## CARIBBEAN CRISIS

EATON K. GOLDTHWAITE

cheeks. "Careful, Mr. Talcotti" he snapped. "I'm a bonded representative of one of the largest firms in Now York. Halsey knows that it's his duty to carry my report in full, together with whatever observations he himself may have made, back to the home office. That is absolutely clear, and I'll thank you not to make any insinuations!"

Some of the seriousness of the situation seemed to have penetrated MiscDowell's aching head and he stared questioningly at Talcott. Halsey, too, stared with grim eyes in an expressionless face.

"I'd like to hear your story," Halsey said.

"I'd like to hear your story," Halsey said.

Bill Talcott's wrath had been mounting steadily and his fingers itched to take the ridiculous little auditor by the neck and shake some of the pompousness out of him. But that would be no good.
"I haven't any story," Talcott said flatly, "Twe conducted this job and discharged my responsibilities to the best of my ability. If there is any shortage, as Struthers claims, it's not of my making. As for the charge of parcoll padding, that's a joke. I know damn well I'm given certain amount of money to produce a certain amount of work. We pay 40 cents a day for labor and we've got 400 men working; you can

40 cents a day for labor and we've got 400 men working; you can count 'em if you want to. I don't know what's behind this, but I'm beginning to get some ideas and if Struthers, or whoever is behind him, thinks I'll take it laying down he's crazy."

A strange light flashed then in Struthers' eyes; just the briefest revelation that Talcott had landed solidly. His words were a thrust

revelation that fairout near lancest solidly. His words were a thrust in the dark, but at last he had struck something solid in all the hazy mass of doubts and sus-picions surrounding him. Later on

## HOWDOWN WITH STRUTHERS

CHAPTER X

HALSEY seemed completely taken eback, and Bill Talcott, studying him intently, was unable to decide whether his astonishment was feigned or real. "Back to New York?" Halsey stammered. But I just got here—I'm to stay on as the new manager."
"You WERE the new manager."
"You WERE the new manager."
Struthers said coldly. Shrugging, glanced significantly at the cars. "Where is Mr. MacDowell?" he demanded.

June Paterson's ready ire manifested itself. "He's in bed recovering from a stroke, You nice people have said so many things about what's going on around here the poor man just couldn't stand it."

Faint color crept through the suditor's cheeks. "Please don't be sarcastic," he said. "This is quite a serious matter— Halsey, I thought I heard shots. What happened?"

Halsey left off looking puzzled.

Halsey left off looking puzzled long enough to give a rapid transcription of events, wound up with, "I looked in your room but couldn't find you."

"Which is only natural, since I spent the night at work," the auditor grunted. "Very well, if MacDowell can't come to us we'll go to him. Halsey and Talcott, if you'll come along."

Icott arose silently. So Struther, had been spending the night in the office, patching up his case. Increasingly clear was the indication that Struthers was making every effort to discredit him. dication that Struthers was making every effort to discredit him. But why? What possible motive could the man have for such a course? Did he hope to gain; was he in a conspiracy to defraud the company? Surely as auditor he must have known about the duplicate vouchers. He must have known that the vouchers themselves were of no value; that all billing and collecting was done by the New York office; that the only money to pass through Bill Talcott's hands was in the form of payroll checks. Yet forcibly Struthers' words came back to him—"entirely possible you haven't -"entirely possible you haven't

sold chemicals without reporting to New York"—and with them a

to New York"—and with them a new reason for alarm. No shortage could be proved unless an actual shortage in inventory was tiscovered. If Struthers was a pirator, left alone on the island the could write any inventory he liked without regard for facts.

The thing was deep, treachercus, and in its unfolding toils there had as yet come no indication of the end. A beautiful break, firtuthers had had, in the arrival of the smuggler and the two passengers. That had given him time 
aplenty to work unhindered while 
the rest of them were engaged in a battle which really was meana battle which really was mean-ingless. Were the new arrivals, the professor and the refugee, participants in the larger pattern?

MacDOWELL was asleep, propped up by pillows, an ice pack rakishly askew on his unkempt head. Strange noises poured from the spaces above and beneath his mustache, and unceremonlously Struthers prodded his

Wake up, MacDowelli" the auditor called sharply.

14 Glove.

41 Written form of mistress. 42 Burst forth.

44 Motor coach. 46 River (Sp.).

48 Prow of a ship. 51 Like. 52 Eastern title.

auditor called sharply.

MscDowell swung his left in a wild arc, monned, "Ow-aagh, my head!" and sat up.

Struthers said, "Forget your head. You're to arrest Talcott on charges of fraud and embezzlement. In addition to the missing youchers I've discovered evidences. vouchers I've discovered evidences of payroll padding. I've made a transcript of evidence for you to take to New York. As soon as my survey is complete I'll send it in."

"So it's payroll padding, too, is \$17" Bill Talcott said coldly, "I'm getting to be a dangerous char-acter."
"You are the one that's saying

"You are the one that's saying it," Struthers returned with equal coldness. "Well, MacDowell, are you going to get up;"
"Get up—" MacDowell muttered thickly. He thrust one leg over the side of the bed, sought foor with his toes, groaned and said, "I think my neck's heales."

Leonard Halsey had crossed to the other side of the room. His lean face was wrinkled in con-cern. "Look here, Struthers," he said. "It seems to me this could

seric. Look lere, Situliers, he said. "It seems to me this could be handled in a much nicer way. So far as I know, nobody has heard Talcott's side of the story. He has an excellent record with the company. Why not give him a chance to defend himself?"

The auditor's thin lips curled. "His side of the story is in the records. Halsey, I'm an auditor. I don't like these scenes any better than you do. But there are regulations which I must observe. One of those regulations is that whenever a shortage occurs, the suditor is to remain in complete charge until a full inventory has been made. At the auditor's discretion, the affected unit may be the sum into bankrupty. Mr. Talcott smiled grimly. "Yes,

Talcott smiled grimly. "Yes, and very convenient for what you intend to do, without a doubt."

FAINT red tinged the auditor's

he was to remember that swift revealing change; to remember and regret that he had uttered any word at all. For it suddenly occurred to Bill Talcott that his honor was not the only thing at stake; his very life itself was in utmost danger.

(To Be Continued)

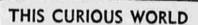
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By William



NEXT: Are humming birds poisonous?

## "LIQUID GOLD"

HORIZONTAL Answer to Previous Puzzle ARNE DE TORUS
VET HOT CORAL 1,4 Pictured structure. 11 Hot and arid. 17 Article. 18 Recognize. 20 Wagers. 21 Proceed. 24 Charm. 26 Self. 27 Sink.

27 Sink.
20 Flemish war vessel.
32 Indigenous.
34 Transgression.
36 Those who bake.
37 Verso (abt...).
37 Verso (abt...).
38 Choice part.
40 Fasten with thread.
41 Written form 6 Canine madness. 7 Regret.

61 Closer. 63 Corrupted. 64 Exist.

VERTICAL 1 Either. 2 Irritate. 3 Connection

35 Present time. 39 Roving. 40 Blot. 41 Tropical herb. 43 Ut infra 5 Egypt (abbr.). 44 Sack. 45 Dutch island. 47 Opinion.
49 Lyric poem.
50 Its product is a vital —
need.

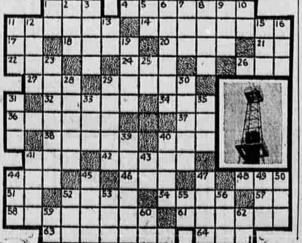
product on the seas. 25 Beside. 28 Scottish highlanders. 29 Sew loosely.

30 Metal peg.

(abbr.).

8 Within. 9 Courts (abbr.). 52 Serpent. 53 Coal 10 Kiloliter (abbr.). 11 Label. 12 Units.

receptacle. 85 Into. 56 Hearing organ 13 Perform. 59 Street (abbr 15 Hen's product. 60 Electrical 16 Also. engineer 19 Sheep's hair. (abbr.). 23 —— carry its 62 Music note.







TOULD HAVE

Little Orphan Annie

HEY BOOTS THIS'S

Boots and Her Buddies

LET THE

Wash Tubbs

DANCING AT

THE BON TON ?

THAT WOULD BE JUST

TOO TOO! BUT CAN YOU AFFORD IT?

SCIENTIST WITH A SIMILAR IDEA

WE NOW FIND

I'M NOT MUCH AT MAKING SPEECHES. BUT I RECKON IT ISN'T NECESSARY... YOU'VE

SEEN THE JAPS... YOU KNOW
THE HORRORS OF INVASION.
YOU'VE LEARNED THAT FREEDOM
ISN'T JUST'A WORD, BUT IS
THE MOST CHERISHED THING
ON EARTH! SOMETIMES
WE AMERICANS FOR.

GET THAT ...

SURE, IVE SOLD FORTY POLICIES AT TWO- BITS A HEAD!











IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PROSPECTS TO BUY WAR STAMPS FROM BIG O'TTO, HOW ABOUT WORCESTER DEPLASTER? \*\*\* HE'S GOT SO MANY DIMES IN HIS POCKETS HE SOUNDS LIKE SLEIGH

BELLS!

WORCESTER IS ON THE

REFERRED

LIST =

OKAY, ALVIN! --- IF HE'G GO
DIRTY RICH, YOU BRING HIM
OVER AND WE'LL GIVE HIM
OUR PATRIOTIC TREATMENT!
--- IF HE DON'T COME CLEAN
HE'LL THINK OLD MAN
RIVER OVERFLOWED!





By Fred Harman

By Harold Gray



BUT I TELL YOU THIS: WE'RE WAKING UP! WE'RE NOT MULES TO BE HITCHED TO THE PLOWS OF CONQUERORS! WE'VE FOUGHT TO WIN OUR FREEDOM, AND WE'LL FIGHT LIKE BLAZES TO PRESERVE IT! WE'LL NOT BE CONQUERED! NEITHER MUST YOU!













GET YOUR PANTS, AND FISH OUT FIVE BUCKS! I LOST MY GAL! LOVE WENT PHT-T-T-T! SO PAY OFF!

HEADED FOR THE PACIFIC OCEAN Alloy Oop