

The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Illustrated from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the Same Name by the Thanhouser Film Company

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CHAPTER XV.

Another Trap Set. If the truth is to be told, Jones was as deeply chagrined over the outcome of the counterfeit deal as was Braine.

More than all this, it would give his enemies renewed confidence; and this was a deeper menace than he cared to face.

It is needless to state Norton did not scoop his rivals on the counterfeit story. But he set to work exploring the cellar of the grand building.

He did not know that it was the policy of the Black Hundred to lay low for a month or a half of such a serious character.

He went about his work the same as of old, interviewing, playing detective, fattening his pay envelope by specials to the Sunday edition and some of the lighter magazines.

The day was rather cloudy. Jones

viewed the sky warily. He could hear Florence playing rather a cheerless nocturne by Chopin. Fourteen weeks ago this warfare had begun, and all he had accomplished, he said to himself, was the death or incarceration of a few inconsequential members of the Black Hundred.

It was a letter on the back of which was drawn the fatal black mask.

him of thunderbolts; one man knew where they were going to strike. The telephone rang; at the same moment Florence left the piano. She stopped at the threshold.

"Hello! What have you been? You had happened?" "Who is it?" asked Florence, stepping forward.

"Yes, and it's the first time I ever heard you use it over the telephone. Jones, you were talking to my father!" "Please, Miss Florence, do not ask me any questions. I cannot answer any. I dare not."

"I am sorry, very sorry," said the butler, torn between the desire to comfort her and the law that he had laid down for himself.

"I realize, Jones, that all this unending mystery and secrecy have a set purpose at back. Only, it does just as much as I should go mad some times with waiting and wondering."

"This is the Hargrave place?" "Yes," said Florence. "Who is it?" "This is Miss Hargrave talking?" "Yes."

"This is Doctor Morse. I am at the Queen hotel. Mr. Norton has been badly hurt, and he wants you and Mr. Jones to come at once. We cannot tell just how serious the injury is. He is just conscious. Shall I tell him you will come immediately?" "Yes, yes!"

"Where? What is that to you?" demanded Florence, who did not know that this maid was a detective.

"There happened to be a taxicab conveniently near (as Vron took care there should be), and Florence at once engaged it. She did not see the man hiding in the bushes.

Florence is now in our power. Only the seven of the mill will save her. Our agent will call in an hour for an answer.

As a matter of fact, they had wanted Jones almost as badly as Florence, but her desire for a book—some popular story of the day—had saved him from the net.

As a matter of fact, for once Florence's deductions were happily wrong. When the chauffeur peremptorily deposited Susan on the lonely country road, several miles from home, she ran hot-foot to the nearest telephone and sent a very concise message home.

"Good girl!" said Jones. "She's learning. Can you handle this alone, Norton?" "The want me out of the house again for I believe they were after me as well as Florence. Half

Norton showed his card and badge. "O, I see!" leered the aviator. "A little newspaper stunt in which I am to be the goat. It can't be done, Mr. Norton; it can't be done."

"Not for five hundred," and the aviator casually turned away toward the young woman with whom he had been conversing prior to Norton's approach. The two walked a dozen yards away.

"Norton had not served twelve years as a metropolitan newspaper man for nothing. He approached the mechanics who were putting about the machine.

"Well, pretty bird, we'll make you speak when the time comes. We've got you this trip where we want you. There won't be any jumping overboard this season, believe me. We've wasted enough time. We've got you and we're going to keep you."

not discern what it was. As she watched it it grew and grew. It finally emerged from the illusion of a gigantic bird into the actuality of an everyday hydroplane.

It was impossible for the men not to take notice of the barking of the engines at last.

"The thing's headed for us!" Vron stared under his palm. It was not credible that pursuit had taken place so quickly. To test yonder man-bird he abruptly changed the course of the launch.

"There's the police boat, you fool!" "Jump!" a voice called to Florence.

She flung herself into the water without the slightest hesitation. All this came about something after this fashion. When Norton arrived at the foot of Corey street a boatman informed him that a young woman of his description had gotten into a fast motor boat and had gone down the river.

She flung herself into the water, a hydroplane a little above her. You might interest the feller that runs it."

"What proof have I of that?" "A life may hang in the balance, man!" expostulated Norton, longing to pommel the stubborn man.

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"Norton had not served twelve years as a metropolitan newspaper man for nothing. He approached the mechanics who were putting about the machine.

"Let her be!" said Vron morosely. "We'll put all the questions we wish when we're at our destination. And he nodded significantly toward the ship's riding at anchor.

"Well, old fox, we've cornered you at last, haven't we? I want that money, or Hargrave's daughter takes another sea voyage, and this time she will not jump overboard. A million; and no more nonsense."

"Then we can do business. What! Give you a million, knowing you all to be a pack of liars? Bring Miss Florence back and the money is yours. We are tired of fighting."

"The money first. We don't lie any better than you do. Fork over. You'll have to trust us. We have no use for the girl once we get the cash."

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Mr. Gillett asserted that the treasury has not been so empty since the Cleveland administration.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the effect of the war was world-wide and that as it goes on production of customs imports and their revenue will continue. At some length he discussed the need of economy.

Washington—While conditions in Mexico City have improved with the food and water supply replenished and the Capital placed in order by the Villa-Zapata government, situations fraught with difficulties for the United States government have arisen at Progress, the West coast port, and at Manzanillo, on the Pacific.

Coal Steamer Torpedoed. Bordeaux, via Paris.—The steamer Auguste Connel from Cardiff for Rouen with a coal cargo, was torpedoed by a submarine off the Start Point near the southern extremity of Devon, England.

Four British Steamers Torpedoed. London.—The submarine U-29, one of the largest and fastest of German underwater craft, has had a successful three days off the Scilly Islands and in the English Channel, where she sank four British steamers and one French steamer and damaged three others.

English Spavin Liniment removes Hard, Soft and Calloused Lumps and Blemishes from Horses; also Blood Spavins, Curbs, Splints, Sweeney, Ring Bone, Stiffness, Sprains, Swollen Throats, Coughs, etc. Save \$50 by use of one bottle. A wonderful Bleasish Cure. Sold by Graham Drug Company.

ASK FOR ECONOMY IN APPROPRIATIONS

MR. GILLETT CRITICISES DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FOR SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY.

Washington.—Statements issued by Chairman Fitzgerald of the house appropriations committee and Representative Gillett, ranking Republican member, agreed that appropriations of the last session of congress totaled \$1,115,121,409; that contracts involving additional appropriations of \$37,400,000 were authorized and that a treasury deficit is probable.

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BIGGEST BATTLE OF WAR IN PROGRESS

GERMANS MAKING DESPERATE DRIVE AGAINST RUSSIANS IN NORTH POLAND.

London.—Just as the French attacked the Germans in the West when Field Marshal von Hindenburg made his drive from East Prussia last month, so the British Army operating in Flanders has undertaken the task of relieving pressure on its Russian ally, now that the Russians again are being attacked in North Poland.

The Germans now are attempting to crush the Russians. For this purpose they are reported to have an army estimated at nearly a half million men marching along the roads toward Przasnysz. To prevent this army from being strengthened further the British are thrusting at the German line north of La Bassee and besides reporting the capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle it is asserted that they have advanced beyond that town.

The battle taking place in the East, experts say, is the biggest pitched battle of the war, so less than a million men being engaged. The Germans in their official report claim an advance, while Petrograd considers it likely that the Russians will have to fall back beyond Przasnysz as they did last month, before making a stand. It probably will be days before a definite result is attained in this battle.

Meanwhile another German army has appeared on the Pilica River front, south of the Vistula, probably, military observers say, with the idea of inducing Grand Duke Nicholas to withdraw men from the North, where the real blow is being struck.

Farther south, along the foothills of the Carpathians, fighting between the Austrians and Russians continues in wintry weather. Each side claims the other is doing the attacking but it is believed here that as the Austrians initiated this battle, they probably are still the aggressors.

MURDER PROMINENT AMERICAN Stars and Stripes Floated Over Man Zapata Forces Kill Washington.—John B. McManus, a prominent American in Mexico, was shot and killed in his home by Zapata troops as they were occupying the Mexican capital after evacuation by Gen. Obregon's Carranza forces.

Official dispatches from the Brazilian minister in Mexico City reporting the affair to the state department, say the American flag was hoisted over McManus' house and that his door had been closed and sealed by the Brazilian consul. The Brazilian minister's dispatch indicated that the killing may have been one of revenge, for it was charged that when Zapata troops recently occupied the capital McManus had killed three of their number.

The fact that the American flag had been hoisted over the house and the doors had been sealed by the consul of a neutral power was taken by the officials here to indicate that either McManus felt that he was in danger or that all foreigners were fearful of their safety with the entry of the American flag and took steps for protection. The killing of the American is described in the official dispatches as having caused great emotion in the foreign colony. McManus originally was from Chicago.

Japan Modifies Demand Peking.—Japan has definitely modified her attitude toward China in connection with her demands presented after occupation by Japan of the German concession of Kiaochow.

TRADE COMMISSION BEGINS THEIR WORK

MEMBERS OF GREAT GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY TAKE OATH OF OFFICE.

Washington.—The second great governmental agency created by Congress in President Wilson's Administration came into being when Joseph E. Davies of Wisconsin, Edward N. Harris of Illinois, William J. Harris of Georgia, William H. Parry of Washington and George Rublee of New Hampshire were sworn in as members of the Federal Trade Commission with far-reaching powers of supervision over American enterprises.

There were only the simplest ceremonies. Chief Justice J. Harry Covington of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, administered the oath, completing the work he began as a member of Congress, when he introduced the bill creating the commission. Later in the week the commissioners will be received by President Wilson.

All of the commissioners were in Washington engaged in preliminary conferences. Mr. Davies, who is the first chairman of the commission, called the first formal meeting immediately following the induction of the members into office. From that time on the commission will be in daily session.

No announcement as to the first problem to be attacked has been made. Through the absorption of the Bureau of Corporations in the Commerce Department by the new commission, its work of organization will be greatly simplified. The office staff and records of that bureau are transferred to the commission and furnish a working force already organized and equipped with much information as to the corporations with which the commission will deal. The declared purpose of the trade commission is to establish regulated competition among concerns engaged in interstate transactions.

ENGLAND EXPLAINS BLOCKADE. Great Britain Tells How She Will Place Blockade on Germany. London.—Great Britain made known to the world in a formal proclamation signed in council by the king and issued from Buckingham Palace how she proposes to sever the arteries of sea commerce to and from Germany during the period of the war.

The term "blockade" is not used and no prohibited area is defined. Nevertheless the text of the order makes plain England's purpose to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany during the war.

The last clause of the proclamation contains the proposal most interesting to neutrals. This is a flat agreement to lift the "blockade" in case any nation will certify that the ships flying its flag shall not carry goods to Germany or goods originating therein or goods belonging to the subjects of the German empire.

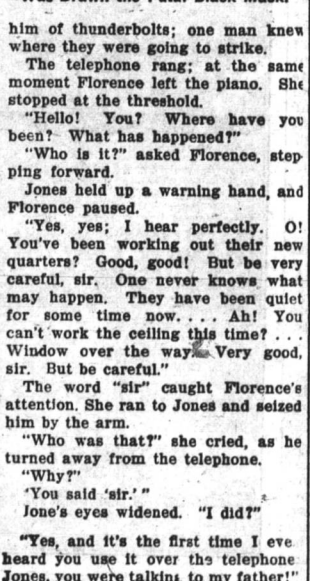
It is notable that the order declares no intention to capture ships proceeding to and from the countries of Germany's allies Austria and Turkey the reason being no doubt that the measure is avowedly a reprisal against Germany's submarine warfare. However, a cordon of ships will be maintained to shut off the commerce of Germany from the United States in the war zone, although ships voyaging eastward across the Atlantic, will, it is expected, be seized before they reach the North Sea.

27,000 Japs Embark For China. London.—The Daily Telegraph's Peking correspondent says he is able to assert on reliable information that 27,000 Japanese troops have embarked for China and that China is about to appeal to Great Britain.

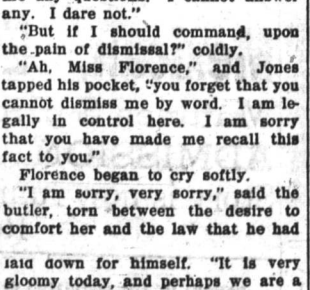
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It was a letter on the back of which was drawn the fatal black mask.



She flung herself into the water.



Florence knew that to plead for mercy would be a waste of time.



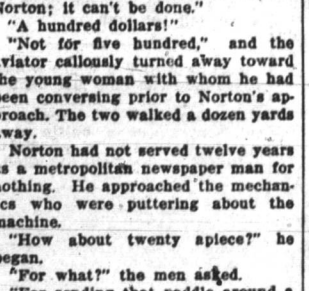
Hands on the money I'd have given it to him! Ah, girl, it doesn't do any good to talk to you, does it?"



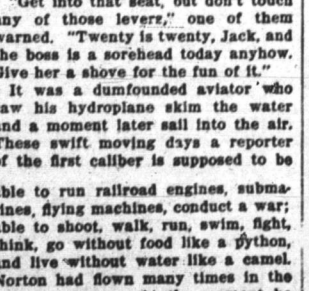
Took Florence aboard.



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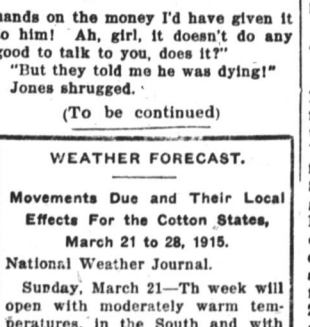
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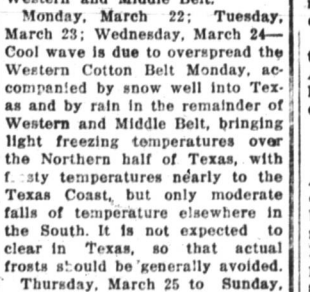
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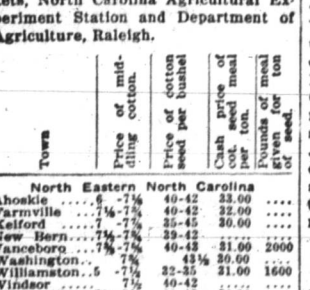
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