

The Double Squeeze

By HENRY BEACH NEEDHAM

Illustrated by IRIDIN MYERS

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PART II—Continued.

The story did not get to Miss Riley in expurgated form. An uncomplimentary remark had been made about her—"Oh, nothing of any consequence—bless your heart, no!"—and "James" had thought himself called upon to defend her with his fists. "Idiotic boy!"

Win Shute, in his whole-some and innocent view of things, believed that the unfortunate affair in the smoking room would be hushed up. Having liberally rewarded the steward for the trouble that had been caused him, and thinking that "those present" would treat the episode from the standpoint of the least said is soonest forgotten, Win went about in high spirits, as if nothing had happened—headed straight for Miss Riley.

They were getting on famously. Together they had won many of the events in the sports, and at ship's tennis, which required agility and a sure, quick grip on the elusive racket, they were in the finals to be played that morning. Miss Riley couldn't have avoided seeing him had she been so minded: They won, and were proclaimed champions of the sea—at least of that part of it dominated by the steamship Colonia.

It had been a hard-fought match, in which physical condition played not a small part. Miss Riley rather amused Win as they were resting in stateroom chairs on the boat deck by saying:

"You seem to be pretty fit."

"Fit?" His tone had in it a shade of sarcasm. "I'm always fit—always ready to jump in and play—anything."

"Always?" She looked at him quizzically.

He was blind as a bat. "You bet—in season and out of season."

"You must have a splendid constitution."

"I have—but I don't abuse it. I want to last." This had a queer meaning, he saw too late, but he didn't try to explain.

To his surprise she said, quite impulsively: "I do believe that's true." And for emphasis she rested her hand for a moment on his sleeve. Her touch gave him an odd thrill.

Miss Riley got up to go to her stateroom, and then, as if under the spell of impulsiveness, added quite shyly:

"It was so kind of you to take my part in the smoking room."

"You didn't hear?" asked Shute, his face horror-stricken.

"Oh, I didn't hear verbatim what was said about me," she explained, her tone a little hard. "But I can imagine. Men are such brutes—most men. And I wanted you to know that I— I liked what you did, no matter what others say about it. I must go now."

She slipped away, leaving Win happy and angry, turnabout; happy at her unexpected tender of gratitude, angry at the man who had bluffed. But happiness soon took the ascendancy. In his limited experience he hadn't much to compare it with, except breaking into the majors the very summer he graduated from college. This, on second thought, seemed a most unhappy comparison, as Miss Riley didn't care for baseball.

Then she could never care for a professional ball player! He hadn't thought of it before, but now, for

with favor upon Win Shute, professional ball player? He shook his head gloomily.

Looking upon the much-advertised rock next day, he wasn't at all impatient to leave the ship.

"Going ashore?" inquired a voice at his side. It was Jed Mansel, the wireless operator.

"Spouse so," answered Shute without show of enthusiasm.

"Why not join me? I know the spot and the ways of the native holdup artists. I'll act as guide if you say so—glad to."

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"Thank you—I've no time for sight-seeing. I have some business to attend to here."

Win Shute was off the ship among the very first—before the wireless operator; he saw to that. He hired a conveyance and ordered the driver to make tracks for the cable office.

"If you get there before anybody from the ship I'll give you double face!" promised Shute—and he had to.

He wrote out a long message to Tris Ford, explaining in detail what had happened to him and how he had done his best to communicate by wireless, and how he stood over the operator while he sent it. Then he asked how long it would take to get an answer.

"From two to six hours," was the reply.

"I'll wait," announced Shute.

"But don't you want to see the fortifications?" asked the operator.

"You will have ample time."

"I want to see nothing except the reply to that message," replied Shute, sitting down and making himself comfortable for a long wait.

After six hours of waiting, the operator handed him a cable dispatch. It read:

"Ford out of town. Report to American consul, Naples. Do you need money?"

It was signed by the club's secretary.

He called in answer to address him care of the consul at Naples. He did not ask for money. And he went back to the ship in no hilarious frame of mind. His team had lost the world's championship—the plot against him had been thoroughly successful! And he was no nearer spotting his enemies than he was before going ashore. And Miss Riley didn't care for baseball! This seemed to cap the climax. Strange how values change in a voyage across the Atlantic.

Aboard ship he ran upon the ship's doctor and the wireless operator in close confab. Win Shute was not curious until he caught the doctor's words:

"The Giant-killers lost. I see by the Dispatch, and you. I'll pay you when we get paid off."

"My tip was pretty good," admitted Jed Mansel. "I made quite a killing. Cleaned up two thousand dollars."

"Two thousand?" repeated the doctor.

"You were lucky."

"Not lucky—wise," corrected Mansel, winking slyly. "I knew that one of the Giant-killers' best men couldn't play."

Win Shute was certain. The wireless operator was a crook. He was a party to the devilish conspiracy that had drugged and put him away on the ship!

Rage such as he had never felt in all his life consumed him. He could not curb his desire to hurl himself upon Mansel and beat him to fensibility. But as he was on his toes to spring, a restraining hand was laid upon his arm.

It was Miss Riley. "May I speak to you, please?"

Reluctantly Win Shute turned from his enemy. He and Miss Riley walked along the deck until they were out of hearing of everybody.

"I looked for you before the passengers went ashore," she said. "You see, I went on, then faltered—I see—I wanted to ask a favor of you." She stopped.

The ship's mystery unaccountably flashed across Win's mind! But he didn't pause a second in replying:

"Sure! Ask something hard. Wish I could do a real big favor for you."

"You can. I have a queer feeling that something is going to happen. It's perfectly silly, of course, but—if something should, will you look after mother? She is so devoted to me and so dependent on me that I don't know what she—"

"Again she faltered."

"I sure will—and look after you, too," answered Win.

"That's so good of you. But don't trouble about me. It's mother I'm worried about." Then with a look of unconcealed admiration she concluded:

"But I feel better now. It seemed to me that you were the only one

on the ship that I could go to—the only one I wanted to trust another to."

Notwithstanding the bitter disappointment of the day, Win Shute went into dinner that night with a heart as buoyant as a toy balloon. He was pinning a walk and a talk by southern moonlight with Miss Riley.

But all evening she paced the deck in earnest conversation with Jerrold Mansel.

Win Shute figured out to his own satisfaction why things were thus. He knew that Miss Riley was receiving wireless messages—he had seen Mansel hand her more than one—and Shute decided that the operator was

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

SENATE REFERS QUESTION OF REPEALING PRIMARY LAW TO REFERENDUM VOTE.

PENSIONS PAID ONCE A YEAR

Before Adjournment the House Voted to Table Bill Increasing Salaries of State Officers and Employees

Raleigh.

Aug. 24.—Senator Gray, of Forsyth, when the vote stood 21 to 21, broke the tie tonight that prevented the passage of a bill making divorce easier in North Carolina. The measure was designed to reduce the number of years of separation necessary for divorce from 13 to seven.

The house killed the salary bills during the night session and voted for joint resolution to adjourn the special session sine die Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

The senate, by a vote of 38 to 6, passed the revenue act, which now becomes law, fulfilling the pledge of the democratic legislature to uphold the revaluation act.

The bill to raise the legal rate of interest in North Carolina was reported unfavorably and the senate has voted to put the question of repealing the state-wide primary law to a referendum vote.

Suffragists are charging that the anti-are now busy at the task of polling the members of the regular session on the speakership. They are said to be advocating Representative Greer. It is also understood that the suffragists are equally as lively in their arguments that he should not be elected speaker and it is hinted that this question may be an "issue" on which the women, if they are allowed to vote this fall will cast their ballots for members of the legislature.

Aug. 25.—The senate adopted the measure providing the machinery for the registration and voting of women upon the ratification of the nineteenth amendment, passed the bill fixing the intrastate passenger rates in North Carolina at three cents per mile.

A bill passed in the house provides that pensions of Confederate veterans shall be paid in December for the ensuing year instead of twice a year as under the provisions of a bill enacted at the 1919 session. The bill now goes to the upper house for consideration.

Aug. 26.—After defeating the Scales bill providing for the registration and voting of women in North Carolina under provisions of the nineteenth amendment to the constitution by a vote of 49 to 38, the house upon motion of Representative Doughton reconsidered and passed the measure upon its third reading. The vote was 52 to 28. The bill was immediately sent to the senate for concurrence in the house amendment which restricts the non-payment of poll taxes to 1920 and provides that the act shall be in force from and after legal ratification of the federal amendment and after its legality has been contested and settled.

Representative Doughton made it plain that in urging the passage of the Scales bill the opponents of women suffrage were not making any concession and that in the event certification of the amendment was held up the measure would be non-operative.

While Representative Bryant, of Durham, was urging the passage of the bill Doughton interrupted to explain that opponents of the Nineteenth amendment do not admit that ratification has been legal, but that should the secretary of state and the supreme court hold the 36th state had ratified proper machinery ought to be provided for women voting in the November election.

Before adjourning the house upon motion of Redwine, of Union, voted to table the Warren senate bill providing for increasing the salaries of all constitutional officers of state and the bill granting increases to other officials and minor employees of the state.

Confederate Near Pensioner Dies

—When the bill providing for a pension for Abner Bryant, of Caswell county, came up for its third reading in the house of representatives it was requested that it be tabled. The bill passed its second reading last night and after it had passed this reading Bryant, a Confederate veteran, died.

Confederate veterans are living in the state at the rate of one a day. No measure asking for relief for the remaining ones has been turned down by the legislature.

Demonstrations and Exhibits

The three features that are being especially stressed at the state convention of farmers at State college are demonstrations and exhibits, discussions and amusements.

The North Carolina Farmer Governor Bickett said in his address of welcome, has become not only a national but an international figure, in 19 years climbing from 22nd to fourth place, and of the states ahead of North Carolina, Texas, does not count for it is an empire and not a state, tax governor said.

New Insectary Completed

The insectary which has recently been completed as an addition to the annual husbandry building at State College, provides considerable additional space for the department of zoology and entomology. This department under the capable direction of Professor Z. P. Metcalf has grown rapidly in the last few years and the old quarters have become badly cramped, frequently necessitating overlapping hours for all classes, from freshman to graduate, in the one large laboratory.

Primary Law to Continue

Efforts to repeal the Statewide Primary law at the special session will likely be abandoned after the submission of the unfavorable report by the House committee on Elections. The membership of the committee is unanimously in favor of repealing the bill, and will say so, but is unwilling to add further confusion to the coming general election.

Pending in the Senate are two primary bills, and in view of the action of the House committee, it is believed that both will die in committee.

Lat. Census Reports

Washington, (Special).—Madison county population and Union county gained in the 10 years from 1910-1920, the census bureau announced.

Madison county had 20,644 people in 1910, in 1920 the number was 29,152. The new census gives it 29,083.

Union county had 27,136 people in 1910 and 33,277 in 1920, this year it was 32,929.

Census of New Hanover county, 40,620; increase \$,853 or 22.3 per cent.

Some People Hard to Kill

Washington, N. C.—Because things did not go to suit him at a dance Henry Ward, pulled out his gun and fired at Lottie Wynne. The bullet went through the girl's head and came out through her mouth, knocking out several teeth. It then continued on its course and struck Andrew Leary, in the chest. Passing on through his body the bullet finally embedded itself in a portion of the wall. All parties were killed. Officers Gray and Ange arrested Ward. The Wynne girl and Leary will recover.

Murders Successful Rival

Durham.—Holding a grudge over the loss of his sweetheart through her marriage, Claude Bowles, Apsara county farmer and ex-soldier, shot and killed Thelbert Ellis, the girl's husband in the presence of Mrs. Ellis.

Bowles and Ellis were rivals for the hand of Lora Day. The girl accepted Ellis, a prosperous young farmer. They were married some months ago. At the time and since, according to Mrs. Ellis, Bowles has threatened to kill her husband.

No Appointment of Postmaster

Winston-Salem.—Two representatives of the postoffice department after spending two days here investigating applications for postmaster in this city left for Washington without even intimating whom they would recommend for the appointment to succeed Postmaster Calloway. Mr. Calloway was requested to retain the office till his successor was chosen. There are a number of candidates for the job which pays about \$4,000.

Change in College Name

Greensboro.—For the second time since its foundation the Greensboro College for Women here changes its name. Henceforth it will be known as Greensboro College. A certificate of an amendment to the charter of the college granting the change in the name was received here. The petition for the change of name was signed by the members of the board of trustees of the college.

For many years the college was known as the Greensboro College for Women.

Message to The Legislature

Governor Eckett sent to the legislature a special message on roads. He said:

"This general assembly at its regular session created a state highway commission."

"As I have repeatedly said, the number that we have made in North Carolina is not that we have failed to build good roads, but that we have been criminally negligent in keeping them up. I have a profound conviction that it would be an economic crime for North Carolina to issue bonds or to permit the counties to issue bonds to build a more roads in this state until we have devised and thoroughly tested out an adequate system of maintenance."

"Therefore, I recommend that this general assembly authorize the state highway commission to test out on a number of roads, selected by the commission, the best systems of maintenance now in force in any of the states in the union and submit the result of their experience to the general assembly of 1921. It is simply throwing away money to build roads of any type until we provide and enforce a system of maintenance that will insure the roads from going to pieces."

Manning Says Women Can Vote

"While there would be no objection to the North Carolina legislature passing laws providing for women to vote under the Susan B. Anthony amendment," Attorney General James S. Manning said, "it is not at all necessary."

"The amendment to the constitution in this