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Tollers of the Columbia

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and other Pacific Coast Stories



CHAPTER V.

Ringwold and Sankala.

"How did you make it at school today, my child?"

"Just fine, except that Hazel Seadog was more rude than ever. My father, I am kind to Hazel. I do not antagonize her intentionally, and yet she seems to dislike me. She flaunts the fact in my face that her father owns many fishing boats and has a cannery and that they are rich, while my father is a common fisherman, is old and poor and lives in a cabin, and they live in a big house with glass windows, and have a piano.

"Father, I don't care for this. I am happy with you. I don't envy Hazel, and why should she dislike me above all others?"

"My child, there is an intuition sometimes that tells us more than we know. There is often a guilty conscience that is handed down to posterity and while the posterity knows not what it is, it feels it keenly. In the case between you and Hazel her intuition tells her that something is wrong; that your existence is dangerous to her welfare and yet she does not know why. If you knew the facts, child, you would understand, you would understand!"

"Tell me, father. Why does Hazel feel this way toward me?"

"I will tell you all now, but I can tell you much. I have a long time contemplated telling you about yourself, but you are yet young—too young to grasp the meaning of the things of a wicked world.

"But you are old enough now to know who you are, who I am and what the future may be to you."

"Why, father, I know who I am. I am Sankala, you are Father Ringwold and my future shall be devoted to my dear father. You know you are getting too old to pull the boat, father, and they say it does not look so well for girls to mingle with the fishermen, but I shall help you at the oars and wait until I have completed my education and then I will teach school or keep books or do something that girls should be respected for doing and take care of my dear old father."

"There was a long pause. The grizzled old man sat in one corner of the cabin gazing into an open fireplace fed by pieces of driftwood of various sizes and lengths. These had been gathered from the beach by the girl upon her arrival from school.

"As the child busied herself with the dishes and light housekeeping the old man sat deeply absorbed. He was thinking of the past. An inky darkness prevailed outside. A stiff wind hurled sheets of mist upon the roof which fell from the eaves in heavy drops.

"As the wind arose and whistled around the corners of the cabin the old man startled as if awakened from terrible experiences of the past. It was a small structure nestling in the tall timbers near the beach, scantily furnished. A few cooking utensils on the open fireplace were used for preparing the meals, a large bed and a small couch furnished the sleeping quarters in the same room. Though the place was much crowded, everything was kept as neat as a pin.

"The man was nearing his four score and ten. The girl was a few days past fifteen. She bore a refined air in spite of her surroundings. Her clothing was of the cheapest kind, yet it was clean. Her garments were not made in the latest style, still they were neat. Her hands and feet were small though the former showed the marks of toil. Her eyes were older than those of most girls of fifteen, but they were no less beautiful. They looked deep into things with an intelligence and innocence that commanded respect.

"Yes, Sankala, I told you I would tell you some day. The Seadogs do not like us. They do not know why, but there is an intuition that tells them we are dangerous to their welfare. Those letters you have brought me from the postoffice all these years are bringing to a consummation the plans which have so long occupied my time. It has been a long and tedious duty but it shall be performed ere the last spark shall leave me."

"Sankala, you have been told the story of the shipwreck by the old woman time and again. I have seldom spoken of it. It is a link in the story of your life that is of the greatest importance to you.

"I am the only person living that knows you. I am the only person living that knows the facts which shall some day make you free from poverty. Which shall enable you to live the life that you deserve—will enable you to complete your education and to outshine Hazel Seadog and all of the Seadog family.

"They are sailing under false plumes, Sankala, they are sailing under false plumes. They are wearing that which of right belongs to others."

"Sankala, I have passed as your father. I love you better than a father ever loved his child. The idea prevails among the fishermen that only your mother was drowned and that I, your aged father, who had taken a young wife at the age of three score and ten had clutched you in my arms at the last moment and that fate had cast

which constituted the foundation of his fortune through some foul means the details of which were shrouded in mystery.

"No, I do not like the kid, either," he continued. "And much less do I like the old bunch of mystery who is known as her father."

"Do you know that when I learned that they had drifted ashore from that vessel, he more than half dead and she but little more than a speck, I felt annoyed by it. In spite of the fact that there could be no harm in them I would rather that all on board should have been lost at the time. And it is remarkable that the oldest and youngest should have survived—the very ones that under the laws of nature should have been lost. The weakest are accounted lost on such occasions under the law, yet that old duck and the young infirm broke the record."

"I don't like to think of those times, and yet I do. My trial for boarding that wreck gave me a close call. In spite of the fact that it was shown that I did not attempt to carry away any of the valuables, and I made the plea that the boys and I were only trying to save life, there was a strong suspicion that we had some wicked motive in boarding the wreck and the jury hung out on the case until things looked shaky."

"Then it has its pleasant side. Upon that wreck I found the evidence that put my mind to rest forever on one point—that is, it should have done so. I found the evidence of the death of the only person living who could disturb me here. He went to the bottom of the sea. I knew he was on the vessel beyond all reasonable doubt and when I found his name on the ship's register then all questions were settled."

"When I found a woman's name on the register identical with that of his own I did not understand. But upon investigation I found that he was married a year before sailing and this cleared all matters on this point. She went to the bottom of the sea with him."

"I had feared that this Sankala might have been of their issue, but I find from the ship's register that one Ringwold and his wife and child were aboard and since old Ringwold claims that he set all doubts straight on this point."

"Ringwold was very old at the time, but he appears to have had a younger wife. Besides the old fellow is half crazy and does not know what he is doing half the time."

"But if this Sankala should have been the child of the son of my only brother, she could never prove it. All records not in my possession are destroyed. But, still I am like you, I do not like either the old man or his daughter. She gives me that same feeling of uneasiness—or rather unpleasantness and he, well, he reminds me of a rival of the olden time."

"That rival was about his height, but he was slender and stood high in life. He was even a druggist at the time. But I, a mere commoner, won out over him and it cost me my country. I had to escape by flight and come to America. He swore vengeance on me and I should tremble in my shoes were I sure he is living today."

"This Ringwold has eyes like the fellow and I do not like him for this reason. But he is a different kind of man. He was quick motioned, had a springy step, wore no beard and kept his hair cut short."

"But Ringwold is like him in another characteristic, though a more inborn one. While Ringwold is considered an expert prescriber in this fishing village my rival was the best chemist of all the Russians. The czar prized him above all others. No other could fill a prescription for his family. His position was that of royalty."

"What rivalry existed between you and this man, my husband?" inquired the interested wife.

"Oh, it is a long story, my dear. There was not a woman in it. There goes woman's curiosity. But, never mind, I will tell you the story another time."

"But this Sankala and the old fellow? He is getting old and cannot last much longer. When he is dead the girl will have nothing to keep her here. She can do as she pleases; out still, I would like to see them away. They seem to be a menace to the peace of the Seadog family."

(To be continued)

Nothing White There.

Albert, the young man of the family, was undeniably ill. The doctor was sent for. He pronounced it a case of jaundice, as indeed the parents had suspected, from the patient's yellowish appearance.

Albert's little sister was explaining to a caller.

"He's got the yaller jaunders," she said. "The doctor says so."

"But how could the doctor tell, Besse?" asked the caller.

"Easy enough," replied Besse. "Anybody could tell it by 'jes' lookin' into the—the yelks of his eyes."

The Lesser of Two Evils.

Nervous Passenger (as the train stops)—I say, conductor, are those two men taking a straw vote?

Conductor—No; they are taking up a collection. Train robbers, you know.

Nervous Passenger—Oh, then it isn't as bad as I suspected.

All Bets Off.

Miss Lakeside (of Cleveland)—You can just bet your sweet life that I'll be wearing an engagement ring before the end of the season.

Miss Browning (of Boston)—Excuse me, but I do not care to wager my saccharine vitality.

How He Got It.

Binks—Queer that Charley Mohler could acquire such an automobile face. He never drives his machine over eight miles an hour.

Jinks—I know, but he got it when his first month's bill for the repairs came in.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

WEEK'S DOINGS

News Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

King George of Saxony, is dead. All official advice are withheld at St. Petersburg and the people are prepared for the worst.

The St. Petersburg Vovosti admitted editorially that the Russians have suffered a telling defeat.

Russia will rush men to the front military authorities believe 150,000 can be transported by April.

Kuropatkin must bear the responsibility for the advance, as it is officially denied that he was ordered to advance.

According to Tangier advices evidence has been discovered that the bandit Raisuli intends to attempt to capture another European.

Telephone operators at Portland are on strike. Both sides are confident and in the meantime the public is suffering many inconveniences.

A sensation has been caused all through Russia by the persistent rumors that the Russian treasury intends to draw upon Russian church property in order to replenish its war chest.

It has developed that a pouch of mail for the United States cruiser Cincinnati, which was aboard the steamer Calchas when she was captured had been opened while in the hands of the Russian officials, subsequently resealed and sent on to its destination.

Fire at Kansas City destroyed property valued at \$100,000.

The Russians are offering fabulous prices to ships to make Port Arthur with supplies.

President Francis says the St. Louis fair lost \$1,000,000 by being forced to close on Sunday.

The Rio Grande is still rising in New Mexico. The river is now the highest in 20 years.

The Duke of Cannought, brother of King Edward, narrowly escaped death in an auto accident.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that five Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Vladivostok.

The New York Rapid Transit company's new subway will be opened to the general public October 27.

There is renewed anxiety regarding the condition of King George, of Saxony, whose difficulty in breathing and general weakness are marked.

The battle at Port Arthur is becoming fiercer than ever. The Japanese have succeeded in placing a mortar battery which has the range of the inner fortress.

The Japanese are preparing for another assault on Port Arthur.

The Portland postal receipts for the fiscal year just ended show an increase of \$51,000.

Hitchcock declares that the decision in the Benson case will not affect the prosecution of the land ring.

John Barrett, minister to Panama, is in Washington, where he will confer with the president about conditions on the isthmus.

A great battle is raging between Liao Yang and Mukden. The Japanese have again assumed the offensive and the Russian advance has been checked.

A terrible storm swept the Honduras coast the latter part of September which lasted for three days. Enormous damage was suffered. The banana crop is reported ruined.

Field Marshal Oyama is said to have ordered a retreat to Liao Yang and had the ship was flamed, several holes were found in her hull and it was necessary to land all her passengers with provisions for 10 days. Assistance will be sent them.

Germany and Russia are reported to have made a secret agreement.

St. Petersburg is confident that Kuropatkin will relieve Port Arthur.

Tokio has advised that three Russian ships at Port Arthur have been lost.

London war experts believe that the Russian advance is just what the Japanese want.

General Funston, in his annual report, urges an increase in the pay of enlisted men in the army.

Labor Commissioner Hoff, of Oregon, reports that the cost of living has increased 15 per cent in the past four years.

The Baltic fleet has at last made what is declared by the authorities its actual start for the Far East. From other sources, however, it is said the fleet is unworthy and another postponement is expected.

A daring jail break has been frustrated at the Multnomah county jail. Five prisoners proposed to kill the jailer, but the plot was revealed by a man or woman, but he was awaiting a decision of the supreme court.

Jinks—I know, but he got it when his first month's bill for the repairs came in.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

REGARD DEFEAT AS COMPLETE.

London Papers Agree That Kuropatkin Has Shot His Bolt.

London, Oct. 15.—The London papers have to rely mainly on official reports for news from the Far East, but the dispatches thus far received regard a complete Japanese victory assured, and editorially from this point of view. Says the Daily Telegraph:

"General Kuropatkin has shot his bolt. It seemed to be speeding well toward the mark, yet missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse but a disastrous defeat, while Japan's incomparable soldiers under incomparable generals have added another glorious page to the chronicle of war and proved that Oyama is still Kuropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes General Kuropatkin's move as a "gambler's throw," and considers the frank bluntness of his report to the emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency.

The Standard finds General Kuropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than a Viceroy Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant.

Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations.

"Telegrams," he says, "do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scale turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves ready to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted."

COST OF FEEDING THE ARMY.

Commissary General Reports the Expenses Reduced to a Minimum.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The annual report of Brigadier General J. F. Weston, commissary general of the army, says the total cost of feeding the army during the past fiscal year was \$8,821,750. During the year the losses were \$418,650 in the Philippines; \$7,467 on the transports and \$129,853 in the United States, Alaska, Porto Rico and elsewhere.

General Weston says it is difficult and often impossible to prevent losses of perishable stores. General Weston urgently recommends the passage of a bill by congress to give authority to all officers entrusted with the disbursment of subsistence funds to hold restricted amounts of such funds in their personal possession. He says the exigencies of the public service require an open disregard of the restriction of the existing laws in cities where the treasurer or an assistant treasurer is located. He urges legislation authorizing the same at public attention of accumulated subsistence stores in good condition.

General Weston says the problem of feeding the army in the Philippines was a difficult one, but "it has been successfully solved, and subsistence affairs in the archipelago are now run with system and economy."

The subsistence department, it is stated, was able to make a contract for fresh beef for the fiscal year, 1905, by an annual saving of over \$140,000 was effected. The running expenses gradually have been reduced to a minimum, the report says, and a saving of more than \$40,000 made in wages of civilian employes alone.

Wreckage From Troopship.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The schooner Gotama, which arrived here early this morning from Kurile island, reports that on August 4, when 40 miles south southwest of Cape Carat, she sighted a mass of floating wreckage. She made out parts of a mast. Captain Macomber later succeeded in getting closer to the wreckage, and established that it was from the Japanese troopship Kinshu Maru, which was sunk by the Russians last April, when 200 perished. Entangled in the wreckage were a number of headless trunks.

Passing of Negro Roustabouts.

New Orleans, Oct. 15.—The passing of the negro as a roustabout, marking an epoch in steamboating on the Mississippi, was witnessed by a large crowd of people, who today saw 60 white men, sent here from Western and Northern cities, to work at the steamboat landings in place of the colored men. For years the steamboat men have suffered from the strikes of negro roustabouts, who sometimes have demanded as high as \$150 a month.

Great Dockworkers' Strike Ends.

Marseilles, Oct. 15.—The coal heavers who have been on strike for nearly two months have agreed to resume work on the employers' conditions. This brings the great dockworkers' strike to an end.

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

FEED FROM EASTERN OREGON.

Willamette Valley Farmers Forced to Buy This Fall.

Salem.—To relieve a very rare feed market valley dealers are importing Eastern Oregon barley, bran and chop to the great scarcity of oats, that article is selling at \$30 a ton and higher, with very little to be had in the local market. Dealers are importing to Salem alone about eight cars of feed a week. With this movement so soon after harvest, it is expected that much heavier shipments will be made when winter weather sets in. As a means of further relieving the situation the Southern Pacific has been appealed to for a special reduction in freight rates on feed shipped in for valley livestock.

The principal feed imported is rolled barley, which comes here from Portland, but is grown in Eastern Oregon. This feed costs the farmer \$27 a ton, and as a ton of it is worth more for stock generally than a ton of oats, the barley is being purchased by farmers who must buy feed of some kind. Dealers say that barley at \$27 is \$5 a ton cheaper than oats at \$30, hence the Eastern Oregon feed can be brought in to the advantage of valley farmers. Owners of driving horses must have oats for which they pay \$30 a ton, and dairymen are buying chop at \$20, bran at \$22.50 and shorts at \$23.

As a rule, grain farmers have feed enough for their own needs, but have none to sell. Fruitgrowers, hopgrowers, a few stockmen and some grain farmers are the heavy buyers of feed. They have been accustomed to buy from their neighbors who raise grain, but this year the grain farmers have little, if any, feed to sell. A great many farmers who have a few head of stock will be compelled to buy more or less feed, but they will not constitute the heavy buyers.

DISCRETION WITH DIRECTORS.

State School Superintendent Recommends Change in Law.

Salem.—In his annual report, now in the hands of the state printer, Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman, recommends to the legislature a change in the language of the school law so as to place upon sections 3,359 the construction which Judge Hamilton gave it in his decision. Subdivision 11 of that section provides that the directors of a school district "may" transfer a pupil from one district to another upon the parents filing a petition, etc., and Superintendent Ackerman has always believed that the word "may" in this section left the matter discretionary with the school board.

A question having arisen, the matter was referred to the attorney general, who held that the parents have a right to have the child transferred and that "may" means "must." Superintendent Ackerman accepted the attorney general's ruling but recommended that the legislature insert after the word "may" the words "at its discretion," so that there could be no doubt as to the construction to be placed upon these words. The decision rendered by Judge Hamilton gives the words the construction desired by Superintendent Ackerman.

Appointed by the Governor.

Salem.—Tom Richardson, of Portland; A. B. Wood, of Cottage Grove, and J. W. Bailey, of Portland, have been appointed by Governor Chamberlain as delegates to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, which will meet in St. Louis October 25 to 29 inclusive. Mr. Richardson is manager of the Commercial club, of Portland, and Mr. Bailey is state food and dairy commissioner. Mr. Wood and Mr. Richardson and Mr. A. N. Solis, of Ontario, have been appointed delegates to the National irrigation convention to be held at El Paso, Tex., November 15 to 18, inclusive.

150 Sacks per Acre.

Echo—Peter Sheridan, who resides at the mouth of Butcher creek, 16 miles west of here, is harvesting 150 acres of potatoes. Mr. Sheridan says the field is yielding 150 sacks to the acre. He has already disposed of several hundred sacks and will probably keep the remainder until spring. A resident of the vicinity says that last season he raised 243 sacks to the acre without irrigation. Mr. Sheridan's field was not irrigated, but is situated on the bottom of the valley through which Butcher creek flows.

Heaviest Freight Traffic Known.

La Grande — Freight traffic was never known to be so heavy in Eastern Oregon as at the present time, and it is mostly due to the increase in the shipment of wheat to the East and the resumption of the large lumber mills also adds to the volume. There are many extra trains run out on the La Grande division daily, and there is but a few hours' rest for the trainmen at the terminal stations when they are called out for another trip.

Few Sales of Wheat Made.

Pendleton — Although the wheat market hovers around the 72 cent mark for club, no recent sales of consequence have been reported. Some grain is still being hauled into town mostly for feed and for the feed and chop mills. The mills are constantly receiving wheat, but the most of the crop is under shelter. Some of the warehouses along the railroad are so full that wheat is piled on the platforms.

Little Green Timber Burned.

Oregon City — Supervisor Adolph Aschoff, of the Cascade forest reserve, has removed his headquarters from Hood river to his home near Marmot, Clackamas county, and has established telephone connections with Sandy. Mr. Aschoff reports that while there have been a great number of forest fires during the summer, few proved at all serious, while but little green timber was destroyed. As a rule the fires were confined to tracts of dead timber.

Sugar Output Large.

La Grande—The sugar factory is running day and night with a full complement of men. It will run longer and make many more tons of sugar this year than in any previous year. The reason for beet growing has been an ideal one. The yield per acre exceeds any previous year, and next year will see a very large increase in the acreage throughout the entire county.

Woolen Mills Busy.

Pendleton—The Pendleton woolen mills are manufacturing a new line of goods this season — working men's blouses and smoking jackets. The latter are manufactured from Indian robes of unique patterns. Although the mill has been manufacturing these garments since September 1, only three are on hand, the demand being so great. More garment workers will be employed later.

Lighting Plant for College.

McMinnville College, McMinnville—A new vapor gas plant for lighting the main college building and for use in the laboratories has just been installed and is now in use. The plant cost about \$400, which was subscribed by the people of McMinnville. The system will probably be extended to the gymnasium to light that building for the evening classes in physical culture.

Big Tract of Timber Sold.

Astoria—The sale of another large tract of timber land in Clatsop county has been closed recently, but the price paid is not obtainable. Deeds filed for record show that Horace Irvine, of Minnesota, has sold to the Nehalem Timber company 5,288 acres in the southwest portion of the county. The consideration named in the deeds is \$24,000, or \$25 per acre.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 81@82c; Bluestem, 85c; valley, 85c.
Tacoma—Bluestem, 86c; club, 82c. Colfax—Club, 70c; bluestem, 75c.