

KLAMATH REPUBLICAN.

VOL. VIII.

KLAMATH FALLS, KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 14, 1903.

NO. 6.

White Hand

A Tale of the Early Settlers of Louisiana.

BY AUSTIN C. BURDICK

CHAPTER XXI.

Slowly and painfully dragged away the hours and the days to the poor sick wife in New Orleans. Old Loppa was very kind, and so was the physician. Yet Louise had a very severe sickness, and a part of the time she was out of her head. But gradually the delirium passed away, and she was at length able to sit up. Three weeks had she lain thus ere she could rise from her bed; but on the fourth week she was able to walk about the room. It was at the close of the fourth week that her husband returned. "Have I been away longer than you expected?" he asked.

"No," was the quiet reply, "for I've expected nothing about it."

"Ah!" uttered Simon, with show of chagrin.

"I have been so sick to expect anything," explained Louise.

"Oh!" uttered the husband, more mildly.

"Yes—I have been very sick. I even feared at one time I should never see you again."

There was something so poignant in this that Simon was sure there was sarcasm in it, but he chose not to expose his doubts.

"I, too, have been laid up," he said, after gazing into her face for some moments.

"Ah—how? I noticed your hand was rolled in a rag. What has happened? Have you been fighting the wicked Indians?"

Again Simon bit his lip, but he kept calm.

"I have had a duel on your account."

"Is it possible? How was it?"

"I heard you insulted most grossly, and I would not bear it."

"You should not have borne it, at least, if you loved your wife. But who was it?"

"Goupard St. Denis."

Louise started.

"Explain," she said, earnestly and eagerly.

"Ha! the name moves you, does it?"

"Why should it not? You know he was once a lover of mine."

This open avowal, so frank and honest, seemed to please Louise, and she went on to explain.

"No matter what was said, but St. Denis struck me. Of course I challenged him. We chose swords. Your father was present. He would have stopped it if he could, for he feared I should get hurt."

"As you did."

"We fenced awhile, and I found that the boy was at my mercy. Twice I refused to press my point upon his open bosom. Finally, when I saw that 'twould be downright murder for me to kill him, I bade him put up his sword. He asked me for what—for he knew not that I only toyed with him. 'This is only boy's play, said I. 'Then put up your sword,' said he. I did so, and just as my point touched the ground he brought me a blow across the hand. What do you think of that?"

"Perhaps I ought not to speak my thoughts."

"Surely you ought. What do you think of it?"

"Well, then, I think you have told me very few stories."

"Eh? Do you doubt my word?"

"Doubt you? Doubt the word of Simon Lobois? Believe that my own hand could speak falsehood? Never, Simon—never!"

Sharply the scamp looked into Louise's face, but he could not detect anything there, save a calm, cool expression of utter simplicity; yet he knew she was quizzing him.

"But you did not tell me how this all came out," she said. "What did you do after Goupard had struck you on the hand?"

"What could I do? My hand was powerless. I might have knocked him down with my left hand, but I spared him. He was beneath all notice, save that of mere contempt."

"Poor Goupard! Did he know how deep was your contempt for him?"

"What mean you?"

"Why, simply that you could have inflicted no worse punishment upon him than to have let him know that you held him in contempt. It must have nearly killed him!"

"Look ye, my fine girl, you are venturing on dangerous ground. You may say too much!" uttered Lobois, now showing his anger.

Louise bowed her head a moment, and she seemed to think that her companion spoke the truth, for she quickly replied, after she looked up.

"Excuse me—pardon me. I have but just recovered from a severe sickness, and my first feelings were naturally those of joy and gladness, and you know how often you and I have joked and pestered each other. We have often said very hard things in jest, and I have even pulled your hair till you fairly cried with pain, and yet you never got provoked before."

This was spoken so earnestly, and with such plain apparent feeling, that Simon was mollified in a moment.

"Let it pass," he said, "only in future choose a light occasion for light conversation. And now to something of more importance. When can you be ready to go up the river?"

"At any time," answered Louise.

"Very well. I will see the physician this evening, and be governed somewhat by his advice."

Shortly after this Lobois went out, and when he returned he reported that the doctor would come in the morning. So that night Louise was left with Loppa, and on the next morning the doctor came, and with him came the anxious husband. The former examined his patient carefully, and he expressed the opinion that the wife should not undertake the journey under a week at least.

"There is a ship ready to sail, and I have some business to do here."

Louise expressed her entire willingness, so Simon resolved to go. In truth he was now expecting soon to be master of

an immense fortune, and he was preparing the way to put it to immediate use, his main object being to obtain a profitable cargo to return to France, whither he meant to take his wife as soon as he could dispose of the few remaining obstacles that stood in his way. He started that very night for Biloxi, and his wife was once more left to the kind care of her sable attendant.

A week passed away, and her husband came not. She had now so far regained her health that she could walk out in company with Loppa, and the rose was all back to her cheek.

Another week passed, and she was well and just as she began to wonder if any accident had happened to her husband he made his appearance. That very day there was a bark to start up the river. New Orleans was all alarm and excitement. The garrison at Natchez had been surprised by the Indians, and nearly every soul murdered! Only six had escaped, and four of those had this very morning reached the town. Gov. Perrier had sent messengers up to the French on their guard; and now this bark, full of soldiers, was about to start up to see if any assistance was required anywhere on the way, and in the meantime a council of officers was to be held to determine what further should be done.

Lobois gained passage for himself and wife, but they were forced to put up with such accommodations as the others had, save that a sheltered place was fixed for Louise, near the stern, in consideration of her recent illness.

Of course the passage up, against the current, was slow; the heavy bark making a headway of over three hours, and stopping sometimes at plantations on the way, so that not until the morning of the fifth day they reached the established landing, St. Julien. But the capital boat concluded not to go up to tea, so Simon and his wife were at the mouth of Walufur from thence they made their way to foot.

They had gained about half past noon when they started, leaving a turn upon the river's bank, a small canoe ahead with diana in it.

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EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Omaha has ordered all saloons closed during the big strike now on.

All warships but those of Austria will be withdrawn from Salonica.

The more serious forest fires in the Adirondacks are now out and the remainder under control.

Mrs. C. P. Huntington has purchased the new \$500,000 six-story mansion of Mrs. J. F. Carroll in New York.

A French-Belgian syndicate has been formed in Europe with a capital of \$3,000,000 to work the Chilean mines.

Three thousand dollars of the money which was stolen from Express Agent Peterson, of Britt, Ia., last week, has been found beneath the company's building.

In a street-car runaway at Rochester, Pa., the conductor was probably fatally killed, the motorman badly bruised and six passengers injured. Wet rails caused the accident.

The rivers and harbors committee of the house of representatives made a tour of the navigable waters about New York to see what improvements are needed in shipping facilities.

The report that General Matos, the revolutionary leader, has landed in Venezuela from Curacao, is confirmed.

An association for the protection of Germans in the enforcement of the laws of Argentina has been formed at Buenos Ayres.

Physicians of Ira D. Sankey, the singer evangelist, now acknowledge the failure of the operation for the restoration of his sight.

Attempts to wreck two trains at Stamford, Conn., are charged to tramps, and the police are now in pursuit of seven men.

Robbers wrecked the safe of the Bank of Assaria, Kan., and escaped on a hand car. It is not known how much money they secured.

Indiana has had another severe frost which it is believed will practically kill the strawberry crop, plums and other tender early fruits.

Edwin C. Kelley, treasurer and general manager of the Enamel Brick company, of Cleveland, O., is charged with the embezzlement of \$25,000 of the funds of the concern. Kelley declares he will be able to prove his innocence.

Rivalry among the associations of engineers in this country may nullify an offer of Andrew Carnegie to give \$1,000,000 or more to establish a national center for engineers in New York. A high official in one of the bodies says it is doubtful if all can live in peace in one room.

Portland laundrymen have locked out their employees.

Russia expects war with China and is preparing for it.

Nearly 500 tenants were evicted in the New York tenement district May 1.

Fifty half-naked Donkholors are on a search for Jesus,' near Sasakatoon, N. W. T.

The Merchants state bank at Freeman, S. D., was raided by robbers. They secured about \$3,000 and escaped.

The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of civil government on the Pacific coast was celebrated at Champeau, Oregon, May 2.

John Firman, 25 years old, living at Paterson, N. J., has two hearts beating in his own breast. He is a fine specimen of physical manhood and constantly enjoys good health.

A bell cast by Paul Revere, that had been in constant use since its making is being recast at Troy, N. Y. The Leominster Congregational church, in the belly of which it hung, was burned a short time ago.

Turkey has proclaimed martial law in Salonica.

An earthquake in Chile caused heavy property loss.

Postmaster General Payne has unearthed a scandal in the Washington office.

Labor troubles are seriously affecting business in many of the cities throughout the United States.

Six passengers were injured in a collision between an electric car and a Lake Shore train in Chicago.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

GOOD WORK OF BUREAU.

Harriman Lines are Turning Thoughts of Thousands to Oregon.

G. M. McKinney, who has charge of the immigration department of the Harriman lines, met with the real estate dealers of Salem to discuss matters relating to his work. He explained the methods of advertising that they must rely upon to draw immigration to this state. That Oregon is now the most widely talked of state in the Union is the declaration he made, after telling how the resources of this state have been advertised through the immigration bureau. As an indication of what has been done for the Willamette valley, he said that since the real estate dealers of Salem to discuss matters relating to his work. He explained the methods of advertising that they must rely upon to draw immigration to this state. That Oregon is now the most widely talked of state in the Union is the declaration he made, after telling how the resources of this state have been advertised through the immigration bureau. As an indication of what has been done for the Willamette valley, he said that since the

WILL FIGHT THE RESERVE.

Southern Oregon Citizens Readily Sign Petitioning Petitions.

A zealous protest is being made by the citizens of Josephine and Curry counties against the establishment of the great forest reserve, embracing nearly half of Curry and all of Western and Southern Josephine, as well as part of Douglas. Josephine would be blocked in, so to speak, and Curry would be placed in a position whereby its advancement would be a matter of difficulty.

State Labor Federation.

The first annual convention of the Oregon state federation of labor met in La Grande this week. About 100 delegates were present. The attendance was neither as large nor as representative as was hoped. By far the larger part of those in the convention were from Portland, while Astoria, Salem, Albany, Ashland, Baker City and Pendleton have from one to three delegates each. Those in attendance are very much in earnest in their desire to take up in the convention some of the knotty questions confronting organized labor and determine a course of action in regard to them.

Little Change in Herd Law.

Aside from the amendment of the law regarding the running of stock in Multnomah county, no change was made by the last legislature in the herd law. Section 61 of the new road law prohibits the herding of stock upon the highways, thereby obstructing them with earth, stones, or other debris, but his section does not prohibit herding stock on the highways so long as there is no obstruction remaining more than 24 hours.

Clackamas County Valuation.

The assessable valuation of all Clackamas county is being doubled by Assessor Nelson, who is at work on the 1903 roll. Assessor Nelson reports that heretofore in this county property has been assessed at not to exceed 35 per cent of its real value. This year it is being listed at double the former valuations. The amount of the tax under this plan will be about the same, since it will be cut down in proportion to the increase in the property valuations.

Insane Asylum Report.

The report of Superintendent J. F. Calbreath, of the state insane asylum for April shows the number of patients March 31 as 1,297; remaining on April 30, 1,298. Number of officers and employees, 160; expenditures for articles consumed, \$7,749.41; pay roll, \$6,064.66; cost of maintenance per capita per month, \$10.68; per day, 35 cents.

Eastern Oregon Pioneer.

Julius O. Mack, one of the best known residents of Eastern Oregon, died at his home at The Dalles Sunday afternoon, after a short illness, from pneumonia. Mr. Mack was about 50 years of age.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70¢71¢; valley, 75¢76¢.

Barley—Feed, \$21.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.

Flour—Best grades, \$3.95@4.25; Graham, \$3.45@3.85.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$19.50@20; chop, \$18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.51@1.20; gray, \$1.23@1.15 per cental.

Hay—Timothy, \$13@13.50; clover, \$10@11; cheat, \$11@12 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 50¢ per sack; ordinary, 25¢@40¢ per cental; growers' prices: Merced sweets, \$3@3.50 per cental.

Portland Markets.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11¢@12¢; young, 13¢@14¢; hens, 12¢; turkeys, live, 16¢@17¢; dressed, 20¢@22¢; ducks, \$7.00@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$6.00@6.50.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 16¢@17¢; Young America, 17¢@17½¢; factory prices, 1¢@1½¢; less.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 22¢ per pound; extras, 21¢; dairy, 20¢@22½¢; store, 16¢@18¢.

Eggs—16¢@17¢ per dozen.

Hops—Choice, 18¢@20¢ per pound.

Wool—Valley 12¼@15; Eastern Oregon, 8@14; mohair, 35@36¢.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3¼@4¢ per pound; steers, 4¼@5¢; dressed, 7¼¢.

Veal—8¢@8½¢.

Mutton—Gross, 7¢@7½¢ per pound; dressed, 8¢@9¢.

Lamb—Gross, 4¢ per pound; dressed, 7½¢.

Hogs—Gross, 7¢@7½¢ per pound; dressed, 8¢@8½¢.

Rainier Lumber Shipments.

Ninety-five car loads of lumber and shingles were shipped from Rainier in the past month. This does not include the cargo of 600,000 feet shipped to San Pedro by sailing vessel.

Cattle Coming to Summer Ranges.

Cattle are beginning to come into the Stair case prairie for summer range. The past few summers several thousand head, principally from Umatilla and lower down, in Union county.

Eastern Oregon Geological Survey.

T. B. White, of the United States geological survey, is in Pendleton and will at once begin work in Eastern Oregon.

NEW WAR POLICY

GREAT BRITAIN PROCLAIMS MONROE DOCTRINE OF HER OWN.

Coast of the Persian Gulf the Basis of Its Encroachment by Any Foreign Power Will Be Resisted—Protection of Sea Route to India Necessary to Predominate of British Interests.

London, May 8.—Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has proclaimed a British Monroe doctrine in the Persian Gulf, and has practically notified the competing powers that any attempt on their part to establish a navy base or fortified post in those waters means war with Great Britain.

"I say without hesitation," said the foreign secretary, dealing with the subject in the house of lords, "that we should regard the establishment of a naval base or a fortified port in the Persian gulf by any other powers as a very grave menace to British interests, and we should certainly resist it with all the means at our disposal."

Lord Lansdowne preceded this explicit enunciation of British policy by a review of the situation there, as it affected British interests, contending that so far as the navigation of the Persian gulf was concerned Great Britain held a position different from that of other powers, both because it was owing to British enterprise and expenditure of life and money that the gulf was now open to the commerce of the world, and because the protection of British predominance in the gulf.

Lord Lansdowne's attitude in this matter generally meets with approval, although the answers thereto of the other powers interested in the gulf are awaited with some anxiety.

The newspapers here comment on the analogy of the present proceedings, which Captain Mahan so strongly recommended, to the United States policy of Monroeism. The Westminster Gazette holds that the British motive, namely, the protection of the sea route to India, corresponds exactly with the American motive in excluding European powers from American waters because their territory is thereby threatened.

WILL DELAY CANAL TREATY.

President of Colombia Will Not Call Extra Session of Congress.

Washington, May 8.—The latest advices received indicate that President Marroquin, of Colombia, has almost decided not to call a special session of the Colombian congress to act on the canal treaty. In the election in progress the opposition continues to gain and the prospects for a government majority are so doubtful that President Marroquin seems indisposed to act.

The Colombian congress will, however, assemble July 30 in regular session. At that session the canal treaty might be taken up, but in view of the sentiment existing, much doubt is felt here as to whether it will be acted upon.

The outlook, however, does not discourage the officials here. The United States government has gone so far in its negotiations with Colombia that confidence is felt here that President Marroquin will feel himself bound to carry out the engagements into which he has entered. The Colombian constitution contains a provision enlarging the powers of the executive in case of disturbed conditions, and if there is the slightest sign of forcible opposition to the government or of revolutionary uprising, such as are hinted at in the stories from Kingston, Jamaica, and from Isthmian points, initiative of a purpose to sever the isthmus from Colombian sovereignty, the president may arrogate to himself dictatorial power and go to the length of ratifying the canal treaty without the consent of congress. If he does so, the United States government will sustain the title thus acquired.

Coal Trust Admits Charges.

Chicago, May 8.—In an answer filed in the United States circuit court today, the Indiana and Illinois coal operators, who were recently made defendants in a case started by the government, admitted that they had been acting for a time under an agreement, but denied that there was any unlawful combination to fix prices of their product. They declared that the agreement was abandoned before the court proceedings were begun, and that even while it was in force they sold coal below the prevailing market price.

Tragic Death.

Tonesta, Pa., May 8.—Standing in a mill pond with the water up to his neck, where he had gone to escape a forest fire, Walter Boyd, part owner of Hat's shingle mill, near Pigeon, was burned to death. A tank of oil exploded and the burning oil covered the man. When the fire swept in from all points the other members of the crew fled in terror, Boyd deciding to remain until the last moment. The tank stood on the bank of the pond.

Plague Increasing in China.

Washington, May 8.—The state department today received a cablegram from United States Consul General McWade, at Canton, saying that bubonic plague is increasing in Canton, Honan, Shuntak, Yokung and Yungshan. Famine is raging in Kwang Si, and an American missionary reports that the body of a victim had been eaten.