The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

ed from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the ne by the Thanhouser Film Company

Finding themselves unable to lure Florence away from the environs of the Hargreave home, the Black Hundred set some new machinery in motion. Thep proposed to rid the house of every one in it by a perfectly logical device. But the first step in this new move was going to be avtremely.

Three or four nights after the Par-off flasco, Jones started the rounds, putting out the lights. He left the one in the hall till the last, for it was

his habit, after having turned off that light, to stand by the door for several minutes, watching. One never could tell.

On the other hand, "Spider" Beggs never approached a house till an hour after the lights went out. Persons were likely to move about for some minutes later; they might want some-

thing to eat, a drink of water. So he remained hidden behind the summer

house till long after midnight. When at last he felt assured that all in the

Hargreave house were asleep, he moved out cautiously. Both his future and his pocketbook depended upon

Here Was an Operation That Needed All His Care and Skill.

the success of this venture. It took

him ten minutes to crawl from the summer house to the veranda, and to

have detected this approach Jones, had he been watching, would have needed a searchlight. Beggs hugged the lattice work for another ten min-utes and then drew himself up and wriggled to one of the windows. Here

was an operation that needed all his care and skill; to lift this window with-

out sound. But he was an old hand

hree or four volumes, opened them

at random and laid neat packages of

money between the leaves. It was not real money, but only a bank clerk

could have told that. This done, he

"Splder" Beggs gasped, it was so

let which followed snipped a lock of his hair. He threw himself off the

followed.

Jones turned on the lights and investigated the room, but he could not
find anything disturbed, and naturally
came to the conclusion that the in-

came to the conclusion that the in-truder had been interrupted before he had begun his work. He turned off the lights and sat up the major part of the nght. Nothing more happened. Florence came down, but he sent her back to bed, explaining that some one had attempted to enter the house and he had taken a shot at him.

noved toward the window again.
"Stop!" said Jones quietly.

CHAPTER XIV.

Norton Makes a Discovery.

Perhaps the most amusing phase of the secret agent's discomfiture was the fact that neither Jones nor Fforence had the least idea what had happened.

Forence regretted a hundred times Florence regretted a hundred times during the evening that she had not gone out to the summer house. It might really have been her father. Her regret grew so deep in her that just before going to bed she confessed to

before going to bed she contessed to Jones.

"You received a letter of that sort and did not show it to me?" said Jones, astonished.

"You warned we never to now any to not solve the window ledges; and he could plant be used to the window ledges; and he could be used to the window ledges; and he could practice the work of the wo Jones, astonished.
"You warned me never to pay any

"No; I warned you never to act usen them without first consulting me. And we might have made a cap-ture! My child, always show me these

things. I will advise you whether to tear them up or not."

"Jones, I believe you are going a little too far," said Florence haughtily. "It might have been my father."

"Never in this world, Miss Florence.

"Never in this world, Miss Florence. Still, I beg your pardon for raising my voice. What I do and have done is only for your own sake. There are two things I wish to impress upon your mind before I go. This can be made a comedy or a terrible tragedy. You have already had a taste of the latter; and each time you escaped because God was good to us. But he is rarely kind to thoughtless people, They have to look out for themselves. I am act ing under orders; always remember

"Forgive me; I acted wrongly. But I'm so weary and tired of this eternal suspicion of everybody and every-

subjected of everyout and every-thing. Can't I go somewhere, some place where I can have rest?"
"If I thought for a single moment it was possible to take you thousands of miles from this spot, it would be done this very night. But this is our fortress. So far it has been impreg-nable. The police are watching it; and that prevents a general assault

by the scoundrels. If we tried to by the scoundrels. If we tried to leave we would be followed; and they play that game exceedingly well. Now, good-night. We'll have you out of all this doubt and suspiction one of these days. There will not be any past; that will be lopped off as you'd lop a limb from a tree."

"Please let it be quick. I want to

see my father."
Jones' eyes sparkled. "And you have my word that he wants to see you. But I dare not tell you."
"Do you think he would object to Mr. Norton?" she asked, studying the

"In what capacity?" he countered, forcing her hand.
"As—as a husband?" bravely.

Jones in turn studied the patterns in the rug. "It is only fiatural for a father to look high for his daughter's husband. But, after all, an honest man is worth as much as anything I know of. And Norton is honest and loyal and brave."

"Thank you, Jones. I intend to marry him when the time comes; so you may as well prepare father for this eventuality."
"There is an old adage—"

But she interrupted him. "If you have a new adage, Jones, I shouldn't mind hearing it. But I'm only just out of school, where old adages are served from soup to pudding. Goodnight."

And Jones went to the rear of the

In the passing it might well be observed that the Hargreave house had a remarkable menage. There was a gardener, a cook, and a maid; and the three of them reported to Jones each night before going to bed. They were all three detectives from one of the greatest organizations in America.

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once more. And this was one of the best ideas they had yet conceived.

Hargreave had always been something of a mystery to his neighbors.

Where he had lived in other days was unknown; neither had any one the remotest idea from what source his riches had been obtained. And nothing was known of Jones or the daughter. It was a very shrewd method ter. It was a very shrewd method of clearing every one out of the house and leaving it to be examined at leis-ure. And he had fallen upon this thing; he, Norton, all because his tailor had written him a sharp note about his bill and he had been pro-voked to reply in kind! Counterfeit ked to reply in kind! Counterfeit ney. There was quite a flurry these days over certain issues of spurious paper. It was so good that only experts could detect it. There were two plates, one for a ten and another for a twenty. For a while he was pulled be

tween duty and love. Well, it would only add another interesting chapter to the general story when he published it. He started out to Riverdale to acnew move was going to be extremely delicate and risky. It was no small adventure to enter the Hargreave home; and yet this must be done. So finally "Spider" Beggs was selected for the work. The man could practically well as the selection of the work. quaint Jones with the discovery. "Humph!" said Jones; "not a bad idea this. So that's what the sneak was doing here last night. I've been wondering and wondering. Let's have a look."

He went through the books and at length came across the three volumes. These held a thousand in excellent counterfeit.

are you going to do?" asked the re-Jones rubbed his chin reflectively. "How long may a counterfeiter be sent up?"

"Anywhere from ten to twenty years.' "That will serve. My boy, this time we'll go and take Mr. Black Hun-dred right in his cubby hole.

"You know where it is?"
Every nook and corner of it. Now you go at once to the chief of the local branch of the secret service and put the matter to him frankly I Flor ence, Susan, and the rest of us must be arrested. The wretches must be-lieve that the house is empty. They'll rove about fruitlessly and will return to their den to report the success of the coup. All the while you and some detectives will be in hiding up-stairs, dictagraph and all that. When the time comes you will follow. This will not reach the heads, perhaps, but it will demoralize the organization in such a way as to make it helpless for

several months to come. There is a tunnel from the stables to this house." "What, a tunnel?" "Yes, Mr. Hargreave had it built several years ago. I don't know what his idea was; possibly he anticipated an event like this. You and your men will find entrance by this method. It can be done without exciting the suspicions of the watchers."

Looks as if my yarn wasn't going to be delayed so long after all. Jones, you ought to have been in the secret service yourself," admiringly. Jones smiled and shrugged. -"I am

perfectly satisfied with my lot—or would be if the Black Hundred could be wiped out of existence." "I'll see the secret service people at

once. I stand in well with them all."

Norton was welcomed cordially by the chief. The secret service men trusted him and told him lots of tales that never saw light on the printed page. The reporter went directly to the point of his story, without elabora , and the chief smiled and handed

him the original letter.

"Norton, I've been after this gang of counterfeiters for months and they are clever beyond words. I've never been able to get anywhere near their presses. And for a moment I thought this note was from a squealer. I've a dozen men scouring the country. They find the bogus notes, but never the men who pass them. You see; it's new stuff. I know what all the old timers are at: but none of them has had a hand in this issue. Some foreigners, I take it, under the leader-ship of a man I'd very much like to

and windows with ordinary locks were playthings under his deft touch. He raised the window, stepped over the sill into the library, and crouched house thieves never do. They leave windows and doors open, because sooner or later they have to make "It all depends," said the chief, "upon the fact that they will be impatient. If they have the ability to wait, we lose. But we can afford to risk the chance. The man who wrote this letter is not a counterfeiter. He's their escape that way.

Presently he stood up, flashed his an old yegman. We haven't heard anything of him lately. We tried to corner him on a post office job, but he slipped by. He may be a stool. Anyhow, I'll draw him in somehow."

"There'll be some excitement."
"We're used to that; you too. All we've got to do is to locate this man Beggs. There are signs of spite in this letter. Very well played, if you want my opinion. What's this Black Hun-"I'm not at liberty to tell just yet.

It's a strange game; half political, half blackmail. It's a pretty strong organization. But if they're back of this counterfeiting, there's a fine chance of landing them all." Here the chief's assistant came in. "Got Beggs on the wire. Says he'll conduct you to the home if you'll

promise him immunity for some other "Tell him he shall have immunity on the word of the chief. But also

say that he must come to see me in person."
"All right, sir."

"I don't believe it would be wise for Beggs to see me here. I gave him a good send-off—Sing Sing—five years ago. He may recollect," said Norton. "Suit yourself about that. Only,

have," said Norton.

"Then I pass. I know you well enough. If you've made up your mind not to talk a man couldn't get anything out of you with a can-opener.

And that's why we stust you, my boy. Don't forget the telephone."

"I shan't, So long."

That same night Braine paid the Russian woman a brief visit.

"I think that here's where we go forward. The secret service will raid the house tomorrow and then for a

the house tomorrow and then for a few days we'll roam about as we bally please. I'm hanged if I don't have every plank torn up and all the walls pulled down. More and more I'm con-vinced that the money is in that



"Stop!" Said Jones Quietly.

"Don't be too confident," warned Olga. "So many times have we been tripped up when everything seemed in our hands. The house should be guarded but not entered for a day or two; at least not till after the raid is cold. I'm beginning to see traps

everywhere."

"Nonsense! Leave it to me. We shan't stick our heads inside the Hargreave house till we are dead certain that it is absolutely empty. Olga, you're a gem. I don't think Russia will bother us for awhile. Eh? Paroff will not dare tell how he was flim flammed. The least he can do to save his own skin is to say that we are fully capable of taking care of our-

Olga laughed. "To think of his writing a note like that! Florence would have recognized—and no doubt did—a palpable attempt to play an old game twice."

"How does she act towards you?" "Cordial as ever; and yet . . ."

"Yet what?"
"I thought her an ordinary school girl, and yet every once in a while she makes what you billiard players call a professional shot. What matter? So long as they do not shut the door in my face, I ask nothing more. But you mant my opinion? I feel it in y bones that something will go wrong tomorrow.



The Dictagraph Registered Every

lives and money. Well, if she would be fool enough to love this man she must abide with the consequences. She wanted him all by herself out of danger, in a far country. He might tire, but she knew in her heart that she never would. This was her one great passion, and while her mode of living was not as honest as might by the pleasant fancies of youth. "Of what are you thinking?" he asked when he concluded that the pause had been long enough.

"H'm. Complimentary?" "No; just ordinary everyday love."
"Ah, Olga, why the deuce must you go and fall in love with a bundle of shes like myself? Ashes and bitter ashes, too. Sometimes I regret. But the regretting only seems to make me all the more savage. What opium and dope are to other men, danger and excitément are to me. It is not written that I shall die in bed. I have told you that already. There is no other woman—now. And I do love you after a fashion, as a man loves a comrade. Wait till this dancing bout is And while I bow and smirk and crack witticisms. I and the devil will be chuckling in our sleeves. But this I'll tell you, while there's a drop of blood in my veins, a breath in my body, I'll stick to this fight if only

to prove that I'm not a quitter."

He caught her suddenly in his arms. kissed her, ran lightly to the door and was gone before she could reover from her astonishment

The affair went smoothly, without hitch. Norton and his men gained the house through the tunnel withou attracting the least attention. The Black Hundred, watching the front and rear of the house, never dreamed that there existed another mode of entrance or that there was a secret

cabinet room.

Half an hour later the head of the secret service, accompanied by his men, together with "Spider" Beggs, who was in high feather over his success, arrived, demanded admittance and went at the front of the business

at once. "Your name is Jones," began the chief The butler nodded, though his face evinced no little bewilderment at the



"Good lord, are you losing your nerve?" cried Braine impatiently. "The secret service has the warning; they find the green stuff, and Jones & Co. will mog off to the police-station. And there'll be a week of red tape before they are turned loose again. They'll dig into Hargreave's finances and all that. We'll have all the security in the world to find out if the money is in the house or not. Why worry?"

"It's only the way I feel. There is something uncanny in the regular ity of that girl's good luck."
"Ah, but we're not after her thi time; it's the whole family."

"The servants too?"
"Everybody in the house will be "His life is in the hollow hand. You can always trust a man when you hold the rope that's around

Still the frown did not leave Olga's brow. With all her soul she longed to be out of this tangle. It had all looked so easy at the start; yet here

"What is it you wish, sir?"
"I am from the secret service
I have it from a pretty good so
that there is counterfeit money his in this house. More than that, I can put my hand on the very place it is hidden."
"That is impossible, sir," declared

Jones indignantly. Jones indignantly.
"I'm an old hand, Mr. Jones. It will not do you a bit of good to put on that bold front."
Beggs smiled. How was he to know hat this was a comedy set especially

for his benefit?
"I should like to see that money," "Come with me," said the

service man. "Where's the library?"
"Beyond that door, sir."
The chief beckoning to his men, entered the library, went directly to a certain shelf, extracted three volumes, and there lay the money three neat packages. "Good heavens!" gasped Joues.

I shall have to request you and the

family to accompany me to the sta-tion."

"But it is all utterly impossible sir! I know nothing of that money, nor how it got there. It's a plot. I declare on my oath, sir, that I am innocent, that Miss Florence and her companion know nothing about it. "You will have to tell that to the federal judge, sir. My duty is to take you all to the station. It would be just as well not to say anything more,

"Very well: but some one shall "That remains to be seen," was the terse comment of the secret service

man.

He led his prisoners away directly.

Norton and his men had to wait far into the night. The Black Hundred did not intend to make any mistake this time by a hasty move. At quarter after ten they descended. Braine was not with them. This was due to the urgent request of Olga, who still had urgent request of Olga, who still had her doubts. The men rioted about the house, searching nooks and corners, examining floors and walls, opening books, pulling out drawers, but they found nothing. They talked freely, however, and the dictagraph registered every word. The printing plant, which had so long defied discovery, was in the cellar of the house occupied by the Black Hundred. Norton and his men determined to follow and and his men determined to follow and raid the building. And the reporter promised himself a good front page story without in any way conflicting with his promises to Jones.

Events came to pass as they expected The trailing was not the easiest thing. Norton knew about where the building was, but he could not go to it directly. He was quite confident tha its entrance was identical with the which had the trap door through which he had been flung that memorable

day when he had been shanghaied. When they reached the building he warned the men to hug the wall to the stairs. The trap yawned, but no one was hurt. They scampered up the the door in—to find the weird execu-tive chamber dark and empty and an acrid smoke in their nostrils. This latter grew stifling as they blundered about in the dark. By luck Norton found the exit and called to the men to follow. They saw Eeggs at the top of the stairway and called out to him over and I may talk otherwise. And now I am going to shake hands and hobnob with the elite—beautiful word! to surrender. He held up his hands and the stairs collapsed. Real fire burst out and Norton and his companion had a desperate battle with flam and smoke to gain the street.

The fire was put out finally, but there was nothing in the ruins to prove that there had been a counterfeiting den there. There was, however, a least one consoling feature: in the fu-ture the Black Hundred would have to hold their star-chamber elsewhere. It was checkmate: or, rather, it was

(To be continued)

WEATHER FORECAST.

Movements Due In the Cott National Weather Journal

Sunday, March 14-The wee will open clear and cool in East ern Cotton Belt as previously fore cast and with rising temperature in Western Cotton Belt.

Monday, March 15 to Saturday, March 21—A cool wave will over-spread Western Cotton Belt Monday, preceded by light rain. The rains will increase as the move-ment passes East. The cool wave will clear the weather and bring frosts to very near the Gulf Coast, except in Southwest Texas and in Florida. It will continue generally fair in the South the remainder of the week except that i will be clouding up at the close in Western Belt. Temperatures will steadily rise until minima will range in the 60s all over the South.

OVER THE OLD NORTH STATE Brief Notes Covering Happenings in

This State That Are of Interest to All the People. A. W. Cline, who for some time ha

Courier, has gone to Thomasville, where he takes charge of The David-The annual commencement of the

schools of Guilford county will be neld this year on April 17. The place will be the same as last year, Central Carolina fair grounds.

The records at the Wilmington cus toms house show that during the month of February the exports amounted to almost twice what they were in February of last year. The exports February of this year amount ed to \$1,763,550 and for the month last year \$985,300.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, in charge of the State Geological Survey, has been the guest of the student body of A. & M. at the chapel exercises for several mornings recently. Doctor Pratt lectured on the highways of the state, and gave a brief history of the roads in the state.

Elizabeth City has given an orde for 1,000,000 bricks with which River-side avenue will be paved. This or-der is for immediate delivery and the work of paving the street will begin at once.

Wilkesboro will be raised to winkeshord will be raised to the third-class of postoffices in April. Norman O. Smoke, postmaster there now may be promoted and continued in office. Representative Page will recommend him.

The Elizabeth City Board of Alder The Elizabeth City Board of Aldermen has made an appropriation of \$700 to endow a bed in the Elizabeth City Hospital for the poor of the city for one year. This endowment provides treatment for 52 weeks for the patients that the city health officer and the mayor may select as worthy, free of cost.

IN DANGEROUS STRAITS



63D CONGRESS ADJOURNS NOTHING FOR WARSHIPS

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF SES-SION AMOUNTED TO APPROX. IMATELY \$1,120,484,324.

cluding Ship Bill and Rural Credits Bill.—Two Appropriations Fail Passage.

Washington.—After two years of almost continuous session the Sixty-third Congress, which revised the tariff and the currency system of the Nation, supplemented the trust laws, created an income tax and demonstrat-ed the first popular election of United

States Senators, has adjourned.

When gavels fell in the House and
Senate signalizing the adjournment
they marked the close of half of Presdent Wilson's Administration

first under domination of the Democratic party since 1885.

The total appropriations of the ses sion were approximately \$1,120,484.324 several millions under the record of

Two Bills Failed. Two appropriation bills failed. Cur-

rent appropriation for the postal ser-vice and the Indian office were ex-tended for another year.

After refusing to accept the Indian bill the senate reversed itself and passed it, but the house refused to agree to minor amendments added at the last moment.

Bills Signed. Bille Signed.

In the closing hours, President Wilson signed the seamen's bill, the neutrality resolution empowering him to prevent ships leaving American ports with supplies for belligerent warships, promoted Colonel Goethals to be a major general for his services as build-er of the Panama canal, and gave pro-motions to other officers associated with the work.

The administration ship bill, the

Philippine bill, the conservation bills, the rural credits provision of the agricultural bill and ratification of the treaties with Colombia and Nicaragua—all hard pressed administration measures, fell by the wayside.

Last Hour in House. In the house, the last hour was de roted to tributes to Speaker Clark, Representative Underwood and Re-publican Leader Mann. Representa-tive Palmer announced presentation of a portrait of Mr. Underwood to be hung in the hall of the ways and means committee. In doing so Mr. Palmer said: "There is no doubt Mr. Underwood soon will be the leader in the senate. He is one of the greatest Americans of his time."

President Makes Statement. After his return to the White House President Wilson dictated the following statement:

"A great congress has closed its sea quality of its statemanship more and more, the longer it is tested

"Business has now a time of calm and thoughtful adjustment before it, disturbed only by the European war. The circumstances created by the war put the nation to a special test, a test of it strue character and of its self-control.

"The constant thought of every pa-

triotic man should now be for the country, its peace, its order, its just and tempered judgment in the face of perplexing difficulties. Its dignity and its strength alike will appear not only in the revival of its business, despit abnormal conditions, but also in its power to think, to purpose, and to act with patience, with disinterested fair-ness, and without excitement, in a spirit of friendliness and enlightenm which will firmly establish its fluence throughout the world.

For many minutes before adjourn ment there was a luli in the senate. Senator Simmons paid a tribute to Senator Perkins of California, whose term ended at noon. Senator Perkins sat for a moment in contemplation of the tribute. Then he slowly half rose from his seat, feebly waved his hand toward the North Carolina senator and is colleagues in a gesture of farewell and took his seat again too

ion of thanks to Vice-President Mar shall for his services as presiding of ficer of the senate.

noves Hard, Soft and Calloused Lumps and Biemishes from horse also Blood Spavins, Curbs, Splints

RESOLUTION PASSED BY HOUSE TO PREVENT ANY AID TO WARSHIPS.

Suspected Ship Would Not Be Granted Papers.—Departments Clearance Want More Authority.

Washington.—A resolution drafted by the Department of Justice for the State Department was passed in the House, designed to prevent vessels from leaving American ports with coal and supplies for belligerent warships at see.

The resolution would authorize the President to direct customs collectors to withhold clearance from any vessel of American registry or license which

The resolution was pressed by Democratic Leader Underwood and Republican Leader Mann. It was put through after Mr. Underwood had presented a letter from Robert Lansing, Counsellor of the State Department, saying that the Government had been hindered by lack of sufficient legislahindered by lack of sufficient legisla-tion to prevent vessels from leaving American ports with coal and supplies for warships. "The Department of State heartily supports the proposed resolutions," the letter continued, "and desire to emphasize the great urgency and need of its immediate passage that the Government may not be bound internationally and yet have se bound internationally and yet have its hands tied so as to be unable to act

in the discharge of its international duties."

The resolutions to take effect immediately and to continue while the war lasts, is designed to "prevent vio-lation of the United States neutrality by the use of its territory, its ports or its territorial waters as a base of op-erations for the armed forces of a

belligerent, contrary to the obligations imposed by the law of Nations."

By unanimous vote the Senate late at night adopted with amendments substitute for the joint resolution passed earlier in the House enlarging the power of the President to prevent infringement of American neutarlity by vessels leaving ports of the United States with men or supplies for beilig-erent warships. CZARS TROOPS ADVANCING

Furious Attacks Fall to Break Lines

of Russians.

London.—In their determination to leave Przemysl and drive the Russians out of Galicia, the Austro-Ger-man armies which for some weeks have been on the Galician side of the peated attempts the last few days to break through the Russian entrench-ments but without success. Since in massed formation they

threw themselves against Russian troops holding strong positions, the Austro-Germans have attacked again and again in spite of heavy losses.
According to the Russian official
account, the Austrians delivered furious, but unsuccessful attacks be-tween the San and Ordawa Rivers, while the Germans made fruitless atempts around Koziouwka and Rojanka. At Rojanka they lost two com-panies, which were surrounded and

President May Abandon Panama Trip. Washington. — President Wilson proctically decided to abandon his contemplated trip to the Panama Canal in July, because of the action of Congress in eliminating from the leg-islative and executive bill the appro-

Surplus For Postoffice Washington.—The Treasury Department received a check from Postmaster General Burleson for \$3,500,000, representing the surplus in the revenues of his department for the fiscal year which ended June 50, 1914. For the fiscal year of 1913 the postal revenue surplus was \$3,800,000, which also was turned over to the treasury. In acknowledging the receipt of the check, Secretary McAdoo said these payments were the first representing actual surp'uses made by the Post office Department since 1836.

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