOY,
of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 246, for the purchase of the E 1/2 S 1/4 and S 1/2 NW 1/4 of section No. 7, in township No. 1 north, range No. 9 W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Geo. T. Prather, U. S. Commissioner at his office in Hood River, Oregon, on the 30 day of February, 1905.

He names as witnesses: Lewis E. Morse, Charles C. Neale, Isaac C. Neale, William F. Rand, all of Hood River, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the 30 day of February, 1905.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN, Register.

(Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878.)
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, Nov. 11, 1904.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1882,

JARVIS W. CRANE,
of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 244, for the purchase of the lot 1 and 2 of section No. 23, in township 2 north, range 9 E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Geo. T. Prather, U. S. Commissioner at his office at Hood River, Oregon, on the 23 day of February, 1905.

He names as witnesses: Glen Fabric, Isaac C. Neale, Lewis E. Morse and William F. Rand, all of Hood River, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the 23 day of February, 1905.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN, Register.

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