

# THE DEEP SEA PERIL

By VICTOR ROUSSEAU

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## CHAPTER VIII.—Continued.

"Now, my plan is this: We must leave the airlock one by one, with rather a light weight of metal on our feet, calculated to enable us to walk, and yet not to keep us down. We shall then simply climb the slopes of Fair Island under the water."

"I think it is the only feasible plan, sir," said Davies briskly.

"How do you feel about it, Ida?" asked Donald in a low tone.

Ida put her hand into his. "I am ready to do anything you wish, Donald, dear," she answered.

"The answer for the lady with my own life, sir," said Clouts heartily.

"Then we're decided," said Donald. "Now, follow me in single file, hands on the shoulders of the one in front of you. All ready?"

He led the way through the darkness, down the ladder at the base of the conning tower toward the storage room in which the diving apparatus was kept. Then he lit a candle.

The Siebert apparatus possesses the merit of simplicity. Donald, as he adjusted it on each with the aid of Davies, did not think it necessary to explain the mechanism. It consisted, first, of a waterproof uniform, then of a glass mask and copper cylinder, the latter covering the upper part of the body and fastening about the shoulders. It contained a supply of compressed oxygen for several hours. The carbonic acid exhaled passed into a receptacle containing caustic soda, which purified it, thus liberating the oxygen, while the nitrogen could be inhaled over and over again.

There was also a single sleeve attached by wires to a little storage battery worn on the neck, in which, when the apparatus had been properly adjusted, a small electric light could be made to burn by the pressure of a button.

They waited a moment while Ida put on the waterproof uniform; then all followed suit. Donald and Davies dressed themselves after Clouts, and attached the weights about the feet of each and to their own. Finally, when all were in readiness, Donald snuffed the candle and lit his electric lamp, which was inclosed in a specially devised glass, calculated to resist a great pressure.

Each of the party was now sealed from all sound. They saw each other's faces very dimly through the glass masks.

Donald indicated to Davies that he was to bring up the rear, his hands upon the shoulders of Sam Clouts in front of him. He placed Ida in front of Clouts, and, raising her hands, put them upon his own shoulders, himself leading the procession.

He made his way into the conning tower again. He opened the inner chamber of the airlock, admitting Ida and himself, and closed it again. He knew that Clouts and Davies could take care of themselves.

The airlock, built to be used for escape in just such an emergency, was meant for one temporary tenant alone. But two could just manage to squeeze in, and Ida could not have undertaken the plunge alone.

They were breathing the stored oxygen within the copper cylinders. They were safe for the present. The transit was not especially perilous in itself, but there were dangers to face—the possibility of being too heavily weighted and sinking into the ooze; that of being too light and losing balance. These had to be met.

Through the glass mask Donald saw Ida's face. She was composed, and, in spite of the distorting medium, he was sure that he saw a look of trustful love in her eyes.

He started the compressed-air apparatus to keep the sea water out of the lock, and opened the outer door. They looked into the nothingness of the ocean bottom. The wall of inky water was hardly illumined by the faint light that shone from their sleeve-lamps.

Donald pressed Ida's hand. He felt her fingers flutter in his. She understood what she was to do. She placed her head and shoulders within the aperture.

Donald raised her feet and pushed her into the sea. He saw the night of water swallow her.

And, choking down his fears, he plunged in after her.

## CHAPTER IX.

### On the Sea Floor.

He struggled for balance as the sea depths enveloped him. He groped in the water as in a fog. The swirl of bubbling air from the oxygen apparatus in the lock carried him some distance from the submarine, and then he felt himself sinking.

He sank very slowly, and as he sank he groped for Ida. He could not find her. The submarine had disappeared completely.

He waded to and fro clumsily. He was like a dead man who wades in an uninhabited purgatory of desolation. There was nothing anywhere, nothing. Only the yielding water, at which his fingers clutched fruitlessly.

He began to walk for six paces in

every direction, calculating that in this way he could bound a parallelogram and return to his starting point. But he saw nothing, and he did not know that he had returned to the place from which he had set out.

He started wildly backward, believing that the submarine lay behind him. As he walked, dragging his weight like a convict's chain and ball, suddenly the outlines of the F55 appeared before him.

He realized that she was lying with her bow higher than her stern. At once he grasped the situation. She had sunk with her bow toward land, and from this end, therefore, he must start on the ascent of Fair Island's subterranean base.

And this discovery renewed his courage. Of course, the others were endeavoring to make the ascent, while he had gone floundering in the wrong direction, downward toward the heart of the crater.

He made his way parallel with the submarine's bow, keeping well within sight of the elusive craft, which would disappear momentarily before his eyes and suddenly appear again, almost within arm's reach. Suddenly he stopped. He stared at the oozy floor. His light had cast his shadow in front of him.

But that was impossible.

It was no shadow. It was a flattened man, a dwarfish figure, ridiculously misproportioned, resembling an image seen in a curved mirror. It approached slowly and uncertainly. For a moment Donald felt his heart stand still with fear. It was a nightmare figure, terror incarnate. A little glow flashed from its arm. They drew together.

They stood looking at each other, peering through their thick masks.



He Struggled for Balance as the Sea Depths Enveloped Him.

But in that vague medium recognition was impossible.

Donald saw only the blurred features behind the thick glass that covered the face, distorted and twisted by the refraction. He surmised that it was not Davies. Davies could have made himself known by any of a number of symbols of the seaman's freemasonry. But then, it could not be Clouts either.

He caught at the figure's hand and raised it to his sleeve-light. It was a woman's hand—it was Ida.

They knew each other. Donald took her fingers in his, and together they started on the ascent.

To his horror, Donald perceived that the water was becoming opaque.

It presaged the appearance of the sea monsters. They were in this lair, and this substance was no food, no plankton that those devils pushed forth before them like a veil, but a material designed to shield them from the filtering sunlight.

Donald grasped Ida's hand and fought his way through the clinging mass. As he swung his free arm, upraised, it struck against a rocky barrier overhead. The ooze underfoot had yielded to solid rock.

He thrust out his arms on either side, and still found rock. He realized that they were no longer ascending the mountain, but had struck a cave. Donald stood still, reflecting. Did Ida understand? There was no way in which to tell her.

He was about to retrace his steps when he perceived, a long distance in front of him, a tiny glimmer of light. At first he hoped that it was daylight. But that was impossible.

Ida raised her hand and pointed. She, too, had seen it, and had placed the same interpretation upon it.

At every step the light grew clearer. It was not stationary, but swung to and fro slowly from side to side, rising and falling, yet seeming to retreat slowly as they advanced. Donald strained his eyes through the mask, expecting every moment to see the form of one of his comrades.

The light stood still immediately in front of them, upon a level with Don-

ald's eyes. He leaned forward, put out his hand toward it.

Suddenly Ida leaped backward, dragging him violently with her. There was a sense of sound, or vibration, rather, like the closing of a trap's jaws. They seemed to snap together hardly a foot from Donald's head.

And he saw suddenly, as if it had at that moment only become visible, the shadowy form of some vast monster lurking within the recesses of the cave.

It was one of the giant forms of deep-sea life, perhaps holding the same relationship toward the sea beasts as tigers do toward men. It might have followed the swarm when they assembled in the submarine crater, preparatory to their emigration southward.

It was not one of the monsters that had attacked the boat, for Donald could discern a fishlike body and a huge head with gleaming eyes, and a pair of hinged jaws that gaped wide as if to search for the prey that had eluded them.

The light was a phosphorescent lure used by the creature to draw its victims within the cavern in which it lurked. The sluggish monster remained quiescent, and again the lure appeared, dangling between the jaws from the snout above them.

Donald pushed Ida before him and fled out of the cave until he trod upon the oozy sea gain. And they continued to crawl at the bottom of the sea, two helpless man creatures, unbelievably helpless while around them the fierce, predatory swarms sought their diurnal food.

Donald had found the slope of the island when the water began to grow thick again.

Presently a phosphorescent patch appeared in the distance. It became less hazy, it seemed to concentrate. The ocean suddenly became like transparent jelly.

And, facing him, Donald saw the outline of one of the sea monsters, visible now and horribly magnified. The eyes opened upon his own. They were not currantlike in that medium, but expanded to the full, great orbs like sunflowers that glowered on their prospective prey, larger than the eyes of any beast created since leviathan and behemoth.

However, the creature made no move toward him as Donald, almost paralyzed, remained confronting it. He saw the gorilla form, with its short, budding limbs, the trunk of gorilla's thickness, the narrow flippers, and the triangular head.

He felt as some primeval man might have done when he looked into the face of the mastodon. The creature did not pursue him, but stood, swaying gently, dreadfully human. Donald snatched at Ida and tried to run. He tripped and fell.

He dragged himself to his feet again. He became aware of a barrier between the monster and himself, which had, perhaps, saved them. He had stumbled upon a spongy substance, a coralloid growth that proved to be the outpost of a submarine forest. It was a field of crinoids, the yellow lilies of the sea.

Beautiful plants with branching arms, they bent and swayed before Donald's eyes as they drew in the minute forms of life on which they subsisted. They were vegetable octopods, carnivorous scavengers of the deep, which feasted on the small fish that they entangled in their waving branches, and drew by the ciliary movements of the lining of their tentacles toward the central stomach.

Donald saw one of the waving arms sweep down toward him. He tore at it with his fingers. To his surprise the brittle branch broke loose and settled slowly in the ooze, there to become the embryo of a plant. From every quarter the tentacles, as if apprized of their presence, came swooping slowly toward them.

Donald saw Ida grasped in their clinging clutch. Madly he tore at the graceful, shrinking forms, until he had cloven a wide swath before him, and the arms, balked and baffled of their prey, withdrew.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### Argentine's Wheat Crop.

Reports from the Argentine state that weather conditions are ideal for the growth of wheat. The official preliminary estimate is for a crop of 240,000,000 bushels. The large crop of 1915-16 was 173,000,000 bushels, and the average for the five preceding years was 140,000,000 bushels. Domestic requirements are about 70,000,000 bushels. The large crop now growing will be available some time after January 1 if transportation is furnished.

The Argentine oats crops is estimated at 88,000,000 bushels, or 12,000,000 which 57,000,000 bushels were exported.

### To Keep Pipes of Furnace Clean.

In order to recover small articles dropped through the floor register grating of a hot-air heating system without the necessity of regroving a section of the pipe, mesh gratings may be fitted into place. No. 6 gauge wire mesh may be used in pieces just large enough to fit into the metal box below the register.

## WAR FOOD SURVEY GIVES FINE RESULTS

REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE VARYING CONDITIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

## DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

Raleigh.

The War Emergency Food Survey representing results of reports on food conditions in urban, semi-urban, and rural sections of North Carolina completed through the co-operative efforts of the Food Administration and the State Department of Agriculture shows that corn and corn products, beans and bean products, milk, fruit, eggs, poultry are taking the place of meats, with cured meats used instead of the fresh meats and canned goods predominating. Very few homes showed any amount of food storage.

The results of the survey are announced by the administrative officers of the North Carolina Extension Service.

The survey was representative of all sections and all conditions of the State. Three cities were selected, representing a population of 30,000 or more. Each city was to furnish twenty-five reports. Fifteen counties were selected for conditions typifying semi-urban communities, and each county was asked to make twenty-five reports. Twenty counties were selected for the typical rural districts, and each county was charged with twenty-five reports.

These 750 reports represent typical homes in typical sections of the State. The 650 reports which were returned," states S. G. Rudinow, who has completed a study of the survey, "shows a number of interesting facts which stand out rather prominently:

- "1. The survey shows that, as an average thing, very little meat is consumed at the present time, and that such articles as corn and corn products, beans and bean products, milk, fruits, eggs, and poultry are taking the places of meat.
- "2. In almost no instances was any fresh meats purchased during the time the survey was made, while in almost every home was to be found a certain amount of cured and salted meat.
- "3. Even urban homes have proven the value of the campaign for canning and preserving by showing in this survey a large amount of preserved and canned goods, designated by the letters H. P., signifying 'home produced.'
- "4. The largest predominance of canned goods was to be found in the canned vegetables, including the common garden vegetables.
- "5. Very few homes showed an unusually large amount of food stored away on the day upon which the inventory of food supplies was made, in some instances sugar, molasses, corn products, lard, and wheat products being on hand in amounts of average quantity.
- "6. It was to be expected that rural homes would show neither the storage nor the consumption of miscellaneous articles, such as nuts, chocolates, cocoa, etc., but it is interesting to note that the urban homes also failed to show either the storage or consumption of these commodities.
- "7. Agents have reported that, on the whole, people have been very glad to co-operate in making this survey and in keeping records.
- "8. Undoubtedly the survey has proved to be a good thing for those who have been asked to keep the records, because it has brought certain things to light concerning which people have not thought about a great deal."

### Pharmacist License for Twenty-four.

The state pharmaceutical board announced the licensing of 24 applicants who stood successfully the examination last week. There were 13 who failed to pass. Those successful were: W. C. Allen, Hendersonville; R. E. Barrett, Burlington; C. E. Brookshire, Asheville; M. P. Brodie, Brevard; H. Campbell, Taylorsville; J. N. Chestnut, Clinton; G. B. Cheek, Durham; T. Dodson, Greensboro; C. T. Durham, Chapel Hill; J. Fisher, Concord; C. V. Garner, Creedmoor; P. R. Hatch, Jr., Raleigh; H. B. Herrington, Wilson; J. W. Hinderlite, Raleigh; E. D. Ledbetter, Chapel Hill; M. C. Miles, Warrington; J. F. Smith, Mebane; F. L. Smith, Lexington; F. L. Powell, Whiteville; R. A. Rogers, Oxford; J. C. Taylor, Rosemary; W. X. Finger, Raleigh; M. L. Jones, colored, Wilmington; W. S. Woodward, colored, Rockingham.

### 26 Counties Building Roads.

Twenty-six counties in the State are now doing road building under State supervision, seven starting in September and nineteen more beginning work in October. District supervisors, under the act of the last general assembly placing road maintenance in the State Highway Commission's hands, have been placed in seven districts and supplied with cars. The work of marking the State system of roads will begin in a short time, markers having been ordered and placed as soon as routes are determined.

### Over \$1,500 Rewards Are Offered.

The total of rewards now outstanding for the capture of the unknown burglar who killed the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Plummer last week, leaving practically no clue to his identity, now amounts to more than \$1,500, numbers of checks of \$25 and other amounts having been sent in by citizens out in the State who were horrified by the terrible crime, these donations to supplement the rewards by the State, the county and the city and by members of the immediate family.

### Five Dead in School Fire.

Asheville—Five known dead, with a possibility that the number will be increased to eight, is the toll claimed by flames which destroyed the Catholic Hill school for colored children, 20 minutes after the children had been put through fire drill. Three of the bodies have been identified, and two more at the morgue cannot be identified as yet, but five more children are missing, and it is practically certain that the bodies are those of two of the missing children.

The dead and injured are as follows:

- Identified dead: Henry Thompson, Elsie Thompson, Mary Jamison.
- Missing and believed dead: Addie Logan, Daisy Dobbins, Hazel Harris, Inez Davis, Hannah Smelton. Two unidentified bodies are in the morgue and will account for two of the missing.

### The Teachers.

It is stated, tried to make the children form for fire drill, but the little negroes, excited, refused to obey orders. One teacher locked the door, but the children broke it down and escaped.

### The fire is believed to have originated in the furnace room.

In justice to the Asheville fire department, it is stated that the fire had burned 15 minutes before the alarm was turned in.

## Fairs of State Break Records.

Two hundred and twenty-seven fairs have been conducted in the State this year, breaking all State, and presumably, all national records. The State Department of Agriculture and the A. and E. College have co-operated in two hundred and seven of these fairs.

Submitting a preliminary report of the fair work for this season, the administrative division of the Extension Service calls attention to some of the outstanding features of this year's activities.

While all returns have not as yet come in, it is safe to say that the fairs themselves have broken all records for attendance. Not only has this been true for the State Fair, but for the smallest of the community fairs as well.

Characterized by the trend of the times, the fairs have exhibited splendid co-operation with the Extension Service in emphasizing many concrete demonstrations, educational exhibits, lectures, addresses, and all forms of visual education which would stimulate greater food production and food conservation. One of the most noticeable things has been the tendency on the part of most of the fair managers to remove objectionable and immoral features from their shows.

With the fairs in the State divided into a comprehensive division for the first time to include definite types representing community, county, district fairs and the State Fair, is seen the beginning of a State-wide fair system on a real educational basis for the agricultural constituency of North Carolina.

"We have co-operated extensively in the following way," states the preliminary report, "emphasizing these ten features:

- "1. Standardizing prices and premiums.
- "2. Putting up educational exhibits of an agricultural and home economics character.
- "3. Encouraging exhibits of boys' and girls' club work.
- "4. Addresses and lectures.
- "5. Demonstrations in canning, drying, preserving, treating cereals for diseases, etc.
- "6. Exhibiting charts and posters of the Food Administration Office.
- "7. Encouraging greater production of food.
- "8. Organizing and incorporating fair associations.
- "9. Securing names and addresses of interested farmers.
- "10. Working towards a big State system of really valuable fairs."

### Tobacco Sales Show Increase.

Total leaf sales on North Carolina tobacco markets for the month of October were 67,004,114, representing an increase of 5,012,380 pounds over the same month of 1916 according to the report of the State Department of Agriculture made public. With an average price of \$28.50 per hundred pounds, this would indicate an exchange of \$19,096,172.49 on fifty markets. Wilson led in the report with 8,600,291 pounds. Seven markets had reports exceeding 2,000,000 pounds. They were Wilson, Durham, Henderson, Kinston, Oxford, Rocky Mount, and Greenville.

- Apex, 1,063,219; Ayden, 454,188; Ahsokle, 201,226; Burlington, 760,154; Creedmoor, 201,346; Carthage, 88,765; Durham, 2,069,574; Elkin, 598,902; Farmville, 1,591,296; Fuquay Springs, 760,511; Goldsboro, 663,834; Greensboro, 363,713; Greenville, 5,413,000; Henderson, 2,898,221; Kinston, 4,556,618; Leaksville, 86,054; LaGrange, 1,209,225; Louisburg, 1,053,597; Mebane, 788,965; Madison, 637,454; Mount Airy, 1,368,039; New Bern, 400,484; Oxford, 2,429,345; Pinetops, 394,920; Roxboro, 676,533; Richlands, 151,305; Reidsville, 1,471,862; Rocky Mount, 6,156,824; Robersonville, 461,795; Statesville, 171,013; Snow Hill, 532,524; Spring Hope, 200,242; Smithfield, 1,029,606; Stoneville, 485,311; Vanceboro, 249,315; Warrington, 602,554; Wilson, 8,600,291; Williamston, 763,097; Warsaw, 700,284; Wendell, 1,165,634; Washington, 972,141; Wallace, 466,957; Winston-Salem, 1,577,224; Youngsville, 1,082,485; Zebulon, 734,790.

The following warehouses did not send in report in time to be included in the above report:

- Stokes county warehouse, Walnut Cove, 113,748; Farmers' warehouse, Walnut Cove, 74,939; Heco warehouse, Roxboro, 502,781; Correll's warehouse, Winston-Salem, 1,521,123; Zebulon warehouse, Zebulon, 202,866.

### New Enterprises Authorized.

The Smith Novotny Electrical Company, Inc., of Charlotte, capital \$10,000 authorized and \$5,000 subscribed, by S. J. Smith, E. H. Isenhour and A. B. Justice, for manufacturing mechanical toys and other purposes.

The N. P. Sloan company, Charlotte, capital \$20,000 authorized and \$10,000 subscribed, by N. P. Sloan, H. V. Sloan, W. H. Dunn and others.

### The People's Building Company.

of Washington, capital \$100,000 authorized and \$1,000 subscribed, by F. W. Cox, J. A. Trickett and F. Allwood.

## N.C. FARMERS UNION CONVENTION ENDED

DR. H. Q. ALEXANDER IS AGAIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNION.

## POE IS NATIONAL DELEGATE

State Union Adopts Resolution Thanking Government for Action to Secure Nitrate of Soda.

Winston-Salem.—Dr. H. Q. Alexander was again elected president of the North Carolina Farmers' union at the session in this city with only one dissenting vote. His action in preparing patriotic resolutions and resolutions for the union to purchase \$10,000 in Liberty bonds indicate a change from his accredited attitude of opposition to war and resisting the draft.

Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, who was considered an opponent to his re-election, was not re-elected as a member of the executive committee, but was made a delegate to the national union. The other officers were re-elected.

National President C. S. Barrett was present and addressed the union.

The Farmers' union convention adjourned after passing a resolution of thanks for the steps taken by the Congress of the United States authorizing the President to use \$10,000,000 in the purchase of nitrate of soda to be imported for the use of the farmers and to be furnished to them at cost. The executive committee was authorized to appoint a committee to go to Washington to confer with the agricultural department concerning the best method of distributing this soda. National President C. S. Barrett has consented to accompany the committee. The text of the resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, the Nash County Farmers' union did, at their meeting in August, strongly petition the Congress of the United States to enact a law enabling the agricultural department to import nitrate of soda for distribution to farmers at cost, and

"Whereas, this petition was followed up with much painstaking correspondence with both Congress and the agricultural department, and

"Whereas, Congress did on or about the 10th of August, 1917, enact a law authorizing the President of the United States to use \$10,000,000 of the national funds to purchase soda;

"Therefore, we, the North Carolina Farmers' union, do resolve that we tender our sincere thanks to the national Congress for its action in this regard and to the Nash county union as well for its intelligent efforts.

"Second, That a memorial be sent to the agricultural department at Washington urging that no stone be left unturned to the end that ships be provided for the landing of this soda in our country before next spring.

Committee to Washington.

"Third, That it is the sense of this body that a committee be appointed to go to Washington, if the necessity arises, to confer with the agricultural department as to the best manner of carrying out plan of distribution of this soda, the chief labor of which has been delegated to Mr. M. R. Wilkinson, now of Washington, D. C., but formerly of Atlanta, Ga.

"Fourth, That a committee be appointed also by this body to help work out a plan of assisting the federal government in the distribution of this material within our own state."

The insurance committee introduced a resolution, which was adopted, recommending the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance company as the most suited to the farmers.

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