

The Spun Glass Mystery

A TALE OF SCOTLAND YARD by H. FIELDING

READ THIS FIRST:

John Tait, stepson of wealthy Lady Tait, is engaged to marry Lucy Burnham, a widow, in France, where they three were adjourning. Lady Tait takes a dislike to Gillian Dundas, a beautiful girl who, it is disclosed, is blackmailing Tait for a past indiscretion. Back in London Lady Tait shows her stepson a letter from her dead son's wife, an Italian woman she despises, demanding money for her son. Lady Tait's grandson, Tait, becomes alarmed when his business associate, Lord Mills, is found shot to death. Mrs. Burnham takes Miss Dundas "under her wing", much to Lady Tait's annoyance, after the girl is released from the employ of a Mrs. de Sissac. A luncheon given by Lady Tait in honor of Tait and his fiancée, and attended by John's cousins, Alycia, Etta and Claud Naylor, is a poor success, owing to Tait's apparent unfitness. Tea is interrupted by the discovery of John Tait's body on the sidewalk in front of Lady Tait's home. He had collapsed and died in the arms of a cab driver. Chief Inspector Pointer of Scotland Yard is dispatched to investigate Tait's death, suspecting he has been poisoned. (NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY)

CHAPTER 23

A FEW KEY questions brought no further information from the driver. He did not know any other members of the household by sight. He had not seen the dead man. He was in company with any one this morning. The constable's report was practically the same. Pointer went back to the shut-off part of the dining room where the medical men had finished their inspection of the dead man's face. The family doctor was openly impatient. Tait, according to him, "had a heart", and the cause of death would undoubtedly prove to be due to that organ having been overtaxed by hurry, possibly on top of a heavy lunch. The Home Office expert listened in silence. Both were waiting for Pointer to order the body to be stripped. One by one the garments were taken off, after a careful look at each before it was disturbed. The clothes offered no clues of any kind. Pointer then went through the pockets. There was nothing in them of any interest, except what the taximan had called the "gold trinket". It was the top of a lady's fountain pen. Without initials of any kind, but of rather an uncommon pattern of chasing, Pointer thought it rather hoped. The taximan identified it unhesitatingly as the object that had dropped from Tait's hand as he held him up, and the dust in the chasing bore this out. He was now allowed to go after being asked on no account to mention the fact that Mr. Tait had dropped anything whatever, should the pressmen question him on the matter. The taxi driver, who looked a man of his word, promised, adding that it made him laugh the way papers printed every sort of silly little trifle however unimportant. When he was gone the con-

stable also identified the gold object as the one which he had seen picked up by the driver and dropped into the dead man's waistcoat pocket. He himself had stepped on it, fortunately very lightly, and showed the dent that his glancing boot had made. "Whoever is the owner is evidently in the habit of biting his or her pen," the constable added, eager to shine before the Scotland Yard officer. Pointer agreed, and put it away in an envelope, but that gold chased top, though a lady's, presumably, from its slender size and ornate work, showed the marks of a man's teeth. He thought, and unusually large and fine teeth they must be even at that. He asked for a wax candle and obtained the prints on it of all the dead man's teeth. They were not in the least like those on the gold top. Tait had rather small and blunt teeth. The man who valeted Tait was called into the half of the dining room whose double doors Pointer had had closed so that the doctors could make their examination in private. All the objects shown to him as found on Tait were identified by him as ones which the dead man usually carried. Pointer had not included the "trinket". "There's no fountain pen," Pointer said finally. He was told that Mr. Tait never used one. Stopping, Pointer seemed to pick something up from the carpet. It was the gold top. The man had never seen any pen to which that would fit. All the inmates of the house, if they used fountain pens, had either black or colored ones. He couldn't say for certain about the young lady who had just come to the house—it might belong to Miss Dundas. Pointer asked him about Mr. Tait's apparent health, which the man thought was quite good. The doctors fancied from his teeth that he had a habit of biting pen or pencil; if so, that would show a certain amount of nervousness. Pointer thought the servant rather indignantly scoffed at the notion of such a habit on Mr. Tait's part. Proof was to be found on his writing table, where the chief inspector would find pens and pencils in plenty and none of them bitten. At this moment Dr. Merridew opened the double doors and the man was dismissed. "Heart failure," he murmured, passing through into the hall where he met Naylor and repeated the two words. "Strictly speaking, of course, medical etiquette demands that Doctor Hardy should acquaint the family with the cause of death, but—and here Merridew expressed his sincere sympathy and regret at the terrible loss to every one in that house with great feeling, adding, "Of course, no pronouncement can be made until after the autopsy. Officially, that is. Yes, it's a dreadful necessity, but it'll be quickly over. Just a necessary formality," and with a few more words he hurried away. He was due at an operation. Naylor's eyes went over his shoulder,

through the open door, to the chief inspector, but he said nothing. Pointer stepped back into the shut-off part of the room where the Home Office expert was still bending over the body. Something in the rigidity and inteness of his figure made the other move close to him. "I want Angelli," Hardy said, without lifting his eyes from the pressure which he had made in the skin with his fingertip. "Angelli of the Italian hospital. Ask him to hurry." "Doctor Angelli?" Pointer asked. Hardy only nodded. Apparently he assumed that the name would convey as much to any layman as it did to himself. Pointer got the Italian hospital on the telephone, and in another moment got Dr. Angelli, who, on being told that Dr. Harvey of the Home Office asked him to come at once, assured Pointer that he would be there as fast as his car could carry him. Pointer returned to the dining room. "Dr. Angelli is coming at once. Your suspicions confirmed, sir?" "Yes. But suspicious only. I wish Angelli would hurry up. See that one rigid eyeball and one loose? See the tint of the pressure pits made by my fingers. Angelli read a paper not many months ago on a poison in use in Mediterranean countries and South America which showed those two symptoms after death. It's rather his speciality. Seen plenty of it when he was medical officer of health on a Brazil coffee plantation." Pointer had a word with the butler. The man gave a brief account of Mr. Tait's goings and comings that morning. He had had breakfast at half-past nine, and left the house shortly afterwards. "Then he had not returned until about a quarter to two, when he had gone on into the library for lunch. The man and lady had sat on with his cousin, Mr. Naylor, after lunch over their coffee, then he had sent word by him to Mrs. Burnham, who was with the rest of the ladies listening to the broadcasting, that he would like to have a word with her alone. The butler saw him walking up and down the library waiting for her, as though in a great hurry. When Mrs. Burnham came in the door was shut for perhaps five minutes or so, then Mr. Tait opened it, and calling back that he wouldn't be more than a few minutes was hurrying out, when Mr. Naylor met him in the hall, and insisted on drawing him into the little room by the door "for a word." That seemed to be literal, for, after a couple of minutes at most, Mr. Tait hurried out. The exact words the butler had heard him call back to Mrs. Burnham were, "Well, darling, I shan't keep you waiting more than a few minutes." "And the lady, what did she do?" "She waited a minute or two in the room. I could hear her humming to herself as she moved about, and then she went upstairs, smiling and looking very happy." (TO BE CONTINUED)

Tobacco President



CLAUDE T. HALL

College Station, Raleigh, April 30.—When the tobacco growers of North Carolina were in distress last fall, they found an aggressive and energetic leader in Claude T. Hall, of Wooddale, Person county, whom they selected for president of the Tobacco Advisory Association, formed to work with the Agricultural Extension Service of State College and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in promoting the adjustment program in this State. Mr. Hall is a young man, only 34 years old, but known in North Carolina as a successful farmer and tobacco grower. He owns a 3400-acre farm in Person county and has grown as much as 250 acres of Tobacco a year. He grows about an average of 130 acres now. Much of his farm land is wooded. In addition to his duties at home, he is president of the Hillsboro Production Credit Association, a member of the agriculture committee recently appointed by Dr. Frank Graham to study agricultural needs in the State, a member of the Person County Board of Education, and active in farming affairs over the State. Since his election as president of the Tobacco Advisory Association last fall, he has spent much time in Washington and Raleigh at his own expense looking after the interests of the tobacco growers of the State. He is considered a thoughtful leader with sound ideas as to the needs of tobacco farmers. His work at Washington has been particularly fruitful to the growers of the State, according to extension officials at State College.

SCHOOL BUILDING FUND NOW LIKELY

Dr. Allen Thinks New PWA Funds Will Soon Be Made Available

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, BY J. C. BASKERVILLE. Aaleigh, April 30.—While the outlook is not so bright to secure as much Federal aid for schools as had been hoped, the chances for getting the Public Works Administration to set aside 10 per cent of all future appropriations to be used in making loans or grants to states and counties for needed new buildings, are decidedly bright, in the opinion of Dr. A. T. Allen, State superintendent of public instruction. This is the fifth point in the six-point program for Federal aid for schools adopted by the committee representing 32 nation-wide organizations appointed a year or so ago by U. S. Commissioner of Education George F. Zoak, and of which Dr. Allen is a member. This same program also would have Congress make a direct appropriation of \$100,000,000 to be used during the school year of 1934-35 to help pay teachers in states where school funds are not adequate to keep all the schools open. At the present time, however, the outlook for this appropriation does not seem to be so bright. But Dr. Allen is very hopeful that Administrator Cokes and Congress will agree to set aside 10 per cent of all future appropriations for the PWA to be used in either building new school houses or repairing and enlarging present ones. Those would probably mean about \$2,000,000 that could be used in North Carolina in the construction of new buildings or repairing of old ones, provided the next appropriation is as large as the present. "Another provision the committee wants contained in any legislation or agreement with regard to the allotment of PWA money for schools, is that where grants are made to counties or districts not able to borrow the money, that they cover the total amount of the cost of the building, rather than only 70 per cent," Dr. Allen said. "Where the counties or the districts have credit left, they will, of course, be required to borrow this money and pay it back later. But a great many counties and districts cannot borrow anything, in which cases we believe the PWA should make outright grants for school buildings." Today the Michigan statesman, though no graybeard, isn't so much of a baby, but, now in his seventh term (there was once when his law practice at home took some such of his attention that he wasn't a candidate), he has had a deal more experience. Despite the circumstance that, as a Republican, he is on the minority (and a mighty small minority) side of the representatives' chamber, he has been a source of grave anxiety to the administration. For various reasons the administration opposes his plan to have the government pay off all depositors in banks which, closed by presidential mandate in March 1933, are still closed, but it is the hardest plan to squelch that a majority party has had to wrestle with in recent legislative memory.

What's What at a Glance

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Washington, April 30.—Congress will miss Representative Clarence J. McLeod of Detroit if Michigan Republicans draft him as their next November's candidate for governor. There appears to be considerable prospect that they will do so, judging from the fact that G. O. P. voters in the Wolverine commonwealth are signing petitions by tens of thousands, demanding his name at the head of their state ticket. As to the question of his own preference between Capitol Hill and the executive mansion at Lansing the representative simply intimates that an individual who is conscripted doesn't do the choosing; he accepts what is handed to him.

Representative McLeod's is a colorful personality. Throughout his entire career in Washington he has been a conspicuous lawmaker. Se began, in 1920, when he succeeded the late Congressman Charles A. Nichols in the opinion of the house of representatives—just 25 years and 4 months old, the youngest person ever elected, up to that time, to the lower branch of the national legislature. He was an attractive "baby"; bright, too. On the floor he wasn't particularly talkative, but he proved to be an excellent committee worker, which is what makes a congressman really influential. The public hears more about a speech-making lawmaker but a good committee worker accomplishes things. Today the Michigan statesman, though no graybeard, isn't so much of a baby, but, now in his seventh term (there was once when his law practice at home took some such of his attention that he wasn't a candidate), he has had a deal more experience. Despite the circumstance that, as a Republican, he is on the minority (and a mighty small minority) side of the representatives' chamber, he has been a source of grave anxiety to the administration. For various reasons the administration opposes his plan to have the government pay off all depositors in banks which, closed by presidential mandate in March 1933, are still closed, but it is the hardest plan to squelch that a majority party has had to wrestle with in recent legislative memory.

By LESLIE EICHEL
New York, April 30.—The administration is concerned over strikes, because they are strikes. This administration believes in collective action. The administration is concerned because wages do not keep pace with living costs. That is the matter in a nutshell. Leaving out any discussion of an economic or an industrial evolution, leaving out union recognition, leaving out a growing consciousness of the rights of the individual even though through collectivism the question at hand remains the age-old problem: Can men make ends meet? "The day is past (or isn't it?) when agitators" are blamed for "labor unrest". That, in the opinion of the present administration, is the trying to cure a raging fever by incantations instead of a specific remedy. Men at a large body plant in Cleveland, for example, went on strike. The plant is owned by General Motors. Living costs have risen greatly in Cleveland. Men with families have been working for sums considerably below what government labor economists say is the "subsistence line." The owners of such plants say: "We must have profits—or we shall not stay in business." The workers say: "You must share your profits with us, even all your profits if necessary, or we can't live." That is the problem. Such strikes will increase. The New Deal has as yet provided no economic spread to take care of both contending groups. Critics say that it cannot unless it nationalizes industry—and that drastic denial from the administration. Critics of inflation add that the present system of forcing prices up through artificial means is a form of inflation, and that real currency inflation would intensify the present struggle. "Men must live!" is a cry that is persistent in the field say will become increasingly persistent as the struggle goes on.

1823—Henry O. Houghton, Boston book publisher, born at Sutton, Vt. Died Aug. 25, 1896.

Rear Admiral Yates Stirling Jr., U. S. N., born at Vallejo, Cal., 62 years ago.

State Sales Tax Collections May Equal Estimates

(Continued from Page One.)
Hons today will bring that amount up considerably more, since there are some 17,000 merchants that have no;

made any sales tax returns during April. Only \$150,000 of additional sales tax revenue needs to be collected today to bring the total sales tax collections for the first nine months to \$5,000,000, since the cumulative total through Saturday was \$4,855,137.07. Director Scott is confident that at least \$500,000 will be collected for the

next two months, so that the total for the eleven months of this fiscal year will be in excess of \$6,000,000. That will still be \$1,775,000 less than the amount originally estimated by the 1933 General Assembly, however.

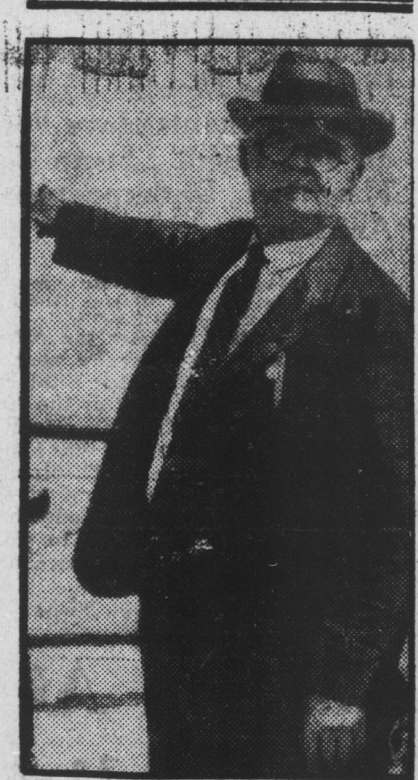
But Director Scott believes that not less than \$1,500,000 and possibly \$2,000,000 additional will be collected from merchants who have already made returns, but who apparently did not understand all the regulations about deductions and deducted too much, when all the returns made for this fiscal year have been audited. The resulting total collections for the entire year from the sales tax is hence expected to be at least \$7,500,000 and may run as high as \$8,000,000, it is believed.

Not All Remitted
"We have not yet had time, of course, to audit anything like all the returns that have been made so far in the first nine months the sales tax has been in effect," Director Scott said. "But we have made a preliminary survey of many of the returns. This survey shows that on the basis of returns already sent in by merchants and without any regard to those to be sent in during May and June, merchants have sent in fully \$1,500,000 less than they have collected and less than the amount due the State as a result of having made excessive and improper deductions. It is not unreasonable to suppose that this amount may be increased to \$2,000,000 by June 1. As a result, I feel confident that the sales tax collections for the first year will be at least \$7,500,000 and probably more."

When asked if it would be possible to complete the audit of the more than 300,000 monthly returns that have been made by merchants by the end of the present fiscal year on June 30, Director Scott said it probably would not, but that all assessments made even after that date would be credited back to this fiscal year. "It must be remembered by both the public and the merchants, that under the State sales tax law, the Department of Revenue has authority to make assessments against any merchants who may be found to have underpaid their sales taxes," Scott said. "They should also remember that our auditors have full authority to examine their books, invoices and bills of lading and, if necessary, to even examine the books and records of the wholesalers from whom they have purchased goods, in order to determine their volume of business. Much time will be required, of course, to audit more than 300,000 returns of some 30,000 merchants. But whenever we find a merchant who has sent in less than he should have, an assessment will be made and the amount collected."

This survey already made of col-

Looking Backward At This Date in History



Bobby Leach
By an irony of fate, Bobby Leach who in 1911 safely went over Niagara Falls in a barrel, died seven years ago today of injuries received when he slipped on a banana peel

Wife Preservers



Here is a new sandwich filling which is very good for luncheon or supper: Drain oil from can of sardines, take out bones, mash well with one-fourth head of cabbage, boiled, and one tablespoon horse-radish. Spread on white or rye bread.

Cannon At Methodist Gathering

(Continued from Page One.)
branches of Methodism are plans for unity and solidarity. Just before the vote was taken on the resolution, Bishop James Cannon, Jr., entered the auditorium and took his seat on the rostrum among his fellow bishops.

Bishop Cannon came to the conference after being delayed several days in reaching here because of his court trial in Washington, where he was acquitted on a charge of violating the Federal corrupt practices act in connection with the handling of 1928 campaign funds. His entry, his first appearance at the 1934 General Conference, was greeted only by faint murmur through the conference hall as he was recognized.

THREE DRUNK CASES BEFORE THE MAYOR

Three drunkenness cases were tried in police court today by Mayor Irvine B. Watkins. Algie Henley, white man, was sent to the oads for 30 days for being drunk. Solon Southland, colored, was fined \$2.50 and costs for being drunk, and George Bullock, colored, got the same judgment on a charge of being drunk. On Saturday Theodore Norman was discharged when accused of attempting to steal a battery valued at \$7 and belonging to Lonnie Green. The case was disposed of after being brought over from April 23.

STEVENSON Today and Tomorrow

BERT WHEELER
ROBT WOOLSEY

The Cuckoos rise to new heights of hokey while the notion cheats!

HIPS, HIPS, HOORAY!

With RUTH ETTING, THELMA TODD, BOROYTH LEE. Added Comedy—News

Coming: Wednesday and Thursday
"Love Birds" SLIM SUMMERVILLE and ZASU PITTS

Last Call Before Adding 2%-PENALTY-2% To All 1933 Unpaid CITY TAXES

Pay Up On Or Before the Last Day Tuesday, May 1, 1934 And Save Additional Cost

Past due street assessments must also be paid now to prevent foreclosure suits.

Call Phone 203 for any Information

S. B. BURWELL,
City Clerk and Tax Collector

Moon Theatre TODAY "ELYSIA" THE VALLEY OF THE NUDE Added Comedy Adults Only—Admission 28c

GEORGE H. PARRISH
Will appreciate your vote and support in the Democratic Primary, June 2, 1934 for **County Commissioner** Four Year Term—Vance County

Notice To All Telephone Subscribers

We will issue a new Telephone Directory corrected to May 10, 1934.

All subscribers desiring changes of any kind are asked to notify this office immediately.

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co.
Telephone 9000

Don't Forget To Pay COUNTY TAXES

2%-PENALTY-2%

Will be charged on all 1933 County Taxes not paid on or before **TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1934**

Pay up on time. Don't miss this opportunity to make a saving on your tax account.

J. E. HAMLETT,
Sheriff of Vance County