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Tie River

When the Colorado Burst Its Banks and Flooded the Imperial Valley of California

Bu EDNAH AIKEN

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—K. C. Rickard, an engineer of the Overland Pacific, is called to the office of President Marshall in Tueson, Ariz. "Casey" is an engine to the office force; he wears "dude" clothes, but he had resigned a chair of engineers to the control of the contr

CHAPTER II-Marshall tells Rickard

CHAPTER III—Rickard journeys Calexico, sees the irrigated desert earns much about Hardin and his we learns much about Hardin and his work.
CHAPTER IV—At the hotel he meets
Mr. and Mrs. Hardin and Innes Hardin,
Hardin's half sistes. Despute the state of the husband and an incorrection coquetts,
Mrs. Hardin sets her cap for her former
lover and invites him to dinner.

lover and invites him to dinner.

CHAPTER V-Rickard visits the company's offices and takes control. He finds has severally a control and hostile to him a several poyal to Hardin and hostile to him a several poyal to the finder of the finder

CHAPTER VII—Innes is discovered in her garden. She tries to cheer up Hardin, who is furious against Rickard, CHAPTER X-The Hardin dinner to Rickard discloses further the family char-acteristics. Hardin is surly and sulky, Innes is hardiy polite. Gerty plans a "progressive ride" in Rickard's honor.

'progressive ride'' in Rickard's honor. CHAPTER XI-Rickard encounters the insubordination of the company's engineers. He is attreed by the Indiana' statement that this is the hundredth year of a cycle, when the Great Yellow Dragon, the Colorado, grows restless. He makes various preparations, pushes work on the Calexico levee and is ordered by Marshall to 'take a faiting chance' on the completion of Flatdin pet project, a gate to shut the break in the rives.

CHAPTER VIII—A family luncheon of the Hardins which throws light on them. CHAPTER IX—Hardin discovers that Rickard is planning a levee to protect Calexico and puts him down as incom-petent. Gerty thinks her lord sealous.

[Your name]

waters were under control; that the cided to wait for the dawn. A men had gone home to sleep, so the sleep first, but who would call her? women got breakfast as usual, and She would sleep for hours, so weary tidled their homes. The Colorado was every muscle. Her mind fixed on Sam

always breaking out, like a naughty child from school. Never would the cry of "The river!" fall to drag the blood from their cheeks. But relief found that the long adobe office build always came; the threatened danger in had already taken on the look of child from school. Never would the cry of "The river!" fall to drag the blood from their cheeks. But relief always came; the threatened danger was always averted, and these ploneer

reaction.

That afternoon, Mrs. Youngberg way to entertain at the A B C ranch the ladies of the Improvement club. It was a self-glorification meeting, to celebrate the planting of trees in the streets of Calexico, and to plan the campaign of their planting. Mrs. Blim drove into town to get Gerty Hardin. Neither woman had seen her husband since the interrupted drive the night before.

"I don't know whether I should go." Mrs. Hardin hesitated, her face turned toward the A B C ranch. "Perhaps

toward the A B O ranch. "Perhaps there is something we could do." "I have just come from the levee."

Mrs. Blinn's jolly face had lost its ars. Blin's joly face and lost its apprehension. "The water has not risen an inch since breakfast. Most of the men fave been sent home. When Howard didn't come home to lunch, i graw anxious. But Mr. Rickard says he sent him to Fassett's with more demanded." dynamite."
"There he is," thrilled Gerty.

Mrs. Blinn's eye swept the street.
"Where? Your husband?"
"No, Mr. Rickard. Passing the bank.
There, he's stopped. I wonder if he is
going in? You call him, Mrs. Blinn."

Obediently her friend halled Rick-ard. He turned back to the windy street. He felt boyish; the crisis was giving him mercurial feet. He loved the modern battle. Elements to pli force!
Gerty Hardin's face was flushing

and paling. "The river," she faltered, "Should we be alarmed, Mr. Rickard?" Smiling, he assured her she should not be alarmed; the levees would protect the towns. "Mr. Hardin is up at Fassett's ranch, he will be coming back today. I told your husband, Mrs. Bilnn, to catch a nap and then relieve Mr. Har-

Gerty found a significance in his yords. He had said "Mr. Hardin," and your husband, Mrs. Blinn." It was

ough to weave dreams around. "We can't do anything, Mr. Rickard, help?" urged Gerty Hardin, her "I hope we won't have to call on you

at all." There was no excuse to linger. Gerty threw a wistful little smile at

CHAPTER XVII.

Opposition.

vomen of the towns dragged brush nd filled sacks for the men to carry. Rickard is planning a levee to protect Caterico and puts him down as incompetent. Gerty them for lord lealous.

CHAPTER XVI.

CHAPTER XVI.

CHAPTER XVI.

The town woke to a matter-of-fact day. The sensational aspect of the runaway river had passed with the light. The word spread that the flood waters were under control; that the cided to wait for the dawn A sensitive of the state of the runaway river had passed with the light. The word spread that the flood dust-laden wind in her face? She dewaters were under control; that the It was past midnight when Innes Har

defeat, of ruin. The casements had been torn from the partitions; the doors and windows were out. The fur-niture had been hauled up to high ground farther away for safety. She went hunting through the ghe



Rickard Was With Her Sister-in-law. gloom for the darky, turning her lantern in every dark corner. She knew that she would find him sleeping.

Then she heard steps on the yeranda. She ran toward them, expecting to see Sam. She swung her lantern full on two figures mounting the shallow steps. Rickard was with her sister-

"Oh, excuse me!" she blurted blunderingly. Of course Gerty would take a wrong intention from the stupid words!

with defiance. It was as though she had spoken: "Well, think what you will of it, you Hardins! I don't care

What indeed did she think of it? Why should she feel like the culprit before these two, her words desert-ing her? It was Gerty's look that made her feel guilty, as though she

had been spying. To meet them to-gether, here at midnight, why should not they feel ashamed? She had done nothing wrong. And Tom down you-der fighting—and they make his ab-sence a cover for their rendezvous. "I'm looking for Sam!". The effort behind the words turned them into an oratorical challenge.

"So are we. I want to send him ome with Mrs. Hardin. She's worn

"She can go home with me. I am going directly. As soon as I give a message to Sam." She instantly regretted her words, abruptly halting. It came to her that Rickard would insist upon delivering her message. Of course, he would oppose her going. Some petty reason or other. She knew from the men that he was oppositional, that he liked to show his power. Not safe, he would say, or the horse was needed, or Sam too busy to wait on her!

"You cannot go home alone, you two. The town is full of strange Indians. Give me your lantern, Miss Hardin; I'll rout out that darky." Rebelliously she gave him the lan-tern. The light turned full on her

averted angry eyes.

A haughty Thusnelda followed him. Sam was discovered asleep in the only room where the windows had not yet been attacked. His head rested on a bundle of sacked trees which the ladies of the Improvement club had planned to plant the next day. Deep

They've been working while you've slept. I thought you'd have all these windows out by now."

Gerty had to supply the courtesy for two. She told Mr. Rickard in her an-

lence, as the two women, followed by Sam, yawning and stretching, made their way down the shricking street. "It was true," Innes was thinking. She had at last stumbled on the rout, but it was not a matter of personal, but moral untidiness; not a carelessness of pins or plates, of tapes or dishes. It was far worse; a slackness of ethics. It meant more unhappiness for Tom. Her aching muscles told her that she could not have slept four hours when the darky was back, knocking at

Innes' horse loped through the silent streets.

silent streets,
"I'll run past the levee; perhaps
Tom has come back." It occurred to
her that there might be a message at
the hotel. She pulled on her left rein,
and swept past the deserted adobe. As she reined in her horse, Rickard

stepped out on the sidewalk. He, too, was heavy-eyed from a snatched nap. "Were you looking for me?" The scorn in the girl's face told him that his question was stupid, For

He said he did not know. "You can ee I have been dreaming!" She would smile back at him, but rode off

Was this the river? West of the levee, a sea of muddy water spread over the land. There was yet a chance to save the towns, the town, she corected herself, as her eye fell on the Mexican village across the ditch. For Mexicali was doomed. Some of the mud huts had already fallen; the wa-ter was running close to the station

"Pretty bad?" she cried. He shook his head. "Is Tom back?"
"He's over there, now. Fighting like all possessed. He'll work till he drops." Wooster was proud of that method.

"We all know Tom!" Her pride sprang up. "But he's got to stop for a while. I'm going up after him." "Not if my name's Wooster. I'll go. He'll mind me." She watched the flowing river, swol-

len with wreckage. She saw, with comprehension, a section of a fence; somebody's crop gone. There was a railway tie, another! The river was eating up Estrada's new roadbed? A cry broke from her as a mesquit on the coffee-colored tide caught on a buried snag. The current swirled dan-gerously around it. Instantly, the wa-ter rose toward the top of the levee. Men came running to pry away th tree. A minute later, it was da the stream. They raised the against the pressing lapping s. There, the tree had struck waves. Anere, the tree and struck again. They ran down the levee with their long poles. Each time that hap-pened, unless the obstruction were swiftly dislodged, she knew it meant an artificial fall somewhere, a quick couring out of the channel. The mer were working like silent parts of a big machine; the confusion of the first night was gone. From their faces one would not guess that their fortunes would not guess that their fortunes, their homes, hung on the subduing of that indomitable force which had not yet known defeat, which had turned back explorer and conquistador. Ah, there was the lurking fear of it! Vic tory still lay to its credit; the othe column was blank.

She saw Wooster coming toward her. His snapping black eyes shot out

sparks of anger. "He won't let me go."

"Who won't let you?" But she knew.
"Casey. Says he'll send some one
disc. I said as nobody else'd make

Hardin stop. He said as that was up to Hardin." Of course, he wouldn't let Woo

go!
"Orders me to bed," spat Wooster. "Wonder why he didn't order gruel, too. It's spite, antagonism to Hardin,



that's what it is!" She believed that too. Tom was right. Rickard did take advantage of his authority. She did not see Rickard until he

stood by her side. "I'm sorry not to spare Wooster.
Miss Hardin. But there's stiff work
ahead. He's got to be ready for a call.
If Hardin insists on spoiling one good soldier, that's his affair. I can't let

Wooster shrugged, and left them.
"Spoiling good soldiers!"
"I've taken Bodefeldt off duty. 1

Bodefeldt who blushed when any looked at him! He would be about at persuasive to Tom as a veil to a des ert wind! She turned away, but no before Rickard saw again that trans pealing way that he had been very forming anger. Her eyes shone like topazes in sunlight. She would not trust herself to speak. Wooster was might!" The words had an insulting ring.

The wind covered a passionate signary. One of the wood to the words had a passionate signary. One of the words had a passionate signary. One of the words had a passionate signary. One of the words had a passionate signary.

Queer, they couldn't see that it was Hardin's fault; Hardin who was up the river fighting like a melodramatic hero; fighting without caution or reserve, demoralizing discipline; he couldn't help admiring the buildog en ergy, himself. That was what all these men adored. He'd clenched the girl' antagonism, now, for sure! How he eyes had flashed at him!

"Bring your poles!" he yelled.

AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN GERMANY IN WANT

civilians in various parts of occur Germany are in serious straits be cause of the food situation.

are several members of congress who have been in Cobins recently. It is ed to send the food required by

WITNESS, WHILE TESTIFYING IS SHOT IN MOUTH BY WIFE

culating the distance, the time, per-haps, before the new station would go. She halled Wooster. Ruin was pre-saged in the lines of his forehead. WAS NO SURPRISE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PRIVATE PACTS.

THUNDERSTORM OF HONESTY

Conference on "Adriatic Question Barred Italians Also."

Paris .- An eminent Roman Catholic prelate whom President Wilson re ceived weeks ago when the prospects of the conference were dark prepared for him a little address consisting of one sentence:

"Mr. President," it ran, "a thunder storm of honesty.'

In the statement on the Adriatic question sent by wireless throughou the world, Mr. Wilson played the par for which the eminent prelate cast him. The statement, certainly hon-est, has caused a thunderstorm. The fact that the President had pre-pared the statement for publication had for some days been an open

From the very beginning the Presi dent has taken and will take the post tion that public engagements publicly entered into by the allies must take precedence over secret engagements whenever the two kinds of engagements were incompatible.

The Italian delegation attempted to ing that Mr. Wilson's principles ap plied only to peace with Germany, but

Mr. Wilson and the whole American mr. Wilson and the whole American delegation have steadily set their faces against this standpoint. The United States recognized the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Mr. Lansing declared in the council of 10 that if the southern Slav dele gates were to be excluded from the sitting of the council when the Adri-atic question was discussed the Unit-ed States must insizt that the Italians

FIFTEEN THOUSAND NEW MEN WANTED FOR AIR SERVICE

New York.-With a view to aiding the air service of the United States army to obtain 15,000 men "much needed" by enlistment, Capt. Charles Glidden, air service, U. S. army, has issued the following statement:

"All men who wish to take part in the development of the nation's air Broad street, New York, immediately will receive an important communication on the subject which I have prejumed after serving as an officer severe feeling.

eral months in the United States army flying school at Southern field, Ameri-cus, Ga., and at the United States army balloon school at Ft. Omaha."

BELIEVED PROBABLE THAT ORLANDO WILL COME BACK

Paris.-Not a rupture, but a suspe sion of Italy's collaboration in the sion of Italy's collaboration in the situation was defined in conference circles. The Italian delegation, feeling that its representative character has been called in question in certain quarters, considers it its duty to refer o the Italian parliament, but it is be to the Italian parliament, but it is be-lieved to be probable that Premier Or-lando will be back in time for the opening of the negotiations with the German plenipotentiaries at Ver-sailles, which will not occur before

May 1 or May 2.
Until the Italian prime minister return the Italian delegates will not attend the sessions of either the con-ference or its commissions, but in or-der to show that Italy desires to main tain good relations with the allies the Italians will continue to collaborate the inter-allies commissions.

TO BE LITERAL ENFORCEMENT OF WAR TIME PROHIBITION

New York.—The government proproposes a literal enforcement of the war-time probabition act, including a bas-on production and eale of all beers and wines, whether or not they are intoxi-cating, the department of justice an-

While no steps will be taken to prevent brewing, pending a court de-termination of the law's constitution-ality raised by brewers of the New

The law prohibited sale after June 30 of distilled beverages as well as manufacture after April 20 and sale

BAYS WILSON IS TREATING ITALY AS BARBAROUS NATION

Paris.-Premier Orlando declares is an attempt to place the government n opposition to the people

"He is treating the Italians," adds the premier, "as if they were a bar-barous people."

The premier says he has never denied that the pact of London did not apply to Fiume, but the Italian claim

"All men who wish to take part in the development of the nation's air service, as an aviator, or dirigible balloon pilot, chauffeur, mechanic or R. Mott, of the war work council work at some 30 other trades required in the air service, by sending their name and address in care of the department air service officer, 104

Broad street, New York, immediately what perturbed over the possibil-

nounced through a special representa-tive in the federal court here.

ality raised by brewers of the New York district, manufacturers will oper-ate in peril of future prosecution, ac-cording to the statement of William C. Fitts, special counsel, appearing for Attorney General Palmer in the beer

after June 30 of "beer, wine and other intoxicating malt or vivous liquors for beverage purposes, pending the de mobilization of the military forces,

MAY ORDER ALL Y. M. C. A.

WORKERS OUT OF ITALY Paris.-The possibility of ordering

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"Here, Sam! I want you to take these ladies home. Chase yourself. told him to relieve Hardin."

Hello! There was a tree floating down toward the station house. . . .

Among those who have requested the civil affairs officers of the third army to take some action toward the relief of the Americans in question

Chicago.—A divorce case came to a dramatic close when Mrs. Elmer R. Simpson shot her husband, who was

on the winess stand, through the mouth.

Simpson was testifying quietly. Sud-denly his wife leaped to her feet.

"That's a lie!" she crief, and fired. nud huts had already fallen; the wa-er was running close to the station louse.

She saw Wooster standing near, cal-



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into the salest investment in the world-glad that we bought to our

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